

## Powerhouse for fresh IT talent with 55,000 graduates annually

Telangana has emerged a prominent hub for fresh talent in the IT sector, with an average of over 55,00 fresh talent graduating from the computer science, IT and related backgrounds annually, as per the World Trade Centre, Shamshabad, report on Telangana's Growth Story – Road to \$ 1 Trillion Economy.

As per the report, this figure of fresh talent positioned Telangana second highest in the country, trailing behind Karnataka that has approximately 75,000 new graduates each year. The data of fresh talent available highlights the growing prominence of Telangana as a hub for IT talent. Not just producing the second largest number of graduates in the computer science, IT and allied areas, the State has the highest percentage of employable youth aged 18-21 years in the country, the report said citing the Wheebox national Employability Test. The high percentage of employable youth indicates the State's focus on skill development and education among the younger demographic, which is aligned

with demands of an evolving job market in the last 10 years. Citing Zinnov data, the report said Telangana fulfils 21 per cent of semiconductor global capacity centres talent requirement and 13 per cent of engineering, research and development (ER&D) GCC talent requirements in the country. Bengaluru, as per the report, has 61 per cent of talent share in semiconductor global capacity centres talent requirement and 38 per cent of ER&D. One of the reasons for high employable percentage in the State is universities like the JNTU-Hyderabad and Osmania University heavily focusing on developing engineering curriculum that integrated technical skills and practical exposure in the industry. In the last 10 years, the previous BRS government has proactively supported the tech talent pool with various initiatives including establishment of the Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK), which has been making youngsters employable by offering various industry relevant programmes. So far,



9,63,699 students have been skilled and 35,428 were provided placements. Apart from students, the TASK has also been training the faculty of various colleges.

## AirAsia Thailand announces new direct flight services to Hyderabad



The new flight services, set to take off on October 27 for Hyderabad and October 30 for Chennai, will enable travelers from two of India's key cities to fly directly to Thailand.

Hyderabad: AirAsia Thailand continues with its expansion in India with the introduction of direct flights from Hyderabad to Bangkok as well as Chennai to Phuket. The new flight services, set to take off on October 27 for Hyderabad and October 30 for Chennai, will enable travelers from two of India's key cities to fly directly to Thailand.

The Hyderabad – Bangkok route will kick off with 4 flights weekly, while Chennai-Phuket will be 3 flights weekly.

To celebrate the launch, AirAsia is offering promotional fares to Bangkok from Hyderabad from only Rs 7,390 all-in-one-way and is available for booking now until September 22, for travel between October 27 and March 29, 2025.

Flights for the Chennai-Phuket route starts from Rs.6,990 all-in-one-way and is available for booking now until September 22, for travel between October 30 and March 29, 2025. Seats can be booked on the AirAsiaMOVEapp (formerly known as the airasiaSuperapp) or airasia.com. Tansita Akkraritpirom, Head of Commercial, Thai AirAsia, said "AirAsia is reaffirming its commitment in the Indian market by expanding its network to 14 routes with the addition of these two new routes."



# Youth in Punjab look to greener pastures abroad to make a living

Uncertain over securing a suitable job, Ranjandeep Singh, a 22-year-old bachelor of arts graduate in Punjab's Malout town in Muktsar district has been for the past six months rigorously preparing to clear his language testing exams as he aspires and foresees 'a better life' abroad. His concern — similar to many youngsters in Punjab — is the want of suitable employment opportunities, and in the prevailing scenario migrating abroad is Mr. Singh's topmost preference.

"I am preparing for IELTS (English language proficiency test) exam and shall appear next month. Once I clear it, I intend to go to Canada to study and find a job. I have lost hope of finding a suitable job here. By suitable, I mean a job in which I can live a dignified life. I completed my BA last year (2023). Later, I got a job as a security guard at a local private company in Malout. I was getting a meagre salary for the work, making it difficult for me to assist my family. Also, the long working hours took a toll on my health, after working for two months I left the job. I also worked in the sales wing of a local pesticide company, but with the scanty wages, making ends meet was tough. Finally, I decided to go abroad. I am preparing to go to Canada," said Mr. Singh, who belongs to a family that owns a 4-5 acre farm land at village Karamgarh. 'Protest march'

Close to 150 kilometres away from Malout, on July 28, in Sangrur — the hometown of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann — under the banner of 'Punjab Berozgar Sanjha Morcha' (Punjab Unemployed Joint Front), five outfits of youths, who have been for long seeking government jobs, were up in arms against the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in the State for its alleged apathy towards their demands. They staged a 'protest march' near the Chief Minister's local residence in Sangrur, even as the protesters were stopped by the Police as they attempted to cross the barricades. Shouting anti-government slogans, the protesters blamed the AAP government for not paying any heed to the plight of "unemployed youth". 41-year-old Raman Kumar, B.Ed (Bachelor of Education), who cleared his Punjab State Teacher Eligibility Test in 2018 is annoyed as his wait for a "secure government job" is still a distant dream.

Sukhwinder Singh Dhilwan, who has been leading the struggle of these youngsters asserts that even though there are several posts vacant in departments such as health and education, the State government was not recruiting. "We are asking the government to fill up vacant posts of the master cadre of teachers in all subjects and grant age relaxation. Also, the vacant posts of multi-purpose health workers should be advertised and filled. The examination for art and craft teacher recruitment should be conducted among other demands," he said. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (January-March 2024) the unemployment rate in Punjab for the age group of 15 years and above (urban areas) stands at 6.8% among men and 10.9% among women. Punjab's total unemployment rate is 7.7%, which is above the national unemployment rate of 6.7%. The matter of concern among a few

economists, however, is the unemployment rate among the youth. As per the survey, the unemployment rate in Punjab in the age group of 15 and 29 years in urban areas is 17.4%, which includes 15% among men and 26% among women. Pointing out that the quality of employment is quite bad in Punjab, noted economist Dr. Lakhwinder Singh, a visiting professor at the Institute for Human Development, New Delhi, says "80% of youth employed in Punjab is highly dissatisfied with their jobs. This is highest across Indian States. The generation of new but decent jobs will prevent them from going to greener pastures." "Given the structure and slow growth of the Punjab economy, the employment elasticity is low. Thus high unemployment is the natural outcome. To reduce unemployment, the Punjab government should invest to raise capital formation that will make the Punjab economy dynamic and generate higher GSDP growth and employment. Punjab is suffering from investment famine. Consequently, the digital revolution and the forth industrial revolution in technologies are bypassing Punjab. The State government should rise from this slumber and make investments in these areas that will attract young educated professionals to seek



employment in these sectors. Private corporate investment can also be induced to invest in new activities where most of the youth aspire to work," says Dr. Lakhwinder.

Rise in migration The latest study by Ludhiana-based Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) has revealed that Punjab is witnessing a steady rise in migration. Punjab has witnessed a rise in emigration with approximately 13.34% of rural house-

holds having at least one member who has emigrated. "Low income (72.81%), less employment opportunities (72.97%), and corruption (72.97%) were the main factors reported behind overseas migration as stated by migrants' family," points out the study.

Meanwhile, the State government claims to have been working to improve the employment rate.

## Regulatory reform stuck in a loop in Health Ministry

Earlier this year, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), working under the direct control of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, announced policy initiatives on three issues: recall guidelines, guidelines on good distribution practices and the use of similar brand-names by pharmaceutical companies for their drugs. All three measures have a direct impact on public health. Recall guidelines are meant to swiftly remove drugs that fail testing in government laboratories from the market. The guidelines on good distribution practices are meant to regulate how drugs are stored and distributed during transit and sale. The measure against confusing brand names is aimed at preventing prescription errors, wherein wrong drugs are dispensed to patients causing them harm. Unfortunately, these measures either lack the force of law or are poorly thought through. For over a decade, we have seen this old wine of vague guidelines and cautionary letters sold to us in a new bottle, disguised as concrete measures of reform.

The 59th report of the PSCA good starting point for this discussion is the 59th report of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health & Family Welfare (PSC) which was tabled in 2012. In this report, which focused on how the national drug regulator, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) functions, the PSC raised a host of issues including the lack of recall guidelines, the lack of standards for storage of drugs and the problem of confusing brand

drug names.

These issues were flagged decades before the PSC examined them in its 59th report. The lack of recall guidelines was flagged during a meeting of the Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC) back in 1976 when State drug controllers realised that drugs ordered to be withdrawn in one State due to quality concerns were being sold in a neighbouring state. The lack of proper standards for storage of drugs, especially during transportation, was flagged by the Supreme Court of India in 1974, in *Swantraj & Ors vs State Of Maharashtra*. Similarly, the issue of similar brand names for different drugs was flagged by the Court in 2001 in *Cadila Healthcare Limited vs Cadila Pharmaceuticals Limited*.

When the PSC raised these very issues in its 59th report, it created significant pressure on the Ministry of Health because it demanded follow-up action. The PSC even published a scathing "Action Taken Report" the following year indicating its unhappiness with the lack of effective reform by the Ministry of Health. Unfortunately, these issues raised by the PSC over a decade ago are yet to be tackled effectively and have been stuck in a loop at the Ministry of Health, since the bureaucracy is either unable or unwilling to tackle these issues. Non-binding guidelines in a loop

For example, the most recent drug recall guidelines announced in August by the DCGI were in fact first announced in the year 2012 after the PSC report was tabled and then again in 2017. In all three instances, the initiative for drug recall

guidelines came from the office of the DCGI, except that the DCGI lacks the legal power to make rules that are binding and have the force of law. Only the Ministry of Health has that power under the Constitution. As a result, 48 years after the lack of recall guidelines was first identified at the DCC, India continues to have these guidelines which cannot be legally enforced and the breach of which have no legal consequences. It is no wonder then that we never hear of action removing 'not of standard quality drugs' from the market. The story with the guidelines to regulate the storage of drugs during transit and sale is even more depressing. After the PSC report, a proposal to adopt good distribution practices guidelines formulated by the World Health Organization (WHO) came up for discussion at the meeting of the DCC in 2013. The proposal at that time was to make good distribution practices guidelines legally binding. However, this proposal was opposed within the DCC because it was felt that it would be too "difficult to implement" across the estimated six lakh retail outlets in the country — the DCC likely anticipated pushback from trade associations of pharmacies since the good distribution practices guidelines would require investments in storage equipment. This reluctance to make good distribution practices guidelines mandatory was a dereliction of duty toward public health because India is a hot and humid country. In many parts of India, especially during summer, drugs are guaranteed to degrade without proper temperature and humidity controls.



# Adobe Express Launches Feature Updates in 8 Indian Languages, Bringing Linguistic Diversity and Power of Generative AI to Millions of Users

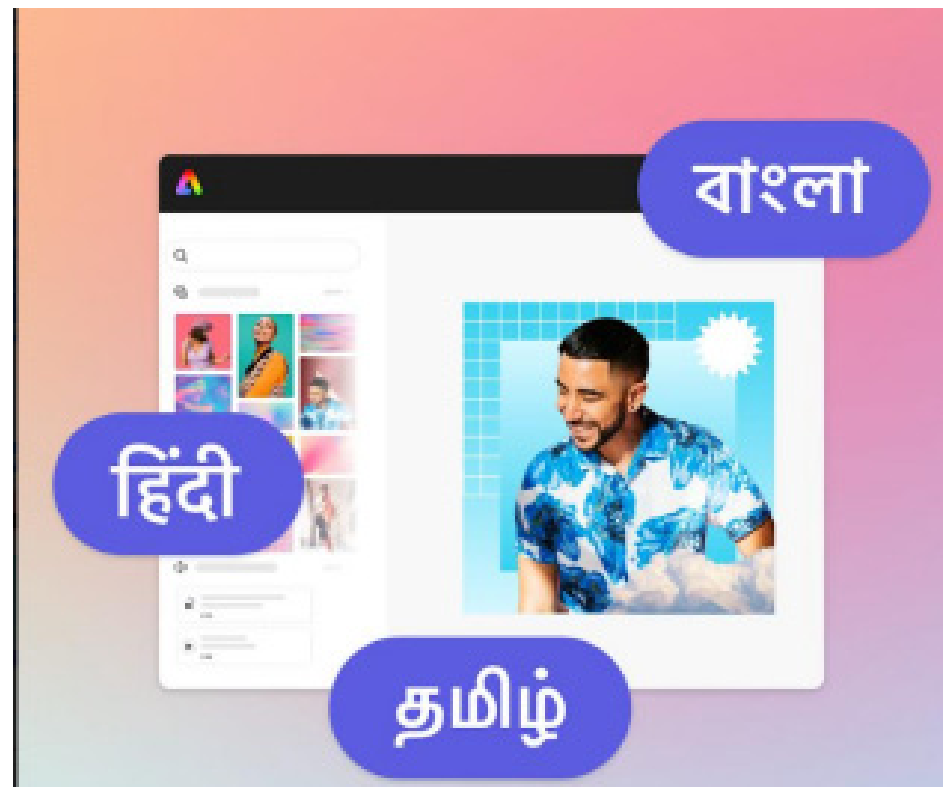
Today, Adobe (Nasdaq: ADBE) announced exciting Indian language updates to its all-in-one content creation app Adobe Express, enabling millions of people across the country make stand-out designs to promote their ideas, passions and businesses. The interface for Adobe Express on Desktop Web and mobile is now available in Hindi, Tamil, and Bengali, allowing users the comfort of leveraging features in their native languages. Aimed at enabling local content creation, the Translate feature in Adobe Express for Desktop Web now supports eight Indian languages - Hindi, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Punjabi, Tamil, and Telugu.

With this, everyone from students to content creators in India can leverage Adobe Firefly powered GenAI features in Adobe Express (like Generative Fill and Generate Image) for fast and easy creation of localized videos, flyers, resumes, banners, logos, and more. Introducing Gen-AI powered Adobe Express features in Indian languages

"At Adobe, we're constantly innovating our products to make our powerful design tools accessible to more people," said Govind Balakrishnan, Senior Vice President, Adobe Express and Digital Media Services. "With millions of active users, Adobe Express is seeing rapid adoption in India, and we're excited to double down on this diverse market's fast expanding content creation requirements by introduc-

ing user-interface and translation features in multiple Indian languages." Neha Sharma, artist and creator, popularly known as Neha Doodles said, "In a market as diverse as India, content creation and creative expression spans across multiple languages and audiences. My Independence Day collaboration with Adobe Express has been a game-changer in helping me use GenAI - so simply and quickly - to design artwork in multiple Indian languages and broaden the reach of my content".

New features in Adobe Express for India The all-new local language capabilities in Adobe Express will provide users with access to a range of generative AI-powered features, allowing them to access the tool's interface and create a wide range of content in eight Indian languages. Local language users will now be able to navigate the tool with ease, improve productivity, and browse relevant features and templates, leading to quicker task completion. Auto-Translation: Effortlessly translate text across single and multiple-page files, eliminating the need for manual translations and external tools. The Translate feature is a premium offering, currently available for free for a limited period. Users can take advantage of this feature to leverage Adobe Express's extensive collection of English templates by translating them into their preferred languages, supporting accessibility and customization like never before. Learn



how to use the Translate feature here. Localized UI: The user interface is now available in Hindi, Tamil, and Bengali, providing a more intuitive experience. Text-Element Translation:

Users can selectively control which

text elements are translated, ensuring place names, brand names, and other specific details remain accurate. Multi-Page Translation: Translate content across multiple pages with a single click, streamlining workflows.

## Dyson announces Badshah as Dyson OnTrac™ headphones Ambassador for India



Dyson, the global technology company, today announced renowned artist and music icon Badshah as a Dyson OnTrac™ headphones ambassador for India. This collaboration commences with the highly anticipated launch of Dyson's first high-fidelity, audio-only headphones: the Dyson OnTrac™ headphones on 23rd September 2024. Ahead of the India launch, from today (i.e. 12th September 2024), the Dyson OnTrac™ headphones will be available to experience in select Dyson Demo stores. Customers can now also pre-register for the product via Dyson.in.

Ankit Jain, Managing Director, Dyson India said: "Dyson has huge ambitions to disrupt both the audio category and industry - evidenced by the Dyson OnTrac™ headphones, unveiled earlier this year. These headphones deliver exceptional sound quality through a high-performance design, underpinned by over 30 years of aero-acoustic research. To celebrate the Dyson OnTrac™ headphones launch across India, it is our great pleasure to announce our first Dyson OnTrac™ headphones Ambassador, Badshah. Known to many across the country, Badshah is an industry icon, known for both his unique

blend of music, high fashion and appreciation of high-performing technology. We are delighted to welcome Badshah into the Dyson family." India's Dyson OnTrac™ headphones Ambassador Badshah said: "Music is my life, and I believe in the power of exceptional sound. Dyson's commitment to pushing boundaries fits perfectly with my own artistic approach. Their products are not only technologically advanced but also visually appealing, which perfectly aligns with my aesthetics and vision."

Dyson's commitment to innovation and design is evident in every product it launches. With the introduction of the Dyson OnTrac™ headphones and the creative association with Badshah, the company is poised to make a significant impact on the Indian audio market.

In addition to the Dyson OnTrac™ headphones, there will be an exciting line-up of three other new Dyson technologies that are planned across categories for a phased release starting this festive season. The new line-up includes two advanced hair styling tools - the Dyson Airwrap i.d.™ Multi-Styler and Dryer, the Dyson Supersonic Nural™ hair dryer, and Dyson's first dedicated wet cleaner - the Dyson WashG1™ wet floor cleaner.

# New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology announces exclusive Scholarships for Indian Students worth more than NZ\$200K



Education New Zealand Manapou ki te Ao and Te Pukenga - New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (NZIST) announced an exciting new initiative exclusively for Indian students at an event hosted at the New Zealand High Commission in New Delhi.

In a first-of-its-kind offering, NZIST unveiled scholarships worth more than NZ\$200,000 for Indian students aiming to pursue higher education in the fields of science and technology in New Zealand. The New Zealand Science and Technology Scholarships are available for Indian students enrolling in their first year of a full-time programme in New Zealand for 2025. Successful students will experience a world-class opportunity at New Zealand's globally recognised providers that deliver career-focused applied learning, connections to industry and local communities offering real-world learning experiences, and smaller class sizes enabling more discussion and exploration in a practical sense and learner support. The scholarships are now LIVE for applications. More information including eligibility criteria, programmes and institute details available here: [tepukenga.ac.nz/scholarship/](http://tepukenga.ac.nz/scholarship/) Ziena Jalil, Chief of Staff at Te Pukenga - New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology, commented: "In a rapidly changing world, where science and technology is central to our lives and a great transformation agent, we need more people skilled in these important fields. "The New Zealand Science and Technology Scholarships are part of our commitment and contribution to supporting Indian students access globally recognised qualifications, underpinned by industry best practice, in fields with high talent demand." The scholarships align with India's National Education Policy (NEP), which seeks to equip students with skills for global careers. "New Zealand is

recognised internationally for being a creative, innovative and technology advanced country. Our education system plays an important role in supporting a thriving economy and we know that India values education as a key driver of economic development too." Programmes eligible for the scholarships include agri-technology, applied health sciences, aquaculture, architecture, biotechnology, construction, computing systems, digital technology, engineering (several specialisations), food technology, information technology, ma-

rine conservation, nursing, quantity surveying, veterinary nursing, and viticulture. Ms Jalil said Indian students make up the largest cohort of international students across New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology and add to the rich cultural diversity on its more than 80 campus sites throughout the country. "It is not uncommon to see large Diwali celebrations on our campuses.

"We look forward to welcoming our India scholarship recipients to New Zealand and supporting them through their

education journeys." About Te Pukenga - New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (NZIST) Te Pukenga - New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology is New Zealand's largest tertiary education provider focused on delivering world leading on-campus, online and on-the-job education and training through its network of 16 institutes of technology and nine industry training organisations.

NZIST works closely with employers and communities to ensure programmes meet skills needs today and for the future.

## Union Secretary for Labour & Employment chaired Interactive Session with Industry Leaders and MSME Representatives on Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme in Hyderabad

Ms. Sumita Dawra, Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. Of India, chaired an Interactive Session with Industry on Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme recently launched in Union Budget 2024-25 that was organized by Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India in collaboration with Employees' Provident Fund Organisation on 13th September, 2024 in Hyderabad.

The interactive session was attended by official representatives from Union Labour Ministry, EPFO, Industry Leaders from sectors like Pharma, Construction, PSU, Manufacturing, Finance, etc. and MSME Representatives.





# Punjab AAP leaders welcome Kejriwal's bail, CM Mann said, 'The truth has finally won'

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), September 13: Punjab Aam Aadmi Party leaders have welcomed Kejriwal's bail orders by the Supreme court on Friday. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was granted bail on Friday. AAP leaders and volunteers hailed it as a victory for truth and democracy. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann welcomed the Supreme Court's decision, stating that "the truth has prevailed." CM Mann posted on his X account that Arvind Kejriwal's bail is proof that truth cannot be suppressed.

AAP Punjab leaders and volunteers celebrated Kejriwal's bail at the Chandigarh party office, distributing sweets and performing bhangra to the beat of dhol. Punjab Cabinet Ministers Brahm Shanker Jimpa, Anmol Gagan Maan, and Dr. Balbir also joined the celebration with party volunteers and workers. MP Malvinder Singh Kang, senior spokesperson Neel Garg, and other AAP leaders also congratulated the party workers.

Punjab Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan thanked the Supreme Court for granting bail to Arvind Kejriwal, stating that justice has prevailed. He noted that the court clarified that the CBI's arrest of Kejriwal was aimed at preventing his release on bail in the ED's case. Sandhwan emphasized that the court has reaffirmed that in our country, no one is above the law. AAP Cabinet Minister Aman Arora, in a media statement, asserted that while justice may be delayed, the central government should recognize that the truth cannot be defeated. He emphasized that the Supreme Court's decision demonstrates that the truth cannot be suppressed. Arora described the ruling as a significant rebuke to agencies like the ED and CBI, which he claims act on behalf of the BJP. He congratulated party workers and affirmed that AAP will now work more vigorously than ever.

Cabinet Minister Harbhajan Singh ETO said that the decision of the honourable Supreme court represents the victory of our constitution and today the faith of the people in the judiciary system have also been strengthened. He said that it is a fake liquor policy case and Arvind Kejriwal's bail was inevitable. AAP senior spokesperson Neel Garg praised the Supreme Court's recent decision, stating it reinforced that while the truth can be challenged, it cannot be defeated. He commended the Court for affirming that no one is above the law in India and criticized the CBI's conduct, urging it to avoid being seen as a "caged parrot." Garg expressed satisfaction at Arvind Kejriwal's release from jail, calling it a victory for honest politics. He emphasized that Kejriwal has revolutionized Indian politics by focusing on issues such as education, healthcare, employment, electricity, and water. Garg highlighted that Kejriwal's involvement in the Haryana election campaign will significantly impact the voters, as both farmers and youth in Haryana are seeking substantial change and are looking to Kejriwal and AAP for leadership.

MLA Rupinder Happy thanked the Supreme Court for granting the bail to Arvind Kejriwal and said that now he'll once again



lead the AAP and take the party to new heights in India. Minister Anmol Gagan Maan visited the party office to celebrate Arvind Kejriwal's bail with AAP workers, declaring it a victory for honesty and an honest leader. She emphasized that the decision is also a triumph for our constitution and expressed that every AAP volunteer is thrilled with the Supreme Court's ruling. She congratulated all AAP workers and noted that the decision brings great joy to all who believe in justice and the judiciary system. The Cabinet Minister emphasized that the Hon'ble Supreme Court has reaffirmed that there is no place for autocracy in India. She added that the Su-

## Chanchalguda SP Receives Ganapati Auction Laddu

Youth for Anti-Corruption, a non-profit organization working in the Telugu states for the past 14 years to create a corruption-free society, celebrated Ganapati Navratri with a special event in Hyderabad. As part of the celebrations, the organization enshrined Ganapati at their central office in Hyderabad. The auction was led by Youth for Anti-Corruption Founder Rajendra Palnati and YAC members and Chanchalguda Jail Superintendent Shivakumar. Dr. Sravanthi and Dr. Annapoorna also participated in the event. The winning bid of the laddu auction went to Shivakumar, who received the laddu as a divine offering of Lord Ganesha. He then handed over the auction proceeds of Rs 16,116 to the Youth for Anti-Corruption organization.

preme Court's decision has created an atmosphere of immense happiness among party workers across the country. AAP MP Malvinder Singh Kang expressed gratitude to the Supreme Court of India for its decision, noting that the court highlighted the misuse of central agencies. He declared that Arvind Kejriwal's bail represents a victory for the truth and a setback for the unconstitutional schemes of the BJP. Kang added that the party's presence and influence in Haryana will grow stronger as a result. AAP Minister Lalchand Kataruchakk thanked the Supreme Court, stating that the decision brings relief to all who believe in the constitution, democracy, and the ju-

diary. He noted that the BJP has been targeting opposition leaders, particularly AAP leaders, in an unconstitutional manner, and suggested that this decision serves as a lesson for them. AAP MLA Jagdeep Kamboj Goldy said that today's decision of the honourable Supreme court proves that nothing and no one is above the constitution. Arvind Kejriwal was arrested by the CBI just to keep him in jail after the bail in ED matter. But today the justice is delivered. AAP Punjab General Secretary Jagroop Singh Sekhwan also welcomed the decision of the Supreme Court and celebrated the bail of Arvind Kejriwal with the party workers.





# Revisiting Haripura Panels and the vivid brush strokes of Indian history

“A man who could make art out of anything” was how Mahatma Gandhi addressed Nandalal Bose, the legendary artist from West Bengal. The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) in Delhi houses 6,800 paintings of Bose who made even the Indian Constitution his canvas. The 22 hand-drawn illustrations that adorn the pages of the first Indian Constitution manuscript were commissioned to Bose and his team. Haripura panels, commissioned by none other than Gandhi himself for the Haripura Congress in 1938, is one of the most famous works of Bose whose works have been declared as National Treasures. Of the 400 panels that were drawn for the exhibition 77 are currently on display at the National Gallery of Modern Arts, Bengaluru. In 1936, the 50th session of the Indian National Congress was held in Faizpur, presided over by Nehru. The first Congress session in a backward rural setting drew peasants in large numbers and saw a record participation. Bose had an important role in designing the pavilion of the Faizpur Congress in 1936.

“After the Faizpur Congress, Gandhi realised the potential of art to unite people, and he thought it could be further exploited at the Haripura Congress. So, he insisted on an exhibition by Bose,” says art historian Dr. Deepak Kannal while leading a Haripura Panels Walk at NGMA, Bengaluru. “The corpus of work was so large and it was not easy to do it in the given time. But he took the challenge and fulfilled it,” he adds. According to writings by eminent artist K.G. Subramanyan, who was also a disciple of Bose, 400 painted wall insets or posters were created, of which about 100 were done by Bose himself and the rest by his associates. The paintings depicted the everyday lives of rural Indians so that the masses could connect to them. Addressed as master moshai by his beloved, Bose nourished the artist in him under the tutelage of Abanindranath Tagore. Later he also became the principal of Kala Bhavan at Shanti Niketan. “The efforts of the Bengal School of art were to revive the Indian language in art. They tried to study Indian miniature art, Ajanta paintings and so on, and imbibe those elements into contemporary paintings. It was very similar to neoclassicism in 19th century France when French artists tried to revive the Greek and Roman classical idiom during Napoleon’s reign,” explains Kannal. In India, in the early 20th century, the Swadeshi movement gained momentum with its epicentre being Bengal. This reflected in the art of the period and largely in the Bengal school. Rabindranath Tagore, however, being an internationalist who believed in the idea of Viswamanav, was critical of many developments during the Swadeshi movement although he believed in the idea of Indian independence. “That must have been a great challenge for Nandalal Bose. After training in Bengal School, he started teaching in Shantiniketan and was given the charge to lead the art school there. There he must have undergone tremendous turmoil, but it seems that he faced that challenge very successfully. He did not surrender his indigenous idiom. But at the same



time, it seems that he gave a contemporary undercurrent to it,” observes Kannal.

“It was an outcome of a pan-Indian and a retrospective understanding of visual arts. Nanda Babu not only borrowed from Ajanta, Mughal or Rajasthani paintings, but he tried to understand Indian art and its language in retrospective and introduce that language in these Haripura panels.” Multiple sources After Gandhiji’s briefing, Bose stayed at Vithal Nagar near Haripura several days before the Congress and travelled widely. Kannal believes that during this period he must have come across the manuscript paintings in Gujarat.

Pointing to the panels where Bose seems to have borrowed elements and physiognomic features seen in Jain paintings, Kannal talks about the rich manuscript painting collection in Gujarat and the probability of Bose being inspired by the Jain folios there. Influences of Eastern style, Ragamala paintings and even European style are seen in some of the panels. Stylistically quite different from each other, a decorative arch is common to all the paintings giving them a uniform identity. “I really admire that he has formulated this idiom very carefully. He has borrowed from so many sources, and unless you are conversant with these traditions deeply, you will not notice that. The amalgam is so beautiful,” Kannal states.

From static to spontaneous Some of Bose’s most famous works include Gandhi’s linocut art and his murals on the walls of Kirti Mandir in Vadodara. Kannal observes that his more ambitious works appear a little static and rigid, probably as a result of composing them too carefully and consciously. “Natir Puja, a poem by Gurudev, was illustrated by Nanda Babu and converted to murals on the walls of Kirti Mandir. If you see those murals, they are very static. There’s hardly any pattern.” “In the illustrations he used for the Consti-

tution, you don’t find passion or fervour. You see a very calculated technique there. He borrows from several sources, but only when you borrow intuitively, it becomes lively. If you borrow in a calculative manner perhaps it kind of becomes a potpourri,” Kannal observes. The style Bose adopted for Haripura panels, however, is markedly different. “The application of colours, the palette that he selects, everything is lively. He introduces a totally fresh idiom to Indian painting,” says Kannal, who nevertheless adds that this is not only limited to the Haripura panels, but several other works of Bose divulge tremendous spontaneity and liveliness. While one of the common notions about the Haripura posters is that the style has been borrowed from folk art, Kannal differs from it. “I think the kind of complexity he has in his idiom is not from the folk arts. Folk element is there, but it’s not only folk.” “I think he borrows profusely from the classical tradition too. That is why it is a retrospective and pan-Indian under-

standing of Indian art. He chooses from every corner of the country and every period of history. He borrows from Ajanta, manuscript paintings of Rajasthan, and profusely from Jain paintings.” The Panels are also an interesting combination of traditional school and Company school. The subject matter in many of the panels has been borrowed from the Bazaar paintings that come under Company School, Kannal points out. Bazaar paintings which featured landscapes, monuments, Indian people, their occupations and activities, and flora and fauna were created in large numbers during the British colonial era to cater to British and urban Indian tastes. “In many of the Haripura panels, the idea is borrowed from the Company School and the idiom from the Traditional School,” Kannal notes, adding that the Shanti Niketan painting style after Haripura Panels was deeply influenced by this idiom and could be seen in the works of those including KGS.

## Suspected Mpox case under investigation, patient isolated: Centre

New Delhi: The government on Sunday said that suspected Monkeypox (Mpox) has been identified in a young male patient in the country, who has been isolated in a designated hospital and was under investigation. Stressing there is no cause for alarm, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said that a young male patient, who recently travelled from a country currently experiencing Mpox transmission, “has been identified as a suspect case of Mpox.” “The patient has been isolated in a designated hospital and is currently stable,” said the ministry. The location of the patient was not disclosed yet. It further said

that samples from the patient are being tested to confirm the presence of Mpox. “The case is being managed in line with established protocols, and contact tracing is ongoing to identify potential sources and assess the impact within the country,” according to the Health Ministry. The development of this case is consistent with the earlier risk assessment conducted by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and there is no cause of any undue concern. The Health Ministry reiterated that the country is fully prepared to deal with such isolated travel-related cases and has robust measures in place to manage and mitigate any potential risk.



# For 35 years, Indian students have been acing the Olympiads

The International Olympiads are annual competitions for gifted pre-university students that test their knowledge, critical thinking, laboratory, and problem-solving skills on the global stage. They seek to promote excellence in education, collaboration, and talent recognition beyond the school curricula. The Olympiads are held in various subjects, such as the natural sciences, mathematics, and social sciences. The governments of participating countries support these competitions. Indian students have been acing the Olympiads for many decades. It's rare for Indian students not to get a gold, silver or bronze medal in them. But what happens to these students? Do they go on to become scientists and mathematicians? The origins of Olympiads The idea of olympiads originated with the Hungarian Mathematical and Physical Society's Eötvös Competition, held since 1884, to provide talented young individuals with free university education. The competition questions judged participants' ingenuity rather than their memorized knowledge. The Eötvös Competition award has previously gone to prominent scientists, including Theodore von Kármán, Leo Szilard, and Edward Teller.

Boris Delaunay, a well-known mathematician, organized the first mathematics Olympiad in Leningrad in 1934. He arranged for young individuals who won the tournament to be admitted to Leningrad University's Mathematics Department without having to take any formal entrance exams. Working-class youngsters struggled with traditional entrance exams and Soviet educationists maintained that the Olympiads would allow for "widening participation," ensuring the constant progression of working-class children through the school system. The first international Olympiad, the Mathematics Olympiad, was conducted in Brasov, Romania in 1959. Initially, only countries from the socialist bloc participated. The Soviet Union and other communist bloc countries employed a similar approach for the "identification of gifted youth" and proposed that universities use Olympiads to recruit students to mathematics, mechanical, and physics departments. After Sputnik, many western countries joined the effort, and the international olympiads slowly became genuinely international. Inspired by the Mathematics Olympiad, the International Physics Olympiad was first conducted in Warsaw, Poland, in 1967. Since then, olympiads have been introduced in 12 additional fields, including physics, chemistry, biology, and astrophysics. The most recent is the International Nuclear Science Olympiad (INSO) organised by the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA). Indians make a splash

India's participation in the international olympiads commenced in 1989 with the Mathematics Olympiads. Eventually, Indian teams started preparing and competing at the international level, and, today, between 20,000 and 60,000 students enroll in different subject olympiads every year. Different organisations act as the nodal centres for conducting screening tests, selection of the Indian teams and pre-



paring the teams for international competitions. The Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (HBCSE TIFR), Mumbai, organizes five of the olympiads until the selection and training of the team. The rest of the olympiads are managed by other organisations, including the Indian Association of Physics Teachers (IAPT).

Each Olympiad consists of a five-stage rigorous selection process. It begins with a subject-specific National Standard Examination (NSE), a challenging test for which only the top 400-500 students from the 1st stage qualify. These students then appear in the Indian National Olympiads (INOs), where the top 40-50 students make it to month-long extensive selection camps that engage students in lectures by subject-experts and researchers, challenging problem-solving questions, and experimental sessions. Olympiads on astronomy include analysis of astronomical data and night sky observations. The top four to six best-performing students (based on subjects) from the selection camps make it to the pre-departure training camps, where they prepare more. Most countries mainly train their students to enhance their performance so as to create an impression of academic excellence. India initially started with a similar aim: to showcase our best talent to the world. India's performance has steadily improved since then. Today, India's aim is to spark curiosity and ignite young minds to take up careers in sciences or mathematics. In the recent astronomy Olympiads, Iran performed better than India. Does it mean India's education system needs to do more? Not as far as Olympiad performances are concerned! Countries like Iran incentivise achievements at Olympiads, e.g., in the form of admission to a university, whereas India does not. More than winning a rank, the passion for a subject should drive students' interest, says Aniket Sule, Associate Professor at HBCSE

and president of the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA). Therefore, India has consistently stayed away from incentivizing performances.

The pie-chart below shows India's stellar performance at the Olympiads so far, with each student winning at least a medal or an honourable mention. Some students have also received the best performance award for theoretical or experimental components of the International Olympiads. For context, some 8-10% of total number of students get gold, 15-20% students get silver and 20-30% get bronze. This year, in the Biology Olympiad, out of 305 students representing 80 countries, 29 received gold medals. Gender representation

While India proudly boasts of its achievements, gender representation remains a challenge, particularly in mathematics, astronomy, and physics. In mathematics, feeder Olympiads like the European Girls' Mathematics Olympiads (EGMO) have successfully encouraged more girls to participate; such programs have not been available for other Olympiads. The root cause of fewer girls participating mainly lies in the social aspects of girls' education. Sule adds: "If you look at the social realities of India, fewer parents of girls tend to allocate financial resources for training of girls compared to training of boys, and in the very first round of selection, the NSE (National Science Exams), which is a multiple choice exam, that difference in training matters." Impact of coaching centres Along with improving gender representation, India struggles to capture young minds from geographically diverse regions in the Olympiads. A major reason behind this is the country's coaching class system. Coaching classes train students to crack the preliminary examinations leading to the selection camps. The training mainly focuses on correctly solv-

ing the Multiple choice questions (MCQs), by arriving at the correct option or eliminating the wrong options. However, most Olympiads require students to write longer, coherent answers. Students extensively trained in such coaching centres often struggle to articulate their thought processes when arriving at the correct answers. But, with all major coaching centres based out of tier 1 cities, those students are more likely to crack the preliminary rounds and enter the selection camps.

It is observed that only 15-20 % of students from tier 2 or tier 3 cities make it to the selection round. For subjects like physics or chemistry, the syllabi and question patterns in olympiads are well-aligned with those of the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE). Thus, students coming from big hubs of JEE coaching tend to perform better. Mr. Sule explained, "In subjects like astronomy and mathematics, where the olympiads are not closely aligned with the JEE, we see students from smaller places, too. Students from interior parts of Bengal have been coming to camp quite regularly. In astronomy, I can recall students from various smaller places, including Bhusawal (in Maharashtra)". Many experts and educators are taking steps toward addressing the challenges in olympiads. One such initiative is the Olympiad Exposure Camps for teachers, organised by HBCSE, Mumbai. These are orientation camps for select teachers, who can pass on the information on the concepts, type of questions and the skills being tested to their students. Mr. Sule said, "This has been going on for nearly 10 years now, but the impact is not as large as we hope". To increase the representation of girls in astronomy, there is a plan for the upcoming round to have a supernumerary quota for girls only in the first round of selection. This might improve the chances of girls making it to the later stages, including the International Olympiads.



# Did Zelenskyy's Kursk gamble backfire?

Last year, the much-awaited counter-offensive Ukraine had launched in the east and the south failed to make any breakthrough. Earlier this year, the Russians launched their offensives towards multiple directions in north-eastern and eastern Ukraine, making incremental progress. In July, when Ukraine was under heavy pressure on the battlefield, Gen. Oleksandr Syrsky, the country's top military commander, gathered a secret meeting of his top officers to disclose an ambitious plan. In the meeting, according to a report in the Wall Street Journal, Gen. Syrsky told his officers that Ukraine would take the war straight to Russia. If in the 2023 spring, Ukraine tried to cut through (and failed) some of the most fortified Russian defensive lines on the frontline, this time, Gen. Syrsky's plan was to hit the weak underbelly of the Russian bear--attack the thinly protected Kursk region. On August 6, Ukrainian troops crossed the border and sprang a surprise attack in the first major land invasion of the Russian mainland since the end of the Second World War. In the subsequent weeks, Ukrainian troops captured hundreds of square kilometres of Russian territory, dealing a blow to President Vladimir Putin's image. According to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, his troops would hold the territory they had captured for the foreseeable future.

The incursion was a morale booster for the Ukrainian troops who had been battered on the frontline and had suffered back-to-back setbacks. The territories Ukrainian troops captured also provide a buffer zone for Kyiv between Russia and its border regions. And, if the troops manage to hold on to the territory, it's an additional bargaining chip for Ukraine's leadership in future talks with Russia—whenever that happens. But Ukraine had a more pressing objective — to divert Russian attention from its campaign in Donetsk where its troops were steadily advancing towards Pokrovsk, a strategically important city in the east. Ukraine wanted to force Russia to relocate some of its troops to the Kursk defence and weaken weaken the Pokrovsk offensive.

Russia did actually reinforce its Kursk defence, which seemed to have halted Ukraine's advance in the region. But Russia has also doubled down on its offensive in Donetsk. On the other side, Ukraine's decision to move some of its well-trained troops to the Kursk incursion seemed to have weakened the already crumbling defence in the east. As a result, Russia made lightning advances towards Pokrovsk in August, marching through open lands and rounding up villages and small settlement towns. According to British intelligence, Russian troops are now within the 10 km from Pokrovsk. Both Russian and Ukrainian military bloggers as well as open source-based battlefield maps corroborate the Russian claims of battlefield advances in the east. Mr. Zelenskyy admitted last week the situation in the east was tough. Russia has also intensified missile and drone attacks in Ukraine. In one such attack, Russian missiles hit a Ukrainian military training institute on September 3, killing, according to the official account, at least 55 people. If the Russians take Pokrovsk, a key supply hub with converging roads and rail lines, Ukraine's defence of its east would be under further



pressure, and, several analysts say, Russians, who already control 80% of the Donbas region (comprising Donetsk and Luhansk) could march towards Kramatorsk and Sloviansk. This raises questions about the strategic thinking behind the Kursk incursion. The Kursk incursion suggests that Ukraine's troops still possess the capability to spring wartime surprises. But if the main objective of the attack was to slow down Russia's advances in the east, it has failed to achieve that. The present battlefield reality leaves Mr. Zelesnkyy and Gen. Syrsky with few good options. The stress Mr. Zelesnkyy was under was visible when he overhauled his Cabinet last week, sacking even the seasoned wartime Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba. Mr. Zelesnkyy is now asking for more weapons, and permission from his western allies, mainly the U.S., to strike deeper inside Russia using western long-range weapons. But it's not clear how missile strikes inside Russia would help Kyiv's forces turn around the war on the battlefield. The U.S., which continues to supply weapons to Ukraine, seems vary of Mr. Zelesnkyy's demand, for now.

1. Africa can make India's 'critical mineral mission' shine India will have to collaborate with countries in the continent which has a significant amount of the world's known critical mineral reserves, writes Veda Vaidyanathan. 2. Dealings at a China-Africa forum that India must track The stance of African leaders at the FOCAC meet in Beijing could guide India in developing its own partnership with the continent, writes Abhishek Mishra. 3. On Germany's electoral architecture Why has the German constitutional court upheld the move to downsize the lower house of parliament? How does a mixed-member proportional representation system work? What are balance or overhang seats and why were they deemed unconstitutional? writes Garimella Subramaniam. 4. 'Fixing Sri Lanka's economy, wiping out racism top priority' We need to work with India on energy collaboration, but due process for investments is key, JVP leader Anura

Kumara Dissanayake, tells Meera Srinivasan. 5. Michel Barnier: 'Monsieur Brexit' to France's PM Dubbed as a 'well-

grounded Republican', Mr. Barnier has served under four different conservative Prime Ministers, writes Suchitra Karthikeyan.

## Huawei debuts tri-fold smartphone hours after Apple's new iPhone launch

China's Huawei Technologies on Tuesday unveiled the world's first tri-foldable phone as it seeks to expand its lead in the world's biggest smartphone market and steal the spotlight from Apple hours after it debuted a new iPhone. The Chinese tech giant showed off its new Mate XT, which users can fold three ways like an accordion screen door, during a launch ceremony in the southern tech hub of Shenzhen.

The device has already received more than 3.6 million pre-orders, for which no deposit is required, according to the company's website. The entire global market for foldable phones was around 4 million units in the second quarter, according to research firm IDC. "Today we bring you a product that everyone can think of but could not make. Our team has been working hard for five years and has never given up," Huawei executive director Richard Yu said at launch.

"We dare to make extraordinary breakthroughs. Today we will once again rewrite the history of the industry, turn science fiction into reality, and lead a new era of folding devices." The much-anticipated launch comes just hours after Apple unveiled its latest model - the AI-booster iPhone 16 - with both smartphones due to go on sale on Sept. 20. The Mate XT comes in red and black and has a 10.2 inch display screen. At 3.6mm wide, the company said it was the world's slimmest foldable phone. The launch, which follows a series of successful smartphone debuts, underscores Huawei's ability to navigate U.S. sanctions and solidifies its position against

Apple in China, where some consumers criticised the new iPhone 16 for its lack of AI features in the country.

Apple has yet to announce an AI partner in China to power the 16s and Apple Intelligence, the company's AI software, will only be available in Chinese languages next year. "What's the point of buying it if you can't use AI?" wrote one user on Weibo, China's X-like platform. Another commented: "Without AI as the biggest selling point, it should be half price." Huawei already has two-way foldable phones in its lineup, and their strong sales in China helped it overtake Samsung Electronics this year as the biggest vendor of such phones globally. But with a price tag that starts at 19,999 yuan (\$2,808) - more than twice the starting price of the comparable iPhone 16 Pro Max - and limited production, the tri-fold phone is likely to become more of a symbol of Huawei's tech prowess than a major sales driver, analysts said. "The upcoming Huawei products are not expected to significantly impact Samsung and Apple's businesses in terms of product quantity," said Jene Park, an analyst at research firm Counterpoint. "There is a limit to the quantity of products supplied. However, there may be some impact on sales in certain Chinese markets." The foldable smartphone market grew 57% year-on-year in the second quarter with 3.9 million units shipped, largely as Chinese smartphone makers pushed into overseas markets, according to consultancy IDC. That still remains just 1.3% of the wider smartphone market, with 292.2 million smartphones shipped in the second quarter, IDC said.