

ICRISAT hosts pearl millet scientists' field day in Hyderabad

Sangareddy: The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) hosted its biennial pearl millet scientists' field day. Over 90 scientists from the public and private sectors explored 15,000 pearl millet unique breeding lines planted in the display fields. Participants from India, Japan, Brazil, and the USA selected breeding material for research focused on cultivars with combination traits, such as higher yields and resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses. Innovations like biofortified forage and multi-cut summer pearl millet were prominent in the discussions and selections.

In his inaugural address, ICRISAT's Deputy Director General – Research, Dr Stanford Blade, highlighted the growing recognition of millet as a “smart food,” building on the visibility it gained during the International Year of Millets (IYoM) 2023.

“This is a unique group. It's great to see the public and private sectors together here. Though we come from various organisations with different interests, we are united in our goal of developing new cultivars that will positively impact lives and livelihoods,”

Dr Blade said, emphasizing the power of collaboration. Dr Sean Mayes, ICRISAT's Global Research Program Director, chaired the two-day event held on October 3 and 4 on the premises of the ICRISAT campus in Patancheru and co-chaired by Dr T Napoleon, Principal Scientist at the Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), representing IIMR Director Dr Tara Satyavathi.

“Pearl millet is a key crop for the fu-



ture. With significant genetic gains driven by your efforts, it plays a crucial role in food and nutrition security. ICRISAT's hybrid parents research consortium has been making a meaningful impact for 20 years, benefiting local and international seed industry partners,” said Dr Mayes. ICRISAT scientists played a key role in guiding the participants through various activities. Dr

SK Gupta, Principal Scientist-Pearl Millet Breeding, led the tour of 15,000 breeding plots, showcasing materials with desirable traits for adaptation.

During the feedback session, he highlighted the efforts of ICRISAT towards the development of breeding materials for drought ecology through shuttle breeding and also informed about the different strat-

egies practised to breed for blast resistance. Dr Rajan Sharma, Principal Scientist-Crop Protection & Seed Health, and his team demonstrated screening protocols for disease-tolerant donor parents at the Downy Mildew and Blast Nurseries, and the Genebank team provided an overview of the genetic resources available for pearl millet research.

Revenue crisis deepens in Telangana

Hyderabad: Telangana's financial health is under significant strain as the State government's revenue receipts continue to fall short of its ambitious targets, raising concerns about its ability to manage mounting debts. At the end of the first half of the current fiscal year i.e. April-September, the State government managed to collect only Rs.73,941 crore, just 33.42 per cent of its annual revenue target of Rs.2.21 lakh crore.

This indicates a sharp decline compared to the same period last year when the State had collected Rs.87,207 crore, now trailing by Rs.13,266 crore. Compared to the monthly targets, the State is falling short by about Rs.2,000 crore each month in revenue collections, compared to the last financial year. There is a significant gap that underscores the fiscal challenges Telangana faces.

According to audit reports till August, the State's revenue receipts from April to August were Rs.61,618 crore, or 27.85 per

cent of the annual target. The State's tax revenue during this period amounted to Rs.57,722 crore, marginally higher than the previous year's Rs.55,441 crore but still far below expectations. Key components of Telangana's revenue mix are struggling to meet their targets. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue stands at Rs.20,500 crore, well short of the annual target of Rs.58,594 crore. Revenue from Stamps and Registrations reached only Rs.6,390 crore, against a target of Rs.18,229 crore, while Sales Tax collections amounted to Rs.13,487 crore, compared to the expected Rs.33,449 crore. Similarly, State Excise revenue stood at Rs.7,807 crore out of an annual target of Rs.25,617 crore. The State's share of Union taxes was recorded at Rs.6,220 crore, out of the estimated Rs.18,384 crore, showing a substantial shortfall in Central transfers. Non-tax revenue, an important stream, delivered a dismal Rs.1,449 crore, against a projection of Rs.35,208 crore. Additionally, the State



received only Rs.2,447 crore in grants-in-aid from the Centre, far below the budget estimate of Rs.21,636 crore. Telangana's

reliance on capital receipts, including market borrowings, has also increased to Rs.29,467 crore, more than half of the annual target of Rs.52,815 crore.

Should Election Commission ensure internal democracy in political parties?

India's multi-party democracy thrives on diversity but often sees political parties driven by individual charisma rather than internal democracy. Despite their role in upholding the nation's democratic framework, many parties struggle to maintain democratic structures. Can the Election Commission (EC) ensure these organisations practice internal democracy? Former Chief Election Commissioner O.P. Rawat and PRS Legislative Research president M.R. Madhavan discuss this question with Sreeparna Chakrabarty. Edited excerpts:

The EC has been thinking of nudging political parties on the issue of internal democracy. But how can they do it?

O.P. Rawat: The EC is the registering authority for all the political parties in our country. As such, the EC monitors whether they are functioning according to their Constitution, by-laws, etc. And in the process, they also oversee whether the elections to their office bearers are taking place regularly. But there has been one important point in this whole issue. This was the 2002 ruling of the Supreme Court which says that the EC cannot go into the political process and anything which is part of the political process per se. That's why it has no power to de-register a political party based on any violation of these things. They can de-register if registration has been obtained on the basis of fraud or other things, but they cannot de-register a party if they don't have periodic elections. Otherwise, to whatever extent the laws permit, the EC is doing it.

What would be your views on whether the EC should have the power to de-register parties at all?

O.P. Rawat: I would like to say that the EC does whatever is mandated to it with efficiency. The only thing is that when it comes to the de-registration of parties, it will have many different directions or dimensions. You know, elections are challenged only by way of election petitions according to our Constitution. We have been monitoring this and find that these disputes are much less every time over the years. If you compare us with the democracy in the most developed country as well, they had a storming of their legislature when the results were against one candidate. This kind of thing, we never witnessed in our country after any election, and political acceptance of the election results is beyond imagination for all democracies which is borne by international conferences which I attended and which my colleagues attended everywhere. Election Commissioners from different countries say that India is a golden example where acceptance of election results by all political parties is enormous. With these credentials, if the EC is made to go into the internal process, the political process for de-registering, we will be running the risk of getting the poll body into a model where even the main stakeholders — the political parties — will start developing suspicion. So, I think we have to take a view in totality not only in the context of political parties about registration

and regulation but also about the delivery of elections time and again on the stipulated time and in a free fair manner. M.R. Madhavan: So, I am not going to talk about the EC's reputation, which has been very high, but it has, in my opinion, faltered in the rating bit. But back to the idea of political parties being regulated by them, I would agree with Mr. Rawat in saying that they should not get into that. Because then the EC becomes political, and susceptible to various political pressures, it should maintain its distance from the politics of the day. So, I would say whether parties hold internal elections or not, you cannot regulate them because even today they are required to hold. But what do they do? There is somebody who manages it so that somebody is contesting unelected or it is managed so that the people know who is going to get elected. I would say the discipline of political parties should come from the electorate. If people think that this party is not democratic and you want a democratic party, don't vote for them. If people want them, they will vote for them.

Is there any existing legal ground on which elections can be mandated within political parties?

O.P. Rawat: No, I feel there is nothing except for this registration of political parties by the EC and the periodical review of compliance with their Constitution, their by-laws, and all those things. But in the end, it is a very kind of loose compliance which is visible.

Probably the most well-known instance of EC intervening in the lack of democracy issue was when they rejected the YSRCP proposal to make Jagan Mohan Reddy permanent president of the party. They said that such a step was inherently anti-democratic. Was this within its mandate?

O.P. Rawat: Actually, the EC doesn't have that kind of mandate, but within the framework of the political party registration rules, the EC is overseeing the compliance with their Constitution and their by-laws. Now amending that is contrary to the democratic idea of periodic elections and that is the point at which the EC took shelter to reject the move. M.R. Madhavan: Does it matter? Because let them make that intervention. The party re-elects the same person again, who will contest unopposed. I mean the whole thing is that what we are talking about is not the reality but what could be in the letter of the law and what can they do. But if in reality, political parties are being essentially dominated by one personality who controls the whole thing, then there is nothing that stops them from having an election with one candidate who will get selected for a post. So, it will tick the boxes, but there is absolutely no difference in practice.

In a situation where we want or think that the EC should regulate internal democracy in political parties, how can such a law be brought in?

M.R. Madhavan: My simple answer is that it is not needed. So, the question shouldn't arise. O.P. Rawat: I agree with Mr.



Madhavan. We should leave this kind of decision to the people who are the sovereign electorate and therefore I personally feel that one should not think of that. Why this question arises again and again, is that the EC has made certain observations in many of the cases where parties are split. O.P. Rawat: Actually, these issues fall under the political party's symbols order, 1968, Paragraph 15. And under that, EC goes by four tests when there is a split, whether every faction has been following the party Constitution, whether they have been having the majority of the party the organisation whether they have been having the majority of the legislature wing or they are proceeding according to the by-laws. All these four tests are applied every time starting from Sadiq Ali case. It always comes down to the legislative majority, because all other tests fail. The only test which is amenable to the summary inquiry is the number of legislatures with the splinter group. So, whoever has the majority of a number of legislators with the splinter

group gets the party symbol and the party name and that has been the case with the EC. In the text arguments are there where the arguments cover the aspects that since this group which was in command did not hold elections, did not sort of follow these by-laws, and therefore whatever orders they have passed for disqualifying are invalid all those things are just for by way of explanation. M.R. Madhavan: I will just add one thing, which is that I mean, I am looking at it as a citizen, right? I mean, it is in our interest that EC has a very high credibility on whatever it does, so that we trust the process. They need to have an objective way of making the decision and as Mr. Rawat said, if you are counting the number of legislators supporting, there is an actual number there and you can count if number A is greater than number B or is number A less than number B and make that decision. So, that is a fairly wise way of doing it without getting politically entrapped and I think they have been smart at doing that.

Benchmark indices fall in early trade amid foreign fund outflows, weak Asian markets

Mumbai: Benchmark indices declined in early trade on Monday amid foreign fund outflows and a largely weak Asian markets where the Japan's Nikkei index tanked nearly 5 per cent. Markets were also dragged by decline in frontline stocks like ICICI Bank and Reliance Industries. The BSE Sensex tumbled 464.22 points to 85,107.63 in early trade. The NSE Nifty tanked 133.85 points to 26,045.10. From the 30 Sensex firms, Tech Mahindra, Mahindra & Mahindra, ICICI Bank, Reliance Industries, Axis Bank and UltraTech Cement were among the major laggards. Tata Steel, JSW Steel, NTPC, Titan, Hindustan Unilever and Asian Paints were among the gainers. In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo were trading lower while Shanghai and Hong Kong traded in the positive territory. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index tanked nearly 5 per cent early on Monday. The US markets ended on a mixed note on Friday. Foreign Institu-

tional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,209.10 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. "Market is likely to move into a consolidation phase in the near-term. One significant factor that is influencing foreign portfolios is the outperformance of the Chinese stocks which is reflected in the massive surge in the Hang Seng index by around 18 per cent in September. "This surge has been triggered by hopes of revival in the Chinese economy in response to the monetary and fiscal stimulus announced by the Chinese authorities," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.71 per cent to USD 72.49 a barrel. The BSE benchmark Sensex declined 264.27 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at 85,571.85 on Friday. During the day, it climbed 142.13 points or 0.16 per cent to reach a new record intra-day peak of 85,978.25.

Punjab Congress alleges AAP of 'Crushing Democracy' in Panchayat Polls

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), October 6: Punjab congress has alleged Aam Aadmi Party and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann of 'Crushing Democracy' in Panchayat Polls through Brazen Abuse of State Machinery. In a blistering condemnation, Leader of the Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa on Sunday launched a fierce attack on Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for systematically dismantling democratic processes in the Panchayat elections by exploiting state power and resorting to outright coercion. Bajwa accused the CM of turning a blind eye to AAP's orchestrated manipulation, exposing his government's desperation to cling to power by any means necessary.

Bajwa, a senior Congress leader, in a statement issued to media on Sunday, described the Panchayat election process as nothing short of a sham, blaming AAP leaders for issuing orders to Block Development and Panchayat Officers to cancel the nominations of opposition candidates on fabricated grounds. "This is a calculated and sinister plot directed from the top. AAP MLAs and their cronies have hijacked the election machinery, ensuring their candidates sail through while opposition candidates are held up for hours or disqualified on spurious technicalities. This is not an election—this is an autocratic takeover of our villages," Bajwa fumed. He specifically targeted CM Bhagwant Mann, accusing

him of being a puppet controlled by Delhi, entirely complicit in the systematic destruction of democracy at the grassroots. "Bhagwant Mann has become nothing more than a weak figurehead, allowing his political masters in Delhi to dictate every move. His government is handpicking Sarpanches and fixing elections through intimidation, all while he conveniently looks the other way," Bajwa charged. The Congress leader minced no words in denouncing the sheer lawlessness unleashed by AAP across Punjab. "AAP's goons, led by MLAs and local leaders, have turned these elections into a battleground where muscle power reigns supreme. Videos circulating on social media and reports in the press clearly show AAP leaders strong-arming voters and opposition candidates alike. Bhagwant Mann's silence on these atrocities is nothing but a tacit endorsement of their thuggery," he remarked. Bajwa went further, warning that AAP's desperation to seize control has created a powder keg in the state, where violence is now inevitable. "This government is so terrified of losing power that it is willing to plunge our villages into chaos and bloodshed. Bhagwant Mann is at the helm of a sinking ship, steering Punjab towards anarchy just to cling to his crumbling authority," Bajwa said. Taking a swipe at the Chief Minister, Bajwa pointed to Mann's hollow rhetoric on consensus building. "Bhagwant Mann loves to preach about electing Sarpanches unanimously, yet he couldn't even unite his own village

of Satauj. If the people of his village have no respect for him, what does that say about his leadership across Punjab? His reign is built on illusions, empty speeches, and misplaced priorities," Bajwa mocked. The LoP called on the Punjab State Election Commission to step in and prevent the further erosion of democratic norms under Mann's rule. "It is high time the Election Commission intervenes to ensure that these elections are conducted fairly, without the shadow of AAP's gangster-like tactics hanging over every village. Punjab's democracy is under siege, and Bhagwant Mann's incompetence is the root cause of this descent into authoritarianism."

Concluding his fiery statement, Bajwa declared that CM Bhagwant Mann's tenure has done more harm to Punjab's democratic institutions than any other government in recent history. "Bhagwant Mann is no leader—he's a liability to Punjab. Under his watch, democracy has been trampled, local governance crippled, and the state has been reduced to a playground for his Delhi overlords. The people of Punjab will not forgive this betrayal," Bajwa stated, vowing to hold both the CM and AAP accountable for their unforgivable actions. The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), on Sunday, has also appealed to all party workers and leaders who had been prevented from filing their nomination papers to reach the party office Monday with necessary documents and evidence of wrongdoing by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders

and government officials so that the party could take recourse to legal steps to secure justice for them. The SAD leader, Dr Daljit Cheema, in a statement, said the party had received complaints of large-scale rejection of nomination papers of candidates from opposition parties for the post of Sarpanches and Panches from different parts of the State. "We have been approaching the State Election Commission with our complaints but they have not been addressed. According a legal team has been constituted to look into the complaints and secure justice for the victims". He said the legal team would be led by the party's legal wing President Arshdeep Singh Kler besides competent lawyers from Punjab and Haryana High Court. He said the team would meet the aggrieved parties at SAD head office here on Monday from 11 am onwards. The SAD leader said after preparing their cases legally, a SAD delegation would first meet the State Election Commission & demand a high level inquiry into large scale violence, attacks on candidates standing in lines at nomination centers, tearing of nomination papers of opposition candidates by goons of ruling AAP party, large scale rejection of nominations on flimsy grounds under pressure from ruling party Ministers and legislators and gross misuse of power and murder of democracy by the ruling AAP. "If needed the party will subsequently also file a detailed petition in the High Court to ensure justice to all".

Eleve Salon Debuts in Hyderabad with a Spectacular Grand Opening by King Nagarjuna Akkineni

Hyderabad witnessed a new pinnacle of opulence and beauty as Eleve Salon made its highly-anticipated debut in the city



Hyderabad witnessed a new pinnacle of opulence and beauty as Eleve Salon made its highly-anticipated debut in the city. The grand launch was nothing short of magnificent, inaugurated by the revered King Nagarjuna Akkineni, who added a touch of star-studded brilliance to the evening.

Eleve Salon promises to redefine the luxury beauty landscape in Hyderabad, offering a seamless blend of avant-garde services and an exclusive pampering experience. The glamorous launch event was a glittering affair, attended by the crème de la crème of the city, from influencers to socialites and business tycoons, all of whom reveled in an evening marked by sophistication and splendor.

Guests were treated to an immersive experience, with breathtaking décor, exquisite gourmet offerings, and captivating music that enriched the chic ambiance. From the moment guests walked through the doors, they were enveloped in the epitome of luxury, foreshadowing what customers can expect from Eleve's top-tier beauty and grooming services.

Aditya Sharma, the CEO of Eleve Salon, expressed his excitement about the brand's first location in Hyderabad, highlighting the significance of Nagarjuna's presence at the event.

He stated, "Having Nagarjuna inaugurate our first salon in Hyderabad is a dream come true for us. His support underscores our commitment to excellence and sets a high standard for what Eleve Salon represents." During the inauguration, Nagarjuna shared his admiration for the salon, stating that he loved the interiors and the overall vibe of the place, comparing it to the luxurious standards found in Dubai. This endorsement from a celebrated figure highlights Eleve Salon's commitment to excellence. Designed to cater to the discerning tastes of Hyderabad's elite,

Eleve Salon is set to become the ultimate destination for those who seek nothing but the best in luxury grooming. With a commitment to offering cutting-edge techniques and the highest standards of customer care, Eleve is poised to elevate the beauty experience to new heights with more than 11 salons pan India.

Femina Flaunt Studio Salon and Sikara Clinics Celebrated Post-Launch Ceremony with City Socialites

Femina Flaunt Studio Salon and Sikara Clinics, the premier destination for advanced dermatology, aesthetics, and wellness treatments, recently celebrated their post-launch ceremony with city socialites at their flagship store in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. The event was hosted by Ms. Sirisha Alapati, Founder and Director of Sikara Clinics, and South India Master Franchiser for Femina Flaunt, along with Mr. Raghavender Reddy Kallem, Co-Founder and CEO of Sikara Clinics.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Sirisha Alapati said, "As an NRI, I have just moved to India, and we have come up with our new project – the flagship store of Femina Flaunt Studio Salon and Sikara Clinics. Femina Flaunt offers all salon services, while Sikara Clinics offers dermatology and aesthetic services, including customized and medical-grade facials that were previously unavailable in Hyderabad and India." She further added, "We are in a franchise model and have already given 8 franchises in Hyderabad, with more to come in the next few months. We are planning to open flagship stores like this in every state headquarters, making it a pan-India project with a target of 300 stores across the country. Sikara Clinics has cosmetologists and dermatologists available at all times to provide personalized care to our clients." Event was graced by eminent guests such as Mrs Sangeetha Varma, Padmini Nagulapalli, Anita Gali, Dr. Usha - Founder, Katalyst, Art Curator Aman Preet Kaur and others.



Trainee pilot from India wins challenging flying competition in New Zealand



Sneha Baskaran of Chennai, India has become New Zealand's first international student to win a prestigious competition at the annual rally of the New Zealand

Association of Women in Aviation this year. Sneha with the Morane Saulnier Rallye Trophy she won at the annual rally of the New Zealand Association of Women in

Aviation. The Morane Saulnier Rallye Trophy competition is a challenging feat that tests pilots' skills in a simulated forced landing (with a powered-down engine) from 2500 feet, with aircraft wheels needing to precisely touch a designated grid on the runway. Sneha was the only participant who achieved the feat. The forced landing requires precision, skill and staying calm under pressure and highlights practical skills required in aviation by challenging participants to perform under simulated emergency conditions. Sneha was absolutely "thrilled and exhilarated" to win the trophy. "I am grateful to have been included in the competition, they didn't just see me as an international student. "It feels special to win a competition going back to 1963, and to see my name engraved on the trophy alongside all the winners from New Zealand," she says. A trainee pilot who has been enrolled at the New Zealand Airline Academy in Oamaru since January last year, Sneha received a commercial pilot licence in New Zealand in August after completing her final test. Sneha receives two stripe epaulettes after completing the commercial pilot flight test from Julie Vaughan (A-cat) flight test examiner. She is now looking forward to returning to India, where she will convert her New Zealand commercial pilot licence to an Indian one, and work for an airline in the

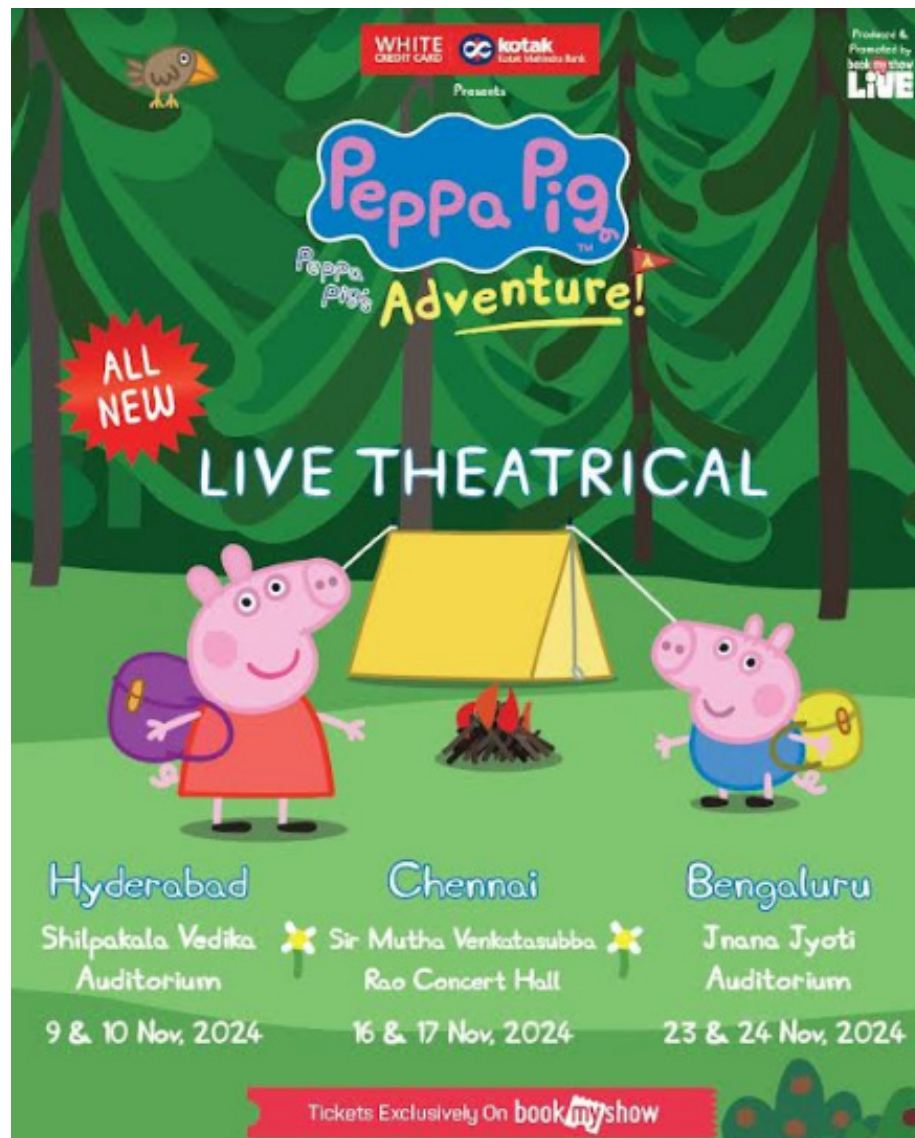
country. Dream to fly Born and raised in Tamil Nadu, India, flying fascinated Sneha since childhood. She also enjoyed studying science and pursued her interest by graduating in genetic engineering at university. A chance interaction with a commercial pilot around the time kindled her interest in becoming a commercial pilot, and so she decided to follow the dream after graduation. "As a woman, achieving my dream of becoming a pilot feels good. Women manage mental and emotional stress really well, an ability that is valuable for pilots," she says. According to New Zealand Airline Academy Chief Executive Officer and Director, Jonathan Manuel, at least 33 percent of its trainee pilots are women. "This is primarily because of the care we provide at the academy, having a dedicated girl's wing as part of our hostel offering." The global percentage of female pilots is less than 6 percent, with India having the highest percentage of women pilots at 14 percent. New Zealand aviation training best in the world Manuel says aviation training in New Zealand is also uniquely beneficial because of the country's open airspace policy, making it a standout destination to train for a commercial pilot licence. "Students are also exposed to New Zealand's varied terrain and weather patterns, which helps them become confident pilots.

Embark on an exciting journey with 'PEPPA PIG's Adventure' coming to Hyderabad this November, brought to India by BookMyShow Live

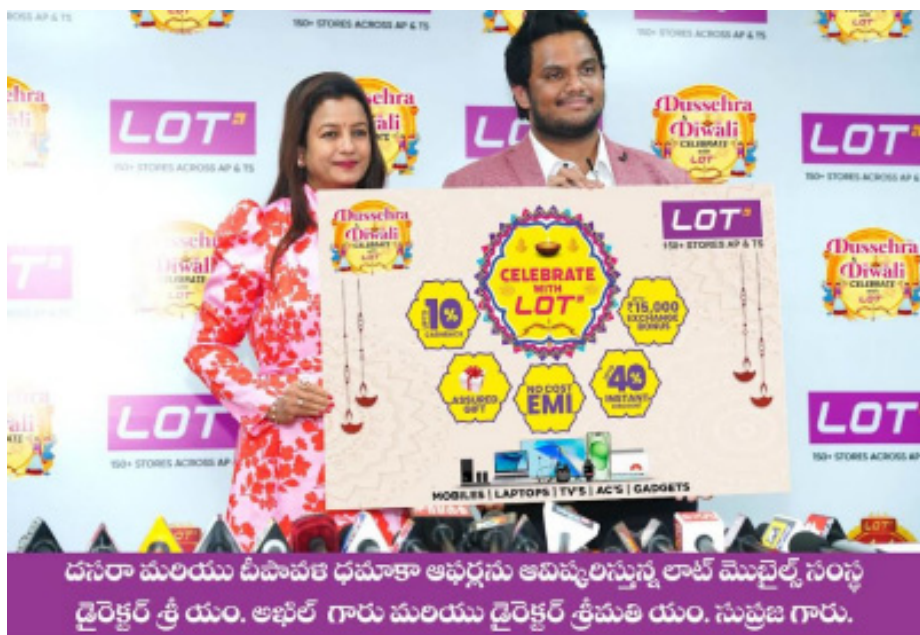
Get ready to join Peppa Pig on an unforgettable adventure filled with laughter, friendship and fun! 'PEPPA PIG's Adventure', a brand-new live stage show produced and promoted by BookMyShow Live, the live entertainment experiential division of BookMyShow and licensed from leading toy and game company, Hasbro, Inc. promises to delight audiences of all ages. Children's favourite and one of the most charming, animated characters, Peppa Pig is coming to India for a third season, as she brings her friends and family on a trip, for a brand-new fun-filled season that promises an outstanding spectacle complete with surprises and fun.

Scheduled to bring laughter and learning across cities in India, 'PEPPA PIG's Adventure' will charm Hyderabad on November 23rd, 2024 and November 24th, 2024 at Shilpakala Vedika Auditorium with three shows each day and this time with a brand-new script!

Exclusive Pre-Sale of tickets for Kotak credit card customers will begin on October 8th, 2024 at 12 Noon (PM) IST on BookMyShow offering first access to tickets for this high-demand show, with special offers available for Kotak White and White Reserve credit card holders. General On-Sale of tickets for PEPPA PIG's Adventure' will go live starting October 10th, 2024 at 1 PM IST, exclusively on BookMyShow India's leading entertainment destination. Tickets for both the Pre-Sale and General On-Sale will be available for all shows in Hyderabad. Commenting on the announcement, Owen Roncon, Chief of Business – Live Events, BookMyShow, said, "Peppa Pig has captured the hearts of children and families around the world and this live stage show is a fantastic opportunity for fans to experience Peppa's world. Following the resounding success of two previous seasons, we're thrilled to announce the return of everyone's favourite character to India with PEPPA PIG's Adventure', introducing a fresh storyline that promises to captivate audiences. This latest instalment of the beloved theatrical production aligns with our commitment to offering engaging and immersive entertainment for all ages. Not only does it spark creativity and imagination, but it also imparts valuable life lessons to children. Our goal is to create magical and shared experiences for families, forging cherished memories that will endure over time. With the overwhelming success of past editions, we are confident that 'PEPPA PIG's Adventure' will continue to delight children and families alike, fostering a sense of fun and togetherness with loved ones."



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5. Upto 80% Instant discount on Branded Accessories
6. Chance to Win 10,00,000 Cash Reward & Many More Gifts for every Oppo Smart Phone purchase through Lucky Draw
7. Chance to Win Bikes Smart Phones AirPods & Many More Gifts for every Vivo Smart Phone purchase through Lucky Draw
8. Chance to Win Cars Bikes & Many

More Gifts for every Realme Smart Phone purchase through Lucky Draw
9. Win BIG every minute Cars Bikes & Many More Gifts for every MI Smart Phone purchase through Lucky Draw
LOT Mobiles also offering Smart Phones Smart TVs Laptops Air Conditioners & Smart Gadgets for just 1/- as Downpayment ATM Cards EMI Offer.
Talking to media Mrs. M. Supraja, Director of LOT Mobiles has requested customers to visit nearby LOT Mobile Stores and avail Never before Offers on the Occasion of Dussehra & Diwali. We Offer Better Price Better discount with Best Gift Offer than Online & Offline Stores

District SP Rohith Raju Hands Over Reward Cheques to Surrendered Maoists

BADRADRIKOTHAGUDEM : District Superintendent of Police (SP) Rohith Raju IPS handed over reward cheques to five surrendered members of the banned CPI Maoist party at a special program held today at the Chintur Police Station. The Maoists, who recently gave up their arms

and surrendered to the authorities, received financial rewards as part of the government's rehabilitation program. Speaking at the event, SP Rohith Raju emphasised the government's commitment to providing full rehabilitation and support to Maoists who choose to surrender and lead a peaceful life.

ED runs Gurugram office from farmhouse it confiscated, PSU bank challenges it in court

The façade of the farmhouse has a big "ED" painted on it, with the "D" fast fading. The indoor swimming pool is empty, the space used as a waste yard for discarded sarkari furniture; there is even a twin lock-up and interrogation centre inside. A family of strays, with a litter of puppies, has free run of the 2.5-acre property, fed by staff near the "canteen" which was once a plush kitchen. For the past two years, Farm No 22 in the Greens, Rajokri, in south Delhi, serves as the Gurugram Zonal office of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), with its very confiscation being challenged by the bank to which the property was mortgaged.

A visit shows that, including casual employees, there is a staff of almost 100 working inside. The sprawling central lawn of the farmhouse, with a market rate estimated by local property dealers to be worth Rs 120 crore, lined with fir trees and silver palm, serves as a parking lot for seized cars. There were about 40 cars on Thursday, some priced at Rs 1 crore plus. ED runs Gurugram office from farmhouse it confiscated, PSU bank challenges it in court. Seized cars lined up at ED's Rajokri farmhouse office. (Express photo by Ritu Sarin) Officers say when ED headquarters in New Delhi is short of space for parking pricey cars confiscated as proceeds of crime, they line them up at this sprawling ED "office" in Rajokri. Besides a yard for seized cars, one large living room also doubles up as the agency's training centre by the ED. This very farmhouse has been the subject of ample litigation, earlier in the Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) and the Delhi High Court and, at present, in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Panchkula, where the Union Bank of India (earlier Corporation Bank) has challenged the ED's attachment and confiscation of the property as a "proceed of crime." Reason: the farmhouse belonged to Atul Bansal, a realtor, alleged to be the main accused in a property and money laundering case, and has since passed away. He had purchased the property in 2004 and, it was in 2012, that he mortgaged it, along with other assets, with a consortium of banks for a sum of Rs 111 crore. The Rajokri farmhouse was mortgaged with Union Bank of India by Wisdom Realtors, a company of Atul Bansal, and after default, the bank took possession of the property in 2017.

ED runs Gurugram office from farmhouse it confiscated, PSU bank challenges it in court. The indoor swimming pool area now a dump yard for discarded sarkari furniture. It was Wisdom Realtors which challenged the possession in the DRT and obtained a stay order, which the bank again appealed against in Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal (DRAT). A reading of the 2019 DRAT order shows that at that stage, Wisdom Realtors had given a "settlement proposal to the Bank for Rs 96 crores odd for which amount there was a buyer ready to buy the property" but the sale eventually did not happen. Lawyers appearing for the Union Bank in Panchkula said that it was in 2019, again, that they learnt that it was the ED that had first attached and later confiscated the property which had been mort-

gaged with them. That order of confiscation and its confirmation, too, has been challenged by the Bank.

When contacted, Union Bank of India's lawyer Alok Kumar explained why the ED's confiscation and subsequent usage of the Rajokri property was being challenged by the Bank. "The purpose of attachment or confiscation (by ED) is to realize the dues for the Government exchequer. If the purpose is defeated by the fact that despite attachment or confiscation, the ED has neither handed over the property to the Bank nor auctioned it to realize public money, at the end of the day, the property has become NPA (Non Performing Asset). By opening an office inside, that very purpose of PMLA is defeated."

According to top officials of ED in New Delhi, the Rajokri property was among three such confiscated properties in which the investigating agency was running "establishments." The other two were in Ranchi and Mumbai where there may be no challenge from Banks as in the case of the Rajokri property. The officials said that under provisions of Section 9 of the PMLA, such "confiscated properties" remain "vested with the Central Government" and that it was a Gazette notification of the Ministry of Finance dated September 12, 2023



that gave powers to Special Directors of the ED to act as "Administrators" to "receive, manage and dispose the property confiscated..." Said a top official: "While the notification does not state that the ED can use the confiscated properties as offices, the properties can be used and managed as the Department wants. We are, simply, using this farmhouse, for example, till the time of disposal of the property comes." Inside the Rajokri farmhouse, officers and staff have occupied the once

private bedrooms, living rooms and walk-in closets as converted office spaces. They said "maintenance" of the place is a daunting task. Said a senior official working in farmhouse: "Ideally, the ED should have its Gurugram zonal office in Gurugram itself and if we do get alternative space, maybe the farmhouse will be used by the ED as a training centre in future. By using the property as its zonal office, at least the farmhouse is being maintained and not being allowed to go into disrepair."

Film Unit meets with Union Minister Bandi Sanjay, Extends Dussehra Wishes



An upcoming pan India movie produced by Kashetti Kumar under the K.K Pictures banner. Directed by M. V. Satish Kumar, the film will be released in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada languages. On the occasion of Dussehra, members of the film unit met with Union Minister Bandi Sanjay. The director and producer were wished a happy Dussehra

and presented with a pencil art portrait of Bandi Sanjay.

Director M.V. Satish Kumar shared the key features of the film, which is currently in production. The film will focus on important issues such as stopping the rape of girls, protecting Dharma, and stopping attacks on Sanatana Dharma. "We are excited to bring this important story to audiences across India," said producer Kashetti

Kumar. "With Satish Kumar's direction and our talented cast and crew, we are confident that K.K Pictures will resonate with viewers and create meaningful impact." Union Minister Bandi Sanjay congratulated the film team on their efforts. The program was also attended by Meesala Chandraiah, Balamuri Satyanarayana, actor Anthannagari Rajender, and Shikha Vijay Kumar.

How India could play a meaningful role in the conflict in West Asia

India has high stakes in the West Asian region, and the Ministry of External Affairs has said "It is important that the conflict doesn't take a wider regional dimension and we urge that all issues be addressed through dialogue and diplomacy." Could India play a role in the crisis that goes beyond its appeal for "restraint" by "all concerned"?

New Delhi has so far not offered to play a mediatory role. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken to both Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the last 10 days. Modi met Abbas on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly on September 23, expressed "deep concern" at the humanitarian situation in Gaza, and reaffirmed India's support for the early restoration of peace and stability in the region. In October last year, Modi had spoken to Abbas to convey condolences at the civilian deaths at Gaza's al-Ahli Hospital, and reiterated India's "long-standing principled position on the Israel-Palestine issue". On September 30, the Prime Minister spoke to his Israeli counterpart to underline that "terrorism has no place in our world". The priorities were to "prevent regional escalation", the "safe release of all hostages", and "early restoration of peace and stability", Modi told Netanyahu. But to play any meaningful role as a possible mediator, India will need, apart from communication channels with both sides, significant leverage with them as well. India's smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike in Dahiyeh, Beirut, Lebanon, Wednesday. (Photo: AP/PTI) Relationship tightrope Six months ago, Iran had launched a swarm of drones, ballistic missiles, and cruise missiles at Israel in response to a suspected Israeli strike on an Iranian consular building in Damascus in which a senior Iranian general was killed.

The wave of aerial attacks on Israel this week was in line with the Iranian response seen both in April and in January 2020, when it responded to the assassination of Quds Force chief Qasem Soleimani by firing ballistic missiles at a US military base in western Iraq. Neither of Iran's two attacks on Israel caused much damage, probably by design. Israel responded to the April attack with a limited strike near Isfahan a week later. But a stronger response this time could tip the region into full-blown war. This is a major worry for India, which has strategic ties with both Israel and Iran. The strategic relationship with Israel, especially the defence and security partnership, has grown and deepened under the Narendra Modi government. The two sides have strong shared concerns over extremism and terrorism. Israel has emerged as a major defence supplier alongside the US, France, and Russia — and New Delhi remembers that the Israelis had stepped up at its time of crisis during the Kargil war in 1999. Iran, on the other hand, has been a major supplier of crude to India. Also, the two countries share concerns on terrorism emanating from Pakistan and Afghanistan, and on the Taliban's treatment of minorities and lack of an inclusive and representative government in Kabul. The Chabahar port is a project of

great strategic and economic importance to India. Past tensions between Israel and Iran — after, for example, the attack on an Israeli diplomat's wife, allegedly at Iran's behest, in Delhi in February 2012, and verbal jousting between the ambassadors of the two countries to India — have brought discomfiture to New Delhi. Widening of the conflict in the Middle East will make it difficult for India to stay ambivalent. India's own stakes: An escalation of tensions could impact India with regard to its people living in the region, its economic interests, and its strategic needs. * There are about 18,000 Indians in Israel, about 5,000-10,000 in Iran, and some 90 lakh in the region as a whole. A wider conflict will put this huge Indian community at risk. * The West Asian region provides India with 80% of its oil supplies. A wider war will almost inevitably raise energy prices. Also, major Arab countries have been keen to invest in the Indian economy; those plans will likely be disrupted in the event of a wider conflict. * India has invested in its relationships with major Arab countries, Iran, and Israel. New Delhi sees the region as its extended neighbourhood, and has been working with all sides to push for the India-Middle East-Europe Economic corridor, which promises both strategic and economic benefits. It is keen to see that the consensus around peace is not unravelled by war. Qatar has been a consummate navigator of regional faultlines. It has engaged with all sides, given billions of dollars as aid to Palestine, hosted the leaders of Hamas, and pumped money into Gaza. Both the US and Israel have depended on Qatar for mediation efforts. Al Jazeera, which is part funded by the Qatari government, wields tremendous influence in the Arab world. Egypt borders both Gaza and Israel. It lost the Sinai Peninsula to Israel in the 1967 war, but recovered it in 1982 after the 1979 peace treaty. When President Mohamed Morsi was in office (2012-13), there was apprehension that Cairo might be colluding with Hamas, but under President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, it has focused strongly on countering terrorism and Islamist movements. Worried about a refugee influx from Gaza, Egypt has put forth ceasefire initiatives. Saudi Arabia views itself as the leader of the Islamic world and, under Prince Mohammed bin Salman, has been trying to advance connectivity initiatives in the region. However, Riyadh's relationship with Shia Iran has a complicated history. Progress on the Saudi-Israel peace talks have been frozen for now. UAE: With eye on its future The UAE, too, is keen to see stability and peace in the region in order to build on its own prosperity and to future-proof itself. Under its ruler Mohammad bin Zayed, it wants to drive the IMEEC initiative. The UAE signed a normalisation agreement with Israel in 2020. Turkey: Key back channel President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has criticised Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; yet, after Iran's April 13 attack on Israel, Turkey was among the key back channels between Tehran and Israel's western allies. Turkish officials are among the few who speak directly to the US, Israel, Hamas members, and Iran. US: Traditional arbiter The US has



been the traditional international mediator in the region, and its envoy Amos Hochstein has been trying to prevent escalation. "We continue to believe that a diplomatic resolution is achievable," he has said. However, there is no trust between the US and Iran, and Washington is squarely on Israel's side. China: Position-

ing itself As Washington's influence and credibility wanes, Beijing has tried to cast itself as a possible mediator and peacemaker. China's attempts to forge a Saudi-Iran deal and facilitate Hamas-Fatah talks driven by its geo-economic and geo-political interests in Iran, Saudi, and UAE. They are also an indicator of its rising global profile.

Sweden officially joins ISRO's Venus Orbiter Mission



New Delhi: Sweden has officially joined ISRO's Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM), approved last week by the Union Cabinet. The Swedish Institute of Space Physics (IRF) will reportedly provide ISRO with the Venusian Neutrals Analyser instrument (VNA) — a lightweight, low-power but highly capable energetic neutral atom (ENA) analyser. The VNA will study the interaction between charged particles from the Sun and Venus' atmosphere and exosphere. The VOM mission, expected to launch in March 2028, will help unravel "Venusian atmosphere, geology and generate large amounts of science data probing into its thick atmosphere," according to a Cabinet communique. The Cabinet has also "approved a fund of Rs. 1,236 Crore

for the VOM, of which Rs 824 Crore will be spent on the spacecraft". The VNA will be integrated into the plasma package, Venus Ionospheric and Solar Wind Particle Analyser (VISWAS), provided by the Space Physics Laboratory (SPL) in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The IRF was also the Principal Investigator of the plasma package on the European Space Agency's Venus Express mission from 2004-2014. The VOM mission will be Sweden's second Venus exploration. Sweden has been India's space partner since 1986. It also partnered with ISRO on Chandrayaan missions 1, 2 and 3. The country also aims to partner with Chandrayaan 4 and Gaganyaan — India's human spaceflight mission.

UK-Mauritius treaty on Chagos Archipelago, Diego Garcia: What it means, why it matters for India

The United Kingdom on Thursday (October 3) said it would cede sovereignty of the strategically important Chagos Islands to Mauritius, calling it a "historic political agreement". The UK has long controlled Chagos and the Diego Garcia military base located there, jointly operating it with the United States.

British Foreign Minister David Lammy said the deal settled the contested sovereignty of Britain's last overseas territory in Africa, while securing the long-term future of Diego Garcia. The joint statement from the UK and Mauritius further said the two countries "enjoyed the full support and assistance of our close partners, the United States of America and the Republic of India."

What is the Chagos archipelago?

The Chagos archipelago, comprising 58 islands, lies roughly 500 km to the south of the Maldives archipelago in the Indian Ocean. These islands were uninhabited until the late 18th century, when the French brought in slave labour from Africa and India to work in newly-established coconut plantations. In 1814, France ceded the islands to the British. In 1965, the UK constituted the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), of which the Chagos Islands were a central part. A few other BIOT islands were later ceded to the Seychelles in 1976 after it gained independence from Britain. Chagos was attached to Mauritius, another British colony in the Indian Ocean, for administrative purposes. But when Mauritius gained independence in 1968, Chagos remained with Britain. The UK government gave the newly-independent country a grant of 3 million pounds over the "detachment" of the Chagos archipelago. Why Chagos Islands matter, why UK keeps Diego Garcia base Map showing Chagos Islands.

And what is Diego Garcia?

Behind Britain retaining sovereignty over the Chagos Islands was its strategic location. In 1966, Britain signed an agreement with the US which made the BIOT available for the two countries' defence needs. Land was acquired in 1967, and four years later, the plantation on Diego Garcia — the largest in the archipelago — was shut down. The BIOT administration then enacted an Immigration Ordinance, which made it unlawful for a person to enter or remain in Diego Garcia without a permit, and enabled the removal of those who remained on the island. Around 2,000 civilians were subsequently kicked out — an issue that has been central to the dispute between the UK and Mauritius. Diego Garcia became a fully operational military base in 1986. According to an article in the Foreign Policy magazine, "Thanks to its vital location, the island houses a military base that served as a critical node for American air operations during the Gulf War and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Post-9/11, it has also been allegedly used as a detention centre by the [US intelligence agency] CIA." A statement from US President Joe Biden on Thursday said, "Diego Garcia is the site of a joint U.S.-UK military facility that plays a vital role in national, regional, and global security. It enables the United

States to support operations that demonstrate our shared commitment to regional stability, provide rapid response to crises, and counter some of the most challenging security threats we face." Given the ongoing tensions in West Asia, maintaining a presence in the Indian Ocean remains critical for US interests. Diego Garcia also gives the Americans an outpost to monitor the Malacca Strait, a chokepoint for world trade that is especially vital to China.

Why did Mauritius seek sovereign rights over Chagos?

Mauritius has long claimed that the UK illegally occupies Chagos, and has raised the matter many times in international fora. In 2017, the UN General Assembly voted to ask the International Court of Justice to examine the legal status of the Chagos archipelago. Two years later, the UNGA adopted a resolution welcoming an ICJ advisory opinion, demanding that the United Kingdom "unconditionally withdraw its colonial administration from the area within six months". Then ICJ President Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf had said the detachment of the Chagos archipelago in 1965 from Mauritius was not based on a "free and genuine expression of the people concerned". Chagossians today live in the UK, Mauritius and Seychelles.

What is the significance of the UK-Mauritius treaty?

The agreement between the UK and



Mauritius strikes a balance. The UK has ceded claims over the islands, and Mauritius is now "free to implement a programme of resettlement on the islands of the Chagos Archipelago, other than Diego Garcia". The UK has also promised to create a new trust fund "for the benefit of Chagossians". However, the agreement allows the Diego Garcia base to remain operational for an "initial period" of 99 years. The UK will continue to exercise sovereign rights over the island. The resolution of the dispute has broader implications. As the Foreign Policy article noted: "A successful resolution to the Diego Garcia spat would affirm Western commitment to

a free and open Indo-Pacific. If left unresolved, however, the issue could drive countries such as Mauritius to seek redress with alternative partners like China." As a nation formerly colonised by Britain, India has maintained steadfast support to Mauritius' claims over the Chagos Islands. It voted in favour of the island country at the UNGA in 2019. In recent years, India has attempted to deepen its ties with Mauritius amidst China's ever increasing assertiveness in the Indian Ocean. Earlier this year, an India-built airstrip and a jetty was inaugurated at Agaléga, a two-island dependency of Mauritius in the Western Indian Ocean.

Successful Liver and kidney transplants conducted at Osmania General Hospital

Hyderabad: In the last two months, the transplant surgeons at Osmania General Hospital (OGH) have successfully conducted two each cadaver liver and kidney transplants, in addition to taking up in-house organ donations from declared brain dead patients. On August 29, the transplant teams conducted a cadaver liver transplant surgery on 45-year-old Dr Ravi Sundar, Associate Professor, General Surgery, Suryapet Medical College, and a native of Nalgonda, who was admitted to OGH with full blown liver failure due to a viral infection. He was very sick with very high bilirubin with coagulopathy (blood not clotting), drowsy (hepatic encephalopathy). In absence of a fit donor in the family, the doctors undertook cadaver liver transplantation to save his life. Following liver transplantation, Dr Ravi Sundar recovered and was recently discharged, Head, Surgical Gastroenterology, Dr Ch Madhusudhan said. Transplant surgeons also did a liver transplant on a 46-year-old farmer Bathina Narendra, a resident of Vallampatla, Siddipet, who has decompensated chronic liver disease due to viral hepatitis. The cadaver liver transplant surgery was conducted on September 18 and the patient is recovering. Apart from the liver transplants, the Nephrology and Urology departments of OGH collaborated to successfully conduct two cadaver kidney transplants, the



hospital said. In the last one month, the OGH undertook two in-house organ donations and one more organ donation is in the process. Through organ donations, we undertook two cadaver liver transplants, four cadaver kidney transplants, four cornea donations and skin donations for burn patients," OGH authorities said. The donor skin from brain dead donors was collected and preserved in the OGH skin bank for burn patients. While two cadaver kidney transplants were undertaken at OGH, the kid-

neys were allocated to needy patients in other hospitals under Jeevandan. The liver transplant team was led by Dr Madhusudhan while the Nephrology team that was involved in kidney transplants was led by Dr Manisha Sahai. Other senior doctors who were involved and included Dr Wasif Ali, Dr Sudarshan Reddy, Dr Abhimanyu Singh (HOD/Anaesthesia), Prof Chandra shakar (Anaesthesia), Dr. Madhavi (prof of anaesthesia), Dr. Raghu (Prof anaesthesia), Dr Lakshmi Narayana, Dr Mallikarjun, Dr Kiran Mayi and others.