

## Maganti Sunitha questions police bias, alleges Congress rowdyism in Jubilee Hills

Hyderabad: BRS candidate Maganti Sunitha Gopinath lashed out at the police, accusing them of acting in favor of the ruling Congress during the Jubilee Hills byelection. Expressing outrage over the alleged inaction of the police, Sunitha questioned why law enforcement turned a blind eye to Congress rowdyism.

"Why should only we follow the rules when Congress leaders and goons are openly violating them?" she asked, after she was stopped from entering a polling booth at Borabanda division, to inspect the arrangements during polling here on Tuesday. She said the Congress workers were threatening voters, while the police stood silent.

Sunitha said rowdy elements were intimidating voters in Borabanda, and ASHA workers were warned of job loss if they did not support the ruling Congress. "Is this not rowdyism?" she questioned. She had also condemned Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka's visit to polling booth 120 in Siddhartha Nagar with a huge convoy, calling it a clear violation of the election code.

"How can the police facilitate it when the code is in force?" she asked.



## BRS slams Congress for election code violation, demands action against Deputy CM

A BRS delegation lodged a formal complaint with the Chief Electoral Officer at BRK Bhavan, on large-scale election code violations and attacks by the ruling Congress against the BRS cadre, in Jubilee Hills bypoll. The BRS leaders said non-local leaders were distributing cash and attempting to influence voters.

Hyderabad: The BRS on Tuesday demanded immediate action against Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and other Congress leaders for allegedly violating the Model Code of Conduct during polling in the Jubilee Hills by-election.

In a strongly worded statement, the BRS said Bhatti Vikramarka's visit to the constituency was a disgrace to democracy, accusing him of influencing voters and misusing official position during the polling process. "The Deputy Chief Minister, along with other Ministers and party leaders, lured voters with money and resorted to open violations of election rules," the statement read.

The party also alleged that Congress supporters attacked voters who questioned these irregularities, while the police and election officials remained

silent. BRS leaders said such behavior has eroded public confidence in the electoral system.

A BRS delegation lodged a formal complaint with the Chief Electoral Officer at BRK Bhavan, on large-scale election code violations and attacks by the ruling Congress against the BRS cadre, in Jubilee Hills bypoll. The BRS leaders said non-local leaders were distributing cash and attempting to influence voters.

Speaking to mediapersons, Former BRS MLA Bollam Mallaiah Yadav said the police were acting like Congress agents, turning a blind eye to blatant misconduct. He stated that Congress leaders were trying to intimidate voters out of fear of defeat, adding that people would respond to Congress hooliganism through their votes.

"Despite filing over 60 complaints



with the Election Commission, no effective action has been taken. Leaders like Beerla Ilaiah, Ramachandra Naik, Shankar Naik, and Gutha Amit Reddy were caught red-handed violating rules," he charged.

Meanwhile, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C Sudarshan Reddy said he had taken a serious view of the presence of non-local leaders in the constituency

and ordered that cases be registered against them. He confirmed that three FIRs had been filed so far.

The CEO stated that EVMs were replaced at nine polling stations due to technical snags during mock polling and that paramilitary forces were deployed in sensitive areas. Polling was reported to be peaceful, with 20.76 per cent voter turnout recorded till 11 a.m.

# ChatGPT Go 1-year free access rolls out in India

New Delhi: OpenAI's ChatGPT Go subscription service went live in India on Tuesday, offering one-year free access to users in India who sign up during the limited-time promotional period.

The promotion is available now for redemption from the ChatGPT web or the Google Play store, and will be available to redeem next week from the Apple App store.

ChatGPT Go is OpenAI's recently launched subscription tier that offers increased message limits, image generation, and file uploads for users in India, a market ChatGPT counts as its second-largest and among the fastest-growing.

The year-long free promotion coincides with OpenAI's first DevDay Exchange event in Bengaluru on Tuesday.



"Since initially launching ChatGPT Go in India a few months ago, the adoption

and creativity we've seen from our users has been inspiring," said Nick

Turley, Vice President and Head of ChatGPT at OpenAI.

"Ahead of our first DevDay Exchange event in India, we're making ChatGPT Go freely available for a year to help more people across India easily access and benefit from advanced AI," Turley said.

Existing ChatGPT Go subscribers in India are also eligible for the free 12-month access extension.

"This promotion is a continuation of OpenAI's 'Indiafirst' commitment and supports the IndiaAI Mission, reinforcing the growing momentum around AI in India as the country prepares to host the AI Impact Summit next year," OpenAI said in a statement.

## GeoMap Society to host GeoMap Quiz 2025 for students

Hyderabad: GeoMap Society will be holding the GeoMap Quiz 2025, an annual event aimed at promoting map and GIS awareness among school children, on November 19. Initiated in 1992, the quiz has attracted participation from over 2,00,000 students over the years.

This year's edition is scheduled to

coincide with International GIS Week, observed globally, with International GIS Day falling on November 19. The quiz will be conducted in two phases—Preliminary rounds at respective schools and Finals in an outdoor setting.

Questions are designed by mapping

professionals from Survey of India and NRSC, ensuring high standards and relevance.

GeoMap Quiz aims to inculcate a spatial perspective in students, which is increasingly valuable across careers in sectors such as engineering, health,

agriculture, police, infrastructure, and environment.

Schools interested in participating can visit [www.geomapquiz.in](http://www.geomapquiz.in), email [geomapsociety@gmail.com](mailto:geomapsociety@gmail.com) or contact Maj (Dr) Shiva Kiran, Convener, GeoMap Quiz at 9849047827

## Hare Krishna Golden Temple to host 7th annual Brahmotsavam from Nov 14–19

Hyderabad: The Hare Krishna Golden Temple is gearing up for its 7th Annual Brahmotsavam celebrations, scheduled from November 14 to 19. The temple in Hyderabad, inaugurated in 2018, is home to the ancient Swayambhu Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy and Sri Sri Radha Govinda, along with other revered deities.

Brahmotsavam, a sacred festival commemorating the consecration of temple deities, traces its origins to Lord Brahma's worship of Lord Narayana. Continuing this tradition, the Golden Temple will host a series of elaborate rituals and cultural festivities.

The celebrations will commence on November 14 with Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Moolavar and Utsavar Abhishekam, followed by Vainatheya Prathista and Ankurapana.

Key highlights include:

November 15: Dwaja Arohanam and Unjala Seva

November 16: Maha Sudarshana Homa, Hanumad Vahanam, and Sri Radha Govinda Jhulan Utsav

November 17: Chappan Bhog and the sacred Sri Bhu Sametha Narasimha Swamy Kalyanotsavam

November 18: Garuda Vahanam and Jhulan Utsav



# In Jharkhand, a jostle for the women vote

Sukhiya Tirkey has never felt so important. After selling vegetables by the roadside in Ranchi for more than two decades, this is for the first time that the 48-year-old feels recognised as a constituency that can influence election outcomes. As campaigning picks up with Jharkhand heading towards a two-phase Assembly poll next month, Sukhiya and several others like her have emerged as an influential voting bloc, prompting political parties to actively solicit their support this year.

On October 14, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)-led coalition government in the State approved an increase in the assistance given to women from families living below the poverty line under the Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana (MMSY) from ₹1,000 per month to ₹2,500. The hike was triggered by the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) promise of giving a monthly allowance of ₹2,100 to women in the State if it comes to power. The party has already started distributing forms recording details of the likely beneficiaries. While the raise in allowance is to come into effect from December, Jharkhand's 81 Assembly constituencies will go to polls on November 13 and 20. The vote bank As per the electoral rolls, the State has a total of 2.59 crore voters — 1.31 crore male and 1.28 crore female — this year. Women outnumber men in 32 of the 81 constituencies. Of these 32 seats, 26 constituencies are reserved for Scheduled Tribes (STs) and two for Scheduled Castes (SCs). Among these seats are Chaibasa, Ghatshila, Manoharpur, Kharsawan, Kunti, Shikaripara, Majhgaon, Maheshpur Littipara, and Simdega. The State has a total of 28 constituencies reserved for STs and nine for SCs. More women exercised their franchise than men in Jharkhand during the Lok Sabha election held earlier this year, a good enough reason for political parties to woo this segment of the population. According to Jharkhand Chief Electoral Officer K. Ravi Kumar, the reason behind higher women turnout was active participation by them and the migration of men from the State.

Of the 1.7 crore electors who cast their votes in the 14 Lok Sabha seats, 87.11 lakh were women and 83.85 lakh were men, he told reporters after the election. "The number of women voters who exercised their franchise was higher in 12 Lok Sabha seats. The number of male electors who turned up at polling stations was slightly higher in two constituencies, Ranchi and Jamshedpur," he said. "If we look at the figures Assembly segment-wise, women voters



outnumbered men in 68 constituencies while the number of men who cast their votes was higher in only 13 Assembly seats," Kumar said. Realising the importance of women voters, soon after the Lok Sabha poll, the Hemant Soren-led government in August this year rolled out its flagship Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana (MMSY) for women aged 18 to 50. So far, 48.15 lakh women have registered and are receiving the benefits of the scheme. Women of 50 years and above are already getting ₹1,000 per month under the universal pension scheme in the State. The Opposition BJP then announced its own version named Gogo Didi Yojana. Gogo is the Santhali word for mother and didi is sister in Hindi. In the competitive politics roiling the State in the build-up to the poll, the Soren government has now announced the hike to ₹2,500 per month — a decision that will entail an additional outgo of around ₹900 crore.

What women think Unaware of the political tug of war, Sukhiya says, "I never imagined that we will get ₹1,000 per month from the government. There are four women in our family and we all are getting ₹1,000 each, which means an additional ₹4,000 per month. We have heard the government is planning to increase the amount." For 48-year-old Neelam Lakra, it is the cash assistance that she owes her independence to. Living in a slum in Ranchi's Namkum, Neelam is happy that she is no longer dependent on anyone else for minor needs. "My husband is a daily wage and his earnings are not enough to run the

family of five. This scheme has given us a lot of support to properly feed my three children. Getting ₹12,000 annually is a big relief for people like us," she says. As the political parties jostle to win over the women, beneficiaries like Neelam feel the competitive cash hand-out promises only help their cause. More competition also means more cash, she says. Of late, the promise of financial assistance to women has become a norm in poll-bound States. In the wake of financial distress, cash handouts seem to have helped the BJP tide over anti-incumbency in several States. For instance, the Ladli Behna scheme in Madhya Pradesh, providing ₹1,000 per month to women whose household income is ₹2.5 lakh, is said to have enabled the party to retain power in the November 2023 Assembly election. After becoming the Chief Minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan's successor Mohan Yadav raised the monthly amount to ₹1,250 and promised to gradually increase it to ₹3,000. Hoping to replicate the success in Madhya Pradesh, the ruling Mahayuti alliance — the BJP, the Shiv Sena of Eknath Shinde, and the Nationalist Congress Party of Ajit Pawar — in Maharashtra came out with Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana with an outlay of ₹46,000 crore to provide ₹1,500 a month to 2.5 crore women between the ages of 21 and 65 earning less than ₹2.5 lakh a year. The BJP successfully tried something similar in the recently concluded Haryana Assembly election as well. The Congress had promised ₹2,000 to every woman aged

between 18 and 60 if it came to power whereas the BJP had promised ₹2,100 per month to women under Lado Lakshmi Yojana.

Despite going all out to woo the women vote in Maharashtra, the BJP has been targeting Soren in Jharkhand over the cash assistance scheme and calling it a political stunt before the election. The party's Jharkhand president, Babulal Marandi, had earlier accused the Chief Minister of luring voters by rolling out several schemes in the run-up to the election. "Hemant Soren cheated the people of Jharkhand for five years. Bholi bholi janata ko dana daal rahe hai takey phas jaye (He is laying the bait to trap the innocent public now that the election is nearing)," Marandi said at an event recently. Soren already transferred the third instalment of the scheme earlier this month. In a recent statement, the Chief Minister said, "We have connected half of the State's population with the Samman Yojana, which has created history in this country. Fifty lakh women have been connected with this. We are empowering the mothers and sisters of the State." The first instalment was given on the eve of Rakshabandhan in August, second in September, and the third was rolled out in October. The fourth instalment would be transferred on the eve of Chhath Puja on November 5. Mounting an attack on Soren, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who is also the BJP co-incharge of the Jharkhand Assembly election, accused him of tricking the women of Jharkhand by not giv-

# Dolby and Jin from BTS Celebrate His New Single “I’ll Be There” in Dolby Atmos

Dolby Laboratories, Inc. (NYSE: DLB), a leader in immersive entertainment experiences, is teaming up with Jin of 21st century pop icons BTS in the latest chapter of the “Love More in Dolby” global brand campaign. Jin stars in the commercial to celebrate his new single “I’ll Be There,” which is now available globally in Dolby Atmos. Following the single “I’ll Be There,” Jin’s highly anticipated first solo album Happy is set to release in Dolby Atmos worldwide on November 15th.

“When I first heard my new music in Dolby Atmos, I was truly amazed by the incredibly vivid and immersive experience. It felt like you are right inside the music,” said Jin. “The theme of this new single and the new album is ‘happiness.’ I wanted ARMY (BTS’ fandom) to fully experience the unique flavors of happiness through each song. Now, with Dolby Atmos, I believe fans around the world will feel the exact emotions that I wanted to share, more deeply.”

“Jin has captivated audiences

worldwide through his incredible performances and extraordinary ability to convey emotion through his music,” said Todd Pendleton, Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer, Dolby Laboratories. “With Dolby Atmos, fans will feel even more connected to Jin as they are drawn into the fun sing-along moments and musical details of ‘I’ll Be There’ and his upcoming album.”Dolby Atmos is a completely new way to create and experience music that delivers artistic expression at its fullest capacity, forging a deeper connection between artists and their fans. Music in Dolby Atmos goes beyond the ordinary listening experience by putting listeners inside the song, revealing every detail of the music with unparalleled clarity and depth. Whether it’s hearing the layers of instruments move all around, catching the subtle breath a singer takes between lyrics, or being enveloped in a wave of melodies, nothing compares to hearing music in Dolby Atmos.

Directed by GRAMMY®-nominated



music video director and filmmaker Colin Tilley, the campaign’s commercial explores how Dolby Atmos can transform an everyday moment into an extraordinary experience by putting fans right into the heart of the music scenes, where Jin delivers the powerful performances BTS is known for. The piece is the latest installment of Dolby’s “Love More in Dolby” global brand campaign, which celebrates transformative entertainment experiences brought to life by Dolby Vision and Dolby Atmos across music, movies, gaming, and more.

How to Experience Dolby Atmos Music

# India's Office Space Demand to Reach Record High of Over 70 mn sq. ft. in 2024: Savills India



The office space market in India is set to break records in 2024, with absorption projected to exceed 70 mn sq. ft., according to the latest report from Savills India, a global real estate advisory firm. The demand reached 55.1 mn sq. ft. between January and September 2024, marking a 30% year-on-year (YoY) increase across six major cities.

The Year-To-Date (YTD) leasing activity has set a new benchmark for the January-September period, aligning with 2022’s full-year performance. With only 7 mn sq. ft. remaining to surpass 2023’s total, 2024 is expected to achieve absorption levels in the range of 70-74 mn sq. ft.

Q3 2024 Surge

The third quarter of 2024 saw of-

fice absorption hit 20.2 mn sq. ft., a 28% increase from Q3 2023. Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR, and Mumbai collectively contributed 66% of the overall leasing activity during this period.

The IT-BPM sector led the market with a 29% share in Q3, followed by Flexible Workspaces (23%) and the BFSI sector (22%). Additionally, large deals accounted for 50% of total leasing activity, with Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR, and Pune driving more than 50% of their respective leasing through such transactions. While demand soared, new office completions slowed down during the first nine months of 2024, with a total of 32.6 mn sq. ft. added, reflecting a 12% YoY decline. As a result, vacancy rates decreased to 15.5% by the end of September.

2024 Projections

Savills India forecasts that leasing activity will reach 70-74 mn sq. ft. by the end of 2024, representing a 17% increase from last year. New completions are also expected to accelerate, with a projected total of 60-62 mn sq. ft., a 22% increase from 2023.

Metrics (in mn sq.ft)		Q	3
2024	YTD 2024	2024F	
Gross Absorption	20.2	55.1	
70-74			
Supply	15.3	32.6	60-62

Overall Grade A Stock			782.7
782.7	806-810		
Source: Savills India Research			
Cities	Gross Absorption		
YTD 2024	Supply		
YTD 2024	Grade A Stock		
YTD 2024			
Bengaluru	15.9	9.8	231.5
Chennai	6.7	1.7	91.3
Delhi-NCR	7.6	2.0	144.6
Hyderabad	8.7	8.5	125.7
Mumbai	9.6	6.7	121.4
Pune	6.6	3.8	68.2
Source: Savills India Research			
“India’s office market reached			

record-high absorption levels in Q3 of 2024, reflecting strong business sentiment amongst occupiers. With employees returning to physical offices, demand has surged across all segments, including tech. We anticipate this momentum to continue in the last quarter of the year, potentially driving absorption levels to new record of over 70 mn sq.ft in 2024. Demand is likely to be driven by tech, BFSI, flex workspace and engineering & manufacturing occupiers.” said Naveen Nandwani, MD, Commercial Advisory and Transactions, Savills India.” said Naveen Nandwani, MD, Commercial Advisory and Transactions, Savills India.

City Highlights of Q3 2024 & YTD 2024 for India office market

# Tensions Flare Between Congress and BRS Workers at Vengal Rao Nagar

HYDERABAD: Mild tension prevailed at Vengal Rao Nagar when heated arguments were exchanged between Congress and BRS workers over allegations of money distribution during Jubilee Hills assembly by-poll on Tuesday. The Congress leaders at booth number 180 on spotting a few BRS party workers tried to attack them, alleging that they were distributing money. However, the BRS workers, who were only helping people check their name in the voter list, alleged that the Congress party workers were levying false allegations and trying to attack them to instill fear among voters.

# Continental Hospitals and Hyderabad Football Club Announce Partnership to Promote Health and Sports in the Community

In a landmark collaboration aimed at promoting health and sports within the Hyderabad community, Continental Hospitals and Hyderabad Football Club (HFC) announced their partnership at a press conference on October 28, 2024. The event featured key figures including Dr. Guru N Reddy, Founder and Chairman of Continental Hospitals, Dr. Raghu N Reddy, Director of Continental Hospitals, and Dhruv Sood, CEO of HFC, and showcased the unveiling of the new HFC team jersey prominently featuring the Continental logo. This partnership signifies both organizations' unwavering commitment to fostering health, wellness, and sporting excellence.

Dr. Guru N Reddy remarked, "This partnership is not just about football; it's about building a healthier community. Together, we can elevate the standards of sporting health and wellness for our youth. We recognize that, on average, a player sustains two injuries per season, leading to approximately 50 injuries in a team of 25. The most common injuries are muscle strains, ligament sprains, and contusions, with an injury incidence of 6.6 injuries per 1,000 hours in men's professional football. Alarmingly, more than 50% of players have suffered at least one injury over the past 12 months during both training and matches, with around 6-8% experienc-



ing more than three injuries. Our Sports Center is equipped with sports medicine-trained physicians and comprehensive rehab facilities, including aqua therapy, robotic gait training, and much more to support these athletes effectively." Expressing his enthusiasm, HFC Head Coach Thangboi Singto

stated, "Continental Hospitals is a name built on trust over years of outstanding healthcare. I am proud and truly happy to witness this historic moment for HFC as we partner with such a reputable institution."

Dhruv Sood added, "We are thrilled

to be partnering with Continental Hospitals, the pillars of healthcare in Hyderabad. Through Vitanova, our new rehabilitation center, players will have access to top-tier recovery facilities that will enhance their performance and overall health. This collaboration underscores our commitment to well-being for our team and our fans." The partnership also

## OPPO launches Cross-Country Warranty Services Between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and India

In line with its commitment to offer unparalleled service experience, OPPO India today announced the launch of its new cross-country warranty service, now available for select devices purchased within India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. This initiative allows OPPO customers to access comprehensive warranty, repair, and upgrade services at authorised OPPO service centres across the regions. The cross-country warranty service covers a range of OPPO models, including the A3x, A3, A3 Pro 5G, Reno12 series, and F27Pro+ 5G etc and is available to customers in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, and India. Starting from 31 October, customers can bring their OPPO devices, along with their purchase receipt and warranty card, to any local authorised service centre in India and the GCC to benefit from free warranty services and system upgrades. For devices whose warranty period has expired or are not covered, OPPO offers repair services at a charge,

allowing customers to replace damaged spare parts, including the mainboard, screen, and battery at competitive prices determined by local service centres. To ensure a smooth experience, customers are advised to back up their data prior to any upgrade, as system updates may lead to data loss. The warranty period commences upon the customer's activation of the E-Warranty card, and all service-related charges will depend on the local policies of the service centre. As OPPO India continues to innovate and enhance customer experiences, this initiative marks a significant step in providing reliable support and after-sales service for its customer across India and the GCC. By ensuring easy access to essential services, OPPO aims to deliver greater convenience, reaffirming its commitment to customer satisfaction, quality care and reliability that it is known for. OPPO India recently earned No 1 position in customer satisfaction for after-sales with 62% of its customers rating their in-store after-sales service as 'very satisfactory'.

### Warranty Coverage in India & GCC

Secured, Professional, Convenient

Enjoy the reliable warranty service and exceptional support for your OPPO device across India and GCC!



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# Tech Mahindra Inks MoU with the University of Auckland to Drive Innovation in AI, ML and Quantum Computing

Tech Mahindra (NSE: TECHM), a leading global provider of technology consulting and digital solutions, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the University of Auckland (UoA), New Zealand's #1 University (QS World University Ranking 2025 #65).

This MoU will accelerate research and innovation in artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), and quantum computing across various industries, including healthcare, banking, financial services, and insurance. This also includes cooperation with the government sector. Tech Mahindra and UoA's collaboration will enhance the cooperation between industry and academia, with the goal of improving UoA graduates' employability. The collaboration will also focus on cutting-edge AI and ML technologies, such as spiking neural networks and 1-bit LLMs (Large Language Model). In addition, Tech Mahindra will be advancing quantum

security through post-quantum cryptography. Additionally, the organizations will leverage AI and quantum ML in healthcare, with applications such as drug discovery and digital biomarkers for personalized therapy, enabling innovations in the healthcare sector globally. Harshvendra Soin, President - Asia Pacific and Japan Business, Tech Mahindra, said, "AI and quantum computing represent a paradigm shift in how we approach complex problems, and their potential to revolutionize industries is immense. Our technical prowess, coupled with the University of Auckland's expertise in AI and post-quantum security, will drive innovation that enables our customers and benefit society." Joint research initiatives between UoA and Tech Mahindra will further integrate academic data resources and expert research insights to develop industry use cases for global markets. The collaboration will introduce Generative AI and its benefits to



Indigenous communities and offer internships at Tech Mahindra, providing potential candidates with the opportunity to learn AI, ML, and other emerging technologies. Partha Roop, Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Associate Dean Inter-

national at the UoA's Faculty of Engineering, said, "The University is keen to establish this partnership with a leading global tech company originally from India. India has led the IT innovation globally for the past three decades, and I envisage that it will also lead the AI revolution."

## M. Venkata Krishna Reddy honoured with Doctorate



M. Venkata Krishna Reddy, Assistant Professor in the Computer Science and Engineering Department at CBIT, has successfully completed his Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad (JNTUH) in September 2025. His doctoral journey was guided under the supervision of Dr. P.V.S. Srinivas, Principal of VBIT College, Hyderabad, with Dr. M. Chandra Mohan, Professor in CSE at JNTUH, serving as his co-supervisor. Venkata Krishna Reddy hails from Kothakota Village in Wanaparthy District, Telangana. His Ph.D. thesis focused on

the timely and critical issue of secure communications in mobile ad-hoc networks, entitled "Secured Routing using Adaptive Trust Approach in Mobile Ad-hoc Networks." The major contributions of his research include:- Developing a trust-based approach to identify and establish secure routes by locating trustworthy nodes within networks.- Innovating methods to detect and eliminate malicious nodes from routing processes utilizing an adaptive trust framework.- Designing an energy-efficient method to secure data transmission between source and destination in mobile ad-hoc networks, thereby enhancing overall network performance. On this momen-

## Congress Minister Vivek draws flak for extending cash gifts to select party workers in Chennur

Labour Minister G. Vivek drew flak in Chennur after distributing ₹20,000

each to 46 Congress workers ahead of Dasara. Party activists and rivals alleged favoritism, accusing him of sidelining many who contributed to his election victory.

Mancherial: Labour Minister Dr G Vivek has come under criticism from Congress activists in Chennur for distributing cash gifts to a select few on the occasion of the forthcoming Dasara festival.

Vivek reportedly handed over Rs 20,000 each to 46 Congress activists at his camp office in Chennur on Saturday, as a token of gratitude for their role in his Assembly election victory. However, the move drew resentment from several others who were excluded from the list, leading to widespread dissatisfaction.

Senior Congress leader Mutyala Ravi Kumar, in a social



media post, faulted the minister for restricting the gift to only 46 activists, questioning whether others who also worked for his success were any less important. He criticised Vivek's rationale in choosing the recipients while sidelining those who played a vital role in his campaign.

BRS activists too found fault with the gesture, alleging that the minister was trying to appease Congress cadres ahead of the upcoming local body polls. They claimed Vivek was under pressure after former MLA Balka Suman's recent visit to Chennur received a strong response from locals, and accused him of repeatedly resorting to cash to influence voters.

Meanwhile, a message highlighting the discontent among excluded activists went viral on social media platforms on Sunday, with users on WhatsApp and Facebook criticising the minister for selective distribution of gifts.

# For product consistency, Air India plans to minimise overlap with Vistara aircraft on common routes

Air India, Vistara, aircraft overlap, merger, route-level, product quality. In its nearly 10 years of operations, Vistara had made a mark for itself as the premier full-service carrier in India that offered a superior product in a market dominated by budget carriers. (Express Archives) Air India plans to minimise the overlap between its older aircraft and Vistara planes at the individual route level after the carriers' impending merger in a bid to provide certainty to flyers regarding the quality of product they are likely to experience, according to sources in the know. Vistara's 70 aircraft—63 narrow-body and seven wide-body jets—offer a superior passenger experience than most of Air India's fleet, which still has a number of old legacy aircraft from its government ownership days.

Air India has already announced that after the merger, which will take effect on November 12, the Vistara product will continue as it is for a few months at least and customers will be able to identify flights operated by the Vistara aircraft and crew easily as they will have a four-digit flight number starting with 2, against Air India's three-digit flight

numbers. Sources indicated that the product differentiation is likely to continue at least till June, when the retrofit programme for Air India's legacy narrow-body fleet is scheduled to be completed. With new aircraft coming in and older aircraft undergoing refurbishment, Air India will eventually be able to offer a uniform product across its fleet and the planes will largely become fungible.

In the interim, the Tata group airline will try and ensure that each route has consistency in its product offering, which would mean that the carrier will look to deploy Vistara's aircraft and its own new aircraft on certain priority routes like those connecting metropolitan cities with one another, and deploy Air India's older aircraft on certain other routes, per sources. The idea is to set the customer's expectations right and offer a consistent product on that route irrespective of the flight booked. The rejig will not be limited to just the domestic network of the enlarged Air India, and would include international routes as well where currently both Air India and Vistara operate. Slots at certain international airports are also being adjusted accordingly. "Vistara aircraft and Air



India's new aircraft will most likely be used to operate metro-to-metro routes, while the older planes will be deployed on some other routes. The overlap will be minimised on international routes as well, like Delhi-Frankfurt flights are likely to be operated by the Vistara aircraft, while Delhi-Paris may be served only by Air India aircraft... Of course, a few overlaps here and there cannot be avoided," said a source with direct knowledge of

the matter. In its nearly 10 years of operations, Vistara had made a mark for itself as the premier full-service carrier in India that offered a superior product in a market dominated by budget carriers. With the Tata group deciding to merge Vistara into the group's flagship airline Air India—which the Tatas acquired from the government in January 2022—there were concerns about Vistara's product and service quality after the merger. Under government control, Air India was under financial stress, and this was reflected in its product and service quality, which was seen as below the standards expected from a full-service carrier. While the now-privatised airline has undertaken a mammoth fleet modernisation and expansion plan, it still has a large number of legacy aircraft that are in a rundown state. The \$400-million

## Aurum24 – kitchen.cafe. bake-world Opens at Tellopur

In the newest part of the city of Hyderabad a cafe for coffee and good food is a must. Which is how Aurum24 Cafe was conceptualized. The idea of the cafe began with a conversation between friends AK Solanki, Jyotsna Sri, Venkatesh and Padmaja. Each of them brought with them their thoughts of accounting, interior design, and culinary art. The idea was to bring all these thoughts and experiences under one roof to create a cafe that sets a gold standard in the quality of ingredients in their dishes to the warmth of the atmosphere in Tellopur. Aurum24 Cafe is an eatery for families that is spread in two levels. The ground floor has a restaurant and bake shop and the first floor comes with a banquet hall for private events and outdoor seating. The outdoor space on first floors gives a view of the city's new landscape.

Aurum24 Cafe is more than just a cafe, it is a place built for memories with karaoke, a space for storytelling and what not. It is a cafe that promises to surprise diners with their foods and coffee, the founders plan to make it a cafe for experiences. AK Solanki explained, "The name 'Aurum24' comes from the Latin word for gold. It is a symbol for



the team's commitment to excellence. But we're more than just a place for coffee.

We've built a space where families, professionals, and friends can come

together, relax, and make memories. The vision behind Aurum24 is to redefine cafe culture and make every visit

# Wipro signs multi-year deal with HanesBrands to modernise IT, boost cybersecurity using AI

Hyderabad: IT major Wipro on Wednesday said it has signed a multi-year strategic agreement with HanesBrands Inc to transform the apparel firm's IT infrastructure and cybersecurity operations with an AI-first approach.

Wipro will use its WINGS Operations AI platform, part of the Wipro Intelligence suite of AI-driven platforms and solutions, to simplify operations, strengthen regulatory compliance, and enhance the IT experience for HanesBrands' customers, suppliers, and employees, the company said in a regulatory filing.

Further, Wipro will improve HanesBrands' security framework by implementing AI-driven predictive and preventive operations, along with auto-

mated security workflows to accelerate incident resolution.

It will also assist HanesBrands in maintaining regulatory compliance and reducing business disruptions through greater operational stability.

"Continuing our ongoing relationship, this new engagement will allow us to bring the Wipro Intelligence TM suite to HanesBrands, increasing their operational agility and resilience through AI-powered platforms, solutions and transformative offerings.

"Ultimately, Wipro's consulting-led, AI-powered approach will drive accelerated innovation in operations, enabling HanesBrands to unlock new value and new growth opportunities," Shiva Jayaraman, SVP and Sector Head – Consumer Business, Americas 1, Wipro,

said.

As part of the engagement, HanesBrands will also have access to

the Wipro Innovation Network, encompassing Innovation Labs, AI-native companies, Wipro Ventures, Academia, and technology partners.



# Indian travellers can soon pay via UPI in Malaysia: Razorpay

Bengaluru: In a big step towards taking India's digital payment innovation global, Razorpay on Thursday announced that Indian travellers will soon be able to make UPI payments in Malaysia.

The move comes through Razorpay's Malaysian entity, Curlec, in partnership with NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India.

The collaboration, formalised at the Global Fintech Fest 2025, marks a major milestone in expanding UPI's acceptance beyond Indian borders.

With this integration, millions of Indian tourists visiting Malaysia will be able to make instant, secure payments to local businesses using their preferred UPI apps — without needing international cards or worrying about currency exchange hassles.

In 2024, more than one million Indian tourists visited Malaysia and spent over Rs 110 billion, a sharp 71.7 per cent rise from the previous year.

The growing flow of travellers between the two nations highlights the need for simpler, cashless, and cost-efficient payment solutions.

The introduction of UPI in Malaysia is expected to make transactions more seamless, reduce foreign exchange costs, and benefit both travellers and local merchants.



**Commenting on the development, Shashank Kumar, Managing Director and Co-founder of Razorpay, said, "UPI has totally changed the way India pays, showing what's possible when innovation and inclusion come together at scale."**

UPI, India's flagship real-time payment system, has revolutionised the way Indians make transactions.

In September 2025 alone, it processed nearly 20 billion payments, offering instant and secure money transfers at an unprecedented scale.

By connecting to this robust ecosystem, Malaysian businesses can tap into a massive base of Indian travellers who trust and prefer UPI for their day-to-day payments.

Under the new arrangement, Malaysian merchants will be able to accept payments directly through Razorpay Curlec's platform, with settlements made in the local currency, ringgit (RM).

This will allow Indian users to pay instantly via their UPI-enabled apps, just like they do in India.

Commenting on the development, Shashank Kumar, Managing Director and Co-founder of Razorpay, said, "UPI has totally changed the way India pays, showing what's possible when innovation and inclusion come together at scale."

"Now, with Curlec, we're bringing that same energy to Malaysia — helping businesses and travellers enjoy the speed, trust, and simplicity that make India's digital payments so powerful. This isn't just about payments; it's about creating a truly borderless fintech future across Asia," he said.