

Hyderabad Hosts Landmark "I Love HR Awards Conclave & Expo" by IKON



The city of Hyderabad witnessed a transformative gathering of HR professionals, industry leaders, and academia at the "I Love HR Awards Conclave & Expo" organized by IKON (International Knowledge and Opportunities Network) on July 20th, 2024. The event, held at the Ista Convention in Hitech City, was a resounding success, celebrating excellence and driving innovation in the field of human resources. The esteemed Chief Guest, Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Special Chief Secretary IT, E&C Industries & Commerce, graced the occasion and presented the prestigious awards to the deserving awardees. Joining him on the dais were a distinguished panel of guests, including Mr. J.A. Choudary, Former Chief Secretary IT, Andhra Pradesh; Ms. Karuna Gopal, National BJP Leader; Prof. Sunaina Singh, Former Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University; Dr. Meera Venkat, Chairman Assocham Karnataka; Mr. Prasad Mavuduri, CEO UET; Mr. Chandra Sekhar Dasaka, Secretary Computer Society of India; Mr. Arvind Mathur, Global Head People Operations, Cyient; Mr. K. Satyanarayana Raju, Chancellor, Godavari Global University; Mr. Abhishek Reddy, Pro Chancellor, Annamacharya University; Mr. Venkat Boora, CEO Spryple HR & CRM; and Mr. Ramana Bhupathi, CMD Quality Thought.

Krish Chintaluri, Founder & President of IKON, set the tone for the event by articulating the organization's mission and vision. "At 'I Love HR,' our mission is to empower HR professionals and organizations by providing a dynamic platform for learning, collaboration, and innovation. We are dedicated to fostering a community that celebrates HR excellence, promotes best practices, and supports continuous professional development," he said. The day-long event featured a packed agenda, with a focus on the theme "Transformative Leadership in Higher Education." The keynote

address was delivered by the esteemed Prof. Sunaina Singh, a renowned academic leader and institutional builder, who shared her expertise and vision for the future of higher education. The event also hosted insightful panel discussions and presentations on a wide range of HR-related topics, including talent development, challenges in the HR industry, health and wellness, diversity and inclusion, HR leadership, and the evolution of HR technology.

Some of the distinguished panelists and speakers included:

- Vani Naidu, Senior Director, Harsco
- Vinisha Jayaswal, Senior General Manager - Operations, Apollo Hospitals
- Uma Rao Ganduri, CHRO, Shekmet Pharmaventures Pvt. Ltd.
- Dr. S. Anand Reddy, Head L&OD, Hetero Labs
- Roshini M.J., Senior Director HR, Netenrich Inc.
- Sridhar Remella, Senior Director HR, Speridian Technologies
- Ranganath IVS, Head HR, Shriram BioSeeds
- Ramaesh Mantana, VP HR, Evoke Technologies
- Venkatesan Srinivasan, Head Global HR, Knot Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
- Pradita Sahu, Pravi HR Advisory
- Dr. Mahender, CMD, Humai & Green Bliss Agro
- Seshu Kandregula, CEO, Coign Edu Consultants
- Jitesh Mogli, Fitness & Wellbeing Coach
- Keerthy Reddy, CMD, Boldfuse
- Dr. Priyanka, Director, Ridhira Wellness
- Reshma Mohan, Founder, Ista

Wellness

- Haraprasad Panda, Executive President, Kapston Services Ltd.
- Muralidhar Teppala, CEO, Shenzyn
- Vishwanadh Raju, Head Global Talent Acquisition and Operations, ANSR
- Venu Ganapuram, Senior Principal Scientist, NAL (CSIR)
- Saikat Gupta, CHRO, Alpha Numero

The event also featured thought-provoking presentations from industry experts, including Mohit Fruitwala, Vice President Business, Workruit & Deet; Venkat Boora, CEO, Spryple HR; Paul Edward G., Assistant Director & Assistant Internship Advisor, Board of Apprenticeship Training, Hyderabad Division, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education; PRK Nagaraju, Founder & CEO, PNR Associates Pvt. Ltd.; and Siddharth, CEO, Braincode.

One of the highlights of the event was the "Happiness @ Work" session led by

the award-winning thought leader and Happiness @ Work expert, Sriram. Additionally, Karuna Gopal Vartakavi, an internationally acclaimed thought leader and futurist, delivered an insightful address on "Why HR Leaders are Important for India." The "I Love HR Awards Conclave & Expo" also featured a vibrant community and marketplace section, where HR professionals could connect, share knowledge, and discover the latest HR solutions and service providers. The event's Recognize Talent program celebrated the achievements of outstanding HR professionals, and the Certify HR Processes section empowered organizations to elevate their HR practices. "The success of this event is a testament to the growing importance of HR in driving organizational success and transforming the education sector. We are thrilled to have created a platform that brought together the brightest minds in the industry and fostered meaningful dialogues and collaborations," said Krish Chintaluri.

Anti-Narcotics Bureau raids pub in Jubilee Hills; Three test positive for drugs

Hyderabad: The Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau along with Jubilee Hills police raided a pub and detained nine individuals on Sunday night out of which three persons tested positive for drug consumption. Acting on specific information, the sleuths raided Xora Bar and Kitchen at Jubilee Hills. The police conducted a test using drug testing kits and three of the nine persons who were caught by the police had tested positive for drug consumption. The police are proceeding with legal action against the three persons, said a senior official of TGANB.



The sleuths raided Xora Pub and Kitchen at Jubilee Hills.

I find Ashwin very unique, says Paras Mhambrey

All's well that ends well. After ending his 31-month association as India's bowling coach, Paras Mhambrey – a member of Rahul Dravid's trusted lieutenants from the batch of 1996 – opens up on his stint and spells out the secrets of India's squad and some of the individuals. Excerpts

How would you sum up your stint?

For me, two and a half years would be satisfying on a personal front. I still remember taking up this assignment two and half years back when Rahul (Dravid) called me and asked me if i would be interested in doing the Indian team. I had worked with Rahul prior to that with the junior team and the A (set-up), so there was a great rapport with him and obviously based at the NCA also helped. It was a no-brainer for me. I just grabbed the opportunity, happy to work with the elite, the best in the world. It was rewarding. It was satisfying. A great opportunity to learn from the best. The more you interact with someone like Ashley, Rohit (Sharma) or Virat (Kohli), there's a lot to learn about the batters' perspective... I feel Ash (R. Ashwin) is one of the greatest match-winners this country has produced. To be able to learn from him. To be able to have those conversations. I have grown as a person and as a coach as well. It's been a wonderful stint, a lot of happy memories. Yes, there were challenges as well. I wouldn't deny that and glad that we overcome that, that one important ICC Trophy hurdle that really eluded us for such a long time. I am really glad and happy that finally we could win that tournament and that was the end of the association.

Can you elaborate on the three phases of your stint – the one till the 2022 T20 World Cup, then the 2023 World Cup and the last six months of extension?

Let's talk about the World Cup that happened in Australia. If you look at the way the semifinal went — when you lose in the manner we lost — people do talk. I do understand that a lot of people have an opinion and everyone was upset. Not only the public but the players themselves were very upset and that hurt us. People do conveniently forget also that the host nation didn't qualify (for the knockouts). Can you imagine if that would have happened in India that the host nation wouldn't have qualified. We sat down and said what do we need to do differently. To reach the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup in those conditions, you know we had done well, but we needed to think back and say what do we need to do differently. We sat and with Rahul and everyone said okay, what are the things that we need to work on and what are the pool available with us and how do we work there? So the plan actually started from there. The next target was the 50-over World Cup, in India. We knew what the pressures were. We knew what we were about to encounter because when you interact with people, everyone wants to win the World Cup, right? You can't run away from it. How do you kind of cocoon yourself from the fact that yes, there is the World Cup coming in. Yes, it's in Indian conditions but eventually you will have to



play good cricket. The other nations are out there to win that cup. It's not only us that going to be participating, though. The challenge is going to be there. You had to look at the kind of bowlers you were looking for based on the venues because India is a unique nation. You go to north with the different soil, you go to south, there's a different soil, east has different soil. You play central or west, it's a very different soil, so the soils matter. We required a combination that will be able to play in every venue because we were the only team for whom, every game had a different venue. We were not based where in a particular stadium we play 3-4 games, we knew that we were playing in different venues. And we learned our lessons from 2022, which culminated with the T20 World Cup.

Do you recall any specific conversation with any of the seniors?

Just in general and the conversation doesn't have to be like a planned one. Just sitting over tea or coffee or whatever, just on the ground and know when people are bowling, just trying to understand them better as bowlers and persons. I find Ash very unique. Very few people who are at that stage of their career — someone with more than 500 Test wickets — who still come with the intensity of a rookie; shows in the amount of bowling he does. I found it unique and just the kind of understanding of what is it that drives him; to understand that comes every day, for 12 years of his career, he has done the same thing. He still bowls for hours in the nets. I have never seen any other bowler doing that. He is one of the very few bowlers to have reinvented himself, who has made himself...

how do I put it... reliable in white-ball cricket. At a stage when everyone said no to an off-spinner in T20s, look at the way reinvented himself. You know, completely different. Made himself relevant to T20s. You see Ash coming up with different kind of balls — knuckle balls, carrom balls, what not! And you look at Test cricket, he is the king and no doubt about it.

Kuldeep's transformation has been phenomenal. What were the specifics you worked on together?

I remember the conversation we had when we went to Sri Lanka during the pandemic. We went there as support staff in 2021 when some of the others were in England. Kuldeep was out there, he was just not in the Indian team. He was not around the Indian circuit for a while. I remember having a little conversation with him, it was technical work. You could understand standing in the nets what he was trying to achieve and you could relate with the fact that he wasn't happy with the results. We discussed some technical stuff that may help him in rotating the arm better, cutting down slightly on his speed and hitting the desired length correctly. It actually started from there. Once you do that and you build that confidence with each other, the process just smoothens.

If you were to pick a bowler or two who managed to actually surprise you pleasantly by going a notch higher than you expected, who would it be?

For sure, Arsh (Arshdeep Singh) is right up there. I have seen Arsh since the Under-19 level. To be part of that under-19 team (in 2018), he was just a rookie com-

ing in, just played one game in that World Cup in New Zealand, you could see a little glimpse of what he had. One was obviously the ability to shape the ball, which was very rare at that time. Someone who would swing and then later on, seeing him a lot with the T20 format. When I saw him playing for Punjab (Kings) in IPL for the first time, I thought he has turned up well. The way he showed the progress was definitely very impressive. He has a great head on his shoulder, ability to handle pressure and clarity of thoughts. Every time he has the option to bowl a particular ball, he chooses the right ball and executes it well. He has worked on his bowling and it's great to see the kid emerging into one of your mainstays, especially in T20s. Obviously Prasad (Krishna) has a lot of potential out there. Kuldeep (Sen) was one of them, obviously being injured set him back. I am not talking too much about Avesh and Khaleel since they are part of the squad regularly, but some of these guys, Mayank (Yadav) in recent times has shown a lot of potential and we really need to manage him well. He has the unique ability of bowling accurate at high pace. Even Mohsin (Khan) is different, he has got a little extra something with his bounce. He might surprise you with extra pace and bounce as well. We need to we need to manage them going ahead.

And anyone who has either stagnated or dropped down the order over the last couple of years?

I won't say disappointed, but someone like Umran (Malik). We need to guide him. He needs to play for a state which has proper structure. Unfortunately, he is playing for a state where there is no proper structure.

Harsimrat K Badal appeals the centre to resolve the grievances of farmers immediately

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), July 21 – Senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader and Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal Sunday said it did not behove the NDA government to renege on the promise made to farmers by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and appealed to the centre to resolve the grievances of farmers immediately. Participating in the All-Party meeting called on the eve of the budget session, Mrs Harsimrat Badal said "it is not becoming that the Prime Minister makes a commitment to farmers and farmers still have to sit in dharna. All issues of farmers including making Minimum Support Price (MSP) a legal entity, should be resolved".

The Bathinda MP also spoke on the increasing discrimination and even attacks on minority communities in the country. She said it was disconcerting that the Uttar Pradesh police was forcing members of the minority community to display their name plates on vends and eateries which would hit them economically. "Similarly in Rajasthan baptized Sikh women were barred from entering the examination center for a judicial paper which is a clear violation of their fundamental right to practice their religion. A case under the National Security Act (NSA) was registered against the head of a gurdwara in Sri Ganganagar solely because the gurdwara head was speaking against someone who was calling for the destruction of gurdwaras".

Speaking about the sharp increase in drug trafficking and drug addiction in Punjab, Mrs Badal said drones were be-

ing used to airdrop drugs from Pakistan. She said the situation had worsened due to the politico-police nexus in the State under the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) regime which was taking a heavy toll on the people with drug overdose deaths being reported on a daily basis. Mrs Badal called for framing a comprehensive policy to curb trans-border smuggling of drugs as well as drug trafficking in Punjab.

Mrs Badal also dwelt on how Punjab had been consistently robbed of its river waters and that now efforts were afoot to hand over Punjab's waters to Haryana and Delhi through the Sutlej Yamuna Link (SYL) canal. She said it was unfortunate that all national parties including the Congress, BJP and AAP had weakened Punjab's stand by resorting to double speak on this most critical issue. "These parties oppose the construction of the SYL canal in Punjab but support the same in Haryana and Delhi". She conveyed that Punjab would become a desert if the canal was constructed and that it would have a catastrophic effect on the farming community as well as the State's economy. Speaking about the lop-sided functioning of the central enforcement agencies, Mrs Badal said it was mystifying as to how Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal had been arrested in the Delhi liquor scam but no action was being taken against Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann despite the fact that the same scam had been perpetrated in Punjab. "This implies some sort of understanding with the AAP government in Punjab", she added.



Lifespan Pvt. Ltd. Signs Indian Professional Shooter Esha Singh as Brand Ambassador



Hyderabad based Lifespan Pvt. Ltd. proudly announces the signing of Indian professional shooter Esha Singh as their brand ambassador. Esha Singh, one of the youngest shooters in the Indian Olympic

contingent and will represent India in the pistol event at the 2024 Olympics in Paris. Dr. Narendra Ram, the Chairman and Managing Director of Lifespan, expressed his happiness and extended a

warm welcome to Esha Singh into the Lifespan family. Dr. Narendra Ram stated, "We are thrilled to have Esha Singh as our brand ambassador. Her dedication and achievements in shooting resonate with our

commitment to excellence in health and wellness."

Further speaking on the occasion, Dr. Narendra Ram said, "Lifespan has a dedicated product range for athletes, including sports nutrition products, nutraceuticals, herbal, and Ayurvedic products. The scientists at Lifespan have combined scientific research and quality systems to develop sports nutrition products that boost energy, improve performance, and increase stamina within the sports fraternity." "He also mentioned that Lifespan is committed to supporting athletes across various sports. Lifespan currently has World Boxing Champion Nikhat Zareen as their brand ambassador. Additionally, Esha Singh, a promising young talent in Indian shooting, is another athlete they are excited to now partner with." He further added, "The partnership between Lifespan and Esha Singh is a natural fit, as both are champions in their respective fields." Speaking on the occasion, Esha Singh expressed her gratitude to Dr. Narendra Ram and Lifespan for giving her the opportunity to be part of their brand. She emphasized, "It is because of the support of companies like Lifespan that Indian athletes can perform better and secure medals on the international stage."

OPPO India Enters Record Books with the Reno12 Series for Most AI Avatars Created in a Day

OPPO India has become the first smartphone brand to enter both, the Asia Book of Records and the India Book of Records for creating 13,000 AI avatars in a single day using its AI Studio feature on a smartphone. This innovative feature allows users of the Reno12 series to transform any photo into a digital avatar with the device's Generative AI technology.

This milestone for OPPO India underscores the brand's commitment to advancing AI technology. This record-setting event—held on AI Appreciation Day on 16th July 2024—also engaged the audience on the company's digital platforms to highlight the innovative features of the Reno12 Series. Commenting on the occasion, Sushant Vashistha, Head of Digital Marketing, OPPO India said, "Setting a record for creating 13,000 AI avatars in a single day on the Reno12 Series is just incredible. This feat—exploring the new possibilities with AI—is even sweeter because we did it on AI Appreciation Day. OPPO's AI Studio transforms portraits into fun digital avatars that range from cowboys to cyberpunk heroes." OPPO India is also thrilled to announce that the record-breaking Reno12 Pro 5G will be available for sale starting from 18th July 2024 at INR 36,999 for the 12GB+256GB model and INR 40,999 for the 12GB+512GB variant across the OPPO e-Store, Flipkart, and mainline retail outlets. In keeping with the celebrations, new buyers who purchase the Reno12 series and activate the My OPPO app between 18th July and 26th July also stand a chance to win an international holiday among other prizes that include OPPO Reno12 devices, family dining vouchers and OPPO Enco Buds 2. For more details, customers can check "Buy Now & Win International Trip & Other Exciting Rewards". Customers can avail of the following offers* on the first sale of the OPPO Reno12 Series. Customers can enjoy an instant cashback of up to INR 4,000 on the OPPO e-Store, Flipkart, and mainline retailers with leading bank cards from SBI, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, One Card, Kotak Bank, Bank of Baroda and DBS, coupled with no-cost EMI for up to 9



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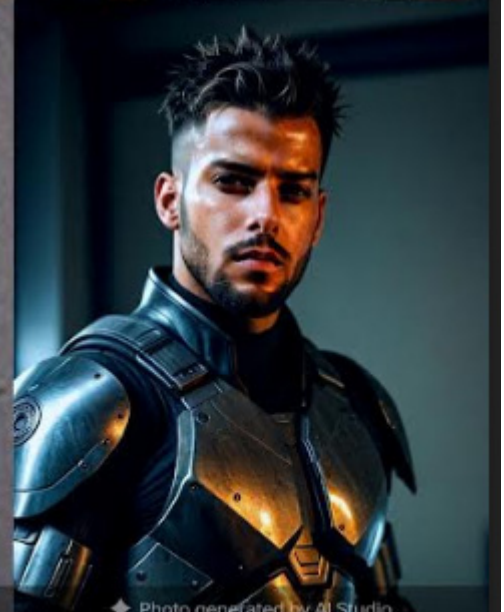


Photo generated by AI Studio

months. Customers who pre-book their Reno12 Pro 5G before 18th July and Reno12 5G before 25th July, will receive a special 6-month One-Time-Screen Re-

placement (OTSR) service. Additionally, customers can avail of Zero Down Payment and low-down payment schemes from leading financiers like Bajaj Finserv, TVS

Credit, HDB Financial Services, IDFC First Bank and Home Credit. New customers get 3 months of YouTube Premium and Google One free on the Reno12 Series.

Govt will support transgender community, says Siddipet Collector

Siddipet: Collector M Manu Chowdary said the government would extend all support to the transgender community to help its members stand on their own feet by providing skill enhancement training besides setting up self-employment units for them.

Addressing the transgender community during a programme organised by the Women and Child Welfare department in Siddipet on Monday, the Collector said the district administration would extend support in whatever self-employment unit they wanted to set up. Chowdary said the members can set up agriculture or allied sector units such as dairy, poultry, food processing unit, beauty parlour, milk parlour and

others. The district administration roped in trainer Akshay to train 100 transgender community members in Siddipet to enhance their skill base. Earlier, the Collector visited different government schools at Nirmal Nagar, Alirajpet, KGBV School in Jagadevpur, Upper Primar School in Akkaram and others. Speaking on the occasion, Chowdary called upon the teachers, and parents to put a collective effort to strengthen the government schools.

He assured them to provide all the facilities the school needed. He taught mathematics to students at Akkaram school. The Collector interacted with the students to test their knowledge and interacted with teachers to know the issues in the school.



Collective efforts of Officers and staff for a crime-free society:

Rachakonda CP Sri Sudheer Babu held a special review meeting with DCsP, Additional DCsP, ACsP and Inspector level officers today at Commissioner's office, Naredmet. Addressing the gathering, the Commissioner instructed the Police personnel of Rachakonda to adhere to their noble responsibilities and continue delivering best services to the citizens. CP instructed the officers to adopt advanced technology and utilise CCTV cameras in the process of investigation. The CP directed the authorities to hunt down the interstate gangs and to be vigilant about the movements of criminals with previous history in Rachakonda and take precautionary measures to prevent them from committing crimes again. CP instructed the staff to be friendly with the victims who approach the Police with varied problems.

CP elaborated the significance of visible policing and ordered to reach the victims in the shortest possible time. CP instructed the officials to increase foot patrolling and to carry out patrolling by bicycle as well. The CP stated that the higher officials should inspect the stations in regular intervals and mentioned that the efforts of officials and staff will be rewarded well and never go unnoticed. He assured that the officials and staff with special expertise, interest and experience will be given an opportunity to work in the respective departments as well. *He warned the police not to involve in civil disputes.* He advised them to be transparent, honest and accountable in their duties and to work within the framework of law. CP directed the staff, investigating officers and court monitoring officers to work effectively to achieve maximum punishment rate. CP instructed the officials to expedite the investigations and collect foolproof evidences so that the criminals get rigorous punishment. He directed the staff to set up *Accident Analysis and Prevention Teams*, and to identify the accident prone areas in coordination with other government departments and take preventive measures. CP iterated that the drug menace need to be eradicated from the society and stated that consumption of drugs and other prohibited psychotropic substances destroying the physical and psychological health of youth which ultimately impacts their future and instructed the officials to invoke PD act on the persons who involve in *drug supply chain*. "Besides SOT staff, all officers and staff with prior experience of working in SOT should consider it their responsibility to stop drug supply gangs" he added. CP instructed the officials to organize awareness programs in colleges to bring awareness among youth about the consequences of drugs consumption and prevent them from incline towards drugs. CP directed the officials to conduct raids to control the sale of spurious seeds in the market as well. CP mentioned that stringent measures need to be taken to curb the increasing *Cyber Crimes* and special efforts are needed to recover the amount of money lost by the victims through various online frauds. CP elaborated the significance of digital literacy and instructed the staff to organise awareness sessions to make people aware of various cyber crimes. CP instructed the officials to



take safety measures for the safety of *women and children* and strengthen She Teams as well. DCP Yadadri Rajesh

Chandra, DCP LB Nagar Praveen Kumar, DCP SB Karunakar, DCP Crime Arvind Babu, DCP Maheswaram Sunitha Reddy,

DCP Women Safety Usha Vishwanath, and other officers participated in this meeting.

Famous YouTuber Armaan Malik participates in 'Bigg Boss OTT' season 3



Social media celebrity Armaan Malik is currently participating in BigBossott3 hosted by Anil Kapoor. Mr. Shafi Sami re-

leased a poster on fitness appealing to Malik Family to vote more. He appealed to the people of India, especially the people

of Hyderabad, to vote as much as possible for Mr Malik to win This Session Bigbossott3 Posters and banners have been put up in different neighborhoods of Hyderabad. TG

Introducing New Firmware and Applications for 4K Remote PTZ Camera Systems Including a Lite Version for Auto Tracking

Canon India, a leading company in digital imaging solutions, announced that they will begin offering firmware updates in early July 2024 to enhance functions and performance, including auto tracking, for its 4K remote PTZ cameras1 and remote camera controllers2. Notably, the firmware will include a limited feature version of the Auto Tracking Add-On Application on supported cameras3 at no charge. Canon India has been enhancing its product line-up of remote PTZ camera systems by providing application software4 that adds necessary functions according to their usage to camera systems, including 4K remote PTZ cameras and specialised controllers. With upgrades to firmware and applications across the system to improve their respective functionality and performance, Canon aims to assist workflow improvements on video production projects and aid visual communication in situations such as web conferences and lecture broadcasts. Enhanced Auto Tracking Performance and Free Auto Tracking Application (Lite)

Enhancements to the Auto Tracking Add-On Application5 results in smoother, more natural pan tilt movement, and algorithm improvements to help maintain tracking of the desired subject even when crossing paths with others. Additionally, detailed auto tracking settings can now be adjusted from the controller, enabling operation with-

out a PC. Canon will also be including in the firmware update a free lite version of the Auto Tracking Add-On application. Named Auto Tracking Application (Lite), this free version provides the same smooth and precise auto tracking experience as the paid version, but without some of the advanced customizations that are available in the full licensed version. CR-N100 & CR-N300 Improved Frame Rate for USB Camera Output The CR-N100 and CR-N300 will also see some significant improvements with this firmware. Their performance when in USB webcam mode will see a significant boost with higher frame rates and the addition of YUV format, which facilitates easier post-shooting image processing, making them versatile for various web conferencing applications in the Corporate and Education markets. Improved Camera Control Experience The remote camera controller RC-IP1000 will now be able to display thumbnail images of the camera's registered preset/trace functions on its touch panel. This allows for intuitive control by reducing operation errors when recalling functions based on thumbnail images. Additionally, up to nine camera feeds displayed on the touch panel can be output to external monitors via SDI and HDMI. This capability enhances on-site operational convenience by enabling control while viewing multi-camera displays on large screens.



Mera castes should be included in BC-A.



In a press conference at Bhashir Bagh press Club, JAC appealed to Hon'ble

Chief Minister Mr. Revanth Reddy and BC Welfare Minister Mr. Ponnamm Prabhakar

to include Mera castes who are living depending on caste profession from BC-D to BC-A. In this meeting Mera JAC convener Munigala Ramu, founding president Sanga Venkatarajam, adviser Munigala Ramesh and other JAC members said that Mera castes in the state are not on agriculture. The Congress government, especially Revanth Reddy, who is working diligently for the development of BC, was requested in a press conference to change BC-D to BC-A as they are living depending on the profession of tailoring. Adevinga asked for priority to be given to Mera castes at vari-

ous levels in the upcoming local body elections.

He asked the government to give the tenders for sewing clothes to the castes. In this meeting, various JAC members expressed their gratitude on behalf of the people of Telangana to the Congress government, which is fulfilling the promises given to the people of Telangana as part of the election promise. Mera JAC co-conveners Singh Vishnu, Mediga Santhosh, KN Swamy, Polkam Sriram, Podishetti Devdas, Seelam Nagesh, etc. participated in this meeting.

For Immediate Publication/ Broadcast/ Telecast PR/1447 IDBI Bank Limited - Financial Results for Q1 of FY 2025 IDBI Bank reports 40% rise in profits on YoY basis

IDBI Bank today, announced its quarterly results for Q1 FY25. The Net Profit stood at ₹1,719 crore for Q1 FY25, registering a strong growth of 40% YoY. The operating profit stood at ₹2,076 crore. NIM was recorded at 4.18% and Net Interest Income stood at ₹3,233 crore in Q1-2025 as against ₹3,998 crore in Q1-2024. Cost of Deposit stood at 4.58% in Q1-2025 as

compared to 4.12% in Q1-2024.

CRAR stood at 22.42% with YoY growth of 209 bps. Return on Assets (ROA) at 1.83%, YoY growth of 34 bps and Return on Equity (ROE) at 19.87%, YoY growth of 123 bps. Net NPA at 0.23% as against 0.44% as on June 30, 2023 and Gross NPA at 3.87% as against 5.05% as on June 30, 2023

Will July warming fall below the 1.5°C level?

June was the 12th consecutive month when global temperature was warmer by 1.5°C or more from the pre-industrial average in at least one dataset that tracks global average temperature. This trend is significant because limiting long-term global warming to under 1.5°C is one of the important goals of the Paris Agreement. However, an HT analysis shows that July might offer relief on this front. At least this is what the data from the month so far shows.

To be sure, the global temperature reaching or breaching the 1.5°C threshold in the past 12 months does not mean that we failed in achieving the most important goal of the Paris Agreement. While the interpretation of the goal might vary, it is commonly understood that the goal is meant for a longer-term climate and not individual months and years. However, the 12-month streak was worrying for a reason. At least three datasets tracking global temperatures had breached the 1.5°C threshold in the 12-month running average by February. The ERA5 dataset of Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), from where the 12-month streak was first reported, had breached the threshold in the 12-month average in January.

This trend continuing in individual months beyond January meant that the 12-month running average continued to cross the 1.5°C threshold. This is where July tem-

peratures so far offer some relief. The average warming in the first 15 days of the month compared to the 1850-1900 baseline (often used as a pre-industrial average) is 1.38°C. No individual day in the first half of the month breached the 1.5°C threshold either, something that has not happened in the ERA5 dataset in any month after May 2023.

To be sure, it is quite possible that the next half of the month warms up so much that July 2024 becomes the thirteenth consecutive month with a 1.5°C breach in the ERA5 data. However, if that happens, it will be a break from the trend of the past four months, when warming relative to the pre-industrial baseline has decreased every month. Since the warming in June was 1.50°C, even a small fall from that level will mean that the threshold will not be breached in July. The expectation of the 1.5°C threshold not being breached in July is not wishful thinking. Some gradual cooling in global temperatures was expected this year since the warming in the Nino 3.4 region of the Pacific Ocean — used to track El Nino and La Nina events — was decreasing every month after December. El Nino is a periodic warming of the equatorial Pacific Ocean, which has a warming effect on global temperatures. La Nina, a periodic cooling of the equatorial Pacific, has the opposite impact. Since May, the



equatorial Pacific has been “neutral”: neither El Nino nor La Nina. Clearly, it is a breach of the 1.5°C threshold that will be surprising in July and not a fall from that level. However, this relief should not be taken as a reflection of efforts towards halting global warming. Even if July ends with a warming of 1.38°C — the level seen in the first half of the month — the 12-month average of global warming after July will be 1.63°C, well above the level it should be. Similarly, while a part of this warming can be attributed to cyclical factors, that we

have crossed the 1.5°C threshold for the first time in the past year means that factors operating every few years are not the bigger reason here. Therefore, a gradual cooling continuing in July will be good news for the month and the rest of the year, but no guarantee that the trend will continue in the following years. Abhishek Jha, HT's assistant editor-data, analyses one big weather trend in the context of the ongoing climate crisis every week, using weather data from ground and satellite observations spanning decades.

Republicans find god's plans in Trump's escape

Leaders, including many former critics and challengers, rallied behind Donald Trump on the second day of the Republican National Convention, several of them attributing to god his escape from an assassination attempt on July 13. Several of them cited the Bible, and suggested a divine plan in Mr. Trump's leadership of the party. “I saw President Trump, a dear friend escape death by mere inches, and my thoughts immediately turned to the book of Isaiah..That says no weapon formed against you shall prosper,” Ben Carson, an African American leader who was an opponent of Mr. Trump in the 2016 primary and later a member of his Cabinet, said.

Two other primary opponents of Mr. Trump in 2016, Senators Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz, and Arkansas Governor Sarah Sanders were also among those cited godly plans in Mr. Trump's escape from death, which has become a key talking point among a section of his supporters, as is his show of courage in the aftermath. “The most repeated phrase in the Bible is, ‘do not be afraid’ or ‘fear not.’ It appears 365 times in scripture,” said Mr. Carson. Mr. Trump's daughter-in-law and co-chair of the RNC, Lara Trump cited Proverbs to draw a stark contrast between the nominee and his opponents: “The wicked flee when no man pursues; But the righteous are bold as a lion.”

“It (Mr. Trump's escape) reminds us

that the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind is in the hands of god..” said Mr. Rubio, thanking Mr. Trump for “transforming our party”. Mr. Rubio has travelled a long way from his stiff challenge to Mr. Trump in 2016. Far from resisting the transformation of the party under Mr. Trump, both Senators are now among the loudest cheerleaders of it. Mr. Cruz, who was the last standing primary challenger to Mr. Trump in 2016, all the way until the Convention, was effusive in his praise for him this time. “I worked hand-in-hand with President Trump to reduce illegal immigration to this country to a 45-year low. We will do it again,” he said, blaming illegal immigrants for crimes in the U.S.

Two people of Indian origin — former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley and Ohio businessman Vivek Ramaswamy — featured among the evening speakers, at the Convention of a party that is accused by its critics of fanning nativism among the country's white population. Mr. Ramaswamy spoke on American identity, counting legal immigration as integral to it while arguing illegal immigration is in conflict with it. “America is built on the rule of law. You cannot enter this country by breaking the law.” Ms. Haley, whose primary challenge to Mr. Trump collapsed early on, made a turnaround by pledging her absolute endorsement of his candidacy. She said she was not in agreement with Mr.



Far from resisting the transformation of the party under Donald Trump, both Senators — Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz — are now among the loudest cheerleaders of it

Trump on all issues but curiously bracketed her militarist, interventionist foreign policy doctrine with his largely non-interventionist one. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis who also made a short-lived attempt for nomination this time, fell behind Mr. Trump. Both Ms. Haley and Mr. DeSantis sought to keep their endorse-

ment of Mr. Trump more as an opposition to the Democrats and the combination of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris on their ticket. In fact, Ms. Haley spent a considerable portion of her speech to portray the danger of Ms. Harris — whose mother was an Indian immigrant — ending up as President if Mr. Biden were to be elected again.

The treasures of Jagannath temple are in its shared history

The real treasures of the Jagannath temple lie in its long and shared historical journey, traversing its inception first as a tribal deity, through Jain, Buddhist, Shaiva and Vaishnava traditions, as well as past Mughal rule, during which time Shah Jahan paid obeisance through his representatives to its power and authority over this eastern region of the subcontinent. The history of Puri and the Jagannath temple then is akin to that of India itself, for it is the site of the confluence of regions, religions, and traditions. It is the reign of Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva (1077-1150) who traced his lineage to the Eastern Ganga dynasty (493-1077 CE), that catalysed this intermixing like no other king.

The present temple of Jagannath (an incarnation of Lord Krishna), and his siblings Balabhadra and Subhadra, is believed to have been rebuilt by Anantavarman who incepted the medieval Gajapati (master of elephants) empire, that covered present-day Odisha, lower Ganga valley and coastal Andhra Pradesh. Interestingly, it is believed that Anantavarman was a Shaivite before he became a follower of Sri Vaishnavism under the influence of his coeval, saint Ramanuja. However, the origins of the deity are likely rooted in tribal cultures that existed long before the establishment of the Gajapati dynasty. This is discernible from various rituals that remain extant. From the wood of the Neem tree, revered by tribal groups which is used for carving idols, to the Rath Yatra ceremony which allows people from different strata of society to gain physical contact with the deities, and finally to the tribal priests who oversee various functions integral to the maintenance of the temple and worship. The wooden formless deity itself arguably has Buddhist roots, as the legend in the Skandapurana tells us that the ashes of Lord Krishna are symbolically preserved in the wooden deity. This is a practice unknown in most Hindu temples but is quite prevalent in Buddhism, as is evidenced by various holy sites containing Buddha's relics that dot the Indian subcontinent. Similarly, the chariot festival too could be of Buddhist origin. A remarkably similar ceremony was first described by Xuanzang, the 7th-century Chinese traveller and Buddhist monk, who witnessed a grand procession of Buddha's statue in Kannauj during King Harshavardhan's reign (606 CE- 647 CE). The tantric tradition also lays claim to Lord Jagannath and sees in the triad the manifestation of the fierce Bhairava form of Shiva and that of his consort, Durga or Shakti. On linkages with Jainism, Pandit Nilkantha Das, a major figure of the freedom movement and doyen of Odia arts and literature, believed that "Jagannath is primarily a Jaina institution". Invasions and attacks on the temple just as we see in contemporary politics, it was not uncommon among medieval kings to rule in the name of a god or a powerful deity and portray themselves as earthly incarnations of the divine. The wealth accumulated was stored in the state temple which often became symbols of the king's rule.



By the 12th century, the Chodaganga dynasty had established its rule firmly over Odisha and its neighbouring region and acquired considerable wealth through maritime trade and territorial expansion, which it used to build many temples including the iconic Konark temple, dedicated to the sun god near Puri. The first raid on Puri and the temple is believed to have taken place at least five centuries before any Islamic invasion took place. According to the temple chronicle, 'Madalapanji', the Rashtrakuta king Govinda III (793 CE - 814 CE), defeated King Subhanadeva of Orissa and looted the temple while the king escaped with the idols that remained hidden in a safe place for more than a century, returning to Puri only after the demise of Govinda III. The next recorded raid took place more than five hundred years later during the reign of Gajapati king Narasinghadeva III in 1340 CE by the Iliash Shah, the Sultan of Bengal, once again the temple was plundered for its riches and its association with the Gajapati kings.

Soon after, Firoz Shah Tughluq too attacked the temple for the same reason. According to historian Richard M Eaton, "When Firoz Tughluq invaded Orissa in 1359 and learned that the region's most important temple was that of Jagannath located inside the raja's fortress in Puri, he carried off the stone image of the god and installed it in Delhi 'in an ignominious position'. For a few years, the temple remained at peace till 1568 when it suffered a terrible attack by the Afghan armies of Sultan Sulaiman Karrani of Bengal. The reasons for this raid were not purely for plunder but emanated from politics. "Just before the expedition was launched, the raja of Orissa, Mukunda Deva (1557-68), had entered into a pact with Akbar, Sulaiman's nominal overlord but actually his ultimate enemy. What is more, the raja

had given refuge to Sulaiman's bitter rival for the Bengal throne, Ibrahim Sur, and had suggested to Akbar's envoy that he would gladly assist Ibrahim in his ambitions to conquer Bengal", writes Eaton. Sulaiman's general Kalapahar wreaked havoc in Puri as the temple was "the focus of a state cult lavishly supported by the kings of Orissa's Gajapati dynasty". Destroying the temple, a symbol of the dynasty was a calculated act to obliterate its rule.

After this last raid, the Jagannath temple faced at least ten more attacks, including by Kalyan Malla, the son of Raja Todar Mal, during emperor Jahangir's reign in 1611. This attack too was to punish Purshottamadeva II, the then Gajapati King of Odisha who had resisted Mughal rule. However, these were exceptions, as the Mughals had largely adopted a hands-off policy towards the religion of their subjects. "Between 1590 and 1735, Mughal officials repeatedly oversaw, and on occasions even initiated, the renewal of Orissa's state cult, that of Jagannath in Puri. By sit-

ting on a canopied chariot while accompanying the cult's annual car festival, emperor Shah Jahan's officials ritually demonstrated that it was the Mughal emperor, operating through his appointed officers (mansabdars), who was the temple's-and hence the god's ultimate lord and protector", writes Eaton. The temple town of Puri and its iconic temple have given the English language a much-used word, 'Juggernaut', which is defined as an unstoppable phenomenon or force. Despite centuries of attacks and plunder, devotees' belief in the temple remains invincible and continues to thrive; its power is even being invoked in relation to Donald Trump miraculously surviving an assassination attempt. This, ISKCON says, is because Lord Jagannath saved the ex-president since he allowed the construction of a chariot for a 1977 Rath Yatra at one of his land plots in New York. HistoriCity is a column by author Valay Singh that narrates the story of a city that is in the news, by going back to its documented history, mythology and archaeological digs. The views expressed are personal

JNTU-Hyderabad clears air on poor mess maintenance at boys hostel

Hyderabad: After a video of a cat consuming curd from a bucket in the JNTU-Hyderabad Manjera's boys hostel mess facility went viral, the university college engineering principal Dr. GV Narasimha Reddy said some students with an intention to tarnish mess workers image posted the issue on social media without informing hostel warden, principal or university authorities.

In a statement released on Wednesday,

Dr. Reddy, citing preliminary information, said there was no chance of the cat entering the mess facility during dining time due to the presence of a large number of students and staff. The cat might have entered the mess facility through an open window, he said, adding that students had already completed their dining and the mess was closed when the cat entered. He claimed that the feline did not touch any food prepared for serving students.