

Centre's AYUSH, Telangana govt at loggerheads over Bhupalpally hospital building

Bhupalpally: A controversy has erupted after the district administration erected Government Nursing college board on the newly constructed AYUSH hospital building. The Department of AYUSH lodged a complaint with the State Medical and Health Department secretary against the district administration's action. The AYUSH officials alleged that the district administration, without their knowledge, erected a board of the Government Nursing College on the AYUSH hospital building. The Centre sanctioned AYUSH hospitals with 50 beds each in Bhupalpally, Siddipet and Vikarabad districts in the State. The Union AYUSH Ministry allocated Rs 15 crore each for setting up the hospital and of this, Rs 10 crore was sanctioned for construction of buildings and Rs 5 crore for equipment and recruitment of human resources.

The Telangana State Medical Services

and Infrastructure Development Corporation (TGMIDC) was entrusted with the responsibility of constructing the buildings. Recently, the construction of buildings was completed, but without any information to the AYUSH Department, the nursing college board was set up on the building, leading to controversy between the two government bodies. When the AYUSH Department questioned the officials concerned about the nursing college board, they reportedly said they were following the instructions of the Collector. The AYUSH officials are worried as a central team had already inspected the AYUSH hospital constructed at Siddipet and handed over it to the local staff and soon the team would be visiting Bhupalpally for inspection and if the nursing college board was not removed by then, there would be problem as the building had been constructed using central funds. However, TGMIDC engineer clarified



that the building was constructed for the purpose of AYUSH hospital and that there was

no change in the plan and would be handed over to the AYUSH Department soon.

Disenchanted Congress ranks stay away from Praja Palana celebrations in erstwhile Khammam



Khammam: Even as the Congress government is organising Praja Palana celebrations marking one year in power, none of the cadre and leaders in erstwhile Khammam are happy with the party leadership. The disenchanted party ranks have been staying away from the celebrations, which as a matter of fact lacked lustre. The celebrations are confined to officials and artistes, who have been conducting cultural programmes here and there with very less public participation.

Neither Khammam district Congress president Puvvalla Durga Prasad nor Kothagudem district Congress president and ex-MLA Podem Veeraiah held meetings with the cadres to prepare them. The same is the case with the three ministers in the district – Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Tummala Nageswara Rao – who

did not bother about cadre participation in the celebrations. This resulted in confusion among the cadres as well as leaders whether they are supposed to celebrate the occasion or not. A common feeling among the party ranks is that their work for the last 10 years to strengthen the Congress in erstwhile Khammam is of no value for the top leadership. "Prior to Congress coming to power, for 10 years, we have made a lot of sacrifices and suffered a lot as committed Congress workers. When the party came to power, we felt very happy. But the happiness is short-lived given the disorder and lack of recognition to hard working cadres," a senior party worker in Khammam told Telangana Today. The three ministers and MLAs have their own coteries and do not care about the needs of senior leaders who

have been associated with the party for long. "Even when the BRS was in power, we used to get our work done in government offices and outside. Now in our government, we feel abandoned," the party worker said. Meanwhile, the alleged cold war between the three ministers in the district has been proving costly to the cadre and the party. The said differences among them came out vividly on Friday, when a mega

food park, conceived during the BRS regime in 2016, was inaugurated at Buggapadu village of Sathupalli mandal in the district. Ministers Bhatti Vikramarka and Srinivas Reddy both skipped the inauguration of the important project taken up at a cost of 109.59 crore even as IT Minister D Sridhar Babu attended the ceremony. This type of discord among the ministers is not good for the party, said a Congress leader.

Time period for implementing Telugu as compulsory subject for Class IX, X students extended



Hyderabad: The State government on Saturday issued an order extending the time period for implementation of Telugu as compulsory subject for students pursuing Class IX and X this academic year i.e. 2024-25.

This extension is also applicable for Class X students during the academic year 2025-26. As per the order issued by Princi-

pal Secretary to Government (FAC) (Education department) N Sridhar, School Education director has been asked to take steps to implement the Telugu as compulsory subject from the academic year 2025-26 scrupulously. Earlier, schools other than those affiliated to the SSC Board were given exemption.

Devendra Fadnavis: The Hindu profiles on BJP leader

In 2019, after failing to form the government in Maharashtra after a split with Shiv Sena leader Uddhav Thackeray, the BJP's Devendra Fadnavis quoted this couplet on the floor of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. The BJP was the single largest party then. After failed attempts to form a government, the BJP sat in Opposition for two and a half years. Uddhav Thackeray had joined hands with Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress to form the Maha Vikas Aghadi government, accusing Mr. Fadnavis and Amit Shah of backstabbing him and of going back on their word. The acrimony between Mr. Fadnavis and Uddhav continues till date in Maharashtra politics. In 2022, after a split in the Shiv Sena under the leadership of Eknath Shinde, which Uddhav blamed on Mr. Fadnavis, the BJP returned to power in Maharashtra. Some time later, the NCP split as well, with the Ajit Pawar-led faction joining the BJP-Sena combine.

It was a peculiar situation where different factions of the Shiv Sena and the NCP, locked in a bitter battle over their claims to be the true party, were part of the government and the opposition at the same time. The opposition factions of both parties blamed Mr. Fadnavis and the central leadership of the BJP for their "divisive politics" and accused Mr. Fadnavis of devising the split. Today, as his couplet goes viral on the Internet due to the landslide victory of the Mahayuti alliance in which the BJP has performed impressively well with a strike rate of almost 90%, the focus is back on Mr. Fadnavis, or 'Deva bhau' as the BJP campaign had branded him in September, ostensibly to negate the references to caste politics, where the Maratha-dominated political landscape had chosen to pick on his Brahmin identity. Throughout the campaign during this election, his rivals contemptuously referred to Mr. Fadnavis as Annaji Pant, a controversial figure in Maratha history, who is considered a 'traitor' by many for conspiring against Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's son Chhatrapati Sambhaji, trying to get him killed. Today, Mr. Fadnavis is being seen as the sculptor of the BJP's victory in Maharashtra. But during the Lok Sabha election earlier this year, the party had won only nine of the 28 seats it contested in the State. "I take complete responsibility for the performance of the party in Maharashtra. I request the central leadership to please free me of the responsibility of the Deputy Chief Minister. I want to dedicate myself for strengthening the party organisation," Mr. Fadnavis said then in a press conference in Mumbai, creating a flutter at the national level. Five months later, in the Assembly election, the BJP contested 148 seats and won 132 of them. Early career In his political career which started at a very young age, he has earned several distinctions. Coming from a humble background in Nagpur, Mr. Fadnavis belonged to a family which had firm affiliation with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the Jan Sangh. His father Gangadhar Fadnavis was a member of the Legislative Council, and was affiliated with the Jan Sangh. Mr. Fadnavis joined the RSS at a very young age. He started his political journey in his student days by joining the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi

Parishad (ABVP), a right wing students' association linked with the RSS. He became the youngest Mayor of Nagpur city at the age of 27 years. He is the second youngest Chief Minister of Maharashtra, the second youngest Mayor in the history of the country, and one of the only two Chief Ministers to complete a full term of five years in the State. His supporters claim that his leadership transformed Nagpur, the karmabhoomi of both Mr. Fadnavis and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari. The Opposition, on the other side, has claimed that Mr. Fadnavis failed to develop Nagpur, and that the crime rate has increased in the city.

Resurgence His current resurgence is being seen as a testimony to his grit, perseverance, resilience, strategic thinking and adaptability. His supporters say he has taken the responsibility of the party's performance, burnt many bridges in the party's interest, put a lot at stake for strengthening the party organisation, and devised strategies to weaken the opposition. His detractors say Mr. Fadnavis has not let any other leadership centres emerge, and that he has shown a vindictive nature. In 2019, after his claim that he will return to power ('Mi punha yein' poem was trolled on the social media for years thereafter), there were speculations on whether his importance within the party had diminished. After the split in the Shiv Sena in 2022, when Eknath Shinde joined hands with the BJP, many of Mr. Fadnavis's supporters expected that his name would be announced as the Chief Minister. Instead, Mr. Fadnavis himself made the announcement that Mr. Shinde would be the Chief Minister and that though he wanted to stay out of power, he would take up the position of the Deputy Chief Minister due to the party's di-



rections. It was considered a step-down. "What has he not done for the party? He was the mastermind. The Sena leaders trusted him when they took this step," a BJP leader told this correspondent at the time of the government formation in 2022, indicating that Mr. Fadnavis was 'not rewarded despite his master stroke'. As a politician, he is extremely guarded and careful about the perception created about him. Several of his political opponents refer to him as simultaneously meritorious and insecure, someone who doesn't take very kindly to competition. Unlike many senior politicians in Maharashtra's political ecosystem, he isn't known as someone who openly discusses his thoughts and plans. He is also someone who is seen to have climbed the ladder quite fast. In 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had thanked Nagpur for "giving the gift of Devendra Fadnavis". In 2024, after the State

Assembly victory, Mr. Modi referred to him as 'param-mitra' (eternal friend). Proximity to RSS Hailing from Nagpur, Mr. Fadnavis has always shared proximity with the RSS. As a karyakarta, a swayamsevak, he was involved in several campaigns of the RSS. "On all the parameters of 'swayamsevakatva', he completely fulfils them. From Kashmir to Ayodhya, he has participated in many campaigns. He has shown the same austerity. He is a composite and ideal politician, who has established himself on merit," someone close to the Sangh said. "But when a political party grows, it has several considerations beyond individual aspirations. It has a plan for 25 years ahead. So one should not look at it as a preference for or against a leader. But a vision for the party. That is how larger decisions are taken. It may not have a bearing on an individual leader," said another leader.

Rethinking 'representation' for a meaningful COP30

Frustration over the slow progress made during COP29 negotiations in Baku is hardly new. History has repeatedly shown us that the politics of climate change and the forces of nature rarely align. Adding to this challenge is the absence of a unified global authority to address the urgency of the issue. There is no world government or state to act on behalf of the planet. Compounding this challenge is the lack of a universal metric system capable of reconciling the diverse political, economic, and social interests of nation-states. While the jury is still out on whether COP29 was a "disappointment", "failure", or "disaster", critics have often pointed out that 'business as usual' does not work. As Brazil prepares to host COP30 in Belém next year, here is an alternative suggestion on the concept of 'representation' for them. This innovative methodology was pioneered by Bruno Latour, Emeritus Professor at Sciences Po, and Laurence Tubiana, France's Climate Change Ambassador and Special Representative for the 2015 COP21 in Paris. In the lead-up to COP21, in May 2015, there was a week-long public event,

hosted by Sciences Po, called the 'Theatre of Negotiations' at Nanterre-Amandiers on the outskirts of Paris. This experiment brought together 200 students from 143 universities worldwide to role play and reimagine a life-sized COP. The goal of this bold pedagogical initiative was to transform the traditional framework of climate negotiations. At its core was a radical rethinking of 'representation'. As Irish author Sally Rooney writes, "When American colonists famously rebelled against the practice of 'taxation without representation,' [how] is environmental devastation without representation any different? Even if carbon emissions were thoroughly democratically determined — which they are not — why should voters in the world's richest countries have the right to poison the air, sea, soil, and rivers for the entire population of Earth?" People living on Polynesian islands or in Africa have no right to vote in American or European elections. Yet, they often bear the brunt of the resulting environmental damage.

Granting equal rights In the approach to

representation, humans and non-humans — such as the atmosphere, oceans, and soil — were granted equal rights in negotiations. The idea was to give voice and agency to these non-human entities, allowing them to express their stakes in climate negotiations. Unlike conventional COP meetings, this assembly did not defer to the authority of science or nature, as these too were subjects of negotiation. The aim was to simulate a truly inclusive and representative process. The theatre setting at Nanterre-Amandiers encouraged dynamic and creative reinterpretations of negotiation. Delegates dramatised and de-dramatised issues, explored alternative spatial-temporal perspectives, and allowed non-speaking entities to 'represent' or 'speak' through proxies. This flexibility opened new avenues for addressing climate challenges, from reframing territorial sovereignty to dramatising the interdependence of ecosystems and nations. For example, the 'Ocean' imposed conditions on the 'United States,' while the 'Atmosphere' directly addressed 'China' regarding greenhouse gas emissions.

Minister Seethakka Unveils Drug-Free Telangana 2K Run Poster

Hyderabad: As part of the ongoing 'Drug-Free Telangana' initiative, the Telangana Vidya Samithi is set to host a 2K run on Necklace Road on December 21. The poster unveiled by Anasuya Seethakka, Minister for Women and Child Welfare held at Secretariat. During the unveiling, Minister Seethakka expressed her admiration for the Telangana Vidya Samithi's dedication to promoting a drug-free society. She called upon government officials, citizens, and youth organizations to unite in the fight against drug misuse. "It is essential for our youth to focus on their future and steer clear of detrimental habits that can hinder our progress as a society. Together, we can create a safer and

healthier environment for all," she emphasized.

Adding to the occasion, Tarak Goud, President of the Telangana Vidya Samithi, stated, "This initiative is a significant step forward in our mission to ensure that the youth of Telangana are educated about the dangers of drug abuse and empowered to make healthier choices." Minister Seethakka encouraged widespread participation in the upcoming run, highlighting the importance of community involvement in making the event a resounding success. "This is not just a run; it is a movement towards a drug-free future in Telangana. I urge each one of you to take part and spread the word," she added.



SuryaCon Hyderabad 2024 Brings Solar Innovation and Sustainability to the Forefront

Hyderabad: SuryaCon Hyderabad 2024, the city's premier solar expo, award ceremony, and conference, took place at Hotel The Westin in Mindspace. Organized by EQ Magazine, the oldest media network in the solar energy sector, this prestigious event showcased advancements in decarbonization, carbon neutrality, and sustainability. The gathering featured prominent guests, including Mr. C. Narasimhan, former MP and President of the Indian Solar Association, and Mr. S.B. Yadagiri, IRS, Additional Commissioner of Income Tax, Hyderabad, alongside other industry leaders. Key discussions revolved around the pressing topics of solar energy development and government initiatives designed to support the sector.

Among the notable highlights of the event were the awards recognizing excellence in the solar industry. Sova Solar earned accolades as a leader in Indian solar module manufacturing, while Solis was awarded the title of the top inverter brand in the country. Other winners included ECE (India) Energies Private Limited as the Solar Module Company of the Year in the Utility Scale (Domestic Manufacturer) category, SMA Solar for Innovative Service Solutions Leader of the Year, Gautam Solar for its technically advanced team, and Novasys, recognized as the Fastest Growing Module Manufacturing Company of the Year. Notably, Shri C. Narasimhan received the Leadership Excellence Award for his significant contributions to renewable energy. During the event, Mr. Narasimhan emphasized the Prime Minister's ambitious goal of achieving 500 gigawatts of solar energy by 2030. He introduced new solar energy policies targeting both Telugu states to enhance renewable energy adoption. A landmark scheme will offer subsidies of ₹30,000 per kilowatt to one crore middle-class families for rooftop solar installations ranging from 3-5 kilowatts, marking a significant milestone in India's sustainable energy journey. Supporting these initiatives, Mr. S.B. Yadagiri, IRS, shared insights on the financial benefits of solar energy for households, detailing how an investment in solar power can yield significant savings and low-cost energy for up to 25 years. Sova Solar's Vice-President, Sourabh Mukherjee, underscored the company's role in address-



ing climate change through advanced technology, while SK Raju from Accutech Infosystems Pvt Ltd highlighted their partnership with IIT-Kharagpur, enabling Sova Solar to produce high-end modules with a diverse client base, including major corpora-

tions like NTPC and L&T. EQ Magazine has been a trailblazer since its inception in 2009, evolving into a trusted source for updates and analysis on solar energy and climate change. Celebrating 16 years of dedicated service, the magazine connects innovation with

sustainability, advocating for a greener future. In addition to the Hyderabad event, EQ Magazine has successfully organized numerous conferences in cities such as New Delhi, Pune, Coimbatore, and Kolkata, facilitating discussions among policymakers, developers, and financiers across India.

KTR slams Congress government over image of new Telangana Thalli statue

Hyderabad: Taking a sharp dig at the Congress government and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy over images of the new statue of Telangana Thalli, BRS working president KT Rama Rao stated that several elements that represented the ethos and culture glory of the State were missing in the

redesigned statue. He pointed out that the new statue lacked several key features that were present in the original design including its crown. The crown, symbolizing the pride and self-governance of Telangana was gone. The traditional floral festival Bathukamma, which represents the cultural heritage of

Telangana, was absent. The anklets on Telangana Thalli's feet, a symbol of tradition and culture, were not present. Charminar and Kakatiya Kala Thoranam in the Telangana transport logo, that were iconic symbols of Telangana's architectural heritage were missing, he said, also stating that the Congress was neglecting farmers in Telangana.

PM E-Drive scheme to boost electric truck market, says DICV's Satyakam Arya

Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV) has lauded the government's PM E-Drive scheme as a significant step forward in India's transition to carbon-neutral mobility. Satyakam Arya, Managing Director & CEO of DICV, highlighted the scheme's potential to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles, aligning perfectly with the company's sustainability goals. The PM E-Drive scheme, which links incentives to the scrapping of older trucks, is expected to promote enhanced safety standards and reduce emissions. Arya emphasized that this initiative would not only encourage fleet modernization but also create a favourable environment for introduction of electric vehicles.

"The PM E-Drive scheme marks a pivotal step in accelerating the transition to carbon-neutral mobility in India. By linking incentives to the scrapping of older trucks, the scheme not only promotes enhanced safety standards and reduced emissions, but also encourages fleet modernisation, perfectly aligning with our goals at Daimler India Commercial Vehicles," Arya stated in a press statement.

The Rs 10,900-crore PM E-Drive

scheme, aimed at boosting electric vehicle adoption and expanding charging infrastructure, took effect on October 1. The scheme, which will run until March 31, 2026, replaces the earlier Rs 11,500-crore Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid and) Electric Vehicles (FAME) II initiative, which concluded in March. Furthermore, Arya emphasised that the scheme's focus on expanding charging infrastructure will be instrumental in driving the adoption of electric trucks, providing the necessary support for long-term sustainable growth. "This initiative will unlock significant opportunities for the commercial vehicle sector, advancing the adoption of clean, efficient, and technologically advanced transport solutions for a greener tomorrow," he remarked. The development comes month after Daimler India Commercial Vehicles - the Indian subsidiary of the world's largest truck maker, announced its entry into the zero-emission truck market in the country. The company has kicked off a clinical trial of its light-duty electric truck eCarter in the country, which is likely to hit the roads in the coming 6-12 months, the company had earlier said in April. The third generation eCarter will be assembled in the Indian market to



cater to the growing need for e-commerce in the country. The launch of the model also marks Bharat Benz's foray into the 3.5 to 7.5 tonne truck market - a space where the company had remained absent so far. So far globally, Daimler Trucks has sold over 2500

eCanters around the world with over 8 million kilometres on the road. Based on the Mitsubishi Fuso platform, the light-duty truck is being assembled in Japan as well as Europe, and India will be the third major market where this model will be locally assembled.

Union Health Minister launches 100-Days intensified TB Elimination Campaign from Haryana

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), December 7- In a decisive step towards eliminating TB in India, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister, J.P. Nadda on Saturday launched the 100-day intensified nationwide campaign from Panchkula district in Haryana. The campaign will be implemented in 347 districts across the country. Haryana Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini, Health Minister, Kumari Aarti Singh Rao were also present on this occasion. Addressing the countrymen during the national-level event at Panchkula, J.P. Nadda said that under this campaign, the focus will be on TB-prone districts, and high-risk groups, ensuring comprehensive testing to prevent its spread.

Lauding Haryana's consistent focus and efforts on further strengthening healthcare infrastructure, Nadda said that due to the dedicated efforts made by the present state government, the number of medical colleges in Haryana has increased from 6 in 2014 to 15 today, with plans to establish one in every district under the leadership of Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini. He said that even the MBBS seats have increased from 650 in 2014 to 2,185, while postgraduate seats have increased from 243 to 889. The Union Minister said that India had only six AIIMS in 2014, compared to 22 today, with one under construction in Rewari, Haryana. J.P. Nadda further shared that under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, 1.22 crore Ayushman cards have been issued in Haryana, facilitating 18.5 lakh hospital admissions. Haryana has spent Rs. 2,700 crore providing free healthcare to the underprivileged under this scheme, which is a commendable achievement, he said. Nadda said that the central government gives free

treatment up to Rs. 5 lakh for senior citizens above 70 years under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme. Haryana has issued 70,000 Vay Vandana cards as part of this initiative. Neonatal screening has risen from 63 percent to 85 percent, and institutional delivery has increased from 80 percent to 94 percent. Comprehensive immunization has improved from 79 percent to 92 percent. J.P. Nadda said that Prime Minister, Narendra Modi envisions making India TB-free before achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. With renewed energy and momentum, this campaign has been initiated today. He said that there is a significant reduction in TB cases, with the decline rate improving from 8.3 percent in 2015 to 17.7 percent now. The World Health Organization has commended India's progress in reducing TB prevalence and mortality rates, which have dropped by 21.4 percent in the last 10 years. The union Health minister shared that many new strategies were adopted to make TB services patient-friendly and decentralized. He said that today early detection of TB has become possible because of the network of over 1.7 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs across the country. He said that by increasing the number of laboratories from 120 in 2014 to 8,293 laboratories today, a significant step has been taken to scale up diagnostic services across the Country. He said that with the over 1.17 crore TB patients have received Ni-kshay support of Rs 3,338 crore. Besides this, the state government has recently increased the Ni-kshay poshan amount from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1000 and added energy boosters for the nourishment support for TB patients, said Nadda. The union Health minister said that to make this campaign successful, public participation is the key and



we can make the TB Free India campaign successful only by ensuring active participation of public representatives and making people aware. During the program, Union Health Minister Nadda, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, and other dignitaries flagged off 10 Ni-kshay vehicles for Haryana and un-

veiled the poster for the 100-day intensive TB elimination campaign and launched IEC materials for public outreach. Besides this, Ni-kshay Mitras were also honoured, and Ni-kshay nutrition kits were distributed. TB champions who have successfully recovered from the disease were also felicitated.

ABVP forms new committee for JNTU-Hyd

Hyderabad: The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) on Saturday announced its new committee for Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad (JNTUH), appointing university students Sriram as president and Shivamani as sec-

retary. The announcement was made by ABVP Telangana president Jana Reddy. Sriram and Shivamani expressed their gratitude to ABVP for the opportunity and pledged to work diligently to address the issues faced by students.

B-SCHOOL FAIR & MBA EXPO – 2024 INAUGURATED WITH GRANDEUR IN HYD

Hyderabad, December 7, 2024: IIMC Degree College, Hyderabad in collaboration with Ambitions Career Counsellors, inaugurated the much-anticipated B-School Fair & MBA Expo – 2024 at Vasavi Kalyana Mandapam, Lakdikapool. The two-day event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, parents, and educators, making it a resounding success.

The inaugural ceremony commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by distinguished dignitaries, including the Chief Guest, Prof. G. Naresh Reddy, Registrar, Osmania University, Sri K. Raghu Veer, Principal, IIMC college; Dr. D. Thirumala Rao, Sri Sai Ram, Founder, Ambitions Career Counsellors. Addressing the gathering, Prof. G. Naresh Reddy emphasized the transformative potential of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, calling it a pivotal step towards holistic and multidisciplinary education. He highlighted the policy's focus on innovation, skill enhancement, and preparing students for global challenges, urging attendees to leverage the opportunities offered by such platforms.

The fair features participation from 35 leading business schools, including both national and international institutions, alongside engaging career counseling sessions. With over 200 students from 20 colleges in attendance, the event aims to empower young minds to make informed decisions regarding their academic and career pursuits. Sri K. Raghu Veer, Principal, IIMC, shared that the



event has attracted sponsorship from 8 prestigious institutions, showcasing its credibility

and significance in the academic community. The fair will continue on 8th De-

ember, offering more opportunities for students to interact with experts and institutions.

The long-drawn courtroom drama over lawyers' dress codes

It's not only about asserting identity or removing the symbols of slavery. It's also to do with the country's climate and that is why lawyers have been debating a change in their dress code. The pertinent question remains, if not black coat, gown and band, which gives them some sense of authority and dignity, then what? For the academic world, the need to change the dress code for convocations in universities was first mooted by former President the late APJ Abdul Kalam. Kalam said that we should have our own dress codes for convocations instead of gowns of the colonial era. The University Grants Commission (UGC) later issued an advisory in 2015, suggesting the universities should opt for handloom fabric for ceremonial dresses or for special occasions like convocations. Recently, the health ministry also issued an advisory. The first central university to shed the foreign inspired dress code was the Indian Institute of Technology at Banaras Hindu University (IIT-BHU) which opted for kurta-pyjama or kurta -dhoti for men and salwar-kameez or sarees for women. Between 2015 and 2024, 70 of the approximately 90 central universities have reportedly changed their convocation dress codes. But clearly it is easier to make the change for one-time ceremonies and occasions. Lawyers and judges have to wear it every day in the court. For years, lawyers have discussed changing what they wear to the court - black

coats, robes and bands. Even PILs were filed in the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court and the Supreme Court. The reasons cited were primarily the climatic conditions in the country, which makes it uncomfortable for lawyers to wear gowns or coats. The Lucknow bench did issue notices to the central government and the Bar Council of India (BCI) in 2021 while rejecting the petition. The BCI informed the court that it has formed a five-member committee to have detailed deliberations with the bar and judiciary on their demand to redetermine the dress code of lawyers. Paresh Misra, member, UP Bar Council, said, "We need to have a re-look at the dress code as the coat or the gown becomes unbearable in the sultry summer. Also, when we can change the criminal laws, we can change the names and places to assert our identity, why can't we discuss suitable changes in the dress code of the lawyers." Rejecting the PIL in the Supreme Court in September 2024, the then Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud suggested the petitioner to send representations to BCI and state bar councils while observing, "It is a matter of decorum--- you should be properly attired---you cannot argue in Kurta-Pyjama or Shirts and T-shirts." Senior lawyer of the High Court IB Singh recalled the 1973 Prayag Das vs Civil Judge Bulandshahr case when a petitioner claiming to be a crusader for securing recognition of Indian attire dhoti- kurta

sent notices to the high court, the office of the district judge in Bulandshahr, and Bar Councils of India and UP on Feb 5, 1973 to the effect that he shall be appearing in dhoti-kurta. On February 17, 1973 he appeared in the court in dhoti-kurta and gown. The civil judge then passed order that since the applicant was not in proper dress, he refuses permission to record his appearance in the court. There is in fact a trail of litigations demanding change in the dress code, which will require an amendment in the Advocates Act that prescribes the dress code. However, not many may agree with the demand for dhoti-kurta as the courtroom dress. In India, a lawyer's dress code is administered by the Bar Council of India Rules laid down under Chapter IV in the Advocates Act, 1961. Therefore, every advocate in India has to wear a black robe or coat over a white shirt crowned at the neck with a white band. IB Singh said: "The matter has been discussed at length; lawyers have also demanded it from time to time as the coat becomes unbearable in the summer. South Africa has already made changes in their dress code. Here, we can also replace the prescribed coat, gown and band with some suitable and sober dress like suit and tie by an amendment in the Advocates Act. It can't be casual. If the issue is also to shed the British-era dress code, then why not replace My Lord with Sir or Honourable?"

Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General of India, ended his brilliant article on the subject in Bar and Bench dated April 25, 2020, "And Yes! just visualise the great Nani Palkhiwala arguing Keshavananda Bharti case in a kurta-pyjama (even if neatly washed and meticulously ironed and pressed). All scholarly, intellectual and erudite arguments of living legends like K. Parasaran, Fali Nariman, K.K. Venugopal and Soli Sorabjee may perhaps lose part of its shine if they chose to argue before the court in a Safari suit. A lawyer's attire of a coat, silk gown and neck band is not just a bagatelle. It's where our distinctive oneness, professional dignity and grandeur lie." Many lawyers like Nagendra Sharma in Delhi believe the dress brings in dignity, discipline and differentiation. He said the world over, there is uniformity in the lawyers' dress but some suitable changes could be made keeping in view the weather. Senior advocate and former additional advocate general of the state Bulbul Godiyal said, "We are living in India where the temperatures are mostly warm or hot, with a huge dress paraphernalia, it becomes bothersome and bogs one down with less efficiency and output at work. The dress worn by judges and lawyers are also a sign of British imperialism and sign of being subservient and must be done away with keeping in tune with the changing times. It may be mentioned here that in February 1685, when King Charles 11 of England died.

A beetle named Hitler: The case to change offensive animal, plant names

Taxonomy is the science of describing, classifying and naming organisms. It organises the vast diversity of life on Earth. Species are grouped based on shared characteristics, providing a system that allows scientists to understand and communicate about the natural world. Naming species is no simple task: a scientist doesn't just assign a name and call it a day. Taxonomy is a carefully structured process governed by strict international rules such as the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi and plants. Based on these rules, each species receives a unique scientific name, often derived from Latin or Greek. One of the most important features of taxonomy is binomial nomenclature. This two-part naming system was introduced by the renowned Swedish taxonomist Carl Linnaeus in the 18th century. For example, while the house cat is known by various names in different languages its universal scientific name is *Felis catus*. This consistent naming system ensures that scientists can communicate unambiguously even if they speak different languages. When scientists discover a new species, they are responsible for naming it, following the international naming conventions. These names frequently reflect the species' physical characteristics, habitat or behaviour. Others are inspired by cultural or historical events. They may honour a person, place, or even a mythological figure. It makes taxonomy not just a technical field but also a fascinating narrative about the natural world.

Some species have recently been named after politicians and musical celebrities. There's *Scaptia beyonceae* (a horsefly named for singer Beyoncé Knowles), *Singafrotypa mandela* (a spider, named for global statesman Nelson Mandela) and *Neopalpa donaldtrumpi* (a moth, named for incoming US president Donald Trump). That is why we say taxonomy does not exist in a vacuum. It is deeply entwined with history and society – and many species have names that reflect outdated or harmful biases. One example is *Anophthalmus hitleri*, a blind beetle. The species was named by amateur Austrian entomologist Oskar Scheibel as a tribute to Adolf Hitler, who had just become Germany's chancellor and would go on to become a brutal dictator. Today the beetle is critically endangered, partly because of its appeal to those who collect Nazi memorabilia. Another example is *Hottentotta jayakari jayakari*, a species of scorpion. The term "Hottentot" was used by European colonisers to denigrate the Khoekhoe people of south-western Africa, mocking their language. The enduring legacy of racist, offensive terms in scientific nomenclature raises important questions about ethics in naming and the power of language in maintaining or dismantling colonial legacies. There is a growing call by scientists to revise species names that are offensive, outdated, or linked to colonialism, social injustice or prejudice. We are researchers from diverse backgrounds, united by our focus on biodiversity. Some of us specialise in evolutionary ecology; others have strong expertise in taxonomy. In an opinion piece published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, we argue that the digital age offers new tools to change names without disrupting scientific research. Persistent



identifiers are one such tool. These are unique, permanent references used to consistently identify a taxonomic group regardless of name changes. These tools can ensure that name changes are smoothly integrated, preserving the integrity of science while addressing issues of respect and inclusivity. Precedent

There is no reason for name changes driven by ethical concerns to be singled out and treated as disruptive. After all, as we point out in our analysis, changing taxonomic names is hardly unprecedented. Names are dynamic. They often evolve over time as new discoveries are made. Species can be split or grouped together based on new research. One example is *Uta stansburiana* (desert side-blotched lizard). It has undergone 11 previous name changes for scientific reasons. It is unified under the persistent identifier 7F3TX, linking all its historical names together. And now there is even precedent for changing names for ethical reasons. Earlier in 2024 the International Botanical Congress removed the racially offensive term "caffra", replacing it with "affra" for over 200 species. The word is derived from a derogatory term historically used in South Africa to refer to Black Africans, which in turn comes from the Arabic word *kafir*, which means "infidel" or "nonbeliever". The change stemmed from a formal request that was put to a vote during the congress. Around 60% of the participants agreed to rename these species due to their offensive origins. However, at the same time, a new rule was introduced to prevent future name changes based solely on ethical grounds. The concern was that similar requests could become endless, potentially disrupting the stability of scientific naming.

We argue that such a rigid stance is counterproductive. A more systematic approach to addressing these issues is the only way forward. Opponents of name changes for ethical reasons argue that any name or word can potentially offend someone and that the meanings of words change over time.

This is true. So, we suggest that a social impact assessment be added when considering changes. Some may worry that such a system is open to manipulation. Somebody could challenge many names for spurious reasons, perhaps hoping to have themselves named as the author in the event of a name change. However, we believe that original author names must be preserved. Retaining the original author names complies with the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature guidelines for taxonomic changes based on gender agreement adjustments (when taxa traditionally considered female are assigned male-associated names or vice versa). For example, if a butterfly like *Papilio glaucus* were transferred to a genus with a feminine name, the epithet *glaucus* (masculine form) would be adjusted to *glauca* to agree in gender with the new genus. This practice ensures proper attribution and maintains historical credit for the original authors while adhering to established nomenclature standards.

A symbolic approach Another potential method to address problematic eponyms – species named for individuals – is to take a symbolic approach, replacing them with neu-

tral placeholders. This idea is inspired by African American leader and activist Malcolm X. As a young man, he rejected his ancestral "slave name", Little, changing it to "X" as a protest against the loss of his ancestral identity and his birth surname's ties to historical oppression. Similarly, replacing names like *Anophthalmus hitleri* with alternatives such as *Anophthalmus z* could break associations with harmful figures while preserving the taxonomic structure. This approach offers a way to confront historical injustices while maintaining scientific clarity and integrity. Above all, the use of robust central persistent identifiers for taxonomic groups, as we propose, would address more than just ethical concerns. These identifiers could also support name changes driven by scientific advancements, creating a win-win situation – resolving ethical issues while preserving scientific integrity. More than words The debate over renaming species names that have ethical issues is not simply about words. It is about ensuring that science remains relevant in a changing world. By addressing the ethical concerns surrounding taxonomy, we can build a more thoughtful and inclusive scientific community.

SCR augments 19 express trains

Hyderabad: The South Central Railways (SCR) has augmented 19 express trains (33 rakes) across the zone with 66 additional LHB (Linke-Hofmann-Busch) General Class coaches. Accordingly, each train has been augmented with two additional general class coaches apart from the existing two coaches, totaling to 4 LHB General Class coaches in each of these trains. LHB General Class coaches have been provided for important trains on SCR jurisdiction running

on crucial routes such as Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Lingampalli, Kacheguda, Guntur, Nizamuddin, Tirupati, Kakinada, Danapur, Machilipatnam, Yesvantpur, Nanded, Madurai etc, a press release said. The SCR authorities said with the inclusion of such large number of non-AC general coaches, thousands of passengers will be benefited on a daily basis. In addition, railway authorities have also planned to augment another 21 trains on the zone with 80 additional LHB general class coaches.

What's happening in Syria? Explained

The story so far: Islamist militants in Syria's northwest launched a surprise attack last week against the forces of President Bashar al-Assad and made dramatic territorial gains. The Syrian civil war, which broke out in 2011 amidst Arab Spring-inspired anti-government protests, had entered into a frozen stage in late 2016 after the regime recaptured most of its lost territories. There was relative calm, but no real peace in the Arab Republic. With the latest clashes, peace is broken and hot war has resumed.

How has Syria's control map changed in a week?

In 2015, before Russian President Vladimir Putin decided to send troops to Syria, the Assad regime was on the brink of collapse. He had lost most of the population centres, except Damascus and the Alawite-dominated coastal cities. There were multiple rebel and jihadist factions such as the Free Syrian Army, Jabhat al-Nusra (al-Qaeda's Syria branch) and the Islamic State (IS). The IS was controlling eastern Syrian cities of Raqaa and Deir Ezzor as well as the ancient city of Palmyra. Al-Nusra and the Free Syrian Army were controlling parts of Idlib in the northwest. Other militant groups were controlling Hama, Homs, and even some neighbourhoods of Damascus. In the south, Daara and Quneitra were restive. The Russian intervention played a pivotal role in turning around the civil war. While Kurdish militias, backed by the U.S., fought the IS in the east and in the Kurdish border towns, the Syrian army, backed by Russia, Iran and Hezbollah, fought other rebel groups, recapturing lost territories. For example, by December 2016, more than a year after the Russian arrival, the regime retook Aleppo, Syria's second largest city and its commercial capital. The militants continued to hold on to Idlib when the war got frozen. Last week, the rebels launched their offensive from Idlib. Their initial objective, according to several war monitors, was to capture the western neighbourhoods of Aleppo. But the ease with which they pushed the regime forces out of Aleppo's suburbs prompted them to expand the scope of the offensive and march towards the city. Within days, they captured Aleppo. They have now moved south towards Hama, a regime stronghold, and have cut through regime forces' defensive lines. In the northeast of Aleppo, militants have captured territories from Kurdish rebels. In less than a week, the Idlib militants have more than doubled the territories they hold.

Who are the main actors?

There are three main actors in Syria today. The most important actor is the regime, which is backed by Iran, Shia militias from Iraq and Russia. The second player is the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which is basically an umbrella militia group involving People's Protection Forces (YPG), the main Syrian Kurdish militia that controls the Syrian Kurdistan (Rojava). From the early stages of the civil war, the regime and the YPG had entered into a detente. The Kurds, who got their relative autonomy, and regime forces stayed away from targeting each other. The third actor is Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), the main anti-government force that is in control of Idlib. The Turkey-backed Free Syrian Army is today called the Syrian National Army (SNA), which is practically a sidekick of the jihadist HTS. The ongoing offensive is led by the HTS, along with the SNA.

What is HTS?

The HTS is led by Abu Mohammad al-Joulani, a 42-year-old Syrian militant. Joulani had moved to Iraq in his early 20s to fight the American occupation of the country (2003) and joined al-Qaeda. When al-Qaeda in Iraq was commanded by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, Joulani emerged as one of his close lieutenants. When Baghdadi decided to send a contingent of al-Qaeda jihadists across the border to Syria to fight President Assad after the civil war broke out, he chose Joulani to lead the pack. He set up Jabhat al-Nusra. Later, Joulani fell out with Baghdadi as the former wanted al-Nusra to join the Islamic State. Joulani wanted to retain his group as an autonomous al-Qaeda branch in Syria. When the world's focus shifted towards the Islamic State, Joulani steadily built his empire in Idlib. The Islamic State was defeated and Baghdadi was killed, but Joulani emerged as the face of anti-regime Syrian militancy. He first changed the name of al-Nusra to Jabhat Fateh al-Sham. Later, the name was changed again to Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) as he sought to distance his group from al-Qaeda—though the HTS never renounced its Islamist ideology. Rebels and jihadists who lost territories elsewhere flocked towards Idlib as it offered refuge to all of them. Over the years, Joulani's men built a parallel state in Idlib. Joulani is a U.S.-designated terrorist, but, after establishing his rule over Idlib, he declared that his fight was against Mr. Assad, not against the U.S. He has not faced any major attacks from the U.S., which still has hundreds of soldiers in eastern Syria.

Why did the militants launch an attack now?

Joulani had always said that bringing down the Assad regime was one of his objectives. The Syrian regime wanted to attack Idlib and recapture the governorate. But it could not have carried out such an attack against an enclave of 3 million people without Russia's active support. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan staunchly opposed any offensive at Idlib, saying it would trigger another refugee influx into Turkey. This was also the time Russia's Mr. Putin and Mr. Erdogan entered into an entente. Russia forced Syria to accept a ceasefire, leaving Idlib in the hands of the HTS and the SNA (the Turkish proxy). So there was tense calm in Syria. The geopolitical dynamics have shifted ever since. Russia launched a war on Ukraine on February 24, 2022. Moscow is today preoccupied with the ongoing war, and has also withdrawn thousands of soldiers from Syria. During the height of the civil war, Qassem Soleimani, the charismatic Iranian Quds Force General, was in charge of building and deploying Shia militias in Syria that fought the anti-regime militants. Gen. Soleimani was assassinated by the Americans in January 2020. Over the past year, several senior Iranian Generals were killed in Syria by Israeli air strikes. Hezbollah, which fought on the frontlines against the rebels during the early phase of the civil war, is today busy reorganising itself after months of direct fighting with Israel. Israel's repeated air strikes in Syria over the past several years have substantially weakened Iranian, regime and Hezbollah positions in the country. These geopolitical developments provided an opportunity for the militants to launch their offensive. Without direct support from Iran, Hezbollah and Russia, Syria's troops were vulnerable. The militants, reportedly backed by Turkey, made use of



that vulnerability and made swift advances to capture the whole of Aleppo.

Is the regime in danger?

It took four years for Mr. Assad to recapture Aleppo in 2016. It took just four days for him to lose it to the HTS. This is an embarrassing setback for the regime. The militants' attacks on Hama should set alarm bells ringing in Damascus. Because if Hama falls, the militants will target Homs. The collapse of the regime forces in the north has reinvigorated other smaller rebel groups elsewhere in the country who started attacking government positions, especially in the south. Suddenly, the regime faces a full-

blown civil war. But it's too early to rule out Mr. Assad, who survived years-long civil war once. His regime has deep routes in the coastal regions and among the country's minorities. After the initial setback, regime forces are now coordinating with Iran for reinforcements. Thousands of fighters from Iraqi militias such as Kataib Hezbollah and Badr Organisation have already joined the battle. The regime's immediate focus would be on bolstering its defensive positions and arresting the rebel advances. The militants on the other side sense a great opportunity in expanding their territorial control. Syria appears to be getting ready for another prolonged spell of bloodshed.

Meta seeks nuclear power developers for reactors to start in early 2030s

Meta said on Tuesday it is seeking proposals from nuclear power developers to help meet its artificial intelligence and environment goals, becoming the latest big tech company to take interest in atomic power amid an expected boom in electricity demand. The company wants to add 1 to 4 gigawatts of new U.S. nuclear generation capacity starting in the early 2030s, it said in a release. A typical U.S. nuclear plant has a capacity of about 1 gigawatt. "At Meta, we believe nuclear energy will play a pivotal role in the transition to a cleaner, more reliable, and diversified electric grid," the company said in a release. U.S. data center power use is expected to roughly triple between 2023 and 2030 and will require about 47 gigawatts of new generation capacity, according to Goldman Sachs estimates.

But it will be tough to swiftly meet soaring power demand with nuclear reactors, as companies face an overburdened U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, potential uranium fuel supply obstacles and local opposition. Microsoft and Constellation Energy announced a deal in September to restart a unit at the Three Mile Island plant in Pennsylvania in what would be the first-ever restart for a data center. That announcement followed a similar agreement in March in which Amazon.com, purchased a nuclear-powered data center from Talen Energy. Meta said it is seeking developers with expertise in community engagement,



Meta said on Tuesday it is seeking proposals from nuclear power developers to help meet its artificial intelligence and environment goals

development and permitting, and would consider either small modular reactors, an emerging part of the business that is not yet commercial, or larger nuclear reactors similar to today's fleet of U.S. nuclear plants. Meta said it will take submissions from developers that want to take part in the request for proposals until January 3, 2025. The company said it was using the request-for-proposal process because, compared to renewable energy projects like solar and wind, nuclear is more capital-intensive, takes longer to develop, and is subject to more regulatory requirements. "An RFP process will allow us to approach these projects thoroughly and thoughtfully with these considerations in mind," it said.

Timeline of South Korea's martial law declaration; quick overturn by President Yoon Suk Yeol

For a brief duration on late Tuesday night (December 3, 2024), South Korea, a country with a history of military rule, had fleeting visions of its past as President Yoon Suk Yeol appeared on television and imposed an emergency martial law. This would have curbed the activities of political parties, brought the media under the ambit of the law, and required protesting workers to resume duties. Yielding to pressure, even from members of his People's Power Party, Mr. Yoon repealed the law within six hours as lawmakers braved Army troops to vote 190-0 against it at the 300-member strong Parliament. He now faces an impeachment motion. History of South Korea's martial law South Korea's constitution states that martial law can be imposed to "cope with a military necessity or to maintain the public safety and order by mobilization of the military forces in time of war, armed conflict, or similar national emergency." The law can be repealed if overturned by a majority in the National Assembly. Between the end of the Second World War and South Korea's transition to democracy in 1987, martial law was imposed 16 times. It was last imposed in 1987, when military leader Park Chung-hee was assassinated the year before. Scores of captured rebels with hands up are being led away on May 27, 1980, by armed soldiers from the provincial government HQ in this city of Gwangju (Kwangju), which South Korean troops recaptured in a firefight earlier in the day. Scores of captured rebels with hands up are being led away on May 27, 1980, by armed soldiers from the provincial government HQ in this city of Gwangju (Kwangju), which South Korean troops recaptured in a firefight earlier in the day. | Photo Credit: AP

What was the run-up to the decision?

At the time of Mr. Yoon's ascension to the President's chair in 2022 (with a razor-thin majority of 0.8 percentage points), the National Assembly was already dominated by the Opposition Democratic Party. A victory for them in this year's April parliamentary elections landed Mr. Yoon in a precarious position, as it made him the first South Korean leader in decades without a majority in the National Assembly. This led to constant bickering, with the President vetoing bills and accusing the Opposition of filing 22 impeachment motions against his administration officials. Coupled with the latest argument over a Budget Bill, the standoff culminated in Mr. Yoon declaring martial law to stop "shameless pro-North anti-state forces that plunder the freedom and happiness of our people", and even terming the National Assembly a "monster that destroys the liberal democratic system". President's track record A prosecutor by profession, Mr. Yoon came to power, succeeding Moon Jae-in from the Democratic Party. The 63-year-old has overseen the conviction of former President Park Geun-hye in her impeachment trial. In comparison to Mr. Moon, who struck a conciliatory tone with North Korea by meeting its leader Kim Jong-un, the 63-year-old Conservative Mr. Yoon has adopted a hawkish approach. He has called for further military drills and economic sanctions on Pyongyang, in moves that have been perceived as an overture to bolster ties with the U.S. "Peace is meaningless unless it is backed by power," Mr. Yoon was quoted as saying during his presidential campaign. He

was also seen warming up to Japan, which previously ruled South Korea. Back home, increasing home prices and rising unemployment have kept his administration busy. The country is home to an ageing population and has recorded the world's lowest birth rate. The government's efficacy was first put to test when it was faced with the fallout of one of the worst tragedies — the Halloween weekend stampede of October 29, 2002, in which 159 people were killed at a popular nightlife district in Seoul. Authorities' response to the incident came under sharp criticism. The second trial came with the doctors' protest which began in February 2024, over the government's decision to admit more students to address shortages. The medical workers wanted the government to address their harsh working conditions and dismal pay before recruiting more students. Another botch is the bribery charges against Mr. Yoon's wife, Kim Keon Hee, who was caught on camera receiving a \$2,200 Dior pouch as a gift, drawing comparisons with Marie Antoinette. These, taken together with his anti-feminist policies and attacks against media organisations for spreading 'fake news', contributed to the



President's approval points dropping to a dismal 17% last month. Aftermath The United States, the country's biggest ally, said it was unaware of the decision to impose martial law while senior aides to Mr. Yoon offered to resign en masse, including his chief of staff.

Opposition filed an impeachment motion against the President — a sentiment

echoed by citizens and labour unions who have gone on strike in Seoul. Allies of Mr. Yoon such as the leader of his PPP party, Han Dong-hoon, termed the decision wrong and said "together with the people, we will stop this". He called for the resignation of Defence Minister Kim Yong-hyun, who is believed to have suggested the idea to Mr. Yoon.

Are air purifiers safe to use around pets?

For pets with respiratory sensitivities or allergies, clean air can make a noticeable difference in their comfort and overall health. For pets with respiratory sensitivities or allergies, clean air can make a noticeable difference in their comfort and overall health. (Source: Freepik) Air purifiers have become essential appliances in many homes, especially with the rising AQI levels. But are they safe for your furry companions? According to Dr Umesh Kallahalli, Senior Vet at Mars Petcare, air purifiers are generally safe and can benefit humans and pets by reducing allergens, pet dander, and pollutants in the air. However, he emphasises that selecting the right purifier is crucial to ensure comfort and safety for pets.

Noise levels: A key consideration Dr Kallahalli points out that some air purifiers emit sounds that may cause anxiety in pets, particularly if they produce high-pitched tones or operate loudly. To mitigate this, he recommends choosing models with noise levels below 50 decibels (dB), akin to a quiet conversation. Many modern purifiers now feature "silent" or "night" modes designed to operate with minimal noise, making them more pet-friendly. This thoughtful design can significantly reduce stress in noise-sensitive animals. pet Rising air pollution not only affects you, but your pets as well. When selecting an air purifier for a household with pets, Dr Kallahalli advises considering these factors: Avoid Ozone-Generating Purifiers Ozone can harm humans and animals, so avoiding purifiers with ozone-generating features is best. Instead, opt for models with HEPA or activated carbon filters, which effectively capture allergens and odours without compromising safety. Quiet Operation Loud or high-pitched noises may



stress pets, especially those with sensitive hearing. To maintain a calm environment for your pets, a purifier with a noise level below 50 decibels (dB) is ideal. Room Size and Purifier Coverage Ensure the purifier is appropriately sized for the room. A unit that's too small may fail to filter the air effectively, while an oversized one could create unnecessary noise or air circulation, potentially unsettling pets. Washable Pre-Filters Purifiers with

washable pre-filters can benefit homes with pets. These pre-filters capture larger particles like pet hair, reducing the need for frequent filter replacements and saving costs. Certified Safety Standards When purchasing an air purifier, check for certifications and compliance with safety standards. This ensures the device is effective and safe for all household members. Clean air can make a noticeable difference in pets' comfort.