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Delhi's ballpoint and muffler 'Aam aadmi'

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Fiscal and monetary measures TO BOOST consumption: FM



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Sai Kumar, a MULTI-FACETED genius



Dil se

QUOTE OF THE DAY
the pioneer

'Iron Leg' Revanth Reddy destroyed the Congress from Maharashtra to Delhi and he would continue the downfall. Rahul Gandhi is the biggest campaigner for Modi's BJP. Wherever he goes, the Congress collapses, and Telangana is no exception. Congrats to Rahul Gandhi for winning the election for the BJP yet again



- KTR, BRS Working President

DON'T MISS...

Not vindication of Modi's policies

Results of the Delhi Assembly elections are not a vindication of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies but a referendum on Arvind Kejriwal and AAP, the Congress said on Saturday as it vowed to bounce back from another whitewash. The Congress also asserted that it would form a government in the national capital in 2030. The BJP has returned to power in Delhi after more than 26 years, sweeping away the AAP from the national capital in ...

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Monks from abroad visit Buddhavanam

The international Buddhist monks who gathered at the prestigious Buddhavanam constructed by the Telangana government in Nagarjuna Sagar on Saturday, admired and praised the sculptures there. During the International Tipitaka Recitation Festival held at Buddhavanam, 115 Buddhist monks, including 27 from India and monks from South Asian countries participated. On Saturday, they took out a procession from the entrance plaza of Buddhavanam, where they visited the sculptures ...

-PAGE: 4

we are going step by step: ISRO

ISRO Chairman V Narayanan on Saturday said there were no glitches in the space agency's maiden space docking mission, Spadex, as reported in a section of media and that it was going step by step. "No glitches, right now it is docked. We are going step by step. We are studying and then we are planning to do a lot of experiments," Narayanan, Secretary, Department of Space, told PTI on the sidelines of the 15th Biennial Edition of Aero India International ...

-NATION

Market forces decide rupee value

Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Saturday said that the market forces decide the value of rupee with respect to the US dollar and the central bank is not worried about day-to-day movement of the currency value. Addressing the media after the meeting of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with the Reserve Bank board, Malhotra said that the central bank focuses on the value of the rupee in the medium to long term. "There is no change in RBI's approach. It does not look at any price level or band. It is our endeavour to curb excessive volatility. We should not be looking at daily movement or exchange rate," he said in reply to a query on the rupee depreciation. On the impact of the depreciation of the rupee against the US dollar ...

-MONEY

Will ensure Delhi is future-ready, assures Modi



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday promised to make every effort to clean the Yamuna river, resolve civic issues related to cleanliness and pollution, and deliver on all his guarantees to make Delhi a future-ready city.

Addressing party workers after the BJP's victory in the Delhi Assembly polls, Modi also slammed the outgoing Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government for insulting people's faith by making no efforts to clean the Yamuna, failing to build good roads in the capital and keeping the city clean.

"I had pledged during the election campaign that we will make Yamunaji the identity of Delhi city. I know this work is difficult and will take a long time. No matter how much time is spent, how much energy is used, we will make every effort to serve the Yamuna," the prime minister said at the victory celebrations at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) headquarters here.

'Capital' gain for BJP

Lotus sweeps Delhi, ends long drought of power

Wins 48 seats; AAP 22, Congress draws blank

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

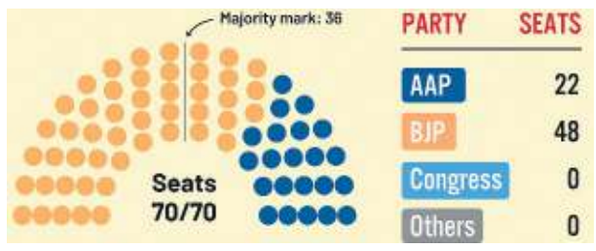
The BJP on Saturday returned to power in Delhi after more than 26 years to sweep away the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party with a two-thirds majority on the back of a hyper localised campaign and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'AAP-da'(disaster) blitzkrieg.

Adding to the ignominy of the AAP that was battling 10 years of anti-incumbency was the shocking defeat of former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal himself and other top leaders including his close aide and former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, Somnath Bharti and Saurabh Bhardwaj. Chief Minister Atishi, an academic and unlikely politician, weathered the storm to retain Kalkaji seat.

The BJP won 48 of the 70 seats at stake and the AAP was way behind with 22, according to the Election Commission website. The elections were largely seen as a bipolar contest between the AAP, which made a determined bid for a fourth term, and the BJP. While the AAP had 62 members in the outgoing house, the saffron party had just eight legislators.

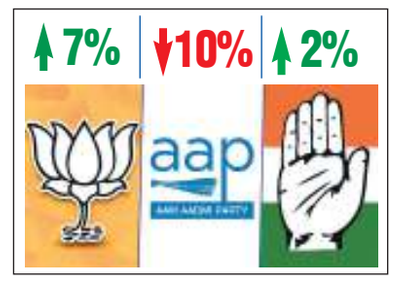
The Congress, which had ruled for 15 consecutive years under Sheila Dikshit from 1998, came a cropper in the Assembly elections failing to get even a single seat for the third straight time. Its candidates suffered crushing defeats with a majority of them even losing their deposits

With Delhi now in its kitty after a battle of prestige given its symbolic importance as the country's capital, the BJP has extended its footprint, the victories helping it put behind some of the reverses of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections where it bagged 240 seats, short of the 272 majority mark. Coming days after the Union budget Continued on Page 2



BJP's Parvesh Verma and Tarvinder Singh Marwah emerged as the biggest giant-slayers, defeating AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal and former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia from the New Delhi and Jangpura constituencies respectively





BJP's vote share up by 7%, AAP's down by 10%; Cong's rises by 2%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) which was routed in the Delhi Assembly elections saw the erosion of nearly 10 percentage points in its vote share while the winner BJP not only saw a resurgence but also a significant increase in its vote share.

The BJP was out of power in the national capital for over 26 years. A win on any seat remained elusive for the Congress even as it saw a marginal improvement in its vote share.

AAP secured a vote share of 43.57 per cent, down from 53.57 per cent in the 2020 polls. In the 2015 Assembly elections, it had secured 54.5 per cent of the votes. The BJP, which is returning to power, secured a vote share of 45.56 per cent and won 48 seats. The saffron party's vote share rose from 38.51 per cent in 2020 and 32.3 per cent in the 2015 elections.

The Congress, which was in power in Delhi for 15 years from 1998 to 2013, did not win any seat and secured a vote share of 6.34 per cent. The only consolation for the grand old party was the fact that it saw an improvement of 2.1 per cent in vote share over.

Ration card applications won't be accepted via MeeSeva

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Civil Supplies Department has confirmed that new ration card applications will not be accepted through MeeSeva. This comes after reports indicating that the Election Commission of India (ECI) had stalled the allotment process, which has now been clarified as incorrect.

nCivil Supplies Commissioner DS Chauhan said that only applications received through Praja Palana would be processed. "The letter issued on Continued on Page 2

Will Delhi win help BJP in Telangana MLC elections?

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

Will the Delhi victory yield fruits for the BJP in the Telangana MLC elections? Of course, it is the voters of TG who will decide the fate of candidates contesting in the MLC elections. However, the BJP has started using its massive Delhi victory in Telangana.

The Telangana BJP, which got a boost from the victory of the party in the Delhi elections, has launched its campaign for the three posts of MLCs. MLC elections are going on for two Teachers MLC constituencies – Nalgonda, Khammam-Warangal and Karimnagar-Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad and one Graduate MLC constituency, that is, Karimangar-Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad.

The BJP launched this campaign on the day the BJP registered a thumping victory in the Delhi Assembly elections after a meeting held under the leadership of Telangana BJP president G. Kishan Reddy at a private hotel.

The BJP, which announced its candidates for the elections in the three Continued on Page 2

CM reviews Hyd infra projects, sets deadline for Mir Alam Bridge

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Chief Minister Revanth Reddy reviewed infrastructure projects in Hyderabad on Saturday. Senior officials of the Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MA & UD) department and the GHMC attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister focused on the construction of a bridge over Mir Alam Lake. He asked officials to finalize the Detailed Project Report (DPR) within 90 days and submit it to the government.

Emphasizing the importance of the project, he directed that the bridge should be completed within 30 months and ensure that it becomes a tourist attraction. "The bridge's surroundings should be planned by keeping children in mind, making it a family-friendly destination," he said.

Officials presented three proposals for the construction of the bridge, which will span 2.425 km. The Chief Minister reviewed these proposals and stressed the need for a well-planned approach.

'Congress will bounce back'

Ministers counter KTR's salvo against Rahul

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Countering BRS Working President KT Rama Rao's statement on the Delhi Assembly election results in which Congress got no seats, Roads and Buildings (R&B) Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said that Congress workers are fighters who never give up and that they will bounce back just like they did in Telangana.

Posting regarding this on Saturday on X, he said, "Dear @KTRBRS, We, the Congress Party, are fighters. We never give up, and we always bounce back, just like we did in Telangana. We would have congratulated you on your spectacular achievement in the 2024 Parliament elections, that is, delivering zero seats for your own party and gifting eight seats to the BJP in Telangana. If there's anyone who deserves credit for the BJP's rise in the state, it's you. Well done!"

Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said that it seems KTR might be happy with the BJP's victory rather than the Congress's defeat in the Delhi elections.

"Does KTR's happiness over the BJP's victory signal the withdrawal of the cases filed against him? KTR looted the state when the BRS was in power with the BJP's support. However, KTR is now doing BJP 'Bhajan' to free himself from the cases that were filed against him after he lost power," he said.

Endowments Minister Konda Surekha said that MLC Kavitha and Arvind Kejriwal's liquor scam distanced AAP from the people of Delhi.

Panel to submit report on BC quota early next week

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The state government is likely to receive the Dedicated Commission's report on 'BC Reservations in Local Bodies' in a few days.

The commission, chaired by former IAS officer Bhusani Venkateswara Rao, was tasked with reviewing and recommending the implementation of BC reservations in local body elections.

The Congress government, which had promised 42% BC reservations in its election manifesto, is preparing to move forward based on the commission's findings.

The government has already conducted a comprehensive caste survey, which revealed that BCs, including BC Muslims, constitute 56% of the state's population.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy recently reiterated in the Assembly that the government is committed to providing 42% reservations for BCs in local body elections. The state is also planning to submit the caste survey data to the Centre.

Earlier, the BRS government had provided 34% reservation for BCs in local bodies, but by 2019, this figure had been reduced to 24%.

KTR brands Revanth 'Iron Leg' citing election defeats

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



BRS Working President KT Rama Rao launched a scathing attack against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, branding him as the 'iron-leg CM' who brought Congress to its lowest point.

Addressing a meeting of BRS workers in Vikarabad, KTR accused Revanth of destroying the Congress from Maharashtra to Delhi and predicted that he would continue to wreck the party.

He said that Rahul Gandhi was helping the BJP more than anyone else. "Rahul is the biggest campaigner for the BJP. Wherever he goes, the Congress collapses, and Telangana is no exception," he said.

He recalled KCR's warning that voting for the Congress would mean the end of Rythu Bandhu. "As KCR predicted, the Congress scrapped Rythu Bandhu. Farmers are cursing Revanth, and Continued on Page 2

OBTUSE ANGLE



Goyal slams states demanding funds proportionate to taxes

PNS ■ MUMBAI



Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said the demand by some states that they should get central funds in proportion to their contribution of taxes to the central kitty was "petty thinking" and "unfortunate."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is of the view that if the country is to prosper, the eight states of the Northeast and eastern Indian states like Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand must develop, he said.

The BJP leader was speaking at the `Rashtriya Ekatmata Yatra 2025', an event organised here by the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and the `Students Experience in Inter-State Living (SEIL)' initiative.

In the last 11 years, the Modi government's "laser focus", like that of Arjuna of the Mahabharata, was on the Northeast and eastern states, the minister added.

"It is unfortunate that some states and some leaders...I don't want to politicise it but some leaders from Maharashtra used to say....leaders of the earlier government which was there for two and Continued on Page 2

Urban Naxals holding TG edu system hostage, says Sanjay

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



The education system in Telangana has become a hostage in the hands of urban Naxals, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said.

"While the Modi government is bringing out hidden issues and shaping today's students and making them like Babasaheb Ambedkar, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Tantiya Tope, Chhatrapati Shivaji and Veer Savarkar by implementing the New Education Policy, in Telangana, the education system has become a hostage in the hands of urban Naxals. They are trying to inject Naxal ideology and model students after Chandra Pulla Reddy and Kondapalli Seetarami Reddy," Sanjay said.

Continued on Page 2

Revanth Reddy's 'T20 Politics' Vindicated

REPORTERS' DIARY

The Delhi election results have delivered a brutal reality check to Congress, proving that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had been right all along. The party failed to even open its account, reinforcing Revanth's long-standing argument - Congress needs to change its playbook. Revanth has repeatedly warned that Congress cannot afford to play a Test match in a T20 era, especially when BJP is going all out with its aggressive "hit out or get out" strategy. His past remarks about Congress being a playground where every leader plays their own game and believes they are winning now seem eerily accurate.

The real question is - will Rahul Gandhi finally take note? Meanwhile, BRS isn't missing the chance to rub salt in the wound. KTR branded him an "iron leg," blaming him for Congress' failures in Maharashtra and Delhi where CM campaigned. Whether Congress listens to Revanth or continues to stumble is up to Rahul Gandhi, but in Telangana's political circles, the debate is already heating up—was Revanth right all along, or is he just carrying the party's bad luck?

BRS walkout drama: Kavitha stays put, others fumble at the door

Telangana Legislative Council saw its fair share of confusion when BRS leaders attempted a walkout during the caste census discussion - except, not everyone got it right. BRS didn't announce its walkout and went up to the Council Chairman and then towards the door. While some made it to the door, they never actually stepped out, leading to a comedy of errors rather than a well-executed protest. Amidst all this, one leader who didn't budge was BRS MLC Kavitha. Having fought for the BC reservation through Phule Front over the past 1.5 years, she knew better than to walk away when it was finally up for discussion. While others hesitated in the corridors, she chose to stay and make her case inside the House. If not she would be obviously called out for her sincerity towards the cause let alone towards BRS. Normally, walkouts come with grand announcements, but this time, it was more of an awkward shuffle. Some say it was poor coordination; others whisper that there was no clear plan to begin with. Either way, Kavitha proved that when it comes to serious issues, taking the mic is far more effective than taking a walk.

Kaushik Reddy's no-holds-barred attack on Revanth Reddy

For years, the Reddy community has been Congress' stronghold, never fully backing BRS despite KCR handing out key posts to Reddy leaders. Even those in BRS rarely went all out against Congress - until now. Enter Padi Kaushik Reddy, who seems to have taken it upon himself to rewrite the rules. While most Reddy leaders would think twice before crossing swords with Revanth Reddy, Kaushik isn't even flinching. He's going straight for the jugular, even claiming that Revanth once came to his house and touched his feet for the TPCC post. In Telangana politics, where optics matter, that's as direct a challenge as it gets. Kaushik isn't just making noise - he's getting a roaring response from BRS karyakartas at public meetings. While some within the party argue that his aggressive stance might be counterproductive, the question remains: what does BRS have to lose at this point? They aren't guarding votes or seats anymore, so why not take the fight to the enemy? Perhaps that's why KTR and Harish Rao, usually more measured, seem to be backing Kaushik's controversial politics. With BRS in a corner, he's proving that when survival is at stake, going all out might just be the only strategy left.

Dr. Sanjay's firebrand moment in Assembly

Telangana Assembly turned into a battleground during the caste census discussion, but the real surprise wasn't CM Revanth Reddy's statement or the Speaker's decision to silence KTR - it was Dr. Kalvakuntla Sanjay's unexpected firebrand moment. Dr Sanjay is known to be calm and very composed person - a thorough professional. But when the Speaker refused to let KTR speak, citing CM Revanth Reddy's remark that those who didn't participate in the survey shouldn't be given a chance, BRS leaders protested. But sitting in the last row, Dr. Sanjay wasn't having any of it. With a voice that cut through the chaos, he stormed forward, stopping just before the well of the House saying, How can the Speaker listen to the CM when the Assembly belongs to him?. He made it clear that he wouldn't let the bias slide. After shouting for some time, his senior party colleagues including KTR settled into silence, Dr. Sanjay kept up the fight, refusing to let the moment pass without protest. In a room full of seasoned politicians, the first-time MLA proved he wasn't just another backbencher—he was the dark horse ready to charge ahead.

Kejriwal's publicity overdose backfires, Kishan Reddy takes a dig

In politics, there's no such thing as bad publicity—or so they say. P.T. Barnum swore by it, and Oscar Wilde had his cheeky take on it. But when it comes to elections, the rule isn't foolproof. Political parties thrive on publicity, sometimes at the cost of actual work, but when the people stop buying the narrative, the downfall is brutal. The Delhi elections just proved that. BJP's Telangana chief and Union Minister G Kishan Reddy couldn't resist rubbing it in. He declared that the people of Delhi had "washed away" AAP, refusing to fall for its grand publicity machinery. He alleged that Arvind Kejriwal, who built his career on Anna Hazare's anti-corruption movement, ended up spending 95 per cent of funds on publicity and a mere 5 per cent on governance. Adding fuel to the fire, Kishan Reddy recalled Anna Hazare's disappointment with Kejriwal, stating that Delhiites were fed up with the liquor scam and Sheesh Mahal allegations. "Publicity might get your attention, but it won't save you when voters decide they've had enough," he quipped. Looks like the classic political PR game just hit a hard reality check in Delhi.

(Naveena Ghanate, Dr Kolishetty Venkateshwarlu)

Muslims won seats that should have gone to BCs due to YSR govt's 4% quota: Sanjay

PNS ■ HYDERABAD


Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay campaigning for the party's MLC candidates on Saturday at Karimnagar

Unveiling the BJP's MLC election manifesto, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, said that including Muslims in the BCs' list is part of a larger conspiracy. He warned that this would jeopardise the chances of Hindus winning in BC-reserved constituencies in future.

He cited the results of the GHMC elections as proof, arguing that due to the 4% reservations implemented by the YS Rajasekhar Reddy government, Muslims won seats that should have gone to BC candidates.

Sanjay lashed out at the Congress and asked people to make the BJP victorious in the MLC elections.

"On the one hand, BC population percentages were deliberately cut in the caste census. On the other hand, Muslims are being added to the BCs' list to inflict a severe blow on Hindus. Why are BC organisations silent about this injustice? Why are they silent?" he asked.

He criticised intellectuals and graduates for remaining silent, calling their inaction a misfortune. He urged voters to teach the Congress a lesson in the MLC elections by supporting BJP candidates. He mocked Congress, saying that the people of Delhi had given them a fit response.

The BJP organized a 'Sankalpa Yatra' of Graduates from Ramnagar Chowrasta to Geetha Bhavan Chowrasta in Karimnagar as part of its MLC election campaign. The event saw huge participation from youth and BJP workers. Along with Sanjay, Medak BJP MP Raghunandan Rao and Adilabad BJP MP Godam Nagesh, MLAs Payal Shankar, Katepalli Venkatramana Reddy and other leaders attended the rally.

Sanjay also unveiled BJP's MLC election manifesto and addressed the public.

Delhi gave its verdict on liquor scam: Kishan

The Congress won 16 Assembly seats in Maharashtra and zero in Delhi where Chief Minister Revanth Reddy campaigned, Telangana BJP President Kishan Reddy said.

He said that Revanth had given front-page advertisements in newspapers during the Maharashtra Assembly elections stating that the Congress government is developing Telangana.

He was addressing the media at the BJP office here on Saturday.

He said the people of Delhi defeated the Rahul Gandhi-led Congress front in the Maharashtra elections and ensured the victory of the Modi-led NDA alliance.

Release Ambedkar Overseas Scholarship funds: Kavitha

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLC Kavitha accused the Congress Government of depriving underprivileged students of overseas education by withholding Ambedkar Overseas Scholarship funds.

She also criticised the delay in releasing fee reimbursement funds, stating that the government is indifferent to students' education.

Speaking during a 'Zoom' meeting with Telangana students studying abroad under the Ambedkar Overseas Education Fund scheme, Kavitha said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is dismantling a scheme introduced by KCR during BRS rule. "KCR launched this scheme to ensure that even economically disadvantaged students could go for overseas education. However, after coming to power, the Congress Government has been sabotaging it," she said.

She demanded an explanation from the government for not releasing the second instalment of funds. "Why is the government neglecting poor students? While contractors are being paid, there are no funds for students' education?" she questioned.

Harish demands compensation for Mallanna Sagar evacuees

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Harish Rao wrote a letter to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, urging him to immediately release pending compensation and fulfil promises made to the displaced families of Mallanna Sagar reservoir.

Accusing the Congress government of neglecting the evacuees, Harish reminded Revanth of his hunger strike at Etigadda Kishtapur supporting the affected families and asked whether that protest was merely a political stunt.

Harish said that during BRS rule, 90% of the rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) package, colony constructions, house sites, and basic infrastructure were completed for Mallanna Sagar evacuees.

"The remaining 10%, along with compensation for those who were missed in earlier payments or secured it through court verdicts, must be released immediately," he demanded. He criticized the Congress government for ignoring the displaced families last year and reminded Revanth that as Chief Minister, it was his responsibility to fulfil the promises he had made while in the opposition.

Goyal slams states ...

Continued from page 1

a half years, they used to calculate the tax paid by Mumbai and Maharashtra and (demand) it should get back that much amount (of central funds)," said Goyal, MP from Mumbai North.

He was apparently referring to the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government.

"There are some states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana which say they should get back the amount of taxes they have paid. There can't be any (greater) petty thinking ("chhoti soch") than this. There can not be anything (more) unfortunate than this," he said.

Ration card..

Continued from page 1

Friday regarding MeeSeva applications has been cancelled," he said. The Election Commission has not stopped the issuance of ration cards. The Civil Supplies Department alone is responsible for the process, he said.

Telangana Chief Electoral Officer C. Sudharsan Reddy issued a statement denying any ECI involvement in the matter. "Neither the Civil Supplies Department nor MeeSeva have approached us regarding ration card applications." the statement said.

BJP has no place in TG's political landscape, says Mahesh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC chief B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said the BJP has no place in Telangana's political landscape and that Telangana BJP leaders should stop daydreaming.

He said that BRS Working President KTR's imagination is wandering after the BJP's victory. KCR's era is over in Telangana, Mahesh added.

He said the Congress Government is sure to come to power again through its development and welfare schemes. He wondered why BJP leaders are celebrating their Delhi victory in Telangana as it has nothing to do with the Delhi election results.

He said Telangana people will never support the BJP due to the political situation. People are satisfied with the welfare schemes implemented by the Congress Government. The Congress will remain forever in the hearts of Telangana people with its six guarantees, he added.

Buzz over BJP's CM pick intensifies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The buzz over BJP's chief ministerial pick intensified on Saturday after the party made a grand return to power in Delhi after a gap of more than 26 years, winning 48 seats in the 70-member Assembly. Pravesh Verma's political currency skyrocketed with his stupendous victory over AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal from New Delhi by 4,089 votes, positing him as a potential claimant to the top post in the upcoming BJP government.

The BJP winners also included several experienced senior leaders who are also in the race for the chief minister's post, party leaders said. "These include Ashish Sood and former state general secretary (organisation) Pawan Sharma," a top BJP functionary in Delhi said.

Not vindication of Modi's policies but referendum on Kejriwal: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Results of the Delhi Assembly elections are not a vindication of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies but a referendum on Arvind Kejriwal and AAP, the Congress said on Saturday as it vowed to bounce back from another whitewash.

The Congress also asserted that it would form a government in the national capital in 2030.

The BJP has returned to power in Delhi after more than 26 years, sweeping away the AAP from the national capital in another big win to extend its saffron footprint in the country. The Congress has drawn a blank in the polls once again after 2015 and 2020.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the assembly election results reflected nothing more than a referendum on Kejriwal and AAP.

"After all, at the height of the prime minister's popularity in 2015 and 2020, AAP had won decisively in Delhi. This shows that, rather than being vindication of the policies of the prime minister, this vote is a rejection of Arvind Kejriwal's politics of deceit, deception, and vastly exaggerated claims of achievement," he said in a post on X.

The Congress took the lead in highlighting the various scams that occurred under Kejriwal and the voters pronounced their judgement on his 12 years of "misrule", he added.

"The Congress was expecting to do better. It has, however, increased its vote share. The campaign of the Congress was vigorous. It may not be in the assembly but it is definitely a presence in Delhi, a presence that will be expanded electorally with the sustained efforts of lakhs of Congress workers," Ramesh said.

"There will be a Congress government once again in Delhi in 2030," he asserted.

Congress media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said the meltdown of a section of so called liberals is completely bizarre.

"They didn't give these lectures on opposition unity to AAP when the party went to Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, etc to fight elections and weaken anti communal, secular vote. Delhi election result is a rejection of the Trojan horse that attempted to damage the liberal cause across the country," he said.

People's trust in BJP proved once again, says Gudur

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharatiya Janata Party state senior leader Gudur Narayana Reddy stated that the victory of the BJP in Delhi elections has once again proved that people trust the BJP over the other parties.

In a media statement, he said that with the spirit of the win of the BJP in Delhi, the Saffron Party would win Telangana Assembly elections whenever they are held.

He said that it has also been proved that the charisma of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was intact and did not diminish even by an iota. The results of the Delhi elections were a fitting answer to those who have boasted that Modi has been losing his appeal after the elections to Lok Sabha.

He said that the BJP has continued to win Delhi elections after wins in Haryana and Maharashtra after the Lok Sabha polls. The party leaders and cadre were working hard to ensure the victory of the party. He said that people have started to reject other parties as they were on the verge of disintegration. Parties other than the BJP did not have any ideological base and were solely dependent on anti anti-incumbency factor and anti-BJP plank.

He said that as far as Telangana was concerned BJP would emerge as the only alternative to the Congress and Bharat Rashtra Samithi by the next elections like in other states.

'Capital' gain ...

Continued from page 1

which gave crucial tax concessions to the middle class, the BJP's winning Lok Sabha streak in Delhi continues after it won all seven seats last year. But the premise this time was different.

Ground level issues such as water, drainage and garbage went up against volatile campaigns by both parties with voters grimly evaluating their quality of life in a polluted city.

The BJP also pushed ahead and made 'sheesh mahal' an oft recalled buzzword for the lavish chief minister's residence following the renovations by Kejriwal and allegations of corruption in the Delhi excise policy. It clearly hit home.

While Modi and other party leaders repeated the need for a 'double engine' government, freebies offered by the AAP were countered by "Modi's guarantee," which appeared to find favour with voters.

The AAP, which saw its leaders Kejriwal and Sisodia jailed in the excise policy case, countered the BJP campaign with vigour to say Yamuna waters were poisoned and that it was just not being allowed to govern because the lieutenant governor was stymieing every move. It didn't find the resonance it had hoped for.

"We fought a good election… We will play role of constructive opposition but will also be available to people of Delhi," Kejriwal said as he conceded defeat in an election he had hoped would propel him as a national leader.

For the AAP national convenor, the face of the party launched on an anti-corruption plank in 2012, it was a tantalising seesaw ending in despair. He lost by 4,089 votes to BJP's Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma, son of former Delhi chief minister Sahib Singh Verma. "Who will be chief minister will be decided by the central leadership," said Verma, dubbed giant killer for defeating Kejriwal in New Delhi constituency.The BJP had not projected a CM face in the poll campaign.

As one more line was added to the Congress' epitaph, the AAP struggled with its own existential crisis. A loss in Delhi, which it ruled for 10 successive years from 2015, signals an end to its national ambitions with now only Punjab in its pocket.

It was a dramatic downslide for the AAP, which won 67 of the 70 seats in 2015 when it established its dominance by wiping out both the Congress and the BJP and 62 in 2020. The promise of mohalla clinics, model schools, free water and electricity seemed to have lost their sheen.

At BJP offices, there were drumbeats of victory and euphoria, party workers waving flags, holding lotus cutouts, dancing and smearing colours of celebration on each other. And Modi was the mantra.

The Congress headquarters wore a desolate look and workers at the AAP office shell-shocked, their leaders huddled in conference as they pondered the future.

The BJP ruled Delhi between 1993 and 1998 when the party had three chief ministers--Madan Lal Khurana, Sahib Singh Verma and Sushma Swaraj.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:	Sukla Paksha
Tithi:	
Dwadashi:	Feb 08 08:16 PM to Feb 09 07:25 PM
Trayodashi:	Feb 09 07:25 PM to Feb 10 06:57 PM
Nakshatram:	
Ardra:	Feb 08 06:07 PM to Feb 09 05:52 PM
Punarvasu:	Feb 09 05:52 PM to Feb 10 06:00 PM
Rahukalam:	4:46 PM to 6:11 PM
Yamagandam:	12:30 PM to 1:55 PM
Varjyam:	05:56 AM to 07:33 AM
Gulika:	3:21 PM to 4:46 PM
Amritakalam:	07:58 AM to 09:33 AM
Abhijit Muhurtham:	12:07 PM to 12:53 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Sunny
Temp: 32°c
Humidity: 57%
Sunrise: 6:45 AM
Sunset: 6:15 PM

Updated: February 8, 2025 5:00 PM

KTR brands ...

Continued from page 1

he won't be able to bear their wrath," he said. Taking on Speaker Gaddam Prasad, KTR said that he was acting as per Revanth's instructions. "The Speaker is openly biased. BRS MLAs are not even given a chance to speak. Is this what Revanth calls Praja Palana?" he asked.

KTR also blasted the Congress government's handling of farm loan waivers. "I said in the Assembly that if even one farmer confirms 100% loan waiver, I will quit politics. Even today, I stand by that statement because not even 25% of farm loans have been waived," he said.

He accused Revanth of misleading people with fluctuating figures. "First, he said Rs 40,000 crore, then Rs 31,000 crore at a cabinet meeting, later Rs 26,000 crore in the budget, and finally, at a Mahbubnagar meeting, he claimed only Rs 18,000 crore was needed. But Bhatti Vikramarka admitted that not even Rs 11,000 crore has been credited to farmers' accounts. This is how a Rs 49,500 crore promise shrank to Rs 11,000 crore, and still, not a single penny has reached farmers," he said.

Mocking Congress's election guarantees, KTR said, "Reddy promised 'Taki Taki' money for farmers, but not a rupee has been given. No gold for women, no Rs 2,500 for housewives, and no Rs 4,000 pension for the elderly. The Congress fooled people with false promises."

Will Delhi win ...

Continued from page 1

MLC constituencies much before other political parties, linked the Delhi poll results with the MLC elections and is using the Congress's famous 'Donkey's Egg' slogan in its own way.

The BJP's election slogan in the Telangana MLC elections is 'Delhi People Gave Donkey's Egg to the Congress.'

In fact, the Congress fielded a candidate, V. Narender Reddy, only in the graduates' MLC constituency of Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar. The Congress may support candidates fielded by teachers' unions. However, it has not yet announced its stand formally regarding this.

The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, launched the BJP's election campaign in Karimnagar on Bheeshma Ekadashi, that is, Saturday?

Sanjay launched the BJP campaign named 'Pattabhadrula Sankalpa Yatra' along with MPs M. Raghunandan Rao, G. Nagesh and MLAs Katipally Venkatramana Reddy, Payal Shankar, Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta, Palvai Harish Babu, Ramarao Patil and MLC candidates Malka Komuraiah and Anji Reddy.

The BJP also gave a call to intellectuals to give up their silence and warned their silence would become a curse on the public.

On his first campaign day, Sanjay said that there is a match-fixing deal between the BRS and the Congress, and so the BRS had not fielded candidates in the MLC elections.

Meanwhile, Kishan said that he is confident that the BJP will sweep the three MLC elections in Telangana and added that the BJP will sweep elections whenever they are held in the Congress-ruled states of Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh and Telangana.

Teachers and graduates will ensure the victory of BJP candidates in the MLC elections, he added.

We have to wait and see whether the Delhi Assembly election results will have any impact on the MLC elections in Telangana.

Urban Naxals ...

Continued from page 1

While Modi is keeping the country stable and transforming it into a kingdom of pens, the Telangana Government is trying to make the state a kingdom of guns. The public should decide what it wants, he urged. Sanjay was speaking at the anniversary function of the Academic Heights Public School in Karimnagar on Saturday as chief guest.

"The Indian education system has not yielded desired results in the last 60 years. Those who portrayed India as weak, invaded India and raped people have been shown as great. Some dynasties which tried to erase our culture have been described as great," he said.

"They wrote that Shah Jahan was great because he built the Taj Mahal. But they hid the fact that Shah Jahan chopped off the hands of the labourers who built the Taj Mahal. Similarly, they said that Nizam was great. But they hid the fact that our Telangana girls were stripped naked and play bathukamma. They engaged in violence and murder," Sanjay said.

That is why Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the New Education Policy, Sanjay said.

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City Pioneer

sunday pioneer | HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 9, 2025 | 03

GHMC to roll out BuildNow application in March

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) will roll out BuildNow application in the first week of March 2025, aiming for a more efficient and transparent building approval process across the city.

It conducted an orientation programme on Saturday at GHMC Head Office, to familiarise officials with the newly launched BuildNow application. This initiative aims to streamline and expedite online building and layout approvals, replacing the existing TGBPASS system.

The BuildNow application, officially introduced by the Telangana government during the Prajapalana Vijayotsavalu in December 2024, is designed to provide one of the fastest drawing scrutiny systems using advanced technology, significantly reducing processing time.

During the session, officials and staff from GHMC's Head Office, Zonal Offices, Circle Offices, and Town Planning Section received a comprehensive overview of the application's workflow from the BuildNow development team. The session also allowed officials to provide valuable inputs, which will be incorporated into the final version of the application.

VCs discuss streamlining of recruitment in universities

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TGCHE), under the Chairman Prof V Balakista Reddy convened a high-level meeting with the Vice-Chancellors of state universities to discuss the development and progress of higher education in Telangana.

It was attended by N Sridhar, Principal Secretary of the Education Department, who delivered the inaugural address, outlining the vision and objectives of the Telangana government in advancing higher education.

The meeting saw the participation of Vice-Chancellors from various universities.

A committee to streamline faculty recruitment and Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) promotions, ensuring compliance with UGC regulations, enhancing Institutional Rankings and Academic Standards were discussed. A new ranking framework would be developed to improve university ratings at national and global levels.



State University Vice-Chancellors holding a meeting in Hyderabad on Satuday

In addition TGCHE is working on undergraduate syllabus revisions to align with industry demands and market trends. A core committee has been established to oversee the implementation of curriculum reforms.

In series of MoU, Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHE) and The Bulk Drug Manufacturers Association of India (BDMAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to bridge the skill gap between Academia and the Pharmaceutical industry.

The primary objective of this MoU is to align educational training, research, internships with industry needs.



Dr Kiran Madhala

AI-powered medical platform to help students, practitioners launched

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Dr Kiran Madhala, general secretary of the Telangana Teaching Government Doctors Association and Professor of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine at Gandhi Medical College, has developed the Kiran Madhala Artificial Intelligence (KMAI) platform. This AI-driven initiative aims to assist medical students and practitioners by providing high-quality textbook material for study.

"These days, students and professionals have neither the time nor the energy to carry heavy textbooks, but textbooks remain the most reliable source of knowledge and authentic content," said Dr Kiran Madhala. "I will be sharing references on key topics daily, and anyone in need can reach out to me for the best textbook content.

This is a free, voluntary initiative designed to help medical students, postgraduates, faculty, and practitioners stay updated on essential topics in Anaesthesiology, Critical Care, and Pain Medicine. Our educational content is derived from standard textbooks, ensuring accuracy and credibility."

Dr Madhala emphasised that KMAI is the result of two months of dedicated research and is not based on ChatGPT or other general AI models. Instead, it uses specialized AI algorithms tailored for medical education.

"I am also looking for a group of doctors to collaborate with me so we can expand the academy's scope and offer a broader range of subjects," he added.

TGMC initiates probe into student's death after receiving injection

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Medical Council (TGMC) has taken suo motu cognizance of a tragic incident in which a Class 9 student allegedly died after receiving injection at Balaji Nursing Home in Thorrur, Telangana.

According to the report, the student was suffering from cold and fever for two to three days. His mother, Dasaroju Nagamani, took him to the nursing home for a check-up. After an examination, the attending doctor recommended certain investigations and administered an injection. However, the family claims that the boy collapsed and died within seconds of receiving the injection.

In response to these allegations, the Telangana Medical Council has issued a notice to the hospital's Medical Superintendent Dr Vikas, and Dr B Poornima, demanding a detailed explanation. The council has requested an affidavit clarifying the circumstances surrounding the student's sudden death, along with all necessary medical records, hospital registration certificates, and the treating doctors' credentials issued by the Telangana Medical Council.

The council has directed the hospital to submit these documents within seven days of receiving the notice. Additionally, the doctors concerned have been asked to appear in person before the Chairman or Registrar of the Telangana Medical Council in Hyderabad.

Failure to comply with the directive may result in the case being referred to the Ethics Committee for further legal action, said the note.

This development underscores the growing concerns over medical negligence and patient safety, as the council moves swiftly to investigate the matter.

Need to promote automated farming techniques stressed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Highlighting the need to encouraging small and medium farmers, the Telangana government is granting subsidies for automated farming techniques. Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao inaugurated the 3rd edition of the KISAN Agri Show 2025 alongside Niranjan Deshpande, Convenor of KISAN Forum Pvt. Ltd., at the Hitex Exhibition Centre.

Addressing the inaugural, Minister Nageswara Rao emphasised the need to promote automated farming techniques as technology advances in every sector. He appreciated KISAN Hyderabad as an innovative platform that successfully connects various stakeholders in agriculture. The event not only showcased new technologies but also encouraged important discussions for the sector's sustainable growth.

KISAN Hyderabad 2025 features exhibitors from different agricultural sectors, displaying farm machinery, tractors, irrigation solutions, plasticulture, smart farming tools, IoT-based technologies, agri-startups, contract farming solutions, organic inputs, and mobile apps for farming. It also includes custom clearance services for agricultural trade.



Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao inaugurating the KISAN Agri Show at the Hitex Exhibition Centre in Hyderabad on Saturday

The Commission for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare attended the event. Saguna Bagh, Maharashtra, impressed visitors with its transformation of barren land into fertile farmland.

The exhibition focused on: New agricultural technologies like drones and IoT. Organic and natural farming methods, including zero-budget farming. Direct market linkages for farmers. Awareness of farm loans and government schemes (Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bima, Crop Insurance). Climate-adaptive farming for better yields with less water.

Live demonstrations of tractors, harvesters, and automated equipment.

Meanwhile, Convenor of KISAN Forum Pvt. Ltd., Iranjan Deshpande expressed excitement over the huge response. He highlighted that the event is more than just an exhibition, it drives knowledge-sharing and collaboration among the farming community.



Cyberabad Traffic Police carrying out a drive to check drunk drivers in Hyderabad on Friday

268 drunk drivers caught in crackdown

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyberabad Traffic Police caught 268 drunk drivers in a weekend crackdown on Friday.

During the operation, officers seized 223 two-wheelers, 10 three-wheelers, 33 four-wheelers, and two trucks. Among those caught, 35 had blood alcohol levels between 200 mg/100 ml and 550 mg/100 ml, posing a serious risk to public safety.

According to the police, all offenders will face legal action in court. Those responsible for fatal accidents will be charged under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), which carries up to 10 years in prison and a fine. The Cyberabad Traffic Police urge motorists to follow traffic rules and prioritise road safety.

BRS BC leaders meet CS, demand 42% quota in local polls

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BC leaders of the BRS accused the Congress Government of 'betraying' the Backward Classes by failing to implement promised reservations in local body elections.

A delegation of BC leaders, including former Speaker Madhusudhana Chary, former minister Srinivas Goud and MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra met the Chief Secretary on Friday, demanding 42% reservations for BCs in panchayat elections.

Madhusudhana Chary lashed out at Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, saying that his admin is focused on "devouring and punishing" rather than fulfilling promises.

"Revanth made several commitments to BCs in the Congress election manifesto, but now, his government is showing no sincerity towards them. If Tamil Nadu can implement 69% BC reservations, why is Telangana lagging?" he asked.

He demanded a caste census and warned that any move against BCs would be met with strong resistance.

Srinivas accused the Congress government of conspiring to 'suppress' BCs. "The Congress must fulfil its promise and implement Tamil Nadu-like reservations. Panchayat elections should not be held without ensuring 42% reservations for BCs. Even if the government has to beg the Centre, it must ensure that these reservations are implemented," he asserted.

He also raised concerns over discrepancies in BC population figures and asked how the BC population can decline in surveys compared to the voters' list.

MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra said that BCs are being systematically sidelined. "In 2014, BCs constituted 52% of the population. How has this number dropped to 42% in 2025? The Congress is eliminating BCs politically, and we will take this issue to Parliament and ask Rahul Gandhi. The Congress wants BC votes but reserves ministerial positions for OCs," he said.

The BRS leaders vowed to continue their fight for BC rights, and warned the government that any attempt to undermine BCs would be opposed

'Unregistered nursing school withholds students' certificates

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Dr Lubna Sarwath, activist and member of the Congress Party, has written to the Chief Secretary, highlighting an alleged fraud at the unregistered Nightingale School of Nursing in Masab Tank. The institution has withheld the original certificates of 37 students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Backward Classes communities. A student tragically died by suicide in July 2024. The affected students are left without education, certificates, or career prospects and are struggling for justice.

Dr Lubna revealed that a student, the daughter of a driver, paid an admission fee of Rs 6,000 and submitted her original certificates on July 22, 2023. The college promised to start classes but never did. Later, after securing a free BPharm seat for 2024-25 through NEET, the student requested her certificates back. The college is now demanding Rs.1.5 lakh, despite lacking proper facilities for nursing education.

Dr Lubna noted that the Nightingale School of Nursing is in poor condition and is not listed under KNR University of Health Sciences. A few students live upstairs without proper mess facilities, and only a few classes are held.

She urges the immediate seizure of the premses, the return of student's certificates, and strict legal action against those responsible.

'Hardware technology accelerating AI, software amplifying it'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Cyient Founder BVR Mohan Reddy here on Saturday said that hardware technology is accelerating AI and software is amplifying it. He was speaking about leadership in the AI era at the Hyderabad Management Association (HMA) Leadership Conclave 2025. He said that while AI will impact repetitive jobs in the short term, it will create huge employment opportunities from 2026-27.

The conclave was held coinciding with HMA's golden jubilee celebration. HMA President Chandrasekhar highlighted the event's significance, stating that HMA has been a pillar of leadership and management excellence for 50 years.

During the panel discussion, Mohan Reddy discussed the evolution of AI and technology and why it is now a major focus. He mentioned that the first PhD in AI-speech recognition was completed by Indian researcher Dr Raj Reddy at Stanford University in 1961. At that time, there were no mobile phones or text messages. He said that while discussing autonomous vehicles with Dr Raj Reddy, they realised that making a car autonomous would require a 15-tonne truck to carry the necessary equipment.

Mohan Reddy noted, Fast forward 30 plus years, that 15-tonne equipment has shrunk to just 1.5 kg. Mohan emphasized that this transformation is due to the convergence of various technologies, which has been crucial for AI development.



Cyient Founder Chairman BVR Mohan Reddy at a panel discussion at HMA Leadership Conclave 2025 in Hyderabad on Saturday

Comparing past and present, he said the shift is like day and night. From GPUs, CPUs, and TPUs to quantum computing, technology has advanced rapidly. Storage has also evolved from 80KB and 206KB floppy disks to unlimited cloud storage, stating that I do not even know how much of storage we are using in this point of time.

He highlighted the role of sensors, which have become smaller, cheaper, and faster, even recognizing gender. All this data fuels AI, making it more powerful.

Hyderabad-based entrepreneurs on Forbes India 30 Under 30 List

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad-based Bhanzu, a leading math education platform founded by Neelakantha Bhanu, has been featured in the Forbes India 30 Under 30 list for 2025 in the education category. Known as the World's Fastest Human Calculator, Bhanu was previously recognized in the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list in 2022.

Bhanzu's co-founders Devulapalli Lakshmi Prachotan, Alluru Uday Kiran, and Jonnalagadda Sai Krishnakanth also share this honor. Founded in 2020, Bhanzu aims to eliminate math phobia, which affects 75% of students worldwide and leads to anxiety, poor academic performance, and limited STEM career opportunities. The platform makes math engaging and accessible through personalised learning experiences, helping students gain confidence.

Bhanzu's Founder and CEO, Bhanu called the Forbes recognition a great honor. He emphasised Bhanzu's mission to make math fun and fearless, empowering students to reach their full potential.



Hyderabad-based Bhanzu's co-founders Devulapalli Lakshmi Prachotan, Alluru Uday Kiran and Jonnalagadda Sai Krishnakanth

In November 2024, Bhanzu raised $16.5 million in Series B funding, supporting its global expansion, especially in the U.S., and enhancing its AI-driven curriculum to transform math learning worldwide.

Telangana

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ACB raids on DTC, unearths Rs 4.04 cr 'illegal assets'

The Anti-Corruption Bureau officials found 23 'illicit foreign liquor bottles worth Rs 5.29 lakh and it led to Excise officials registering a case under various Sections of the Excise Act

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Anti-Corruption Bureau officials have unearthed properties worth Rs 4.04 crore illegally amassed by Deputy Transport Commissioner (DTC) Puppala Srinivas.

The ACB arrested Srinivas here on Saturday, produced him before the ACB court, and remanded him in judicial custody. Apart from a case of disproportionate assets, he was charged under the Excise Act following the seizure of foreign liquor bottles at one of his houses.

According to ACB officials, properties disproportionate to his known sources of income were unearthed. The ACB officials carried out extensive searches that threw light on Srinivas' lavish lifestyle which was funded by corrupt practices.

Srinivas, known for his affinity for imported alcohol and luxury, was found with three luxury cars and a collection of 23 bottles of foreign liquor valued at Rs 5.29 lakh.

The massive haul included three residential properties worth Rs 2.79 crore, 16 open plots valued at Rs 13.57 lakh, 15 acres and 20 guntas of agricultural land worth Rs 14.04 lakh, and a bank balance of Rs 5.85 crore. Other items seized included household goods valued at Rs 22.85 lakh, three cars and one motorcycle worth Rs 43.80 lakh, gold ornaments valued at Rs 19.55 lakh, and silver ornaments worth Rs 28,000. While the total value of these assets is estimated at Rs 4.04 crore, officials believe their market worth could be much higher.



Foreign liquor bottles



Puppala Srinivas

In addition to the corruption charges, Srinivas' possession of foreign liquor has led to further legal trouble. The ACB alerted the Shankarpally Excise Police, who filed a separate excise case under Section 34(a) of the Telangana Excise Act, 1968 for illegal possession of foreign liquor bottles. In all, 23 bottles of foreign liquor valued at Rs 5.29 lakh were also seized.

Following the raids, Puppala Srinivas was arrested and presented before the Special Court in Warangal.

Monks from abroad visit Buddhavanam



International Buddhist monks visiting Buddhavanam in Nagarjunasagar on Saturday

PNS ■ NALGONDA

The international Buddhist monks who gathered at the prestigious Buddhavanam constructed by the Telangana government in Nagarjuna Sagar on Saturday, admired and praised the sculptures there. During the International Tipitaka Recitation Festival held at Buddhavanam, 115 Buddhist monks, including 27 from India and monks from South Asian countries participated. On Saturday, they took out a procession from the entrance plaza of Buddhavanam, where they visited the sculptures of Acharya Nagarjuna, the Maha Stupa, Buddha's footprints, the Buddha's life carvings, the Sri Lankan gifted sculpture of Buddha, and the 14 sample stupas in the Stupa garden.

Shivanagi Reddy, the historian and consultant for Buddhavanam, explained the various sections of Buddhavanam and the unique features of its sculptures to the Buddhist monks. After watching a video presentation on Buddhavanam in the meeting hall, Shivanagi Reddy spoke to the monks about the Buddhist philosophical texts written by Acharya Nagarjuna and the acknowledgments he received for his contributions to Buddhism. They expressed immense joy in stepping on the ground where Acharya Nagarjuna had once walked. They also stated that the works of Acharya Nagarjuna gained worldwide recognition.

The programme was attended by Kashyapa Bante, Anand Bante, Sanghapala Bante, Buddhist monks from Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, and others, as well as the founder of the International Tipitaka Recitation Council, Wangme Diki (USA) and others.

Teacher thrashed for misbehaving with girl students

PNS ■ JANGAON

A teacher in a private school here was thrashed on Saturday for misbehaving with the girl students at a private school. The parents of the girls not only beat up the teacher but also handed him over to the police. The police registered a case.

According to parents, the physics teacher of Sri Chaitanya School in Jangaon town, Shivkumar, was allegedly misbehaving with Class 10 girl students and touching them inappropriately. The parents accused the teacher of leering at the girls in the classroom.

When the school management was questioned by parents, the principal remained unconcerned. The parents took the law into their hands and punished the teacher before handing him over to the police station. Based on the parents' complaint, the police filed a case.

It may be recalled that Dinavan Rao, the principal of Loyola Model High School in Seetharampet under Ibrahimpatnam in Rrangareddy district was arrested on Friday for sexually assaulting a 16-year-old student. The assault reportedly took place four days ago but came to light after the victim informed her mother, who immediately filed a complaint. The accused has been booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and police have launched an inquiry into the allegations. Reports suggest that the principal had a history of misconduct involving female students.



Shivkumar

'Delhi poll results should be an eye-opener for Congress in Telangana'

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Shadnagar BJP senior leader and state executive member Srivardhan Reddy has strongly criticised the Congress party following its defeat in the Delhi Assembly elections. Taking a dig at Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, he remarked that the people of Delhi had given Congress a "zero" and predicted that in every upcoming election, whether in a state or a constituency, the people would continue to reject the party.

Speaking on the landslide victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Delhi, Srivardhan Reddy asserted that the city would progress only under BJP's leadership. He pointed out that despite Revanth Reddy campaigning in Delhi, the Congress failed to make any impact, which he said was proof of the party's declining influence. He further claimed that BJP's strength in Telangana would become evident in the coming days and mocked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, saying he had received a "donkey's egg" in the Delhi elections. He predicted that the same trend would continue in local body elections, ultimately affecting Telangana politics as well.

'Health workers not paid wages for five months'

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

They are poor who live from hand to mouth. They are health workers who work three shifts a day, and by the end of the day, their hands are worn out. However, contractors are taking advantage of them, not paying them their dues on time and causing them distress. If these workers were not there, there would be no health care, no doctors, and no hospitals. Contractors are exploiting these lower-class contract workers by denying them their wages and subjecting them to hardships. When workers ask for their wages, they are threatened with saying, "We'll give you the money whenever we feel like it."

According to workers at the Sadasivapet Community Health Center in Sangareddy district, they have not been receiving their salaries regularly. The hospital here, despite having records showing 50 staff members, rarely has that many staff members present. The situation of contract workers is even worse. For example, 20 workers employed through an agency have not received their wages for almost five5 months. When workers inquire, they are told that there is no budget, and they are promised that the payment will be made once the budget arrives. If they demand their due payment forcefully, they are threatened with being removed from their jobs.



A health worker pouring out her grievance over non-payment of wages in Sangareddy on Saturday

The workers complain that they have not been paid for the last four months and have to borrow money just to support their families. Now, even the lenders are unwilling to help them, and those who had borrowed money earlier are struggling to repay it. These workers are appealing to the authorities to ensure that the contractor pays their salaries, irrespective of the budget. They stress that it is unfair to treat workers in this way.

Turmeric traders form syndicate, fleece farmers

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

Turmeric farmers are expressing concern over traders forming a syndicate that has caused the price of turmeric to drop from Rs 13,000 per quintal in the last season to just Rs 11,000 per quintal this season. This price reduction comes as a blow to farmers already struggling with a decreased yield due to a pest attack.

In the previous season, turmeric was priced at Rs 13,000 per quintal at the start, but this year, the price has fallen to Rs 11,000. Nizamabad, which produces 60 per cent of the turmeric in Telangana, has seen a significant decline in yield.

Teachers told to ensure 100% pass results in SSC

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Rangareddy District Collector C Narayana Reddy conducted a surprise inspection at Telangana Social Welfare Girls Residential School in Narsingh, Gandipet Mandal, on Saturday. During the visit, he interacted with students and reviewed the quality of food being served to them.

The District Collector inspected the meals prepared for the students and instructed the food preparation staff to maintain hygiene and take necessary precautions to prevent contamination. He also examined the food supplies, vegetables, and other stored goods in the dining hall, classrooms, surroundings, and store room. He inquired whether students were receiving meals as per the prescribed menu.

Emphasising the importance of education, the Collector advised teachers to clarify any doubts students have in each subject. With the 10th class board examinations approaching, he urged teachers to complete the syllabus on time and conduct revision classes. He also suggested identifying students struggling in specific subjects and conducting special classes for them. He stressed the need for quality teaching to ensure that all SSC students pass with top grades.

The District Collector was accompanied by the Narsing Municipal Commissioner and other officials during the inspection.



Rangareddy Collector C Narayana Reddy inspecting kitchen at Social Welfare Girls Residential School in Narsingh on Saturday

People urged to make use of SNU in govt hospital

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

Dr KV Swarajyalakshmi, the District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO), conducted a surprise inspection of the SNCU (Special Newborn Care Unit) at the Achampet Regional Hospital in Achampet in the district. She inquired about the health of the children admitted to the SNCU. Pediatric specialists, including Dr Prashanth and Dr Swarajyalakshmi accompanied the DMHO.

She emphasised the importance of breastfeeding, warmth, kangaroo care, and other relevant aspects for the mothers. She appealed to the people of the constituency to admit newborns with low birth weight, preterm babies, and those suffering from conditions like jaundice to the SNCU.

Later, she monitored the vaccination programme at the Achampet Town Health Sub-center. She reviewed the list of children and pregnant women receiving vaccines.

The event was attended by Deputy DMHO Dr Tara Singh, Rayanayya, Division Malaria Officer Bikkulal, Supervisor Hanumanthu, ANMs, and ASHA workers.

Lalitha Jewellers showroom opened in Khammam

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Lalitha Jewellers, which has earned trust for 41 years in South India, has now opened a new showroom in Khammam. The showroom, located on Vaira Road in Khammam, was grandly inaugurated on Saturday, offering customers gold and diamond jewelry at manufacturing prices. This allows people to save more of their hard-earned money.

During the grand opening, a special 'Gold Jewelry Purchase Scheme' was introduced, which is unique and not available in other showrooms in the market.

Lalitha Jewellers has gained significant popularity in cities like Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Tirupati, Rajahmundry, Bhimavaram, Kakinada, Chittoor, Nellore, Guntur, Srikakulam, Anantapur, Kadapa, Ongole, Kurnool, Nizamabad, Warangal, Miryalaguda, and Hyderabad (Kukatpally, Somajiguda, Dilsukhnagar, Chandanagar, Suchitra Circle), among others, said M Kiran Kumar, Chairman and Managing Director of the company.



Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy lighting the lamp to mark the inauguration the Lalitha Jewelry showroom in Khammam on Saturday. Company's chairman and managing Director M Kiran Kumar is present

The inauguration ceremony was attended by distinguished guests, including the Minister of Agriculture Tummala Nageswara Rao, Minister of Information Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Khammam MP R Raghuram Reddy, Khammam Corporation Mayor Punukollu Neeraj and others.

"You can take a photo of the jewelry you like and compare the prices with the estimate slip at other showrooms, and purchase from the one offering the lower price. Lalitha – Guiding for fair sales! 'I am not interested in the showroom business, but I have a passion to directly benefit the customers. That's why I am adopting a transparent approach,' said Kiran Kumar.

Council for Citizen Rights accuses Dubbaka civic body of corruption

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

A team from the Council for Citizen Rights (Civil and Human Rights Organisation) conducted a second-day "file inspection" at the Dubbaka Municipal Office in Siddipet district. The members of the Council for Citizens Rights accused the civic body of corruption. They mentioned that they notice issues concerning all department. Upon checking all the records, they identified irregularities, some of which were presented before the media.

The Town Planning section of Dubbaka Municipality was found to be disorganised, and they pointed out the misuse of government funds, claiming there were no records regarding house construction permits. When they questioned the Town Planning Officer about this, the officer spoke contrary to the law, and when asked to show the records, responded sarcastically, saying, "Check online." They expressed anger at the officer's rude response and their refusal to provide information.

Upon examining all the records in the municipality, they found that only around 450 houses were listed in the records for the period between 2020 and 2025. When asked whether only 450 houses had been built, the officer left without providing an answer. The team highlighted that there were numerous illegal constructions in Dubba, alleging that higher authorities were supporting these illegal activities.

In conclusion, the organisation criticized that the State government is suffering huge revenue loss.

The members said they would bring the issue of corruption in the Dubbaka Municipality to the attention of the District Collector, Governor, and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. They pledged to continue their struggle until justice was served for the public.



Members of Council for Citizen Rights inspecting files in Dubbaka Municipal office on Saturday

ACROSS THE STATES



Centre reviews progress of PM-AJAY scheme

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Virendra Kumar on Saturday chaired a meeting of the central advisory committee for PM-AJAY scheme, reviewing its progress and discussing strategies for the socio-economic upliftment of Scheduled Caste (SC) communities across India. The Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PMJAY) is aimed at reducing poverty among the SC communities through various initiatives like the generation of additional employment and improving socio-economic indicators in SC dominated villages. The meeting saw the participation of state cabinet ministers, senior officers from states and Union Territories, the Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, and representatives from key Union Ministries, including Finance, Agriculture, Rural Development, and Women and Child Development, along with NITI Aayog members, according to an official statement.



DMK wins Erode East, maintains winning streak

The ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu extended its winning run in elections on Saturday by emerging victorious in the Erode East bypoll with a massive margin against actor-politician Seeman's NTK, a victory that should come as a major boost to the M K Stalin-led party ahead of next year's Assembly elections. DMK's V C Chandhirakumar trounced Naam Tamilar Katchi's (NTK) M K Seethalakshmi by a margin of 91,558 votes. In the process, NTK, a Tamil nationalist organisation, forefeited deposit. With 44 other candidates-- most of them independents, in fray, NOTA (None of the Above) grabbed the third place with 6,109 votes. Chandhirakumar polled 1,15,709 votes while Seethalakshmi came a distant second with 24,151 votes. The winning candidate later said the DMK has secured "75 per cent of the votes." "I dedicate this victory to the Chief Minister (Stalin).



MoD inks Rs 642-crore contract with BEL

The government on Saturday signed a Rs 642-crore contract with Bharat Electronics Limited for procurement of 28 key systems for 11 new-generation offshore patrol vessels and three cadet training ships for the Indian Navy, the defence ministry said. This is in line with the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' vision of the government, it said. The Ministry of Defence, in a statement, said it signed the contract with Bharat Electronics Limited in New Delhi for "procurement of 28 EON-51 systems for 11 new-generation offshore patrol vessels and three cadet training ships for the Indian Navy at a total cost of Rs 642.17 crore, including taxes under Buy (Indian-IDDM) category". EON-51 is an Electro Optical Fire Control System which provides search, detection and classification of targets using electro-optical and thermal imagers devices, it said.

Unlikely politician Atishi weathers the BJP storm

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

When she assumed office as chief minister last year, Atishi kept the chair used by AAP convenor and her predecessor Arvind Kejriwal empty in her office "waiting for him" and was dubbed as a "temporary CM" by some.

On Saturday, as the Delhi Assembly poll results trickled in and AAP's big guns including Kejriwal lost one by one, Atishi was among the few party leaders who held their own and will now raise the party's voice in the BJP-majority assembly.

Atishi retained Kalkaji seat, defeating her BJP rival and former MP Ramesh Bidhuri by a margin of 3,521 seats. It was a tough fight with Bidhuri leading in the initial rounds of counting.



The election campaign for Kalkaji saw a series of bitter exchanges between the two. Bidhuri's remarks targeting Atishi over her decision to change her surname from "Marlena" to "Singh" stirred a controversy. While responding to Bidhuri, Atishi broke down at a press conference and accused him of seeking votes by "abusing" her elderly father.

The controversy seems to have worked in her favour.

Atishi was born to Vijay Singh and Tripta Wahi, both of whom taught at Delhi University. After completing her schooling from Springdales School, Delhi, she attended graduated in history from Delhi University's St. Stephen's College in 2001 and later attended Oxford University.

Parvesh ends Kejriwal's supremacy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP's Parvesh Verma emerged as a giant-slayer on Saturday when he emerged victorious against AAP supremo and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in a fierce contest from the New Delhi seat by a margin of 4,089 votes. Verma, 47, bagged 30,088 votes, while Kejriwal and Congress' Sandeep Dikshit got 25,999 votes and 4,568 votes.

Parvesh, a two-time MP from West Delhi, mounted a highly spirited campaign in New Delhi even before the official announcement of his candidature by the BJP. Two months before the poll, Verma ensured that he reached out to the maximum number of voters in a door-to-door campaign, covering thousands of households in his constituency. Verma, a son of former Delhi CM Sahib Singh Verma, is among the frontrunners for the next chief minister of Delhi.



The AAP deployed manpower and resources in the constituency expecting a tough contest on the cards and also accused Verma of giving money and other goodies to voters. The management graduate, known for his vocal, spirited nature, even publicly declared himself as Kejriwal's rival in the New Delhi seat held by the former Delhi chief minister since 2013. Verma's victory was not dissimilar to Kejriwal's, who in 2013 dethroned two-time CM and Congress candidate Sheila Dikshit.

Born on November 7, 1977 in Delhi,

Indian graduate employability soars

Incresed from 33.95 to 54,81 per cent, says Union minister

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Gandhinagar, Feb 8 (PTI) The employability of Indian graduates increased significantly from 33.95 per cent in 2013 to 54.81 per cent in 2024, Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Saturday.

He attributed the improved employability to various skill-building initiatives undertaken by the government amid growing demand for skilled professionals across the globe.

Mandaviya inaugurated the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Youth Summit in Gandhinagar.

He said BIMSTEC countries present an opportunity for collective growth and development given that more than 60 per cent of their population is below 35 years and that India is committed to playing a leading role by offering its expertise, resources, and vision.

"India has taken various initiatives to bridge the skill gap amid a rise in the global demand for skilled professionals, with over 1.5 crore youth trained in AI, robotics and digital technologies and equipped with industry-relevant skills and prepared for the future job market under the Skill India Scheme," he said.

As a result of these initiatives, the employability of Indian graduates has increased significantly in the last decade from 33.95 per cent in 2013 to 54.81 per cent in 2024, indicating a 61 per cent improvement in job readiness, he said.

India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand are members of the BIMSTEC organisation.

"This Summit is being organised to promote collaboration, exchange of experiences, and accelerate youth-led development, which is a step towards empowering the youth across the region," the Union minister said.

Mandaviya said BIMSTEC is not just about governments working together, but it is also about connecting people, empowering youth, and building a future of shared prosperity.

ARVIND KEJRIWAL

Delhi's ballpoint and muffler *'Aam aadmi'*

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With a basic ballpoint in his pocket, muffler around his neck, baggy sweater and blue Wagon R, Arvind Kejriwal was the archetypal common man when he came into the public domain. And when he used the descriptive to actually name his party after the "aam aadmi", people were drawn to it in droves.



That was 2013. Twelve years later, that dream of being a pan-India party and a national level leader is beginning to come undone for the bureaucrat-activist who chose to become a politician - not by joining an established party but starting his own from ground up.

The Aam Aadmi Party, which ruled Delhi for 10 successive years and also formed government in Punjab, on Saturday lost the election in India's capital city with 22 seats against the BJP's 48.

Not just that, Kejriwal lost his own seat New Delhi to the BJP's Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma. It was an ignominious end to the Kejriwal era in Delhi, putting a question mark on the future of the party. And on that of its national convenor.

With only Punjab in his pocket, the 56-year-old's national hopes for himself and his party have been arrested - at least for the moment.

Notwithstanding the loss in Delhi, where many of his senior leaders, including his deputy Manish Sisodia also bit the dust, the AAP is still a player. It has 13 MPs from Punjab and Delhi -- 10 Rajya Sabha MPs, seven from Punjab and three from Delhi, and three Lok Sabha MPs from Punjab.

The IIT-Kharagpur graduate and Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer from Haryana first entered electoral politics in 2013, storming the Congress bastion by defeating three-time chief minister Sheila Dikshit. Holding out the promise of freshness in his politics, that was when he became chief minister for the first time by wresting the national capital from established political parties.

On February 14, 2014, just 49 days after he became Delhi chief minister for the first time, he quit in a blaze of headlines after alliance partner Congress opposed his pet project, the Jan Lokpal Bill. In the elections that followed in 2015, the AAP won 67 of 70 seats. Five years later, it bagged 62.

BIRD FLU OUTBREAK

Alert sounded in J'khand

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Jharkhand government on Saturday sounded an alert after bird flu case was reported at a veterinary college-based poultry farm of Birsa Agriculture University (BAU) in Ranchi, an official said.

The Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has asked the state to take all measures to contain its spread.

Around 150 Guinea fowls died over the past 20 days at the farm. The presence of H5N1, a type of avian influenza A virus, was confirmed in the samples sent to the ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD) in Bhopal, the official added.

"We sent a sample to NIHSAD on February 3 following intermittent deaths of the birds. The report confirmed the presence of H5N1," Ranchi Veterinary College Dean Sushil Prasad said.

The Centre has asked the state government to take immediate measures including declaration of infected and surveillance areas, restricting access to infected premises, destruction of birds and disposal of dead birds and infected material.

Smaller parties fail to secure 1 per cent vote share

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



As BJP dealt a devastating blow to the Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi and returned to power in the city after more than 26 years, parties such as the BSP, CPI and AIMIM struggled to make an impact, failing to secure even one per cent of the vote share.

The All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) no vote, AIMIM got 0.78 per cent of the vote share, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) 0.58 per cent, the Communist Party of India (CPI) 0.2 per cent, and Janata Dal (United) JD(U) 0.86 per cent, according to the Election Commission data.

A total of 0.56 per cent of voters opted for None of the above (NOTA) in the polls.

The Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM, which contested only two seats in the Delhi Assembly elections -- Okhla and Mustafabad -- managed to make its presence felt, with both of its candidates emerging as second runners-up.

Modi's *'AAP-da'* blitzkrieg end party's long drought

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP's hyper-localised campaign targeting the AAP's loyal base among the poor with its welfare promises and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's depiction of Delhi's ruling party as "AAP-da" seemed to have connected big time with the city's voters, ending the party's drought of more than 26 years in the national capital.

The BJP's decimation of a plucky and ambitious opposition satrap in Arvind Kejriwal, who has led the Aam Aadmi Party to the status of a national party, in his bastion is a hammer blow to the already disjointed INDIA bloc, which has suffered a string of reverses following its spirited performance in the Lok Sabha polls.

The BJP's usual all-decks-on-hand approach strengthened the voice for change in Delhi on the ground, which had become fertile for it due to the declining stock of AAP convener Kejriwal amid charges of corruption and that he betrayed the ideals he once espoused, embodied by the alleged 'Sheeshmahal' scandal.



Cong's third consecutive drought in Delhi



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress was decimated in the Delhi elections on Saturday, failing to open its account in the 70-member assembly for a third consecutive time and its key candidates suffering crushing defeats.

The only consolation, however, was a slight improvement in the party's vote share, with leaders proclaiming that they would win back the trust of the people and exuded confidence of forming its government in 2030.

An early one segment lead in Badli was soon lost and the party, now a pale shadow of its glorious past under late chief minister Sheila Dikshit, failed to open its account once again.

Her son Sandeep Dikshit finished third in New Delhi segment where BJP's Parvesh Sahib Verma defeated AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal by over 3000 votes. While Verma polled 25057 votes and Kejriwal 22057, Dikshit gathered just 3873, in a shock culmination of the Sheila Dikshit legacy. Sheila Dikshit was the chief minister of Delhi for three terms.

Humbly accept Delhi mandate: Rahul

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said he humbly accepts the mandate of Delhi as he thanked party workers and voters.

In a post on X, he said the fight for the progress of Delhi and against pollution, price rise and corruption will continue.

"We humbly accept the mandate of Delhi. Heartfelt thanks to all the Congress workers of the state for their dedication and all the voters for their support," he said in his post in Hindi.

"This fight for the progress of Delhi and the rights of Delhiites – against pollution, price rise and corruption – will continue," Gandhi said.

Making all efforts to restore peace in Manipur: CM

PNS ■ IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Saturday said his government has been making all efforts to restore peace in the strife-torn northeastern state and to ensure that people live together as before.

"The state government has been making all possible efforts to restore peace and to ensure that people live together peacefully as before," the chief minister said.

More than 250 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless since ethnic violence broke out in Manipur in May 2023.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of DGAR Men & Women Polo Championship 2025, Singh appreciated the Army and the Assam Rifles for organising various tournaments and said these would play an important role in promoting polo and protecting ponies in Manipur.



No glitches in SpaDex, we are going step by step: ISRO

PNS ■ BENGALURU

ISRO Chairman V Narayanan on Saturday said there were no glitches in the space agency's maiden space docking mission, Spadex, as reported in a section of media and that it was going step by step.

"No glitches, right now it is docked. We are going step by step. We are studying and then we are planning to do a lot of experiments," Narayanan, Secretary, Department of Space, told PTI on the sidelines of the 15th Biennial Edition of Aero India International Seminar, 2025, here.

On January 16, ISRO successfully performed the docking of satellites as part of the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) and the space agency also announced that post docking, control of two satellites as a single object was successful. In this mission, NVS-02 navigation satellite was successfully injected into the intended Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.





Some reports had recently claimed that space docking could be experiencing technical issues as the two spacecraft -- SDX-01 and SDX-02," are yet to undock

Although on February 2, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) issued an update stating that the orbit raising operations towards positioning the satellite to the designated orbital slot could not be carried out as the valves for admitting the oxidizer to fire the thrusters for orbit raising did not open.

Some reports had recently claimed that space docking could be experiencing technical issues as the two spacecraft -- SDX-01 and SDX-02," are yet to undock.

But Narayanan had said earlier too that the space agency was still conducting a review of the undocking process and that the move could take a while.

According to ISRO, the SpaDeX mission is a cost-effective technology demonstrator mission for the demonstration of in-space docking using two small spacecraft that was launched by a PSLV rocket.

In space, docking technology is essential when multiple rocket launches are required to achieve common mission objectives.

"SO LONG AS YOU HAVE FOOD IN YOUR MOUTH, YOU HAVE SOLVED ALL QUESTIONS FOR THE TIME BEING"
— FRANZ KAFKA



Dumplings to Dragon Dance

Chinese New Year at the *Shang Palace* was a celebration of the rich Chinese food and culture, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**



DID YOU KNOW?

The Spring Festival (Chun Jié) is the most significant traditional holiday in China. It marks the beginning of the lunar new year and is celebrated with various customs and rituals that date back thousands of years.

Shangri-La Eros New Delhi recently celebrated the *Chinese New Year* with an exclusive food experience at *Shang Palace*, the hotel's signature Chinese restaurant. The celebration brought together authentic Chinese flavours, and traditional festivities.

At the heart of the celebrations was a specially curated à la carte menu, offering a rich tribute to China's culinary heritage. *Shang Palace* crafted an immersive dining experience that showcased the essence of the *Chinese New Year*. Guests indulged in a menu that honoured traditional Chinese ingredients while incorporating contemporary elements and local influences.

Among the standout dishes, the *Lobster Broth with Mushroom* provided a warm and umami-rich start, while the delicate *Butter Garlic Saffron Har Gao* offered a refined take on classic dim sum. The bold and spicy *Sichuan Chilli Whole Red Snapper* became a favourite for those who relished fiery flavours. Other stellar offerings included the crispy *Crackling Prawn*, the aromatic *Chicken Floss* infused with cumin, and the vegetarian delight of *Spicy Tofu Broccoli* with Garlic Stock.

For those looking for classic Chinese staples, the *Xiang La Chicken* and *Marble Pork* delivered authentic flavours, while the *Sanchen Spiced King Oyster Mushroom* offered a delightful vegetarian alternative. Signature creations such as *Radish Puff Dim Sum*, *Cumin Chicken Floss*, and *Stir-Fried Stem Lettuce* with Celery Chilli added a unique twist to the menu. Rice and noodle lovers found comfort in the *Bean Thread Noodles* and the flavourful *Deo Fried Rice* with Egg, ensuring a well-rounded culinary experience.

No grand Chinese New Year celebration would be complete without the iconic *Dragon Dance*, and Shangri-La Eros New Delhi mesmerised guests with awe-inspiring performances in the hotel lobby. The graceful and powerful movements of the dragon, symbolising good fortune and prosperity, created an electric atmosphere of joy and festivity.



The culinary journey concluded on a sweet note with the *Five Spice Crème Brûlée*, a dessert that perfectly balanced rich flavours with a delicate finish. Each dish on the menu was meticulously crafted using the finest ingredients and techniques, offering guests a taste of the depth and complexity that define authentic Chinese cuisine.

"This Chinese New Year, we were proud to offer a unique experience that combined the finest of Chinese cuisine with traditional celebrations. With authentic flavours, a stunning spectacle, and exceptional service, our guests embarked on a dining journey like no other," said Abhishek Sadhoo, General Manager, Shangri-La Eros New Delhi.

The celebration at Shang Palace transported diners where tradition met contemporary elegance. From tasty flavours to cultural performances the celebration was truly brought to life.





Royal Flavours of Mughlai Cuisine

Experience the grandeur of authentic biryanis, succulent kebabs and regal platters at *Arsalan*, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**



Delhi's rich food options have witnessed a royal addition as *Arsalan*, a name synonymous with Mughlai excellence, have opened their newest outlet in *Rajouri Garden*. Known for its mastery in authentic Mughlai cuisine, *Arsalan* brought its legacy of rich flavours and time-honoured recipes to the capital, delighting food enthusiasts with a true taste of royalty.

Founded in 2002, *Arsalan* has twelve outlets in *Kolkata* and an international presence in *Dubai*. With its Delhi launch, the brand took another step in its mission to serve the finest Mughlai cuisine to the Delhiites.

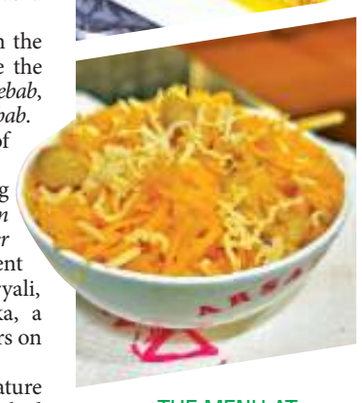
The menu at *Arsalan*'s Delhi outlet showcases a majestic spread, with *Tandoor and Kebabs*, *Briyani*, *Arsalan Special Dishes* and almost 27 dish options in *Chicken in Gravy*, *Arsalan* serves as a hotspot for non vegetarian lovers.

Having less but notable options in the starters for the vegetarian menu are the *Paneer Hariyali Kebab*, *Paneer Tikka Kebab*, *Tandoori Mushroom* and *Veg Seekh Kebab*. There are less options but the taste of starters is satisfying and tasty.

You can have the mouth watering platters like the *Assorted Chicken Platter*, *Arsalan Special Assorted Platter* that is a regal feast featuring succulent mutton barra, tangri, reshmi, haryali, tikka, fish tikka, and paneer tikka, a perfect blend of rich *Mughlai* flavours on one plate.

The *Arsalan Special* is its signature *Chicken and Mutton Biryani*, slow-cooked with aromatic spices. Alongside, an array of succulent kebabs, rich curries, and traditional Mughlai delicacies transported diners back to the grandeur of the Mughal courts. With its opulent yet welcoming ambience, *Arsalan*'s *Rajouri Garden* outlet is a destination offering an unforgettable gastronomic experience steeped in tradition.



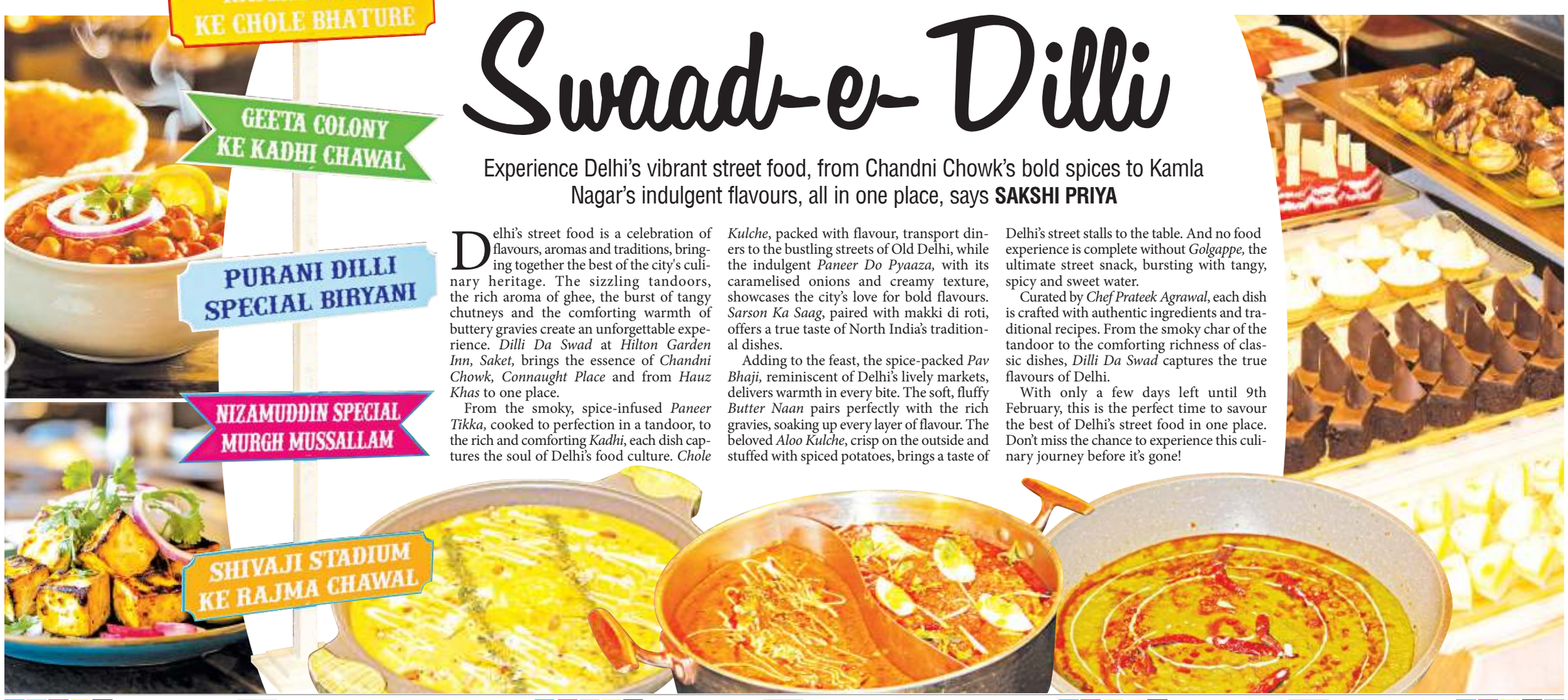


THE MENU AT ARSALAN'S DELHI OUTLET SHOWCASES A MAJESTIC SPREAD, WITH CHICKEN, KEBAB AND BRIYANI



Swaad-e-Dilli

Experience Delhi's vibrant street food, from Chandni Chowk's bold spices to Kamla Nagar's indulgent flavours, all in one place, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**



Delhi's street food is a celebration of flavours, aromas and traditions, bringing together the best of the city's culinary heritage. The sizzling tandoors, the rich aroma of ghee, the burst of tangy chutneys and the comforting warmth of buttery gravies create an unforgettable experience. *Dilli Da Swad* at *Hilton Garden Inn, Saket,* brings the essence of *Chandni Chowk, Connaught Place* and from *Hauz Khas* to one place.

From the smoky, spice-infused *Paneer Tikka,* cooked to perfection in a tandoor, to the rich and comforting *Kadhi*, each dish captures the soul of Delhi's food culture. *Chole Kulche*, packed with flavour, transport diners to the bustling streets of Old Delhi, while the indulgent *Paneer Do Pyaaza,* with its caramelised onions and creamy texture, showcases the city's love for bold flavours. *Sarson Ka Saag*, paired with makki di roti, offers a true taste of North India's traditional dishes.

Adding to the feast, the spice-packed *Pav Bhaji,* reminiscent of Delhi's lively markets, delivers warmth in every bite. The soft, fluffy *Butter Naan* pairs perfectly with the rich gravies, soaking up every layer of flavour. The beloved *Aloo Kulche*, crisp on the outside and stuffed with spiced potatoes, brings a taste of Delhi's street stalls to the table. And no food experience is complete without *Golgappe,* the ultimate street snack, bursting with tangy, spicy and sweet water.

Curated by *Chef Prateek Agrawal*, each dish is crafted with authentic ingredients and traditional recipes. From the smoky char of the tandoor to the comforting richness of classic dishes, *Dilli Da Swad* captures the true flavours of Delhi.

With only a few days left until 9th February, this is the perfect time to savour the best of Delhi's street food in one place. Don't miss the chance to experience this culinary journey before it's gone!



Serene Retreat in the Aravallis

Ananta Spa & Resorts, Ajabgarh, is a peaceful getaway in the Aravallis, offering comfort, nature and luxury with beautiful views, spacious rooms and warm hospitality, says **PAWAN SONI**



Just three hours from Delhi-Gurgaon, *Ananta Spa & Resorts, Ajabgarh,* offers a picturesque escape nestled within the Aravalli range. The journey itself is a delightful transition, from the smooth Mumbai highway to Rajasthan's winding state roads, passing through quaint villages before culminating in a scenic drive over forested hills. This seamless blend of modern infrastructure and natural beauty sets the perfect tone for a luxurious yet tranquil retreat.

Rooms Inspired by the Elements

The resort's accommodations are conceptualised around the seven elements of nature, with four currently available, Fire, Earth, Bamboo and Water (Lagoon). Each villa-style room is designed with private front and back lawns, ensuring an ideal balance of openness and privacy.

We stayed in a Bamboo Room, distinguished by its elegant arch-shaped design and a mezzanine floor with an additional double bed, perfect for families traveling with children or extra guests. The earthy tones and bamboo-inspired décor further enhance the warm, inviting ambiance.

For those, seeking a more exclusive experience, the Lagoon Villas offer a taste of the Maldives in Rajasthan. Built over a serene waterbody, these villas let guests observe the water below through glass floors or relax in private balcony hammocks, overlooking the tranquil surroundings. Plans are underway to further enhance these lagoons with lotus flowers and fish, adding to their aesthetic appeal.

AN EXPANSIVE AND PICTURESQUE RESORT

Spread across 30 acres, with plans to expand over a 100-acre estate, Ananta Ajabgarh is thoughtfully designed to harmonise with its surroundings. Enveloped by the Aravalli hills, the property exudes an air of seclusion and serenity, making it an ideal getaway for families, couples, and corporate retreats. Adding to the tranquillity is a unique touch, the resort plays a gentle Om chant across the property during the morning and evening hours, creating an atmosphere of deep calm and relaxation.





Activities and Recreation

Ananta Ajabgarh offers a variety of recreational activities to keep guests engaged throughout their stay. We particularly enjoyed the battery-powered cycle rides, which made exploring the vast property effortless and fun. A camel ride through the resort added a touch of local Rajasthani charm, while the entertainment room provided a selection of indoor games for leisure.

The expansive swimming pool serves as a refreshing retreat, while evenings bring cultural vibrance with folk dance performances set against the stunning backdrop of the Aravallis. Complementing the experience is complimentary evening tea and snacks, allowing guests to unwind in a serene setting.

One amenity we missed during our visit was the spa, which was not yet operational. However, the immersive experience the resort offers made up for its absence. Once open, the spa will undoubtedly add another dimension of relaxation and wellness to the property.

Exemplary Hospitality

A resort's true essence lies in its hospitality, and *Ananta Ajabgarh* excels in this regard. The staff's attention to detail and personalised service elevate the guest experience. For my in-laws' anniversary celebration, the team went above and beyond, decorating their room beautifully and organising a special barbecue evening with their favorite snacks, making the occasion truly memorable.

Another small yet thoughtful gesture stood out, the responsiveness of the golf cart staff. While the carts were occupied ferrying other guests, the team quickly arranged alternate transport for those walking. This proactive approach reflects the resort's commitment to guest comfort, making it feel less like a hotel and more like a home away from home.

Beyond the Resort: Nearby Attractions

While the resort itself offers ample relaxation and entertainment, guests looking to explore beyond can visit Chattri Lake for a picturesque picnic and a short trek. Another fascinating excursion is a 30-minute drive to Bhangarh, the famed 16th-century ancient township. Known as one of India's most haunted places, Bhangarh is also a treasure trove of history, boasting remarkable architecture and centuries-old temples.

A Culinary Experience to Remember

Currently, *Ananta Spa & Resort* features a single all-day dining multicuisine restaurant, The Oasis, with an Italian specialty restaurant set to open soon. This upcoming venue will feature a range of Italian delicacies, with the highlight being authentic, wood-fired Neapolitan pizza.

What truly impressed me, however, were their Indian meat preparations. Most of the mutton served in Delhi is sourced from Rajasthan, but here, the resort benefits from direct access to high-quality produce. More importantly, the culinary team, led by Executive Chef Laveen Mathur, has done a stellar job crafting dishes to appeal to diverse palates.

A Destination Poised for Greatness

Ananta Ajabgarh is poised to become one of Rajasthan's premier luxury getaways. Despite being only a month old, the resort has already hosted multiple weddings and corporate events, a testament to its growing popularity.

During my visit, I had the pleasure of meeting Pradipta Biswas, Chief Operating Officer of *Ananta Spa & Resorts,* who was at the property despite managing a vast portfolio across India. In his words, "This resort is like discovering the lost kingdom," and I couldn't agree more.

Embracing Nature's Luxury

Tipai, a luxurious wellness sanctuary in Maharashtra, combines eco-friendly design with unique dining and immersive nature activities for mindful travellers, says **RUPALI DEAN**



As a weary urbanite with a penchant for wanderlust, I frequently find myself yearning for an escape, somewhere the cacophony of city life fades into the soft whispers of rustling leaves and the soothing fragrance of earth after rain. Enter *Tipai,* an exquisite wellness and wildlife sanctuary nestled in the heart of Maharashtra's Tipeshwar Forest. A collaboration of visionary Keyur Joshi and culinary alchemist Chef Amninder Sandhu, Tipai is where eco-luxury recrafts the art of hospitality.



Nature Beckons: Living in Luxe

Tipai is uniquely crafted, bringing together the best of sustainable design and immersive nature. My abode, a self-cleaning bio pool villa, exudes rustic charm with a touch of modern minimalism, adorned with local kulhad clay accents that merge seamlessly into their surroundings. Outside, expansive verandas invite me to soak up the serene ambience, while open-air bathrooms, with views that sway between foliage and sky, create a delightful harmony with nature. It's a curated experience, where each detail has been fashioned with care by the keen eye of principal designer, Ariane Thakore Ginwala.

Culinary Journeys: A Feast for the Senses

Dining at *Tipai* is a voyage through taste and culture that celebrates local heritage. With Chef Amninder Sandhu at the helm, I find myself enchanted by the fresh, hyperlocal degustation menus. Each meal becomes a story, with dishes sourced from the regions of Maharashtra, MP, and Andhra Pradesh featuring on my plate. Palaash beckons for al-fresco dining, harmonising local flavours with international flair, while Talaabwali enchants at sunset with Indian dining classics like sumptuous Dum biryanis and tender kebabs. This serene setting beside a lotus pond is nothing short of magical



Immersive Escapades:

A safari hosted by naturalists, a thrilling expedition into the wild, where the elusive Talaabwali tigress might grace you with her presence. Perhaps gleaning knowledge during a nature walk, I found insights into the nocturnal wonders of the region's biodiversity. begins. Each moment here reinvigorated my spirit, proving that there really is magic in mindful travel. *Tipai* stands as a beacon to embrace life's slow, sweet cadence.



sunday pioneer

Money 08

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 9, 2025

IN BRIEF



Advanced Sys-Tek files draft IPO papers with Sebi

Advanced Sys-Tek Ltd has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi seeking its approval to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO). The IPO comprises a fresh issue worth Rs 115 crore alongside an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 15.27 lakh shares by existing promoters, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) filed on Friday. As part of the OFS, promoters Mukesh R Kapadia and Umed Amarchand Fifadra plan to divest up to 7.64 lakh shares each. At present, promoters and promoter group entities hold 82.57 per cent stake in the company. Proceeds from the fresh issue will be used to support capital expenditure requirement, funding long-term working capital requirement and for general corporate purposes. The company is a key player in industrial automation, specialising in large-scale measurement, control, and automation solutions.



German firm BIKAR starts production at Belagavi

German aerospace material supplier BIKAR has commenced production at its newly set up manufacturing facility at the Aequs Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Belagavi, a statement said on Saturday. The company in June 2023 had partnered with Aequs Infrastructure to set up an advanced aerospace centre at the latter's facility in Belagavi in Karnataka. The launch of the manufacturing plant marks a significant milestone for BIKAR Metals This expansion underscores BIKAR's commitment to India's growing aerospace, defence, and precision engineering industries and reinforces its position as a global leader in high- performance material solutions, Bikar said. "With this investment, we are strengthening our footprint in India. Our goal is to provide high-quality semi-fabricated raw materials with reduced lead times, supporting the growing demand for reliable and advanced material solutions in the region," said Prasad Rajashekharaiah Siddalinga, commercial director India at BIKAR Metals India Ltd.



Western Carriers bags Rs 1,089cr logistics contract

Kolkata-based Western Carriers (India) Ltd (WCIL), a multi-modal logistics firm, on Saturday said it has clinched a Rs 1,089 crore contract from mining giant Vedanta Limited. One of the largest contracts in the sector, the four-year agreement, spanning until 2028, involves transporting aluminium products, pig iron, and export-import cargo from mining manor Vedanta's Jharsuguda (Odisha) facilities to domestic hubs and international ports, the company said. The deal underscores WCIL's expertise in integrating rail, road, and warehousing solutions for bulk industrial shipments. "As a 4PL specialist, we will optimise costs and efficiency through our pan-India rail network and digital tools," Kanishka Sethia, CEO of WCIL said. WCIL's infrastructure includes 50 plus branches, 16 warehouses, and 55 plus rail handling points across 23 states, enabling last-mile connectivity in remote areas.

NO LEVEL FOR RUPEE IN MIND

Market forces decide rupee value, RBI not worried: Guv

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



"There is no change in RBI's approach. It does not look at any price level or band. It is our endeavour to curb excessive volatility. We should not be looking at daily movement or exchange rate," he said in reply to a query on the rupee depreciation

Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Saturday said that the market forces decide the value of rupee with respect to the US dollar and the central bank is not worried about day-to-day movement of the currency value.

Addressing the media after the meeting of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with the Reserve Bank board, Malhotra said that the central bank focuses on the value of the rupee in the medium to long term.

"There is no change in RBI's approach. It does not look at any price level or band. It is our endeavour to curb excessive volatility. We should not be looking at daily movement or exchange rate," he said in reply to a query on the rupee depreciation. On the impact of the depreciation of the rupee against the US dollar on price rise, he said 5 per cent depreciation impacts domestic inflation to the extent of 30-35 bps.

He further said that RBI took on board the current rupee-dollar rate while working out the growth and inflation projections for the next financial year.

The rupee recovered 9 paise from its all-time low level to close at 87.50 against the US dollar on Friday after the Reserve Bank of India reduced the key policy rate by 25 basis points in line with street expectations.

The Governor also said most of the depreciation in the Indian currency is driven by the uncertainties which have come up because the global issues and especially, the tariff-related announcements by US President Donald Trump.

"...hopefully that should settle down and that should help us in the downward movement of inflation," he said.

Malhotra also sought to assure that the RBI will be "nimble and agile" to provide adequate liquidity in the banking system.

"We have a number of instruments at our hands to control and manage liquidity and we will use them. We have OMO, we have the buy-sell swaps of forex, we have various other tools, we have the LAF, we have the VRR and we are using all of these measures to provide sufficient liquid. We need not be worried on that account," the Governor said.

On a question related to crypto-currencies, the Governor said a working group has been set up by the government to look into issues related to crypto assets and a discussion paper on crypto will also be issued.

Meanwhile, an RBI statement said that the Central Board of Directors reviewed the global and domestic economic situation and outlook, including the challenges posed by geopolitical developments and global financial market volatility. The Board, at its 613th meeting, also passed a condolence resolution in memory of Manmohan Singh, former Prime Minister, former Union Finance Minister and former Governor of the Bank.

In her address, Sitharaman outlined the vision of the Union Budget 2025-26, its key focus areas and the expectations from the financial sector. The Finance Minister also underscored Budget's commitment to prudent fiscal management and policies designed to foster growth, with the overarching goal of achieving 'Viksit Bharat'. The Directors commended the Finance Minister on the Budget and shared their insights.

She was accompanied by Pankaj Chaudhary, Minister of State for Finance; Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Finance Secretary and Secretary, Department of Revenue; Manoj Govil, Secretary, Department of Expenditure; Arunish Chawla, Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management; and V Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor.

Fiscal and monetary measures to boost consumption: FM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said fiscal and monetary measures announced recently will help boost consumption and promote private investment.

The Budget presented by the Finance Minister on February 1 proposed a slew of measures including significant income tax cuts for the middle class. Individuals earning up to Rs 12.75 lakh in a year will not have to pay any taxes, benefiting 1 crore taxpayers.

On the monetary side, the Reserve Bank on Friday slashed the policy rate by 25 basis points, the first rate cut in five years to support growth.

"After the Budget, the few inputs I've had from some business leaders is that the orders for fast-moving consumer goods for April-June are already getting booked, and the industry is clearly seeing signs of a possible recovery of consumption," she said at a media interaction after addressing the Board of the RBI in the customary post-budget meeting.

As a result, she said, many of them are looking at reviewing their capacity utilisation itself, which means you can safely see that the triggers for a consumption-driven cycle are clearly being felt by those who have to make investment decisions.

"So, I see this as a positive sign and with yesterday's decision of the RBI, together things can move in alignment and the required traction we made in this course," she said.

She also said both the government and the Reserve Bank of India will continue to work in a well-coordinated fashion to prop up growth and contain inflation.

Fiscal and monetary policy are working in tandem and there has been good coordination between the government and the RBI, she added.

NCLAT: Decide on BCCI-Byju's settlement within a week

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Appellate tribunal NCLAT has directed NCLT to decide within a week over BCCI's plea for settlement and withdrawal of insolvency matter against ed-tech firm Byju's.

A two-member bench comprising Justice Rakesh Kumar Jain and Jatindranath Swain on Friday directed the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) while disposing of the plea filed by Riju Raveendran against the previous order of the tribunal to reinstate Glas Trust and Aditya Birla Finance into the Committee of Creditors (CoC) of Byju's.

"The NCLT is directed to decide the application, preferably in a week's time," the NCLAT said.

However, the Chennai bench of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) also made clear it has not made any observations on the facts.

Riju Raveendran, former promoter of Byju's and brother of Byju Raveendran has challenged the order of the Bengaluru bench of NCLT, which had on January 29 directed disciplinary proceeding against resolution professional of ed-tech firm and nixed his direction to exclude Glas Trust and Aditya Birla Finance from the edtech's Committee of Creditors.

NCLT had directed the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) to conduct an enquiry against Pankaj Srivastava, resolution professional of Think & Learn, which owns edtech firm Byju's.

Madhya Pradesh emerging as textile, apparel hub

PNS ■ BHOPAL



Madhya Pradesh is rapidly emerging as a vibrant hub for the textile and garment industry, owing to its strategic local, rich agricultural base, robust infrastructure and investor-friendly policies.

The state has been leveraging its cotton production, along with favourable policies, to emerge as a key player in the textile industry.

Madhya Pradesh is the sixth largest cotton producer in India, producing about 18.01 lakh bales in 2023-2024, according to official data. 43 per cent of India's organic cotton and 24 per cent of global organic cotton production is from MP.

Cotton forms the raw material for the textile industry and the state's cotton production is a significant advantage for textile manufacturing units.

The state government has set up various textile parks to boost the sector.

Mega Textile Park in Biyavra and Neemuch in the Malwa region offer infrastructure and incentives to attract investors in the textile sector, according to a state government paper on sectoral policy.

Upcoming PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park in Dhar will help position the state as a leader in large-scale textile manufacturing.

Renowned for Chanderi, Maheshwari, and hand-printed fabrics, Madhya Pradesh is home to a rich tradition in textiles.

Its strong silk production with 200 tonnes annually contributes to the growing silk industry.

According to the document, the state has a growing workforce skilled in the textile industry, particularly in areas like weaving, spinning, and dyeing. The presence of educational institutions and training centers focused on textiles further strengthens the workforce.

Adding to this is the state's proximity to major markets. Madhya Pradesh's location gives it easy access to markets like Delhi, Mumbai, and other parts of India. It also has access to ports via neighboring states for exporting textile products internationally.

Bengal govt forms panel to boost ease of doing business

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The West Bengal government on Saturday formed an investment synergy committee to expedite implementation of project proposals and boost the ease of doing business in the state.

A notification to this effect was issued two days after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, during the Bengal Global Business Summit, announced that a panel would be set up to ensure ease of doing business in the state.

The State-Level Investment Synergy Committee (SLISC), chaired by the chief secretary, will act as a single-window clearance system for investment proposals, ensuring approvals within a mandated timeframe, the notification said.

Report: Pharma exports expected to double to USD 65 billion by 2030

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



India's pharma exports are expected to double to USD 65 billion by 2030 and touch USD 350 billion in value terms by 2047, moving to top five position globally by diversifying its product basket, according to a report.

While India is the largest supplier of generic drugs globally, accounting for one in five generic drugs sold worldwide, the nation ranks 11th in terms of export value.

As per the Bain & Company's report, 'Healing the World: Roadmap for Making India a Global Pharma Exports Hub', India can potentially secure a position among the top five nations in export value by 2047 by innovating and diversifying its export basket to include specialty generics, biosimilars, and innovative products.

The findings in the report were formulated in collaboration with Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA), Indian Drugs Manufacturers' Association (IDMA), and Pharmexcil.

"The transition from volume-based to value-led growth is essential for Indian pharma to secure its rightful place in the global market. Innovation, including the shift towards specialty generics, biosimilars, and novel products, will be the key to India's pharmaceutical future," Sriram Shrinivasan, Partner, Bain & Company, said.

With the right focus on quality, regulation, access to global markets, talent, and entrepreneurial innovation, India can rise to be among the top-five pharma exporters globally by 2047, he added.

India's solar capacity will inspire nations: NSEFI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's achievement of installing 100 gigawatts (GW) of solar capacity will inspire developed and developing nations to accelerate energy transition, industry body NSEFI said.

On Friday, Union New and Renewable Energy Minister Pralhad Joshi said India has achieved the historic milestone of 100 GW solar capacity powered by government's commitment to a cleaner, greener future.

"India is the 4th largest country after China, US, and Germany to cross the 100 GW milestone. While we are trailing Germany by a small margin, we will soon be the 3rd largest solar market in the world. It is an inspiration to several countries (both developed and developing), especially the Global South, to learn and understand how to enable accelerated energy transition," Subrahmanyam Pulipaka, the CEO of National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI), said.

Tripura conclave brings business proposals worth Rs 3,683 crore

PNS ■ AGARTALA

The Tripura government on Saturday said that 87 Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) valued at Rs 3,683 crore were signed in the business conclave that concluded on February 8.

Addressing the 'Destination Tripura: Business Conclave-2025' here, Chief Minister Manik Saha urged investors to set up industries in the north-eastern state.

"Though Tripura is the third smallest state in the country, it has enormous resources to offer for setting up industries. Natural gas, tea, rubber, bamboo and agar are the resources which could be used for commercial purposes," Saha said.

Asserting that the northeastern state has agar plantations covering over 2000 hectares in non-forest area, the chief minister said the state also produces over 1 lakh MT of raw rubber annually. Saha also informed the industrial houses of the state's infrastructure for business, especially in Sabroom.

"Maitri Setu, connecting Tripura's Sabroom with Bangladesh's Ramgarh has been constructed. The distance between Maitri Setu and Chittagong (port of Bangladesh) is merely 72 km. Once the bridge is operationalised, the northeastern state will become the gateway to Southeast Asian nations", he said.

'Corporates to lead way in adopting AI'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Big corporates are likely to lead the way in adopting new-age technology such as AI, data analytics, and cybersecurity solutions for improving their bottomline, a report said.

The demand for technologies such as AI, data analytics, and cybersecurity solutions is expected to grow significantly and larger businesses are likely to lead the way in adopting these tools, given their greater capacity for investment, as per the latest Business Technology Report published by CPA Australia.

The report highlighted numerous benefits that technology adoption brings to business, particularly in improving cybersecurity and the customer experience, and enhancing employee skills and satisfaction.

It also emphasised the importance of integrating technology to address emerging challenges, particularly in ESG.

"Businesses should focus on expanding their use of technology to monitor emissions, improve supply chain transparency, and engage with stakeholders effectively. This will not only enhance operational efficiency but also assist compliance with evolving regulatory requirements," it said.

To accelerate technology adoption, it said, businesses need access to affordable and user-friendly solutions tailored to their specific needs.

Governments should therefore consider policies that reduce financial barriers and provide incentives for adopting advanced technologies, it said.

Upskilling employees through training and mentorship is also essential to address the shortage of skilled professionals, it added.

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
5th Floor, West Wing, Swarnajayanthi Commercial Complex, Ameerpet, Hyderabad-500 038
NIT.No.: HMDA/CE/VIDS/Div-V/05/2024-25 e-Procurement Tender Notice Date: 06-02-2025
Tenders are invited on e-procurement from valid Registered Contractors for the Following works

S.No	Name of Work	Tender Inviting Authority
6/1	Supply, Installation, Testing Commissioning of CC Cameras with (02) Years Maintenance at Priyadarshini Park at Sanjor Nagar, Hyderabad.	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, DIVISION-V, HMDA
6/2	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of CC Cameras with 2 Years Maintenance at Mallikota park at Narayanaguda	
6/3	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of CC Cameras with (02) Years Maintenance at Patelkunta Park, Kukatpally	
6/4	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of CC Cameras with (02) Years Maintenance at Sachivalaya nagar park, Vanasthalipuram	
6/5	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of CC Cameras with (02) Years Maintenance at Prof. Jayashankar Park, Vanasthalipuram	
6/6	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of CC Cameras with (02) Years Maintenance at Abhyudhaya nagar park, Vanasthalipuram	
6/7	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of CC Cameras with (02) Years Maintenance at Police station Park, Vanasthalipuram	

The last date for submission of the bid is on 27.02.2025 upto 4.30 pm. For further details visit https/tender.telangana.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer
Division-V, HMDA.
DIPR R.O. No.981-PP/CL-AGENCY/1/ADVT/1/2024-25

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
e-PROCUREMENT TENDERS
e' NIT No. 16/J1/IT/GHMC/2024-25, Date: 07.02.2025
Name of Work: Supply of Bulk SMS's Push Services to GHMC for period of (2) years. Start Date / Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: Start date: 10.02.2025 @ 11:00 AM onwards, End date: 24.02.2025 @ 04:00 PM., Name & Address Officer Cell No.: O/o Additional Commissioner (IT), 3rd floor, CC complex Building, GHMC, Liberty Circle, Hyderabad - 500063. Phone: 6309999458, deeil-ghmc@gov.in
Sd/- Additional Commissioner
(Information Technology), GHMC
R.O.No: 10699-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2024-25, Dt. 06-02-2025

sunday magazine
Hyderabad, February 9, 2025

the pioneer
agenda

"You can be everything. You can be the infinite amount of things that people are"
— KESHA



TRUMP'S SECOND TERM: A NEW DAWN FOR INDO-US RELATIONS

By **ANOOP BOSE**

As the Trump administration takes shape, the continued fortification of the US-India relationship stands as one of the most significant pillars of global diplomacy, further solidifying the nations' shared commitment to peace, prosperity, and mutual respect on the world stage

On January 20th, 2025, a federal holiday in the United States marking Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a significant moment in American history unfolded. Donald John Trump was sworn in for his second term as the 47th President of the United States in the cold weather within the grand US Capitol Rotunda in Washington, DC, at 12:15 PM ET. The rotunda, conceived by Dr. William Thornton, the First Architect of the Capitol, is designed as a pantheonic structure. Trump was accompanied by First Lady Melania Knauss Trump, who proudly held two Bibles: the 'Trump Bible' (a 1953 edition of the King James version, a gift from his mother, Mary Anne MacLeod Trump, in 1955) and the "Lincoln Bible" (which had belonged to William Thomas Carroll, a clerk of the US Supreme Court, and was used by President Abraham Lincoln during his inauguration on March 7th, 1861).

A number of foreign leaders were invited to the inauguration, and many attended the ceremony, including Italy's far-right Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Argentina's libertarian President Javier Gerardo Milei, and India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, who is also a former envoy to the United States. While some critics made much ado about the absence of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the event, they overlooked the enduring strength and vitality of the Indo-US relationship, which has withstood time and the changing tides of world affairs.

In this context, I am compelled to quote an excerpt from an important US State Department report titled "U.S. Relations with India Bilateral Relations Fact Sheet," dated January 20, 2025:

"The U.S.-India strategic partnership is founded on shared values, including a commitment to democracy and upholding the rules-based international system. The United States and India have shared interests in promoting global security, stability, and economic prosperity through trade, investment, and connectivity… The United States supports India's emergence as a leading global power and a vital partner in efforts to safeguard the Indo-Pacific as a region of peace, stability, and growing prosperity. The strong people-to-people ties between our countries, reflected in the four million-strong Indian American diaspora and vibrant educational exchange, are a tremendous source of strength for the strategic partnership."

Modi and Trump had a productive phone conversation on January 27, 2025. In a post on X, Modi congratulated his "dear friend" Trump on his second term and reaffirmed their commitment to a "mutually beneficial and trusted partnership," with a shared focus on global peace, prosperity, and security. On January 28, 2025, Trump addressed reporters aboard Air Force One, clarifying the state of Indo-US relations: "I had a long talk with him this morning (Monday). He is going to be coming to the White House over the next month, probably February. We have a very good relationship with India."

Reflecting on the past, *Modi* was sworn in as the 15th Prime Minister of India on May 26, 2014, after a landslide electoral victory. Modi visited the United States for the fifth time as Prime Minister on June 26, 2017, where he had his first meeting with Trump, who had assumed office as the 45th US President on January 20, 2017. Their meeting offered an excellent opportunity to discuss crucial areas of mutual interest, such as defence, security, strategic cooperation, energy, and counterterrorism. In September 2019, Modi visited the United States for the sixth time. The excitement and media coverage surrounding his visit were immense, particularly the event at the Houston NRG Stadium on September 22, 2019, dubbed 'Howdy, Modi: Shared Dreams, Bright Futures.' The event attracted a record crowd of over 50,000, mostly members of the Indian diaspora, who cheered enthusiastically.







In his speech, Modi lauded Trump, stating, "Today, we have a very special guest, someone whose name is known worldwide. His words are followed by millions, and he made an impact in politics, economy, and security. From CEO to Commander-in-Chief, he has left a lasting mark. His leadership, belief in America's future, and resolve to Make America Great Again have already strengthened the U.S. economy. We in India connect well with President Trump, and our nations have taken our relationship to new heights. Your presence here is a testament to the strength of our partnership."

Trump responded in kind, praising Modi's leadership, "Prime Minister Modi is doing an exceptional job for India. It's an honour to be here with him, celebrating the shared dreams and bright futures of America and India. The nearly 4 million Indian Americans enrich our culture and communities, and my administration is fighting for you every day. Our nations' ties, grounded in democracy, have never been stronger. Under Modi's leadership, India has lifted millions out of poverty, and in the next decade, millions more will rise to the middle class. Indian Americans are making groundbreaking contributions in medicine, technology, and business. Together, we will strengthen our bonds, advance innovation, and safeguard our freedoms."

On February 24, 2020, President Trump arrived in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, with First Lady Melania for his first official visit to India. Prime Minister Modi personally welcomed Trump at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, rolling out the red carpet. Trump visited Sabarmati Ashram, spun the traditional Indian charkha, and received a gift from Modi: a replica of Gandhi's three wise monkeys symbolising "see no evil, speak no evil, hear no evil." He then traveled to the newly built Motera Cricket Stadium to address over 100,000 people at the "Namaste Trump" event, a response to the "Howdy Modi" event in Houston.

Modi celebrated the deepening India-US relations, stating, "This is a new chapter in our ties," and praised Trump for making significant strides in strengthening bilateral ties. He spoke of their shared values and how India and America's partnership exemplifies unity in diversity. Modi's speech concluded by introducing Trump as a friend of India.

Trump reciprocated with warm words, expressing admiration for Modi and India. He highlighted the nation's incredible rise as a democratic, peaceful, and prosperous power in just 70 years. Trump underscored that India's success story is one of freedom, and praised the Indian-American community for their significant contributions to the United States. He also expressed a commitment to deepen US-India relations and strengthen cooperation on security issues.

Trump's address ended with a call for unity and shared values, affirming that India's strength lies in its people. He concluded with, "God bless India. God bless the United States of America. We love you, India." Trump, accompanied by Melania, later visited Agra, Uttar Pradesh, on the same day to experience a private sunset view of the Taj Mahal, a monument famously described by India's Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore as, "The Taj Mahal rises above the banks of the river like a solitary tear suspended on the cheek of time." Trump, visiting the iconic site for the first time, described it as "incredible, truly incredible" to reporters.

After his visit to the Taj Mahal, Trump headed to New Delhi for the final leg of his India trip. He spent the night at the ITC Maurya Hotel in the Grand Presidential Suite. On February 25, 2020, he was given a ceremonial 21-gun salute reception by President Ram Nath Kovind, joined by Modi and other dignitaries, at Rashtrapati Bhavan. From there, Trump proceeded to Rajghat to pay his respects at the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi. Following that, Modi hosted Trump at Hyderabad House for the official segment of the visit, where the two leaders held extensive talks on defence ties and other key issues of mutual interest. Trump's busy day included meetings with Indian business leaders and American embassy officials at Roosevelt House, a solo press conference, and concluded with a lavish state dinner banquet at Rashtrapati Bhavan, specially lit for the occasion. After the banquet, Trump departed for Palam Airport to board Air Force One for his return flight to Washington. Modi expressed his gratitude to Trump and Melania on Twitter, stating, "This visit has been a path-breaking one. We have made great strides in strengthening bilateral relations. India-USA friendship benefits the people of our nations and the world."

Though we cannot predict the future, I remain hopeful and confident that, in the days ahead, the people of India and the United States will continue to foster the spirit of "Howdy Modi-Namaste Trump," forging a deeper, unwritten alliance-one that may surpass the strength of many formal agreements. With Trump now serving as the 47th President of the United States and Modi preparing for his two-day visit to America starting on the evening of February 12, 2025, the two leaders are set to engage in wide-ranging discussions on February 13, 2025, when Trump is expected to host a special dinner in Modi's honour at the White House. Long live Indo-American friendship!

(The author is a senior, internationally recognised lawyer practicing in the Supreme Court of India and various High Courts and Tribunals)



sunday pioneer
HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 9, 2025

Mrs.: Sanya Malhotra's recipe of change elevates a tale of food, freedom & control

REVIEW





PLOT

Mrs., an official Hindi remake of the acclaimed Malayalam film The Great Indian Kitchen, takes the viewer on an uncomfortable journey into the life of Richa, played by Sanya Malhotra. The story unfolds with Richa, an energetic young woman, stepping into a marriage with Diwakar, a well-educated, but deeply patriarchal man who is a gynecologist. What follows is a revealing exploration of Richa's unfulfilled role as a wife in a misogynistic household where her identity is reduced to that of a cook, cleaner, and caretaker.

The film delves into the everyday struggles of Richa, whose entire existence seems to revolve around the kitchen, where she cooks meals to satisfy her husband and father-in-law's egos. From the outset, the film tackles the stark contrast between the excitement of marriage and the grim reality of a woman's life once she steps into the domestic sphere, presenting a marriage where love is replaced by obligation and oppressive expectations.

ANALYSIS

At its core, Mrs. critiques the traditional, patriarchal structure that continues to define the lives of many women even today. It shines a light on the long-standing issues of gender inequality within households where women are expected to perform domestic duties without question, receiving neither validation nor respect in return. Despite the passage of time since the original Malayalam release, the film's theme remains just as relevant and poignant, with Richa's struggle resonating with countless women who find themselves in similar situations, trapped in the cycle of catering to others while their own needs and desires are ignored.

What makes Mrs. powerful is its ability to evoke empathy and discomfort simultaneously. While the daily grind of cooking, cleaning, and caring for a household seems mundane, the film turns it into a narrative of horror, as Richa's existence feels like a never-ending loop of subjugation. Director Arati Kadav does an exceptional job of utilizing symbols and motifs throughout the film to reflect the stifling monotony of Richa's life, with small yet powerful visual cues like the leaking tap, which perfectly encapsulates the sense of being stuck, with no one offering to help or ease the burden.

HIGHLIGHTS

Mrs. stands out for its striking portrayal of patriarchal oppression and the complex dynamics between family members. The film's ability to show how a woman's identity is often reduced to a series of tasks—cooking, cleaning, and caring—without any acknowledgement of her emotional or intellectual needs is one of its strongest points. The film's title, "Mrs.," is symbolic, reflecting how a woman's identity is often relegated to her relationship with her husband, stripping her of individuality. The dialogues, often sharp and laden with double meanings, further enrich the narrative. The small yet impactful scenes where Richa interacts with her husband or father-in-law, trying to assert herself, serve as poignant reminders of the way women are made to feel invisible in their own homes. The film's exploration of Richa's gradual resignation to her fate is masterfully executed, and the climax—though unresolved—leaves the viewer with a heavy sense of discomfort, mirroring the unacknowledged plight of women in similar circumstances.

DRAWBACKS

While Mrs. succeeds in delivering an impactful message, its treatment of the subject matter leaves much to be desired. The focus often shifts too heavily toward making the audience sympathize with Richa without diving deep into the complexities of her internal world. Her character arc, though relatable, seems to play too much on the "suffering wife" trope, without fully exploring her emotional growth or rebellion. The film misses an opportunity to shed light on how women's voices are often silenced, not only by their husbands but also by their own families. Moreover, the film's failure to address the root causes of patriarchy and present any meaningful resolutions feels like a missed chance to spark conversation about change. The portrayal of men—though clearly intended to be critical—does not delve into their own conditioning or motivations, leaving them as one-dimensional figures who are simply 'the problem' without exploring how they too perpetuate the cycle of inequality.

DIRECTOR:
Arati Kadav

PRODUCER:
Pammi Baweja, Harman Baweja, Jyoti Deshpande, Smitha Baliga

CAST:
Sanya Malhotra, Nishant Dahiya, Kanwaljit Singh, Aparna Ghoshal, Mrinal Kulkarni, Nitya Moyal

STREAMING ON:
Zee5

RATING:
3.5/5

PERFORMANCES

Sanya Malhotra delivers an exceptional performance as Richa, capturing the frustration, confusion, and resignation of a woman trapped in an unfulfilling marriage. Her nuanced portrayal of a woman slowly coming to terms with her lack of agency is the heart of the film, evoking both sympathy and frustration. On the other hand, Nishant Dahiya as Diwakar, the patriarchal husband, plays his role with unsettling charm, embodying a man who is kind on the surface but unknowingly perpetuates the deeply ingrained misogyny within his household. The performances are solid, and the supporting cast, including Richa's in-laws, do an excellent job of representing the various facets of patriarchy that exist in such households. The subtlety in their performances adds to the overall unease the film aims to create.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

Arati Kadav's direction is the film's strongest asset. She masterfully balances symbolism and realism, creating a film that is as visually impactful as it is emotionally stirring. The cinematography reflects the claustrophobic environment of Richa's life, with tight framing and lingering shots that underscore the monotony and stagnation she experiences. The use of sound—whether the ticking of a clock or the incessant drip of a leaking tap—further reinforces the constant pressure on Richa's shoulders. However, the film's pacing could have been tighter. The repetitive nature of Richa's daily tasks, though integral to the story, occasionally drags on, which might affect the viewer's engagement, especially towards the middle of the film.

VERDICT

Mrs. is not just a film—it is an experience that forces the viewer to confront uncomfortable truths about gender inequality in domestic spaces. While the film succeeds in its portrayal of the oppressive nature of patriarchy and the self-sacrificing role women are often expected to play, it falls short of providing any answers or hope for change. The lack of resolution leaves the viewer with a sense of emptiness, reflecting the unresolved struggles of countless women.

RECOMMENDATION

For those who appreciate slow-burning, thought-provoking cinema, Mrs. is a powerful, albeit uncomfortable, watch. But for those looking for a more comprehensive critique of patriarchy or a solution-based narrative, this film may leave you wanting more.

WHAT'S NEW

MAKE VALENTINE'S DAY UNFORGETTABLE

With Valentine's Day fast approaching, it's the perfect opportunity to show those you care about just how special they are. Thoughtful gifts go beyond the typical and can create lasting memories.



UNLEASH THE POWER OF ROMANCE

YSL MYSLF begins with the fresh vibrancy of sparkling Bergamot, awakening the senses with its crisp energy. At its heart, the rich warmth of Orange Blossom Absolute from Tunisia adds depth and elegance, blending seamlessly with your skin. Finally, the scent rests on a foundation of warm woods, including Indonesian Patchouli and musky Ambrofix, creating a lasting impression of confidence and sensuality.

Price: INR 8200/-

TE AMO NECKLACE & NOAH KADA

Amala Earth Store has housed some exquisite jewellery pieces that are sure to elevate your Valentine's outfit. From the Dhuri by Madhurima Singh, these pieces are crafted with an unmatchable excellence. The collection makes for a perfect gift for your loved one, with many unisex pieces being part of the collection.





PERFECT 2-STEP SKINCARE RITUAL FOR HIM

This Valentine's Day, gift him a skincare routine enriched with the benefits of Sandalwood and Orange Peel. This 2-step face ritual leaves the skin cleansed, refreshed, and moisturised. This Gift Set contains; Facial Cleanser Sandalwood & Orange Peel 100 ml, Facial Moisturiser Sandalwood & Orange Peel with SPF 30 100 ml and 2 Heart Shaped Soaps.





CELEBRATE LOVE IN STYLE

For the upcoming Valentine's Day, P N RAO has exclusive pieces that marry traditional tailoring with contemporary style—perfect for the discerning individual looking to gift timeless elegance to their loved ones.

RARE BEAUTY FIND COMFORT MINI LOTION & FRAGRANCE SET

This set of body care essentials features a limited-edition travel fragrance spray and a mini body lotion, both infused with the uplifting Find Comfort scent. The set includes a limited-edition Find Comfort Eau de Parfum Travel Spray, wrapping you in the comforting notes of lemon zest, jasmine, and warm cashmere wood for an instant feel-good boost anytime.

Price: INR 3,800

KALASH CUFFLINK SET BLACK

Celebrate love and tradition with the Gagri collection—symbolizing abundance and life. Handcrafted terracotta miniatures that bring artistry and heritage to your space.

Price: INR 3450



LEAFY LUXURIES HAMPER

For those who love an elegant and refreshing gift, the Leafy Luxuries Hamper is an ideal choice. Packed with lush green plants, premium chocolates, and soothing teas, this hamper is a perfect blend of sophistication and nature's charm. It's the ultimate gift to bring warmth and positivity to your Valentine's celebration.

Price: INR 3,799

FROM CASUAL TO BOLD

Set Wet offers a range of hair styling gels, waxes, sprays and volumising powder that will be the perfect addition to your grooming routine. Whether it's an effortlessly casual look, a sleek style or a bold look, Set Wet has the perfect product to achieve the look you desire.

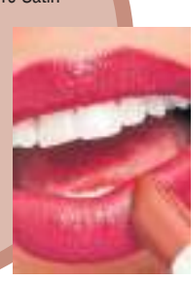
Price: INR 1,150



INTRODUCE YOUR LIPS TO NEW SLEEK SATIN FINISH

Here comes the undupeable signature Satin Lipstick by MAC Cosmetics: now maxed out with a new pigment-rich, sleek satin finish and hydrating formula that looks richer, feels creamier and glides on smoother. What makes it M•A•Cximal? Getting more colour, more comfort, sleek on lips, chic on cheeks.

Price: INR 2,550



ELEGANCE MEETS PLAYFUL CHARM

Whether you're planning a romantic surprise for someone special or indulging in some self-care, Savana's collection is designed to make this season special. From charming co-ord sets that exude playfulness to elegant dresses that capture the essence of romance, the collection features pieces to suit every personality and occasion.



HOROSCOPE

ARIES

Stay calm under pressure. Unexpected love may uplift you. Emotional stress affects health, but reasoning aids business. Students must focus, and separation anxiety will ease soon.

TAURUS

Stay ambitious but avoid arrogance. Financial and physical support will come. Overcome delays with persistence. A thrilling trip awaits. Challenges will pass, and success will follow.

GEMINI

Avoid delays and balance ambition. Emotional warmth will strengthen bonds. Confidence may dip, but it will recover. Socializing revives you. A new contract ensures career stability.

CANCER

Stay cautious in new relationships. Face challenges calmly. Creativity boosts your lifestyle. Socializing will bring joy and revelations. Favourable time for guidance in love and growth.

LEO

Nurture relationships and personal growth. New love boosts confidence. Philosophical thinking aids decisions. Avoid unhealthy habits. Guidance will be sought from you.

VIRGO

Open communication improves work relations. Balance career and personal life. Trust instincts but stay open-minded. Family issues may delay plans. Seek family advice before decisions.

LIBRA

Stay patient; delays will pass. Commitments bring loyalty. Home and work changes will find success. Try to be forgiving. Unexpected encounters uplift you. Family needs are fulfilled.

SCORPIO

Stay calm under pressure. Open communication strengthens bonds. New support will boost your confidence. Overcome past regrets. Guide others wisely. Think before making changes.

SAGITTARIUS

New ideas will emerge. Stay resilient through setbacks. Seek security guidance. Romance excites you. Balance emotions and responsibilities for personal and professional growth.

CAPRICORN

Avoid negativity; patience brings success. Family thrives on your commitment. Recognition will come your way. Revive artistic talents. Seek stability in projects and relationships.

AQUARIUS

Depend on trusted support during nervous moments. Family brings joy; communicate openly. Seek love and warmth for strength. Loyalty earns help. Avoid stress and find time to relax.

PISCES

Approach new changes carefully. Your support helps others. Stay organized and innovative. Define your goals. Assert strength in work settings. Seek family advice before decisions.

sunday pioneer
HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 9, 2025

'Rom-Coms are scarce in hindi cinema, but the '90s defined modern love stories'

Known for his extensive career spanning over two decades and collaborations with industry giants like Red Chillies Entertainment and Sony Pictures India, producer Pranjal Khandhdiya has created his own remark with Kacchey Limbu, Rashmi Rocket, Dhak Dhak and latest project Sweet Dreams. In an exclusive chat with The Pioneer, he discusses his craft in detail

TEJAL SINHA
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Pranjal Khandhdiya is a name that stands out in the world of cinema, not just for his extensive experience but for his unwavering commitment to producing fresh, meaningful stories that offer a refreshing departure from the darker, more violent themes often seen in today's films. With a career spanning over two decades, Khandhdiya has collaborated with some of the most esteemed production houses in the industry, including Red Chillies Entertainment, Phantom Films, and Sony Pictures India. His involvement in critically acclaimed films such as Piku, Super 30, and 83 has solidified his reputation as a versatile and innovative producer. Today, through his independent ventures—Outsiders Films, co-founded with actress Taapsee Pannu, and Mango People Media—he continues to break new ground, producing films like Kacchey Limbu, Rashmi Rocket, and Dhak Dhak, each reflecting his deep commitment to telling impactful, authentic stories.

The world of his latest project, Sweet Dreams exists at the intersection of dreams and reality, a delicate balance between escapism and the grounded struggles of everyday life. When asked about the most fascinating part of bringing this surreal world to life on screen, Khandhdiya expressed his enthusiasm for blending love's magic with the logic of real life. In an exclusive chat with The Pioneer, he shares, "The opportunity to blend the magic of love, represented by serendipity, with the logic of real-life conditions and people around us was the essence of the film. That combination is the best way to summarize Sweet Dreams. More than just a film story, it's a way of life that many of us wish to find a balance in."

For Khandhdiya, the challenge of balancing dreams and reality was central to the film's narrative. "One of the key aspects of the film is to transport the audience into an escapist world, providing an opportunity to feel like the hero of their own lives. In Sweet Dreams, writer-director Victor Mukherjee found magical moments that one chases while simultaneously ignoring the beauty of reality. It's about that perspective shift, which keeps portraying dreams and reality in ways that are simple for the audience to relate to." This blending of fantasy and reality creates a world that feels both whimsical and grounded—a space where viewers can connect with the characters' experiences.

The casting of Mithila Palkar and Amol Parashar was another intentional choice that reflects his vision for the film. With Hindi films rarely exploring rom-coms or young romances these days, the producer wanted to stay authentic in his casting. "We are barely making rom-coms or young romances in Hindi films these days. When we decided to produce Sweet Dreams, we wanted to stay as authentic as possible in terms of casting. The goal was to find popular actors who could truly own their characters, rather than getting swayed by larger-than-life personalities. Mithila and Amol's popularity with younger audiences was an added bonus. The authenticity they bring to their roles, combined with their strong fan base, made them the perfect fit." Their grounded portrayals of the characters make the love story feel relatable and real.

At the heart of Sweet Dreams lies a question about love and destiny. Khandhdiya, a self-confessed fan of rom-coms, shared his personal take on serendipity versus choice in love. "The '90s were a golden era for modern-day romance, and a generation grew up watching different styles of love—lover boy romance, obsessive love, sacrifice-demanding love stories. For me, serendipity and love go hand in hand. Social media may have made it easier to find people, but the fact that you find someone among 7 billion others is, in itself, a form of serendipity. As a maker of rom-coms, we tried to bring the fantastical elements of serendipity into what is otherwise a logical boy-meets-girl story."



As the producer, if he could step into the dream world of Sweet Dreams, he imagined a story of love that transcends words. "Love stories should cater to your inner suppressed feelings and desires. Love can come in many forms. Personally, I would dream of a story about two lovers so deeply connected that they experience emotions without words. A story that revolves around intuitions—a classic tale of love, with a deeper, almost spiritual connection."

While Khandhdiya has been a part of large-scale productions like Piku, Super 30, and 83, Sweet Dreams represents a more intimate, personal narrative. Reflecting on this shift, he explained, "Every story is a reflection of an incident or emotion that has stayed with you or influenced you in some way. Post-COVID, we've seen a flood of crime and action films. It felt like there was no space left for love and the small, sweet moments of life. That emotion triggered the need to work on a rom-com. Against the tide of big action films, we took a risk with a sweet little film. It took over two years for Sweet Dreams to release, and it was a humbling experience. As a producer, once you have an A-list star, the road ahead is relatively easy, but when the hero of the film is its content, the journey to completion and release becomes much more challenging. The validation comes late—only once the audience shows appreciation. It's a risk, but it's worth it."

In a time when many films embrace darker themes, Sweet Dreams stands out as a feel-good experience. he shared why this genre remains powerful: "The power of feeling good reigns supreme because it taps into a basic human emotion. While action films excite with adrenaline, we need to look beyond that for true entertainment. Even though films are a mass medium, we cannot ignore segments like youth, families, and female audiences. A star-studded film may charge up the box office, but for true emotional respite and inspiration, audiences will always turn to feel-good films that offer them an escape."

Looking ahead, Khandhdiya is excited about upcoming projects. He shared his passion for modern history and the need to document India's rich past. "I personally love modern history, and I believe we haven't done justice in documenting our rich history. Stories about modern Indian royalty, like that of Maharani Gayatri Devi, fascinate me. It represents fairytale love, the end of monarchy, the birth of a new nation, and challenging old customs. We are working on a web series that will tell this story in the best possible way. This will be a prestigious production coming out of Mango People Media."

Having collaborated with industry giants like Shoojit Sircar, Kabir Khan, and Taapsee Pannu, Khandhdiya shared valuable lessons he's learned: "Filmmaking is a team sport. The best way to excel is to have a strong team. Each of these filmmakers and actors has brought invaluable experience to my personal growth. The biggest lesson I've learned is their unwavering commitment to cinema. They don't bend under commercial pressure—they stick to their convictions and deliver something that the audience will appreciate."

Co-founding Outsiders Films with Taapsee Pannu has further strengthened Khandhdiya's creative vision. "Co-founding Outsiders Films was an extension of our friendship. Neither of us comes from the industry, and we've both made it here based purely on our work. We use the production house to give access to the right talent, whether they come from within or outside the industry."

As a producer, Khandhdiya seeks to strike a balance between artistic ambition and commercial success. "We make films that entertain, inspire, and connect with the audience. Whether the film is a festival hit or a commercial success, the goal is the same—to create something that the audience will love. With Sweet Dreams, we wanted to reach younger audiences or those who may be feeling left out. The fact that our film is streaming worldwide on OTT is already a significant commercial victory."

As for the future, Khandhdiya remains optimistic: "The Hindi film industry is undergoing a major transformation. We are working on a new slate of films, including a lighthearted relationship drama between a father and daughter. The goal is to find new heroes, explore a variety of genres, and continue catering to new audiences. Good storytelling will always find its audience, and that's what we'll keep striving for."

TRENDING

PERSON

AR RAHMAN



In a magical moment that had fans buzzing, A.R. Rahman joined Ed Sheeran on stage during his concert in Chennai, delivering an unforgettable musical collaboration that blended their iconic sounds and left the audience mesmerized.

ARYAN KHAN DIRECTING KING KHAN

VIDEO



In the viral video of Shah Rukh Khan's upcoming series title reveal, Aryan Khan steals the spotlight with a charming smile after directing his father through multiple takes, culminating in SRK's playful outburst, "Tere baap ka raj hai kya?"

Mrs.

MOVIE



Sanya Malhotra's much anticipated project Mrs., is streaming on zee5 has been released. Directed by Arati Kadav, the film showcases Malhotra in a powerful performance as a woman navigating deeply ingrained patriarchal norms while seeking her own identity.

PALKI MEIN HOKE SAWAR CHALI RE

SONG



"Palki Mein Hoke Sawar Chali Re" is a Hindi song featuring Ishwak Singh and Tanya Maniktala, composed by Raaj Aashoo, with lyrics by Seepi Jha, and sung by Asees Kaur and Shahid Mallya. This track is a remake of one of Alka Yagnik's iconic songs.

NANHA GANDHI AT MAHAKUMBH

On the 23rd day of the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj's sacred Sangam, a remarkable young boy, fondly known as 'Nanha Gandhi,' has become the center of attention. Captivating thousands of devotees, he is on a mission to spread the crucial message of cleanliness, embodying the values of Mahatma Gandhi in both spirit and action.

PICTURE



HOPE ON THE HORIZON

CUTTING-EDGE THERAPIES FOR NEURODEGENERATIVE DISORDERS

Neurodegenerative diseases (NDD) encompass a group of disorders associated with gradual but progressive loss of neurons in peripheral and central nervous systems, manifesting as impaired mobility, cognitive decline, behavior issues and a huge amount of care giver's burden. Alzheimer's dementia, Parkinson's disease, Motor neuron disease, Huntington's disease and many other lesser known to common public like Parkinson's Plus syndromes, Spinocerebellar ataxias, Prion diseases, Spinal muscle atrophy etc. are categorized as NDDs.

Around 50 million people worldwide are affected by neurological disorders, which are expected to become the second leading cause of mortality in 20 years. These non-curable disorders face challenges like multifactorial onset, triggering factors, and diverse pathophysiological mechanisms, necessitating the development of new therapeutic strategies.

Dr. Ritu Jha, Director & HOD- Neurology, Sarvodaya Hospital, highlights, "Traditional therapies of NDD are limited to medications such as dopamine agonist to manage dopamine deficiency in Parkinson's disease, cholinesterase inhibitors such as donepezil in Alzheimer's disease in combination with physical therapy, speech and swallowing therapy and assistive devices to enhance and prolong independence and quality of life of the patients. Extensive research is ongoing to overcome the limitations of traditional therapies, to slow down the progression of the disease, modify the course of illness and possible cure of NDD."



Advanced therapies for the treatment of NDD include gene therapy including optogenetics, immunotherapy, molecular targeted therapy, stem cell therapy, neuromodulation, newer drug delivery techniques and many more in the pipeline.

Gene therapy involves delivering therapeutic genes to target cells or tissues to correct genetic disorders, provide therapeutic effects, or modulate cellular functions. Optogenetics combines genetic and optical techniques to control the activity of specific neurons with light-sensitive proteins. Immunotherapy by the application of monoclonal antibody and specific antigen may play a role in managing the progressive neurodegenerative diseases as most of them associated with accumulation of misfolded and aggregated proteins such as use of aducanumab, a monoclonal antibody against amyloid protein in Alzheimer's disease. Molecular targeted therapies are in preclinical stage and even aiming at preventingNDD. Stem cell therapy aims to replace damaged or dysfunctional cells in the nervous system with healthy cells derived from stem cells that show potential for treating conditions such as PD, AD, spinal cord injury, and stroke. Mesenchymal stem cells derived from extracellular vesicles is an emerging therapeutic strategy for neurodegenerative diseases, with a promising role in modulating disease progression and promoting neuronal recovery. Neuromodulation techniques, such as deep-brain stimulation, transcranial magnetic stimulation, and transcranial direct current stimulation, can modulate neuronal activity and are already in practice for treating conditions such as PD, epilepsy, chronic pain, and other neurological pathologies.

With increasing life expectancy and ageing population, the number of people suffering from dementia is projected to be 152 million by 2050 and hence extensive research into innovative therapeutic options is of utmost importance while concurrently emphasizing on the preventive aspects.



sunday pioneer
HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 9, 2025

Sai Kumar, a multi-faceted genius

Starting his career at a very young age as a dubbing artiste and a child artiste, Sai Kumar rose to become an actor of repute. In the 50 years of his journey, Sai Kumar made his mark in Telugu, Tamil and Kannada films. The Pioneer's Suresh Kavirayani says Sai Kumar is also the voice of many actors including Suman, Rajasekhar, Rajinikanth, Suresh Gopi, Mohan Lal, Vijaykanth, Arjun Sarja, Mammootty and many others. He is also honoured with 'Yuva Kalavachaspathi' and 'Voice of Andhra' by cultural organizations. Sai Kumar is still busy with multiple projects in many languages. He wanted to be a cricketer, but became an actor. Here is what he has to say...



BOTH PARENTS ARE ACTORS, KALLEPALLI AND BAGEPALLI

My father is PJ Sharma, a popular actor and dubbing artiste. He is actually from a village called Kallepalli in Vizianagaram district, Andhra Pradesh. My grandfather PV Narasimham used to act in stage plays. My father also acted in many stage plays and was very famous for Srikrishna Devarayulu character at that time organized by Andhra Kala Parishath. Popular writers Sri Sri and Arudra are my father's cousins. My father won the best actor prize in one of his plays. Popular actors Mikkilineni and Lingamurthy were the judges. My father worked in a private company. Friends and well-wishers told him to go to Chennai and try in films. His craze for Akkineni Nageswara Rao took him to Chennai. In 1954, he acted as a junior artiste in a film that starred ANR, which he wanted to watch closely. After the shooting was over, my father came out of the studio and met ANR. He enquired about my father and advised him to try for good roles, not as a junior artiste. My father returned to his village and again in 1959 he went to Chennai and started as an actor and also a dubbing artist. My mother Krishnajyothi is from Bagepalli in Karnataka, the village bordering Andhra and Karnataka. She acted in Kannada films and she played 'Anarkali' drama in Chennai, which my father saw and fell in love with her. That's how my parents met and got married in 1960. I was born on July 27, 1961 in Chennai.

FIRST MAKE-UP FOR DURYODHANA'S MONOLOGUE

In Chennai, actor Rajababu's birthday was celebrated by Dr Raja Rao Arts Memorial Academy, on October 20, 1972. I participated in this cultural activity at the age of 11 and enacted the role of Duryodhana from Mayasabha. This is when I donned my first make-up on the stage. My first guru was actor Kakarala and then actor JV Ramana Murthy, who advised me in dialogue delivery and acting. Kakarala trained me for the Duryodhana solo act on the stage. This is when I got noticed by many and one of them is actor SV Ranga Rao. He was impressed by my acting and came backstage and blessed me.









SCHOOL AND CHILDHOOD

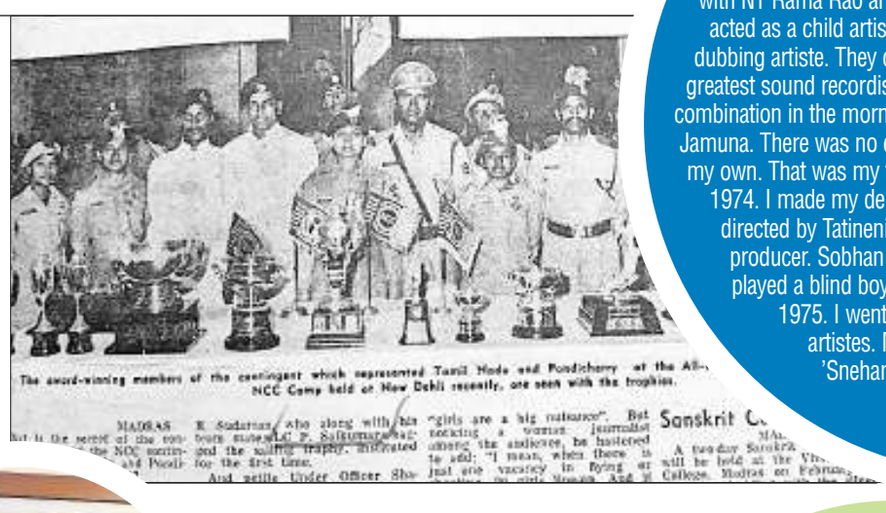
I studied in Children's Garden School, Mylapore, Chennai from Class 1 to 7 and then from Class 8 to 11, Kesari High School. I participated in cultural activities a lot. My mother taught me Surya Namaskar, Bhagavad Gita, Bhagavatham poems and so many other things from my fifth year. My parents are very disciplined and I learn it from them. As I told you, my father's favourite is Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha temple, Simhachalam and my mother's favourite is Kadiri Narasimha temple. So actually my name is Pudipeddi Venkata Varaha Narasimha Sai Kumar. Popular music director Saluri Rajeswara Rao's sons Vasu, Koti (music directors) and Chinna Koti also studied in the same school. Chinna Koti was my classmate in Kesari School. I am in touch with all my school friends.

MARRIAGE

My uncle's daughter Surekha is my wife. My marriage was an arranged one by my parents and it was held in Srikakulam. My re-entry into films happened immediately after my marriage. I went to a Challenge 100 day function with my wife and in-laws. Interestingly, my wife's name and Chiranjeevi wife's name is also Surekha. He felt very happy. I have two kids Aadi (actor) and daughter Jyothirmayee (doctor).

NCC, CRICKET AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

I was very active in NCC and I represented Tamil Nadu. R Sudharshan, the leader, and I were the banner winners in 1980 Republic Day. We led the guard of honour in front of Indira Gandhi, and also had breakfast with her. We went on a foreign cruise, on INS Betwa, from Kochi to Port Louis, Mauritius. From all over India only six people were selected and I was one of them as the cadet captain. Crossing the equator and drilling exercises were a great experience for me. Actually I played cricket in college and was a very good cricket player. I bowled off spin and I wanted to be a cricketer. But my dubbing led me into acting. I completed my degree from Nandanam Arts College and then MA in Public Administration from Presidency College. I worked as a professor for six months in the same college.



FILM CAREER WITH DUBBING AND THEN CHILD ARTISTE

Popular director Tatineni Prakash Rao made 'Samsaram' film with NT Rama Rao and Jamuna as the lead pair. A Tamil boy Sekhar acted as a child artiste in that film and for him they searched for a dubbing artiste. They conducted an audition and finally , Sivaram, the greatest sound recordist, selected me. At that time, dubbing was also a combination in the morning session with NTR and afternoon session with Jamuna. There was no escort for me as my parents wanted me to go on my own. That was my first dubbing to Master Sekhar in 'Samsaram' in 1974. I made my debut as a child artiste in 'Devudu Chesina Pelli' directed by Tatineni Rama Rao and Atluri Purnachandra Rao as producer. Sobhan Babu and Sarada were the lead pair. I played a blind boy in the film. The film was released in 1975. I went on to act in a few films as child artistes. My last film as a child artist was 'Sneham' directed by Bapu, a remake of Hindi film 'Dosti'.



POLICE STORY IS MEMORABLE IN MY LIFE

After 'Challenge' I did many films, but I got a good break with the film 'Kalikalam' in 1991. This Telugu film remade in Kannada with the title 'Kumkuma Bhagya' in 1993 marked my debut in Kannada. Actually, this film paved the way for me to act in the 'Police Story'. After my debut in Kannada film, I acted in another film 'Lockup Death' (1994) in which I got to know Thriller Manju, who is the action director for that film. Later, Thriller Manju turned into a director with 'Police Story' for which they chose me as the lead. I played cop Agni in it and the film was a sensation in 1996. I never looked back in Kannada after that and did many Kannada films. Even till today people remember the film and call me Agni, IPS. It was one of the landmarks and most memorable films in my life. I continue to act in many Kannada films. After the 'Police Story', I acted in 54 Kannada films as lead actor.







ENTRY AS AN ACTOR FROM *CHALLENGE*

After completing my studies I entered into films as an actor with 'Challenge' film in 1984. Chiranjeevi, Suhasini and Vijayashanthi were the lead actors and directed by A Kodandarami Reddy. I played the role of a ward boy in that film and I am very happy that my entry as an actor was with Annayya Chiranjeevi. Most of the shooting was in Visakhapatnam. The film is based on Yandamuri Veerendranath's novel Dabbu to the power of Dabbu'. I had a key role in that film and never looked back from there.





BOND OF BROTHERS

My two younger brothers Ravi Shankar and Ayyappa Sharma are now settled as dubbing artistes and actors. Ayyappa acted with me in 'Police Story' and he wrote a story which I liked. I asked him to narrate it to Rockline Venkatesh. We tried Vishnu Vardhan and Ambarish, but they didn't do it. So we approached Vijayashanthi and she agreed to do it. The film 'Ayudha' was released and it became a superhit. Along with me, Sithara, Vijayashanthi, Raghuvaran, Arun Pandiyan acted in the film which became a big hit. Later, Ayyappa tried making some films, but wasn't successful. He got a break with the film 'KGF' as an actor and he is a busy actor now. Ravi Shankar too is busy as an actor and dubbing artiste both in Kannada and Telugu. After 'Arundhathi', with the 'Bommali' dialogue, Ravi Shankar became unstoppable. We are all busy as actors and dubbing artistes in both Kannada and Telugu. I am going to introduce my son Aadi in Kannada next year. I am also successful in television which I did for the last few years.



MADE A BIGGEST MISTAKE

I started dubbing for actor Suman in the film 'Tarangani'. Then to actor Rajasekhar for 'Vandemataram'. For both these actors I gave my voice for many years. But after the 'Police Story' (1996), I didn't do dubbing in Telugu for a few years which I feel was a big mistake. They tried with some other dubbing artistes. Once my mother passed away, she wrote about me in her diary. She felt bad that I stopped dubbing in Telugu and she expressed the hope that I would continue it. She wrote that the family mostly relies on dubbing. The government too gave away Nandi Awards to dubbing artistes. So, once again I started dubbing for Rajasekhar with the film 'Evadaithe Nakenti' (2007). The other bad thing that happened is that I produced a film 'Eswar Allah'. The film got acclaimed, but didn't do well at the box-office, and I lost some money on it. To clear the debts I had to accept whatever films came my way. It took four to five years to clear the debts for that film. And after that I decided not to produce any films.