

What is your (KCR) sorrow and what is your (KCR) pain? Come to the Assembly. Let us have a debate. Come to the people and speak. The government is ready to solve all valid issues raised by KCR. KCR won't come but sent two (KT Rama Rao and T. Harish Rao) cheap fellows. KCR is not coming but two 'petty guys' are creating trouble

- Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister

India, China to focus on stabilising relations

MASTER FLUTIST REDEFINING INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC

Vishwak Sen sets record straight on Mechanic Rocky and Gangs of GODAVARI!

DON'T MISS...

Hyd a global hub for innovation

Highlighting that Hyderabad continues to strengthen its position as a global hub for innovation and excellence, IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu inaugurated Evernorth Health Services India's first Global Capability Center (GCC) in Sattva Knowledge Park, HYTEC City on Tuesday. Addressing the gathering, Sridhar Babu also highlighted Evernorth's commitment to transforming healthcare and its valuable addition to Hyderabad's Global ...

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Gold worth Rs 10 cr stolen from bank

In a major bank heist, thieves made off with gold jewellery worth Rs10 crore from the State Bank of India (SBI) Rayaparthy mandal branch around midnight on Monday. According to reports, the thieves gained access to the bank by cutting through a window with a gas cutter. They then broke open the lockers and took away the gold jewellery. The crime came to light the following morning ...

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'Haryana too has a right over Chandigarh'

Haryana also has a right over Chandigarh, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said on Tuesday, justifying the state's move to have an additional Vidhan Sabha building in the Union Territory, much to Punjab's chagrin. Saini said the construction of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha complex in Chandigarh is a serious issue and all political parties in the state should rise above politics and present their views unanimously. On Tuesday, during the ...

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EV industry seeks GST cuts on batteries

GST on batteries and charging services needs to be cut to keep electric vehicles competitive and boost customer adoption, FICCI Electric Vehicle Committee Chair Sulajja Firodia Motwani said on Tuesday. Speaking at the sidelines of FICCI National Conference on EVs here, she also stressed enhancing PM E-Drive corpus to support enhanced sales of EVs. "We would be making a recommendation to the GST Council to rationalise the GST taxation on EV-related ...

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HC quashes GO No: 16 regularising contract staff

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 The Telangana High Court struck down the BRS Government's GO No: 16 which allowed the regularising of contract employees. The High Court quashed GO No: 16 issued by the BRS government as per Section 10 (A). The High Court struck down GO No: 16 declaring that Section 10 (A) is against the Constitution. However, the court said the government cannot fire already regularized employees. The court said that governments should not regularise contract employees from now onwards. The court said that governments should fill vacancies as per the law from now onwards. The BRS Government regularised contract lecturers working in Degree, Junior colleges and Polytechnics. However, some unem-

ployed youth approached the High Court challenging the BRS Government's decision. The petitioners said in their petitions that the government regularised the contract employees against the rules. The petitioners' lawyers informed the High Court that GO No: 16 is against SC verdicts. It may be recalled that the BRS Government regularised around 5,000 contract lecturers through GO No: 16. The BRS Government regularised 5,544 contract employees working in 40 government departments. The BRS Government regularised 2,909 junior lecturers, 184 junior lecturers (vocational), 390 polytechnic teachers, 270 degree lecturers, 131 attenders in technical education centres, 837 medical assistants in the health department, 179 lab technicians, 158 pharmacists and 230 assistant training officers.

A festival of paddy in TG



CM Revanth Reddy is addressing the Praja Palana-Praja Vijayotsavam public meeting at Warangal City on Tuesday

- Farmers raised a bumper crop
- Cong will not let the KCR plant sprout again
- We fulfilled all that was promised
- CM Revanth at Warangal public meeting

The Congress will not let the plant called KCR sprout again, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said. "Write it down. Let's see what KCR does. KCR is sleeping in his farmhouse and I know everything that is happening inside the farmhouse. I am saying again that KCR should come out from his farmhouse," the CM said. Addressing the 'Praja Palana-Praja Vijayotsavam' held in Warangal city on Tuesday, Revanth said, "KCR said paddy cultivation is nothing but hanging oneself. Our farmers cultivated paddy on 66 lakh acres and raised a bumper crop of 1 crore 53 lakh tonnes. No state in the country has ever produced so much rice."

Today, women have reached the stage of establishing solar power plants which is being set up by the Adani and Ambani groups, the CM said. The CM said that women have been given free bus travel facility in TGSRTC buses. Women are getting cooking gas cylinders for only Rs 500. We are supplying free power up to 200 units to poor like

Continued on Page 2

Kishan is now Modi's slave: CM

We must bust conspiracies and jail plotters: Revanth

Alleging that the opposition is conspiring against the TG Government, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said the Congress Government will detect plots and jail the plotters. The Chief Minister said the government has decided to develop Warangal like Hyderabad and has initiated steps for that. "That is why the government allocated nearly Rs 6,000 crore



CM Revanth Reddy with Ministers, MLAs, MPs and others at Kaloji Kalakshethram with KUDA Master Plan-2041

What is there to celebrate?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 BRS MLA Harish Rao strongly criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for his baseless remarks at the so-called "Congress Vijaya Utsavalu" in Warangal. He called out the Chief Minister's lack of achievements and accused him of duping the public with empty rhetoric and neglecting the real issues facing Telangana. "Revanth's behaviour reflects the adage, 'A weak man boasts, and an incapable man abuses.' In the 11 months of governance, he has delivered nothing but insults, with no meaningful contributions to show," Harish said. Mocking the Congress's so-called "vijaya utsavalu," Harish said, "What is there to celebrate? From Ashok Nagar to Lagacharla, from farmers to Lambada, your failures have left a trail of injustice. No diversionary tactic can erase the damage you have caused or the memories of Telangana's people." He criticised the Chief Minister for frequently using the name of K. Chandrasekhar Rao. "Merely chanting KCR's name will not hide your failures or earn you the stature of a visionary leader. KCR garu's accomplishments are far beyond your understanding," he said.

Highlighting Revanth's rise to power, Harish said, "You proudly claim to have stepped over everyone to get here, trampling your Congress colleagues to seize power. Now, you are trampling the hopes of Telangana's people with shortcuts and oppressive policies." Harish dismissed Revanth's reckless rhetoric, stating, "Your offensive language and empty talk bring no benefit to the state. The people of Telangana are watching, and it is they who will decide your fate."



Russian Prez Putin may visit India next year

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 Russian President Vladimir Putin may visit India next year as part of a laid down structure between the two countries for reciprocal annual visits by their leaders, diplomatic sources said on Tuesday. The two sides are looking at the possibility of the visit but nothing has been finalised yet, they said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited the Russian President to visit India when the two leaders held summit talks in Moscow in July. Continued on Page 2

Managing power supply is Govt's job, says KTR

Blasts govt move to ask apartment complexes to instal transformers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 BRS Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) has strongly criticised the government's decision to ask apartment residents to bear the cost of installing transformers to manage the increasing power load in Hyderabad. Addressing this issue in a statement, KTR lambasted the government for issuing notices through the TSSPD-CL asking apartment complexes with power consumption above 20 KW to

install their own transformers. KTR described this as yet another "Tuglaq move" by the government stating that such actions stem from its inability to manage power supply efficiently. Despite the public outcry against the decision, the government remains indifferent. KTR emphasized that the responsibility of installing new transformers and upgrading the power supply system lies entirely with the government and not with the public. He said that installing a trans-



former for an apartment complex costs approximately Rs 3 lakh. This translates to an additional burden of Rs 30,000 to Rs 50,000 per household. Continued on Page 2

Eatala complains to NHRC on Lagacharla incident

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 The BJP's Malkajgiri MP, Eatala Rajender, filed a complaint on Tuesday with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) regarding the Lagacharla incident. He posted on X regarding this and said, "Kodangal Constituency, Lagacharla incident has been brought to the attention of the NHRC (National Human Rights



Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender addressing the media at State BJP office on Tuesday

Commission)". "I have brought to the attention of the NHRC that farmers have been subjected to torture in police custody. The police and Congress leaders are still terrorising them, and the people in the Chief Minister's constituency are left unprotected. NHRC teams should be sent immediately to Lagacharla Continued on Page 2

Key accused in Vikarabad attack surrenders

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 A key accused in the attack on district authorities during a public hearing on land acquisition in Telangana's Vikarabad district surrendered before a court on Tuesday, police said. Continued on Page 2

B Suresh, a leader of the BRS youth wing, who allegedly "pre-planned" and instigated the attack on November 11, surrendered before a local court in Kodangal town, Vikarabad. Suresh had been on the run after the incident. Continued on Page 2

RECORDING ATTENDANCE
 Govt plans to use 'Facial Recognition Technology'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 The Telangana Government has decided to introduce 'Facial Recognition Attendance' system to improve accuracy, efficiency and security in the attendance system. The system uses advanced technology to verify individual identities through facial features, eliminating the need for manual signing and will enable seamless attendance marking. Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari issued orders regarding this on Tuesday. As per the order, the employee upon arrival will stand in front of the device at the marked place looking directly at the camera for a few seconds his/her face will be recognised and attendance marked. The recording



The system uses advanced technology to verify individual identities through facial features, eliminating the need for manual signing and will enable seamless attendance marking

staff should carry their ID cards and a copy of the same attested by the respective DDO. Face recognising devices will be installed in adequate numbers at all entry and exit points of the building apart from on each floor, near the lifts and at the respective departments. A copy of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) provided by the ITE & C department is enclosed for reference. All other provisions regarding attendance contained in Chapter XX of the Secretariat Office Manual shall remain unaltered. All Departments in the Secretariat are requested to communicate the same to all officers and staff for information and to ensure the registration of all secretariat employees and outsourced staff.

Govt hounding me with false cases: Dileep

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Konatham Dileep, a former Telangana Digital Media Director of the BRS writes about the ordeal of his illegal detention. He said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's Government is engaged in organised crime. Posting a message on X, Konatham Dileep said, "While I was visiting the Cyber Crime Police Station with my legal team to submit an interim order issued by the High Court regarding a case filed against me, I was forcibly taken to the South Zone Task Force office in the Old City." "They staged a drama, saying that they needed to speak to me and then secretly moved me to another location," he stated. "After hours of interrogation in the name of investigation, they arrested me in a fabricated case," he said. Dileep denied the charges levelled against him, calling them baseless



and politically motivated. He asserted that the government is targeting him for exposing its failures on social media. "This is nothing but an act of revenge for my criticism of their inefficiency," he said. After his arrest, Dileep was taken to the Osmania General Hospital for a medical check-up and then presented before the Nampally Magistrate. During the proceedings, he refused to sign any documents prepared by the authorities, alleging that they were fabricated narratives aimed at implicating him.



FIRST COLUMN A DIET FOR PEACE: KINDNESS OVER CRUELTY

The food we consume shapes not just our physical health but also our thoughts, actions and the world



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

It has been rightly said that we are what we eat because the kind of food that we eat has a direct impact on how we think and therefore it's crucial to what we become finally. Recent studies made by modern medical science have suggested that the human body is not naturally designed to digest and assimilate non-vegetarian food. That is why today most medical practitioners recommend a healthy vegetarian diet to their patients who are suffering from lifestyle disorders. Along with scientific studies, individual researchers made all over the world have also clearly pointed out that when an animal is killed for meat, it experiences fear, anxiety and pain. Its hormonal secretions are then passed on to its consumers.

Such a diet is therefore unhealthy both for the body and the mind. In many religions, a non-vegetarian diet is strictly forbidden not just because it causes pain and suffering to other living creatures but also because it is the source of vicious thoughts and attitudes to its consumers. In other words, non-vegetarian food is a gateway to a non-vegetarian lifestyle, a way of living where vices dwell comfortably. One must understand that human cruelty towards animals is nothing but a way of inviting cruelty onto the self. Also, the current trend of mass consumption of flesh by human beings highlights the way we look at other living beings and our desire to subjugate them.



From a broader perspective, the mass consumption of non-vegetarian food is a way of heaping sin upon the human community. No peace marches, diplomatic dialogues and conferences can bring peace to the planet when we are burdening it with the desperate cries of hapless creatures. For what we sow, so shall we reap. It is so ironic that the largely meat-eating developed countries of the world have stringent laws when it comes to treating a pet and it is ensured that if the pet is hurt, the owner can even be imprisoned. However, in these very countries, millions of animals are killed every day for food and yet no one goes to jail. Isn't it surprising that so many animal lovers continue to be non-vegetarians because they are unable to connect with the cruelty that goes behind, in the making of such food? Even more surprising was a weird recommendation to find humane methods of animal slaughter made by some so-called animal sympathisers. But the contention here is what can be more inhuman than nourishing an animal to kill it one day. It is a breach of morality by all standards. What is more cruel than subjecting generations of animals to a life of stifling captivity that only leads them to a merciless end? And what is more cruel than killing animals in front of each other? While one is bleeding to death, the other watches in horror and waits for its turn. It is a great pity that even sympathetic humans are left with such little kindness that all they can think of is designing a better way to kill. It's high time that all of us should ask ourselves a question: why does our conscience need a rational argument, sanctioned by a research institute in the West, to realise that killing other living creatures is a form of cruelty?

Why do we need facts and figures to understand that cruelty can never be a bringer of any form of health - be it mind, body or the environment & bring peace and harmony to the world? Can't we realise that a heart that heaves no sigh at the sight of violence cannot be a source of compassion for other fellow men? So how do we expect people who do not nurture the feeling of kindness for other living beings to nurture feelings of brotherhood and forgiveness for their community? Aren't we just walking on one path while seeking another's destination? Just give it a thought and then decide whether to Kill or Heal. Learn to live above self when life is precious to all. Let there be the right to live for all & not just Human Rights, then only world peace will descend.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist; views are personal)

Delhi discoms in crisis: Debt and regulatory gaps



UTTAM GUPTA

A convoluted tariff regime, under-recoveries, power theft, and unpaid subsidies are threatening the sustainability of the Delhi discoms



Delhi Government is looking at various options to address twin problems facing its three power distribution companies (discoms) namely BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL), discom for South & West Delhi; BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) — discom for Central & East Delhi; and Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited or TPDDL - discom for North Delhi. These are (i) "Regulatory Assets" or RAs of Rs 27,200 crore lying in the books of these discoms; (ii) an equally staggering amount of Rs 26,500 crore they owe to power generation and transmission companies viz. Indraprastha Power Generation Co. Ltd (IPGCL), Pragati Power Corporation Limited (PPCL) and Delhi Transco Limited or DTL at the end of September 2024. The discoms are expected to sell electricity to the consumers at tariffs — duly approved by the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) — that are set in a manner such that the revenue generated from sale at these tariffs fully cover the power purchase cost plus the cost of wheeling and distribution. The requirement is mandatory under the Electricity Act, of 2003. But, this is rarely complied with.

Under a highly convoluted regime, the tariff charged from households (HHs) consuming up to 200 units a month is Rs 3 per unit which is just about half of the average cost leading to an under-recovery of Rs 3 per unit. Including levies adding to 44.6 per cent, the shortfall comes to Rs 4.3 per unit (3x1.446). For HHs consuming between 201 and 400 units, the tariff is Rs 4.5 per unit implying an under-recovery of Rs 1.5 per unit. Including the levies, this comes to Rs 2.2 per unit. These under-recoveries are cross-subsidised by charging more from industries and businesses for which the tariff can go up to a high of Rs 16 per unit.

The irony is that despite charging exorbitant rates from industries and businesses, a good slice of under-recoveries from HHs consuming less than 400 units a month remains uncovered. Additionally, the Delhi government doesn't want the latter to even pay the small tariff of Rs



THE IRONY IS THAT DESPITE CHARGING EXORBITANT RATES FROM INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESSES, A GOOD SLICE OF UNDER-RECOVERIES FROM HHS CONSUMING LESS THAN 400 UNITS A MONTH REMAINS UNCOVERED

3 per unit (courtesy, of Kejriwal's freebies). Thus, discoms are told not to raise any bill on HHs consuming up to 200 units even as HHs consuming up to 400 units get a flat deduction of Rs 800 per month from the bill amount. Though the government promises to reimburse them for these subsidies from the state budget, this promise is held more in breach. This increases discoms' losses which are compounded by large-scale power theft.

Where do RAs fit in? RAs are created when state electricity regulatory commissions (in this case, DERC) accept that the tariffs don't cover discoms' purchase costs but don't raise rates. The gap between the cost and revenue generated from sales at tariffs (albeit unrevised) for supplied power, is booked by discom as receivable and classified as RA. This is contrary to the Electricity Act (2003) and the National Power Tariff Policy (NPTP) which says that "tariffs must reflect costs and regulatory assets should not be created". In December 2022, the Ministry of Power (MoP) even warned against creating a pile of RAs. But, all these regulations/warnings have fallen on deaf ears.

All losses incurred by discoms in Delhi during the last 11 years or so have been shown in their books as RAs. Regrettably, the RAs persist despite subsisting mechanisms to enable discoms to offset cost escalation by suitable increases in tariff. As per the order issued by MoP on November 9, 2021, discoms are allowed to impose a surcharge known as PPAC (Power Purchase Agreement Cost). Levied as a percentage of the 'total energy cost and fixed charge component' of the electricity bill, the surcharge is meant to compensate them for variations in the fuel and power procurement cost. Effective from July 2023, the DERC had last increased PPAC vide its order

dated June 22, 2023, by 9.42 per cent for BYPL, 6.39 per cent for BRPL and 2 per cent for TPDDL. The current PPACs for these discoms are 31.6 per cent, 27.08 per cent and 33 per cent respectively. Moreover, DERC has allowed discoms to levy a surcharge of eight per cent.

This is intended to plug any shortfall in revenue vis-à-vis the cost still left unplugged after collection of PPAC. Despite these two impositions, the discoms continue to report a substantial shortfall in their revenue from the sale of electricity which is manifest in cumulative monumental RAs of Rs 27,200 crore. It is a manifestation of several glaring pitfalls: (i) the Delhi government isn't reimbursing discoms for the subsidies they give to target consumers on its behalf; (ii) large-scale power theft continues unabated; (iii) discoms have been submitting inflated bills/claims and other financial wrongs; (iv) inefficiencies get full protection. Hesitant to sanction tariff hikes against these extra/unjustified costs, DERC chooses the easy option of putting all these under RAs.

The idea of creating RAs is flawed. When a discom petitions DERC to allow any cost increase in tariff, the latter can either reject or accept. In case of acceptance, it should take the process to its logical conclusion by sanctioning the requisite tariff hike and notifying it. It can't leave things hanging in the air by accepting but not 'approving' and 'notifying' the tariff hike. Unfortunately, this is what the DERC has been doing for over a decade. This has dangerous consequences.

First, once recorded in their books as RAs, discoms will leave no stone unturned in recovering the money say by getting sanction of a steep hike in tariff to make up for the entire cumulative deficit in revenue. Indeed, the matter had gone right up to the Supreme Court

(SC) which in an order given in early 2023 had directed the DERC to let discoms recover their RAs. This could lead to a 100 per cent hike in tariff.

So, the regulator decided to contest that order. Second, until such time the requisite tariff hike is actually sanctioned by the DERC, the RAs can't be treated as an asset. Hence, there remains every possibility of the loans taken from banks and financial institutions (FIs) for funding them becoming non-performing assets (NPAs). Moreover, the banks/FIs may not give more to discoms and their suppliers namely IPGCL/PPCL/DTL more loans. Third, the discoms can leverage the ambiguous classification (neither outright rejection of a claim for tariff hike nor approval) to present claims to the DERC which the latter may not be willing to accept.

This leads to substantial claims getting bogged down in legal disputes at the appeal level or in higher courts. To conclude, providing for RAs in the books of discoms is a bad practice. Apart from discoms, it also puts the power generators and transmission companies at serious risk. It can impair the balance sheet of banks and FIs who have given loans to them.

It could mean a steep hike in tariffs on supplies to industries/businesses besides HHs consuming more than 400 units a month. To cap it all, it provides a 'cover up' for financial irregularities and corruption. The practice must be shunned. As for the RAs already piled up, a thorough enquiry should be ordered to look into irregularities followed by recovery of money from those found guilty. The discoms should be 'unshackled' from the controls of the State government. If the latter wants to subsidize or provide free power to certain consumers, the money should be given to them directly.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

Delhi's air quality crisis: Action taken for now, but long-term solutions are crucial The city faces an urgent need for sustainable, long-term strategies to tackle pollution at its root

The air quality in Delhi has recently deteriorated to dangerously high levels. To address this issue swiftly and effectively, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has implemented Stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

This stage involves measures such as restricting bus services, pausing construction work and mining activities, and transitioning primary school classes to online learning. Although these steps are crucial in addressing the current pollution issue promptly, they alone cannot effectively address the underlying factors contributing to air pollution in the long term. It is crucial to prioritise short-term solutions for relief; however, we must not



EILIA JAFAR

overlook the factors that contribute to pollution in the long term as well. One significant factor is the dust produced during construction activities.

While the temporary suspension of construction operations following GRAP guidelines is a move in the right direction, it also underscores the urgency of implementing more environmentally friendly building

methods. Germany and Sweden serve as examples of nations that have successfully implemented construction practices.

For instance, Germany prioritises the use of low-carbon concrete, whereas Sweden focuses on promoting energy-efficient structures with improved insulation and solar innovations. India has the opportunity to implement strategies to minimise dust and emissions from construction activities and promote sustainable development.

The need for transformation in transportation is crucial to address the issue of pollution in Delhi caused by road dust and vehicle emissions. Although the metro system has advanced to some extent in Delhi, there are still areas

with connectivity that need attention.

Expanding the metro network and integrating buses can lead to a decrease in private car usage. Moreover, promoting the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) could play a role in reducing emissions. Providing benefits such as tax incentives, toll discounts, and even offering parking for EVs could potentially increase their attractiveness to commuters. Biking is becoming more popular as an eco-friendly option in Delhi; however, the city's infrastructure doesn't fully support it yet.

Although smart bikes are being introduced in some areas, which is a move forward, the absence of marked biking lanes and safety precautions deters many people from bik-



ing. Cities such as Copenhagen and Amsterdam serve as models for incorporating biking into urban environments. Delhi could take inspiration from its approach by investing in infrastructure for cyclists, such as bike lanes and bike-sharing services, to enhance the safety and convenience of cycling for its residents. Encouraging the use of sustainable building methods is crucial too!

Providing incentives for individuals who build energy-efficient houses or utilise eco-friendly materials could greatly support sustainability efforts in communities worldwide. Numerous nations offer tax advantages or financial aid to developers who embrace green building strategies. India could introduce perks like discounts on energy-saving devices, offers on solar panel setups, or financial assistance for homeowners undertaking eco-conscious improvements. These initiatives would not only lessen the burden on energy reserves but also encourage environmentally responsible construction practices.

Another helpful way to decrease the number of cars on the road is through carpooling initiatives, such as carpool

lanes and discounts for vehicles with passengers, which have proven effective in countries around the world. Introducing strategies in Delhi, such as designated carpool lanes or toll reductions for cars carrying two or more passengers, could play a role in alleviating traffic congestion and decreasing harmful emissions levels.

By implementing these measures, not only would pollution be reduced, but it would also enhance the daily commute experience for numerous residents in the area. The call for action is critical now.

The air pollution crisis in NCR intensified on November 17, 2024, as Delhi's average Air Quality Index (AQI) climbed to a hazardous 441 by 4 PM, classified as 'severe', up from

419 the previous day. The harmful pollutants are linked to health concerns, such as respiratory illnesses and cardiovascular diseases.

The Stage 4 actions outlined in the GRAP are crucial for providing relief; however, it is evident that a comprehensive long-term plan is essential to enhance the air quality in Delhi. By emphasising the enhancement of public transportation services, implementing infrastructure for cyclists, advocating for eco-friendly construction methods and encouraging carpooling, Delhi can strive to diminish pollution levels and establish a healthier and more sustainable environment for all residents.

(The writer is humanitarian and development professional; views are personal)

IN BRIEF



Gold jumps Rs 600 to Rs 78,050 per 10 gm

Gold prices jumped Rs 600 to Rs 78,050 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday amid a strong global trend in the overseas market...



Emerging India Focus Funds settles case with Sebi

Foreign portfolio investor Emerging India Focus Funds has settled a case pertaining to the alleged violations of FPI rules with capital markets watchdog Sebi...



Sebi resolves over 6,000 complaints through SCORES

Capital markets regulator Sebi has disposed of 6,327 complaints against companies and market intermediaries through its grievance redressal platform SCORES in October...

RBI should cut rates for pushing growth: Goyal

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) should cut interest rates and give an impetus to growth.



'India looks for fair trade in FTA talks'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India looks for equity, balance and fair trade while negotiating a free trade agreement (FTA), Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday.

"I certainly believe they should cut interest rates, growth needs a further impetus. We are the fastest growing economy in the world, we can do even better," Goyal said.

who advocated that the RBI cut both its repo rate and consider the cash reserve ratio (CRR). Chief Economic Advisor G Anantha Nageswaran had made the suggestion of excluding food inflation in the headline inflation computation.

interest rate structure. Food inflation has nothing whatsoever to do with managing inflation. That's a demand-supply situation," he said.

Fifth shipment of 720-tonnes of onion to reach Delhi tomorrow

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday said the fifth bulk shipment of 720 tonnes of onion will reach the national capital on November 21 as part of its market intervention to control prices.

NCR. The government noted that bulk shipments have significantly impacted onion prices in Delhi, both at wholesale and retail levels.



This marks the continuation of the government's initiative, started last month, to transport buffer onion from Maharashtra to Delhi via railways for the first time.

Besides Delhi, similar initiatives are underway in other cities. The government recently dispatched 840 tonnes each to Chennai and Guwahati.

Irani calls for enhanced data on women in gems, jewellery sector

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister Smriti Zubin Irani on Tuesday expressed concerns over the lack of comprehensive data on women in the gems and jewellery sector and suggested the industry to look into the issue.

She also said there is a need to provide sufficient information about different opportunities available in the sector for women.

Majority of corporates want real-time reporting for audit: Deloitte

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Deloitte India said on Tuesday that about 74 per cent of high-end corporate taxpayers want the income tax department to enable near real-time reporting and compliance monitoring.



Deloitte India's Income Tax Digitalisation in India survey, which took views of about 250 highest corporate taxpayers, also found that 67 per cent of businesses seek tax e-wallets to promptly credit refunds on passing orders, enabling adjustment against outstanding demands or future tax liabilities.

that taxpayers expect issuance of automated programming interface (API) to fetch data from income tax portals. Opening up of API by the administration would help taxpayers have seamless connectivity with I-T portals to enable efficient compliance.

67 per cent last year highlighting the growing recognition of the need for a robust, technology-driven tax ecosystem. Organisations are embracing advanced technologies, such as Robotic Process Automation, Blockchain, GenAI, machine learning, data integration and analytics to accelerate the digital transformation of their tax functions," Sidhwa said.

Sensex rebounds 239 pts, Nifty ends 7-day decline

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex rebounded 239 points while Nifty ended its seven-day losing streak on Tuesday following value-buying in banking, IT and auto shares amid mixed global trends.



Snapping its four days of decline, the 30-share Sensex climbed 239.37 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at 77,578.38. The index opened with gains and spurted further 1,112.64 points or 1.43 per cent to hit the day's high of 78,451.65.

Stock markets were on a decline in the past seven sessions with Nifty tanking 1,030 points or over 4.3 per cent due to FII selling, weaker-than-expected quarterly results and strengthening US bond yields.

ESIC new member addition rises to 20.58 lakh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) logged over nine per cent on-year rise in new workers enrolment in 20.58 lakh under its ESI Scheme in September, 2024, according to payroll data.

EV industry seeks GST cuts on batteries, charging services

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

GST on batteries and charging services needs to be cut to keep electric vehicles competitive and boost customer adoption, FICCI Electric Vehicle Committee Chair Sulajja Firodia Motwani said on Tuesday.

also the founder and CEO of Kinetic Green Energy & Power Solutions, added. "While EVs attract a GST of 5 per cent, GST on batteries is 18 per cent. The request is to reduce it to 5 per cent so that when consumers buy replacement batteries, it is more affordable," Motwani said.

GenX, millennials more open to adopting agentic AI: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A report has said Generation X and millennials are more receptive to adopting agentic artificial intelligence (AI). Agentic AI refers to autonomous agents that can independently make decisions and perform tasks, adapting and learning from their experiences without direct human oversight.

also has several use cases in healthcare, finance, telecom, IT, customer service, among others. Salesforce's State of the AI Connected Customer research said millennials and Gen Xers in India are more willing than Gen Z and Baby Boomers to work with agents for faster, more proactive service.



experience by creating more personalised, or useful content," it said. Baby Boomers are people born between 1946 and 1964, Generation X from 1965 to 1980, Millennials from 1981 to 1996, and Generation Z from 1997 to 2012.

The report further said consumer trust has reached its lowest level in eight years, making it more essential than ever to build that trust, especially with the advancements in AI. More than half of the respondents surveyed trust companies less than they did a year ago, and feel companies are reckless with customer data.

deliver impactful, lasting connections," Arun Parameswaran, SVP & Managing Director, Sales and Distribution, Salesforce India, said. Transparency is key to building consumer confidence in the AI agent era, the report said.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA POLICE DEPARTMENT Tender document available at https://tenderprocurement.gov.in from 18.11.2024 and date of online submission: 20.11.2024 at 11:30 AM, Tender Opening on 20.11.2024 at 11:30 AM at Office of the Director General, Intelligence Telangana, Lakdikapool, Hyderabad if possible.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 'I' PROCUREMENT SHORT TENDER NOTICE NIT No. 32/EE-Div.29/SBZ/GHMC/2024-25 Dated: 19-11-2024 Name of the Work: Repairs to Bathroom at Prof. Jayashankar Stadium Lalapeti in Tamaka Ward- 143, Div. 29, Sec- bad, SBZ, GHMC. Estimate Amount / ECY: Rs. 4.95 lakhs.

Master flutist redefining Indian classical music

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Pandit Ronu Majumdar, often celebrated as the "Flute Wizard" or the "Flute King," has cemented his place as a legend in the world of music, enchanting audiences across continents with the soulful magic of his bansuri. From performing at prestigious global venues to setting remarkable world records, his journey is a symphony of passion, humility and an unwavering spiritual connection to his art. In a candid conversation with *The Pioneer*, the maestro shared the milestones of his life—his early influences, collaborations with music legends and the profound philosophy that has shaped his career.

His tryst with music began at the tender age of six, a time when most children are merely discovering the world around them. "Music was always my passion," he reminisces with a smile. "At first, I never thought I'd pursue it full-time. My first inspiration was my father, followed by my guru, Pandit Ravi Shankar."

It was under the guidance of these towering figures that his love for the bansuri blossomed. By the 1970s, music had become the axis around which his world revolved, eclipsing all other pursuits. "I never imagined doing anything else. Music became my entire world," he reflects.

Throughout his illustrious career, he has shared the stage with some of the greatest names in music, spanning Indian classical, Bollywood and even global icons. Among his most cherished collaborations are those with Pandit Ravi Shankar, Asha Bhosle, RD Burman and George Harrison of the Beatles!

One of his fondest memories

involves working with George Harrison during the recording of *Chants of India*. "I was in his house in Britain, expecting someone as famous as George Harrison to exude grandeur," he shares. Instead, what he encountered was humility and warmth. Harrison's simplicity left an indelible mark on Majumdar. "He was a man who balanced his fame with an extraordinary sense of humanity. His acts of kindness, like donating to the underprivileged, taught me lessons that extended far beyond music," he recalls.

His achievements are as vast as his repertoire. A Grammy nomination for his album *Tabula Rasa*, the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and a Guinness World Record for conducting 5,378 flutists stand as shining milestones in his career. "These accolades gave me confidence and reminded me of the responsibility I carry as an artist," he shares.

Among these, the Guinness record holds a special place in his heart. Organised under the guidance of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the event brought together flutists from around the globe. "We initially didn't think we'd cross 5,000 participants. But on the day of the concert, more and more musicians joined until we hit 5,378. It was a surreal moment, a true celebration of the flute," he says with pride. His work in Bollywood has also



PEOPLE OFTEN TELL ME THAT I'M THE ONLY FLUTE PLAYER WHO HAS SEAMLESSLY TRAVERSED BOLLYWOOD, HOLLYWOOD AND INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC. MANY TELL ME THEY FEEL A SPIRITUAL CONNECTION DURING MY PERFORMANCES. I'M ALIVE BECAUSE OF THE FLUTE.

With the gentle touch of his fingers on the bansuri, Pandit Ronu Majumdar weaves a sonic tapestry that transcends borders and generations. Celebrated as the 'Flute Wizard' or 'Flute King,' this master flutist has redefined Indian classical music, enchanting audiences worldwide with his soul-stirring renditions. From prestigious global stages to record-breaking feats, Majumdar's five-decade journey is a testament to passion, humility and an unwavering spiritual connection to his craft

been legendary, particularly his collaborations with RD Burman. "People often tell me that I'm the only flute player who has seamlessly traversed Bollywood, Hollywood and Indian classical music," he says. From creating iconic film melodies to crafting spiritual symphonies, his versatility is unmatched.

Yet, for him, Indian classical music is more than a profession—it's a spiritual journey. "Our music doesn't start with high-energy beats like rock; it begins softly, allowing the soul to resonate with the notes," he explains. His concerts are an invitation to introspection, particularly during the *aalap* segment, where the absence of percussion creates a meditative atmosphere. "I often encourage audiences to close their eyes and let the music take them on a journey within. Many tell me they feel a spiritual connection during my performances," he reveals.

He has also been a pioneer in fusion music, blending Hindustani classical with Western styles. *Tabula Rasa*, recorded in a church in Santa Barbara, is a shining example of this endeavour. Collaborating with banjo maestro Béla Fleck, he created *Radha Krishna Bela*, a piece inspired by the divine love story of Radha and Krishna.

"Explaining such a deeply spiritual concept to Béla and watching him interpret it through his instrument was an incredible experience," he recalls.

As Indian classical music evolves in an era of technology and global collaborations, he remains a staunch advocate of preserving its purity. "Traditional music must always be performed in its traditional form," he asserts. While he embraces fusion as a creative outlet, he ensures that it remains distinct from his classical performances. "Both genres deserve respect and understanding," he emphasises.

To him, the key to success lies in mastery. "Focus on your craft, not on success. If you excel at what you do, success will follow naturally," he advises aspiring musicians.

For him, the flute is far more than an instrument; it is his spiritual lifeline. "I'm alive because of the flute. It gives me peace before I share that peace with the world," he says. Every note he plays carries a sense of divine purpose. "When I strike the perfect pitch, I feel the presence of the Almighty," he shares with reverence.

Even after nearly five decades in music, for him, shows no signs of slowing down. His upcoming album with Grammy-winner Ricky Kej promises to be another milestone in his career! "We've worked on two singles before, but this time, we're creating a full album with seven to eight tracks," he reveals. Their previous collaboration, a reimaging of the classic *Babul Mora*, beautifully blended tradition with modernity.

Pandit Ronu Majumdar's story resonates like the notes of a raga, unfolding with grace and depth. His flute is not just an instrument but a sacred bridge—connecting the earthly to the divine, the artist's soul to the hearts of his audience.

'Situationship is surefire way to end badly,' fill in first-time writer Harshita Gupta

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With every stroke of her pen, Harshita poured out the shards of her shattered heart, transforming the agony of lost love into a cathartic masterpiece! The pages became a canvas of emotions, a vibrant tapestry woven from threads of sorrow and acceptance. As words flowed onto paper, the weight of heartbreak slowly lifted, replaced by a sense of purpose and healing. And when the final sentence was penned, she smiled, knowing that her heart, though broken, had found a way to heal—and perhaps, in the process, help his heal too as she prepared to tie the knot with someone else.

While travelling, Harshita Gupta, the digital sensation who has gained popularity for her relatable storytelling and sense of humour, was with us for an exclusive interview, but there's a special purpose for it! Well, Harshita, who was recently listed among Forbes India's Top 10 Digital Stars of 2024, has made her literary debut with the release of *Unloved: The Art of Moving On*. Yes, we definitely recall seeing a book with an amazing cover in Hyderabad as well! "I experienced two distinct cultural nuances while writing this book: I discussed therapy because it is still taboo in India. I have purposefully included a page devoted to therapist therapy after each chapter. I want to use my mental health issues to educate people about the differences between anxiety and panic attacks. Second, this book will help you end relationships without having to tell your parents or cope with social taboos." Harshita sees a uniquely Indian perspective on grief and recovery.

Through a distinctively Indian vision that strikes a deep chord with her audience, *Unloved* takes readers on a journey of loss, healing and self-discovery. Anyone negotiating the intricacies of relationships should read Harshita's book since her voice offers new insights on personal development! "I was writing something really different from my typical Instagram posts. Do I only have a sense of humour on social media? I am well-known for my chatty chatter! However, I wanted to show the world that I am more than just a comedian with this book. As I was writing this book, I realised how vulnerable we all are. Three years ago, the Penguin editor who was following me was surprised to learn that she knew the real Harshita after reading what I had written! She was shocked by what she saw, particularly when I pleaded with a man to stay in my life. My reality is not social media."

More details about her new book are revealed by the versatile artist: "The best character development occurs during heartbreaks, when we cease giving way to our feelings. We make an effort to avoid those due to the lack of acceptability. I have therefore made an effort to educate the public on how to deal with heartbreak. Let's talk about loving oneself!"

Heartbreak is followed by infidelity. Since I've experienced all of this, I could also write about confidence. I had days when I was unable to take rejection. I simply don't care about people anymore; I don't dislike them and I don't wish my ex any good or bad things because I don't want to give him any. I don't really think about him. Indifference, not hatred, is the antithesis of love!"

According to one of the stories she told us, "Because of the circumstances that are being created, people in my generation are giving up on love. Can you top the time I gave up on love? It's the most depressing thing to witness. Love is, as we say, the most exquisite emotion in the world. Rekindling love despite a broken heart is a sign of strength rather than weakness. I want people to love who they are. After a breakup, self-esteem is crucial! I dislike it when people look to their partners for approval."

We hear from the other end, which leads to some deeper discussions: "It became the national bestseller, which is a big professional success for me. Who could have imagined this? Particularly when it wasn't even available for purchase. I wanted individuals to know that they are no longer alone during this heartbreak journey by writing this book. I was getting thank-you emails in the Instagram generation. Now beat that. Haha, the *Unloved* is loved."

All about empowerment and self-love, the former radio jockey continues, "I recall writing a chapter titled 'Modern Dating,' which discussed how millennials, particularly those living in large cities, have no other option but to give in to the modern dating scene. A situationship is a surefire way to end badly! What the hell are you doing by voluntarily accepting uncertainty? Are we not talking about red and green flags a lot these days? Unloving is what we aren't being taught! My book serves as a plan for leaving your failing romantic relationship with dignity, respect and grace." Writing about heartbreak may be extremely difficult and intimate. Did she find any particular chapters especially difficult to write? The comedy content creator shares her insights on navigating the same. "While writing the book, I was getting ready for my wedding. In the morning, I had to decide what I would wear to my wedding and by nightfall, I was back to finishing this book. I found this to be difficult! As I continued to write, I had to go over a lot of memories again, which was really hard for me (she pauses and continues the interview). Naturally, my wedding is meant to be a really joyous occasion, but I had to balance conflicting expectations. I found the book's first three chapters to be the most challenging!" Finally, we listen to her say, "I am a pretty strong individual who doesn't constantly cry about my circumstances. I always look for the good! Although it was the worst decision I made in 2009, moving to Bombay taught me self-satisfaction and value for money. During those days, I reached my lowest point as a professional. I've cited myself as referring to the 'other woman' quite openly in the book. To come out of this, I required a lot of therapy."

HIDDEN CULPRITS:

Everyday habits that lead to kidney and bladder stones

Kidney and bladder stones are crystalline deposits that form in the urinary tract, causing significant discomfort and health complications. These stones often result from a combination of genetic predisposition, dietary factors, and lifestyle habits.

PHYSIOLOGY OF STONE FORMATION

Kidney and bladder stones develop when urine becomes supersaturated with minerals like calcium, oxalate, or uric acid. This creates an environment where crystals can precipitate and grow. Protective factors, such as citrate, which inhibit crystal aggregation, may be deficient in individuals.

EVERYDAY HABITS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO STONE FORMATION

1. INSUFFICIENT HYDRATION

Dehydration is one of the most significant risk factors for stone formation. Inadequate water intake concentrates urine, increasing the likelihood of mineral crystallization. A habit of drinking less than the recommended 2-3 liters of water daily can lead to this condition. Tea, coffee, and sugary sodas, often consumed in place of water, exacerbate the issue due to their diuretic and oxalate-rich properties.

2. EXCESSIVE SALT INTAKE

High dietary sodium levels promote calcium excretion into the urine, a primary component of calcium-based stones. Common culprits include processed foods, salty snacks, and canned goods. A diet persistently high in sodium overwhelms the kidney's ability to reabsorb calcium, leaving it to combine with oxalate or phosphate to form stones.

3. HIGH OXALATE FOODS

Spinach, nuts, and chocolate are rich in oxalates, compounds that bind with calcium to form stones. While these foods are nutritious, excessive consumption, especially without adequate calcium intake, raises stone risk. Calcium binds with oxalate in the gut to reduce absorption, underscoring the importance of a balanced diet.

4. LOW CALCIUM DIETS

Paradoxically, avoiding calcium to prevent stones can increase risk. Dietary calcium deficiency leads to greater oxalate absorption, contributing to stone formation. The key is consuming calcium in moderation from dairy or fortified foods.

5. SEDENTARY LIFESTYLE

Physical inactivity contributes to calcium loss from bones, increasing urinary calcium levels. Prolonged immobility or a desk-bound lifestyle creates an ideal environment for stone formation.

6. EXCESSIVE ANIMAL PROTEIN

Diets high in animal protein, such as red meat, eggs, and fish, can acidify urine, reducing citrate levels. Citrate binds with calcium, preventing stone formation. High protein intake also increases uric acid excretion, a common component of stones.

7. IRREGULAR URINATION

Holding urine for extended periods can concentrate minerals in the bladder, facilitating stone formation. Regular urination flushes out potential stone-forming substances, reducing risk.

Preventive measures

Prevention is better than cure. Drinking adequate water, maintaining a balanced diet with moderate calcium and low sodium, and adopting an active lifestyle can significantly reduce stone risk. Regular health check-ups and dietary adjustments tailored to individual metabolic profiles are essential for those with a history of stones.

Kidney and bladder stones are often preventable. Identifying and modifying hidden habits, such as dehydration, high sodium intake, or a sedentary lifestyle, can go a long way in promoting urinary health. By making small but significant changes to daily routines, individuals can reduce the risk of this painful and recurring condition.

(The author Dr. Kinjal Banerjee, is a Consultant - Renal Transplant, Urology, Sarvodaya Hospital.)



Forbes India's Top 10 internet star and well-known sensation Harshita Gupta has turned her tragedy into a moving story of self-discovery and healing. She takes readers on a very intimate journey of love, grief and resiliency in her debut book, *Unloved: The Art of Moving On*. The book, which was written during her own life-changing time, presents a distinctively Indian viewpoint on grief and healing!



Hamstech College welcomed its freshers with a spectacular Indo-Western themed party, blending glamour, entertainment and fun. The event featured dazzling performances, delicious food, helping newcomers feel at home while celebrating community spirit.



As part of its India Tour 2024, the University of East London (UEL) launched its Industry Advisory Board (IAB) in Hyderabad, marking a key milestone in strengthening academic-industry partnerships and brought together industry leaders, academics and government officials to discuss trends in human resources.



Continental Hospitals hosted its Kids Health Carnival on Tuesday, in Hyderabad. The event was organised to promote preventive healthcare, the event featured free pediatric, dental and ophthalmic check-ups, highlighting the importance of early detection of illnesses.



PARTY

Photos by - SV Chary



Renowned entrepreneur, socialite and founder of the Sailaja Aryan Foundation, Sailaja Reddy, in collaboration with Rotary Club Cantonment Secunderabad, celebrated her birthday with the students of the Laxmi Nagar Government High School. On this occasion, she also announced scholarships for the top performers of the Grade 10 board exams to help them pursue their future studies and also distributed school kits and notebooks to 9th and 10th-grade students.



The Red Bull Basement India Finals captivated a full house at the Innovation Championship on Tuesday, where young minds presented groundbreaking ideas to panel of judges.



Cinematica Expo 2024, held at Novotel, HICC, Hyderabad, celebrated the convergence of cinema, innovation and digital creativity. The event marked the presence of Krishnan, Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India and Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Principal Secretary, ITE&C and Industries & Commerce, Government of Telangana. The inauguration ceremony featured industry icons Ram Gopal Varma, Sandeep Reddy Vanga and K K Senthil Kumar.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



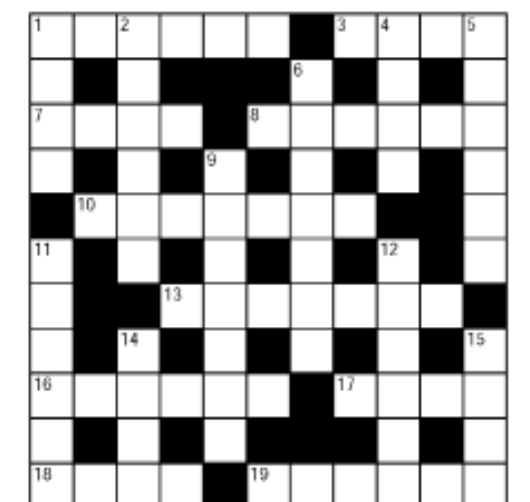
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

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	8		5	6				
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8		6	2			1	9	
5							6	
7	1		9	5				2
2	9	5						
	6	5	7	8				
6		8						

Yesterday's solution

8	2	4	1	7	9	6	3	5
7	5	9	6	2	3	1	4	8
6	1	3	8	4	5	7	2	9
9	4	1	2	5	6	3	8	7
3	7	2	4	1	8	9	5	6
5	8	6	3	9	7	2	1	4
4	3	5	7	6	2	8	9	1
2	9	7	5	8	1	4	6	3
1	6	8	9	3	4	5	7	2

Rules
• Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
• The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

ACROSS

- The one who comes first in a race
- A body organ
- Twirl around
- Very impolite
- A fire-breathing monster
- The head of an empire
- Look very carefully for something
- Jealousy
- Most
- Centre
- Two times forty-five
- A painter uses these
- Touched lips with someone
- Connected together
- Peaceful and still
- A rubber cover for a wheel

DOWN

- A wiggly creature living in soil
- Said "yes" with the head
- These hold clothes on a line

SOLUTION

P	A	R	I	C	H	U	T	E
O	C	A	I					
S	O	U	T	H	I	G	H	T
T	L	E	G	E	I			
R	O	T	S					
E	A	T	E	R				
T	A	S	T	E	D	P	E	R
C	A	A	T	E	R			
H	O	M	E	S	W	O	R	D
G	O	I	D					
G	A	R	D	E	N	E	R	S

Vishwak Sen sets record straight on *Mechanic Rocky* and *Gangs of Godavari*!

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
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Young actor Vishwak Sen is coming up with another film, *Mechanic Rocky* and this is his third film this year. Earlier his films *Gangs of Godavari* and *Gaami* were released. The film is releasing on November 22. "The story is based on some real incidents and we have taken a burning point that we are discussing from the last four to five years," said Vishwak Sen about the film.

The actor said he was a bit scared when he did this film. "As I said, it's a topical point and if anyone gets the same thought and makes a film on the same subject, that's why I'm scared. But luckily no one got the idea," he said. He added that he did this film simultaneously along with *Gangs of Godavari*.

"I had to grow a moustache for *Gangs of Godavari*, then I had to get rid of it for *Mechanic Rocky*. I must therefore wait a while for the first movie when I work on this one," said Vishwak Sen about doing it simultaneously. "The accent is also completely different for these two films. For this one it is the Telangana accent; for *Gangs of Godavari* it was the Godavari accent, so I had to adjust," he added.

The actor said that it is not a big thing. "The first two hours may be difficult; after that, I get into the character and can adjust," said Vishwak Sen.

Vishwak Sen earlier turned down the director

for a few other films! In response to the question, *Mechanic Rocky*, did he dawdle here and there? "No, I didn't and moreover, director Ravi Teja didn't give me a chance as he completely took over the project," said Vishwak. The earlier film *Gangs of Godavari* didn't do well because it is reported that Vishwak Sen was involved in the direction for it. "It is not true; I didn't do anything in that direction. There are many bigwigs in that project, like China Babu (producer), Vamsi Anna (Suryadevara Naga Vamsi) and Chaitanya (director). So when these people are around, I can't be involved in the direction department," said Vishwak Sen.

The actor said that they all met and decided with a majority. "We are a group of five or six people that include the director, me, the producer, editor and the cinematographer discuss and share our ideas and then go with the majority," said Vishwak Sen. Asked about the actor sometimes talking like a warning at the public meeting of his films, he said 'no'. "Generally I speak loudly, because when I am on stage, I can't hear my voice," he said.

A few days back, at the pre-release function of *Mechanic Rocky*, Vishwak Sen said, 'Veepulu Paguluthayi' (if anyone writes personal.) "It's not a vulgar word; those are common words used in most of the houses," said the actor. He also pointed out a person at the same function. "No, I didn't point out the regular and established organisations or people. I pointed out a few people who don't want to show their face but write something wrong," clarified the actor.

For another question, he said he didn't say anything that he wanted to be in the news. "Now, the media has become huge and whatever I talk about goes viral. But I never wanted to be in the controversy and I know that controversies never help my film business. I was completely silent about *Gaami* and it collected nearly Rs 10 crores," he said. He added that everyone has frustration, happiness and other emotions in them. "Sometimes the emotions come out," he said. He added that he doesn't know how to talk diplomatically. "I don't know diplomacy and from the beginning I talk about whatever comes to my mind," he said.

The actor said this film is going to have premiere shows in main cities. "I just watched the film and wanted to screen the premiere on November 21," he said. In his upcoming projects, he said there are four films hitting the screens next year. *Laila* completed 60 percent and a film with Anudeep will start soon and also another film with Sudhakar.

VISHWAK SEN, THE TALENTED ACTOR BEHIND GANGS OF GODAVARI AND GAAMI, IS BACK WITH MECHANIC ROCKY AND THIS TIME, HE'S SPEAKING HIS MIND. IN A CANDID INTERVIEW, HE DISCUSSES MECHANIC ROCKY, DISPELS RUMOURS AND SHARES HIS VISION FOR HIS UPCOMING PROJECTS!



Ram Charan's gesture of loyalty; visits Kadapa Dargah amid Ayyappa Swamy Deeksha

As a mark of his deep respect and commitment, global superstar Ram Charan attended the 80th National Mushaira Ghazal event at Kadapa Ameen Peer Dargah as the chief guest, fulfilling a personal request from music maestro A R Rahman. Despite being in Ayyappa Swamy Deeksha, Ram Charan offered prayers, a 'chadar', and flowers at the historic Dargah, spreading a message of unity and harmony.

Last year, A R Rahman invited the Game Changer star to attend the annual Mushaira Ghazal event at Kadapa Dargah and Ram Charan kept his promise. Ram Charan's admirers are lauding his presence

at the event as a testament to his principles and humility, transcending religious boundaries and showcasing harmony. The visit also adds to the excitement surrounding his upcoming film *Game Changer*, which marks his first collaboration with A.R. Rahman.

Meanwhile, *Game Changer*, produced by Dil Raju and Sirish under Sri Venkateswara Creations, promises a cinematic spectacle, with S Thaman's riveting music and S Shrinavukkarasu's stunning visuals. The movie is set for a grand worldwide release on January 10, 2025, in Telugu, Tamil and Hindi.

Allu Aravind banking on Sai Pallavi!

Not long ago, an event was organised by producer Allu Aravind to reveal the release date of his upcoming movie *Thandel*, which is set to hit the theatres on February 7, 2025. Chandoo Mondeti is the director of this film



starring Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi as the lead pair. The movie is being made under Allu Aravind's Geetha Arts banner with Bunny Vasu, who is associated with the banner, serving as the producer for the film. During the event, Bunny Vas confidently declared that this film is aiming to reach Rs 100 crore for Naga Chaitanya and they are working towards that goal.

According to a report, the success of this film is heavily reliant on Sai Pallavi rather than Naga Chaitanya, as per Allu Aravind's strategy. That's the reason they declared that this movie has surely joined the Rs 100 crore club. Sai Pallavi's latest film *Amaran* once again solidified her status as a major superstar in the southern film industry. The movie is produced in Tamil but it is also simultaneously released in Telugu. The collections of the Telugu dubbed version outperformed those of a usual Telugu movie and was a massive success in the Telugu industry. The film continues to perform well at the box office, with trade analysts attributing its success solely to Sai Pallavi.

After witnessing the success of the *Amaran* collections on its launch day, Allu Aravind and Bunny Vas have faith that the film *Thandel* will also achieve strong box office numbers due to Sai Pallavi. The movie was initially set to be released in December and then during Sankranti, but it is now scheduled to be released alone on February 7. "They are banking on Sai Pallavi for this film and that's why they announced it will give the first Rs 100 crore film for Naga Chaitanya," said a source.

Pushpa 2 makers' overly confident?

The sequel to the film featuring Allu Arjun and director Sukumar, *Pushpa 2*, is scheduled to release on December 5. The makers recently organised a successful promotional event in Patna, leading them to become overly confident about the success of the film, according to the source. Currently in the industry, there are rumours that the film producers have already prepared promotional materials for the first and second day earnings before the film's release. The producers have already prepared promotional boards worth Rs 300 crore to be distributed on the

movie's premiere day. The film has not been released yet, but the producers are already predicting the first day, second day and weekday's earnings, displaying their excessive confidence, according to a producer, on the condition of anonymity. "If the film has good content, it automatically collects money; there is hype for this film; promote it carefully and you have to wait till the release of the film," said the producer.

According to a source, the creators invested a significant amount of funds in *Pushpa 2* since the production schedule lasts for an extended period and involves hundreds of working days. "For a big star like Allu Arjun, the shooting expenses for

a day are going to be Rs 1 crore and you can imagine how many days they worked for this film," said a source. To earn profits for the producers, the film must amass over Rs 500 crore in revenue. The OTT rights were already sold for almost Rs 250 crore; however, the movie needs to make significant earnings from theatrical releases.

The makers also unveiled the trailer; however, it received mixed feedback as it failed to attract the Telugu viewers much. "It seems they focused more on the Hindi audience and according to that, they made the trailer," added the source.

WEDDING ON CARDS! KEERTHY SURESH SET TO WED HER LONGTIME BEAU

Keerthy Suresh, the actress who is preparing to enter Bollywood with Varun Dhawan's *Baby John*, will tie the knot with her partner Antony Thattil in the second week of December. Reports indicate that Keerthy and Antony who resides in Dubai, has been in a committed relationship with individual for 15 years. Reports have mentioned that Keerthy and Antony are planning to have a destination wedding in Goa next month. The wedding will take place with the approval of their own families. The lavish wedding is set to occur in Goa on December 11 and 12. A formal declaration of their partnership is expected to be announced in the upcoming days. Rumours suggest Antony Thattil and Keerthy Suresh attended school together and were high school sweethearts. Additional information regarding Antony, his occupation and his connection with Keerthy is anticipated. The Goa wedding will have family members and close friends present. The guest list has not been released yet.

In 2023, Keerthy criticised a magazine for referring to her friend as her boyfriend. Her words were, "Hahaha! I didn't need to rescue my dear friend this time! I will disclose the identity of the mysterious man whenever necessary. Relax and wait calmly in the meantime! Note: It never got it correct even once (sic)."



'Making KCR was life-changing movement for me'

Rocking Rakesh is famous for hosting the clever comedy show *Jabardasth*. The former actor has transitioned to becoming a producer and is developing a movie called *KCR: Keshava Chandra Ramavath*. The actor intentionally used the abbreviation KCR for the title, which stands for the ex-Chief Minister of Telangana and a key figure in the Telangana Movement.

"Though I put the title with a movement leader, but to make this film I faced a big movement in my



life," said Rocking Rakesh. He expressed gratitude towards a small number of individuals who assisted him in ensuring that this film would be released on November 22. Anji holds the position of director for this movie.

Several of his comrades such as Hyper Aadi, Sudigaali Sudheer, Dhanraj were present at the function to show their support to Rakesh for his hard work. Roja, who transitioned from acting to politics and

serves as one of the judges on the *Jabardasth* show, was also present. "He used to call me 'Amma' and I hope his film is going to be a great success," said Roja.

Former Telangana Minister, Harish Rao was present as the chief guest and extended his best wishes for the team's success.

"I don't know much about films, but I heard that Rakesh came from a village to this stage and he got his own name. He made this film with the inspiration of KCR garu and I am happy for it. KCR is not just a name, it is history and ten years he took the Telangana state into development," said Harish Rao. Several industry professionals and politicians, such as Chadalavada Srinivasa Rao, Siva Balaji, N Shankar, Jaani Master, MLA Desapathi and Rasamayi Balakrishna, showed up to congratulate Rakesh and wish him success.

