

## Medchal Journalists Protest Against GO 252, Demand Immediate Amendment



**NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY** (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 27, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "Journalists from Medchal-Malkajgiri district staged a protest demanding the immediate amendment of Government Order No. 252, alleging that it violates journalists' rights

and threatens their professional security. Responding to a call given by the Telangana Union of Working Journalists (TUWJ-H-143) and the Telangana Journalists Forum, journalists held a dharna in front of the Medchal-Malkajgiri District Collectorate on Saturday. The pro-

test was led by TUWJ district leaders Bomma Amarender, Uddand Venkat, and Kola Venkateshwarlu, along with office-bearers from various assembly constituencies in the district. Addressing the gathering, the leaders stated that GO 252 imposes unjust restrictions on accreditation cards and undermines the dignity and livelihood of journalists who serve as a bridge between the government and the public. They demanded that the state government withdraw the flawed provisions in GO 252 and continue the earlier GO 239 without changes. They pointed out that the new order would result in a drastic reduction of accreditation cards, particularly in constituency headquarters and towns with populations exceeding one lakh. The leaders warned that many journalists in Medchal-Malkajgiri district could lose their accreditation under the new norms, while desk journalists also face the risk of being excluded. The protesters further criticized the proposed two-card system and demanded its immediate abolition. They expressed concern

that despite two years having passed since the formation of the government, several welfare measures for journalists were yet to be implemented. They also urged the government to issue clear guidelines regarding RTC bus passes for journalists at the earliest. After the dharna, a delegation submitted a memorandum to Additional District Collector Vijayender Reddy, highlighting the issues related to accreditation cards and other pending demands. Responding positively, the Additional Collector assured the journalists that their concerns would be conveyed to the state government and that no unjust cuts in accreditation would be made without proper consideration. He also stated that the issue of housing for journalists would be discussed with the District Collector and a decision would be taken soon. The protest saw participation from TUWJ state leaders, district and mandal-level press club representatives, journalists from Kukatpally, Quthbullapur, Malkajgiri, Medchal, Uppal, Kapra, Jawahar Nagar, Keesara, Shamirpet, Alwal, Medipally and other areas, along with union leaders and senior journalists.

## Offer fair on Saturday and Sunday under the auspices of Nacharam Trust Cars: Trust Cars organizers Roshan



“Indian Chronicle Nacharam December 27: Every poor person should have a car in their home. Roshan, the owner of Trust Cars in Nacharam, said that they have been operating Trust Cars for the last five years with the aim of making every poor person travel in a car. Trust Cars in Nacharam is organizing a second-hand car fair on Saturday and Sunday. Speaking on the occasion, Roshan suggested that if you want a comfortable car at a low price to go out with your family, you should immediately contact Trust Cars in Nacharam. He said that they are making direct customer-to-customer deals for second-hand cars at low prices. He said that the car will be given to the customer with a down payment of just Rs 25,000. He said that many customers from different districts of Telangana state are happy to participate in the car fair today. He said that every house should have a car. He said that they are working with the concept that every house should have a trust car. He suggested that people should buy a car in trust cars and go happily instead of taking small children on bikes during winter. He said that around 150 to 200 cars were put up in the car fair. Roshan said that the offer fair is being held till December 31.



## Development in Secunderabad Is Top Priority: Padma Rao Goud Worth Rs 75 Lakh development works launched in Sitaphalmandi



“Indian Chronicle, Secunderabad, December 27: Secunderabad MLA and former Deputy Speaker, Tigulla Padma Rao Goud, stated that top priority is being given to resolving public issues within the Secunderabad Assembly constituency. On Saturday, he inaugurated development works worth approximately ?75 lakh in the Sitaphalmandi Municipal Division. Speaking on the occasion, Padma Rao Goud said that the credit for placing the Secunderabad constituency at the forefront of development goes to their efforts. Corporator Samala Hema, along with officials from the Water Board and GHMC—Vidyasagar, Kushal, Kaushik, Srikanth, coordinator Raja Sundar, and other leaders—were present. As part of the initiatives, sewerage works worth ?32.5 lakh were launched on Road No. 2 in Indira Nagar Colony. Sewerage works costing ?1.60 lakh were initiated to resolve drainage issues in the Jai Bhavani Temple Line / Dead Lock Building area. To prevent sewerage problems on Goodwill Café Main Road, a sewer line extension was taken up at a cost of ?3.40 lakh. Additionally, CC road construction works worth approximately ?20 lakh were launched in Jai Bhavani Matha Galli. Padma Rao Goud also inspected development works being carried out at Medibavi Shakha Ground at a cost of ?20 lakh and directed officials to immediately install open gym equipment there.

## GHMC Commissioner RV Karnan's surprise visit to Alwal

“Kesadanand “Alwal, December 27, GHMC Commissioner RV Karnan made a surprise visit to Alwal Circle on Saturday.

On this occasion, he reviewed the sanitation management, circle officers and staff's duties and gave many suggestions and advices. Malkajigiri Zonal Commissioner Sanchit Gangwar, AMHOM Manjula, SS Prabhakar, SFAs and sanitation staff participated in this program.

# Make the T.S.U.T.F. State Education Conference and State Committee extended meetings a success: - T.S.U.T.F



. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District President Mukkerla Yadaiya, General Secretary Metuku Saidulu”“(Mandava Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... December 27):- On the occasion of the T.S.U.T.F. State Education Conference and State Committee extended meetings being held in Jangaon on the 28th and 29th of this month, the related poster was unveiled today. On this occasion, T.S.U.T.F. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District President Mukkerla Yadaiya and General Secretary Metuku Saidulu spoke, stating that the meetings will discuss developments in the education sector in Telangana state, providing quality education to students, strengthening government schools, and providing basic infrastructure. They also said that a report will be submitted to the state government after discussing the resolution of pending teacher issues, and a plan for

**Government Whip and Alair MLA Beerla Ailaiah participated in the Christmas celebrations in Sikandernagar.**



Sikandernagar and extended Christmas greetings to all the Christian brothers and sisters.

”(Mandava Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... December 27):- Telangana State Government Whip and Alair MLA, Mr. Beerla Ailaiah, participated in the Christmas celebrations held in Sikandernagar village of Motakondur mandal. He participated in the Holy Family festival in

struggles and direct protest programs will be prepared. They informed that prominent political analyst Professor K. Nageshwar and NALSAR University Professor and former RTI Commissioner Madabhushi Sridhar will be attending as speakers, and Telangana State Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Panchayat Raj and Women and Child Welfare Minister Smt. Seethakka, and Forest and Endowments Minister Smt. Konda Surekha will be attending as chief guests. Therefore, they requested that teachers from the district participate in large numbers in this conference and make it a success. District Vice Presidents K. Mamatha and A. Venkatachari, Treasurer B. Muthyalu, Secretaries Srinivas, K. Ravikumar, G.V. Ramanarao, G. Karunakar, and others participated in this program.

**Amend GO 252 on accreditations... TWJF appeals to the I&PR Special Commissioner: - Federation Founder President and State Convener Mamidi Somayya**

”(Mandava Srisailam, Hyderabad, Indian Chronicle, December 27): The Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) has appealed to the Telangana government to amend Government Order 252 issued for the issuance of accreditation cards to media journalists. A delegation from the federation met with the State Information and Public Relations Department Special Commissioner, Ch. Priyanka, at Information Bhavan on Saturday and suggested the necessary changes to be made in GO 252. Federation Founder President and State Convener Mamidi Somayya, Co-Conveners Pulipalupula Anandam, Bandi Vijayakumar, Tanniru Srinivas, Kudithadi Bapurao, along with leaders Raghuram, Padmanabha Rao, and others, held extensive discussions with the Commissioner. The Commissioner advised the federa-



tion delegation to provide appropriate suggestions and propose changes to the accreditation GO. The federation delegation objected to the issuance of different types of cards for desk journalists and reporters. Similarly, they requested that changes be made to the rules regarding the eligibility of weekly, fortnightly, and monthly newspapers. They requested the removal of the rule that mandates submitting a minimum of 45 issues for weekly magazines, 22 issues for fortnightly magazines, and 11 issues for monthly magazines. They expressed concern that this policy only benefits investors and that this government order (GO) would help in keeping genuine journalists away from the profession in the initial stages. They also objected to the inclusion of the rule requiring daily newspapers to file a certificate from the Press Registrar General of India (PRGI). They suggested that the stringent regulations imposed on cable channels should be relaxed. They stated that GO 252 is tantamount to imposing censorship on journalists.

# Provide various facilities for journalists... Resolution by the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of Journalists' Associations



""(Mandava Srisailam, Hyderabad, Indian Chronicle, December 27):- The Telangana State Journalists' Associations Joint Action Committee has passed a resolution demanding that the central and state governments provide accreditation cards, white ration cards, free education and medical facilities to all those working in recognized media outlets, along with insurance for journalists' family members, a pension scheme for all those above 60 years of age, and free bus travel. They also resolved to organize a 'Grand Gathering' with approximately 40,000 journalists, inviting Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy to the event, and to conduct the meeting grandly, asserting that journalists are not puppets in the hands of any two individuals. 48 associations from across the state participated in the round table meeting held at the Somajiguda Press Club on Saturday. ??In his inaugural address at the meeting, Pasham Yadagiri stated that the government is making attempts with the ulterior motive of banning social media, and as part of that, it has staged the drama of accreditation. He demanded that all the errors in GO 252 be rectified immediately. In his presidential address, Mamidi Somaiah said that the same problems that existed twenty-five years ago still persist today, and that in this era of technological advancement, the government should move forward without any problems at all. Speaking as the chief guest, K. Koteswar Rao, President of the All India Working Journalists Association, said that the role of cable TV, social media, and digital media in the formation of this government is undeniable. He stated that they had gradually gotten all the government orders that were against journalists revoked through protests in Delhi. He also demanded an immediate stop to the ongoing accreditation controversies and called for an amicable resolution to the problem. "Ananchinni Venkateswara Rao, State President of the Telangana State Journalists Welfare Association and a prominent investigative journalist, who participated as a special guest, said that some people are obtaining positions by claiming that all journalists are under their control. He alleged

that these individuals are deceiving the government and furthering their own interests through opportunistic politics. He criticized them for doing nothing for the past twenty-five years and merely flattering whoever is in power. He declared that they would expose their true nature through a grand gathering of journalists. "The event was attended by Pulipalupula Anandam, K. Karunakar, Venkataratnam, Kola Srinivas, Kannuri Raju, Padala Vamsi, Khammampati Sai Chander Goud, R. Srinivas Goud, Kandukuri Yadagiri, B. Ramesh Kumar, M. Shravan Kumar, Bandela Rajasekhar, Konda Srinivas, Tanniru Srinivas, and AIWJA representatives CH. Venkateswarlu, Purushottam, Raju Narasimha, and DVIN. Prasad, TJSS representatives General Secretary Gouti Ramakrishna, Joint Secretary Keerthi Santosh Raj, Bapatla Krishnamohan, Women's Coordination Mamatha Reddy, Bhagyanagar Journalist Association President Satyam Goud, Srinivas Goud, Rajanarsimha, C.H. Sridhar, M. Purushottam, Dr. K. Anji Reddy, P. Sudhakar Goud, V. Naresh, P. Ashok Goud, Neelam Balaraj, K. Ravinder Goud, Satyam Rampalli, Venkata Yogi Raghuram, Mahesh Kumar, Santosh Kumar, B.N. Chari, Raju, Riyaz, M.D. Karim, Savalkar Sridhar, Medishetti Venkateshwar, S. Srinivas Rao, Pramod Kumar, J. Balakrishna, Naresh Buchi Reddy, S. Sivaprasad Goud, Lakwuddin, Shoban Babu, Venugopal, R.V.L.N. Prasad, Daram Jagannatham Reddy, Ashok Goud, Srinivas Goud, Nambi Parvatalu, C.H. Srinivas, Ravikanti Srinivas, K. Bapurao, representatives from various districts, and other journalists participated. "Members of the Journalists' Associations JAC"Conveners: Mamidi Somaiah, K. Koteswar Rao, Anamchinni Venkateswara Rao, Pulipalupula Anandam, Ravikanti Srinivas, Mamatha Reddy, Baisa Sangeetha. A Joint Action Committee was formed on this occasion with Srinivas, Chintala Srinivas, Kandukuri Yadagiri, Satyam Goud, Layakhuddin, Purushottam, Chintakayala Venkateshwarlu, Rajanarsimha, and D.L. Prasad as co-conveners, along with several other co-ordinators.

# TWJF Appeals to CPRO to Grant Accreditations to All Working Journalists



“Indian Chronicle, Secunderabad, December 27:“The Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) has urged the government to provide accreditations to all working journalists in the state, emphasizing that there should be no discrimination between reporters and desk journalists. The federation requested that the existing accreditation cards remain valid and not be reduced.“On Saturday, TWJF leaders met Special Commissioner CH Priyanka at the Information Bhavan in Hyderabad and separately met Chief Minister’s CPRO Dr. Gurram Malsur at the Secretariat. The discussions focused on G.O. 252, recent developments, and potential solutions, including issues related to

both old and new government orders.“Federation leaders highlighted several concerns regarding the implications of the latest G.O. and journalists’ apprehensions. In response, Special Commissioner Priyanka assured that working journalists would not face any disadvantage regarding accreditations, and that all government-provided facilities would equally apply to desk journalists.“Additionally, CPRO Dr. Malsur assured that, following discussions with Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivas, proactive measures would be taken to safeguard the interests of working journalists.“The meetings were attended by TWJF EC Committee Convener P. Ramchander, Federation General Secretary B. Basavapunnayya, Vice Presidents B. Rajasekhar and Gudiga Raghu, Secretaries B. Jagadish and Gandra Naveen, HUZ President B. Arun Kumar, and other state leaders including K. Ramakrishna.



-“(Mandava Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... December 27):- TPCC SC Department State Convener Puligilla Balaiah respectfully met with the Honourable Bhuvanagiri Member of Parliament, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, at his MP camp office in Hyderabad on Friday to congratulate him on being recognized as an outstanding Member of Parliament and for securing the sanction of the Mutthireddygudem railway bridge. State leaders Pothunak Pramod Kumar, Akhtar, Pittala Balraj, and others participated in this program.

# Why new government should embrace global markets

Even as the newly-elected government begins the quest for a *Viksit Bharat*, here is some trade policy counsel, entirely gratuitous, without provocation and with a dose of abundant humility. The period immediately after a General Election is good for breakthrough policy, and if there is an area that needs one, it is trade. For, without an increase in trade, India will be unable to emulate the successes of its East Asian neighbours and without heightened competitiveness, it will be unable to trade.

The Global Financial Crisis of 2008, the Euro Zone struggles of 2010 and the economic downturn as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic recently, all in close succession, have prompted many governments to rethink global engagements. Protectionism, industrial policy and self-reliance, once anathema for trade policy thinkers in developed countries, are now well and truly embedded in the mainstream discourse. India faces a two-pronged challenge in this regard. One is to promote its ambition of an *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, to make India self-reliant by being “vocal for local”, that is, prioritising domestic goods over imports. This narrative sits uneasily with India’s other ambition of attaining \$1 trillion worth of exports. India’s export ambition cannot be achieved without integrating with global value chains (GVC), which in turn requires a healthy prescription of openness, foreign direct investment (FDI) and import competition. An import tariff or rise in protection is akin to an export tax. India’s hard-earned lesson that export promotion and import substitution are conflicting policies looms large over its trade policy and economic agenda. The country needs to create a balance.

The pandemic showed the world the consequences of import disruptions. While diversifying GVCs is certainly a medium to long-term aim, it is not without costs in the short run. We are banking on the augmentation of local capacity through schemes such as production-linked incentives (PLIs) that provide performance-based financial incentives for local production. Until November 2023, PLI schemes have resulted in the production/sales of Rs 8.61 lakh crore and generated employment (direct and indirect) of over 6.78 lakh. Before that, the government exited negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Its existing trade deficit with China emerged as a key reason for this exit, along with the non-consideration of its key demand on cross-border movement of professionals and the influence of the cooperatives-intensive farm and dairy sector that feared competition from New Zealand and Australia among others. India’s journey towards free trade and multilateralism has been fraught with challenges. It pursued an aggressive import substitution policy during the 1980s but found import substitution and export promotion to be quite contradictory. So, during and beyond the 1991 crisis, it adopted a liberal trade policy but subsequently remained reluctant to embrace second- or third-generation trade reforms. This has been mainly due to India’s expe-

rience of trade deficit with countries with which it signed trade agreements. This strong policy narrative slowed down its liberalisation and participation in GVCs. India’s economic isolationism strategy has since changed for the better. We have signed several FTAs including four FTAs since 2021 after nine years of no agreements. These include the India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) in 2021, the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), and the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (CECTA) in 2022. The latest Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with EFTA countries (Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein) was signed on March 10 and secured commitments of \$100 billion and 1 million direct jobs over the next 15 years. Despite this, we are ambiguous about regional trade agreements (RTAs), mainly the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Globally, these are the two mega-regional trade agreements and India finds itself outside both. We have eternally supported multilateralism in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and elsewhere. At the same time, we stay away from discussions on services and e-commerce in the WTO, again revealing an ambivalence to more engagement. Even if India disagrees, it is better to be part of the negotiations or in other words “in the tent”, than outside it. Non-participation is often interpreted as a sign of weakness for which there is no reason whatsoever at this juncture. There is no doubt that we now recognise the importance of deepening penetration in global markets, as reflected in flagship programmes like Make in India. Such initiatives could be helped by bilateral trade agreements, but are likely to be adversely affected by India’s reluctance to join RTAs, underlining the enduring reluctance to embrace trade for its strategic advantage. The fear of China looms large, but we need to shrug off this mentality that is of no strategic advantage. Geopolitically, India has attempted to establish itself as an important global player, aided by its hosting of the G20 presidency. It is aiming to position itself as an alternate manufacturing destination to China and compete with other South Asian economies like Vietnam, Cambodia and Bangladesh. This is a descent — from being compared with China a decade or more ago, we now compete with lesser powers for investment. In April 2024, an RBI bulletin underscored strong investment demand and positive business and consumer sentiments as key drivers of economic growth. We urgently need to recognise that from an economic perspective, we need open global markets more than ever for exports and for creating efficiency and competition in domestic markets. But this is often couched in obscure language. Simply put, even after 25 years of the 1991 reforms, we are humouring protectionist tendencies. Counter to the domi-



nant narrative, openness will also aid labour-intensive manufacturing and speak to one of India’s stubborn problems of productive job creation or lack thereof. In recent years, the concept of digital public infrastructure (DPI) has gained significant attention. DPI is a potentially transformative process that utilises ubiquitous digital technologies to connect people and devices.

India has built public digital platforms that have transformed lives. Many countries have shown interest in them and this could be an important marker of India’s soft power. It has even been called a “low-cost,

software-based version of China’s infrastructure-led Belt and Road Initiative.” But India needs to tread this line with caution and not be dogmatic about its structure. What’s more, if we wish to situate ourselves as a “rule-shaper” as opposed to a “rule-taker”, we need to unequivocally demonstrate our embrace of global markets, and to use a colloquialism, “put our money where our mouth is”.

For a labour-abundant economy, it is far better to subsidise job creation rather than industry. Now is an opportunity to shed inhibitions and do a repeat of 1991 — without waiting for a crisis to do so.

## Hyderabad to host global music icons for Fête de la Musique 2025

Hyderabad: Hyderabad is set to resonate with global beats as *Fête de la Musique* 2025, an internationally celebrated music festival, brings global artists to the city. Founded 41 years ago, this vibrant festival, also known as World Music Day, has become a global phenomenon, celebrated in numerous countries to honour the universal language of music.

Taking place in India from June 14 to 30, the festival is organised by the Embassy of France in India, the French Institute in India (IFI), and the Alliance Française network. This multi-city festival aims to explore the diverse musical landscape and foster dialogue between France and India.

The city will host two performances. Known for his vibrant sets and affiliation with Boukan Records, Paris-based DJ and producer Greg will take the stage at Ext. by Moonshine on June 19. Following this, on

June 23, French pop sensation Brö will perform at Malibu in Hyderabad.

The festival will present a range of concerts, workshops, and panel discussions across different cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata, Jaipur, Pune, Bhopal, Trivandrum, and Pondicherry. The 2026 edition will be held entirely offline, providing a fully immersive in-person experience. Attendees can anticipate engaging live performances and a captivating tour by the featured artists throughout India. Further, the festival will feature Akoda, led by Creole jazz pianist Valérie Chane Tef, performing in cities such as Delhi and Bangalore. Akoda’s music, a fusion of contemporary jazz and Creole heritage, has garnered international acclaim. An overview of the *Fête de la Musique* 2024 schedule can be checked at [www.fetedelamusique.in](http://www.fetedelamusique.in).

# Who are the Satnamis, the Dalit religious community with a history of protests

Members of the Satnami religious sect set fire to the office of the Superintendent of Police and pelted the office of the District Collector with stones in Baloda Bazar in central Chhattisgarh on Monday after alleged inaction over the desecration of a religious site at Amar Cave in the district. Members of the mostly Scheduled Caste Satnami Samaj or Satnam Panth live mainly in Chhattisgarh and contiguous areas of Madhya Pradesh. The desecrated shrine, known as Jaikham, is located about 5 km from Giraud village in Baloda Bazar district, at the birthplace of Guru Ghasidas, an 18th century saint to whom the Chhattisgarh Satnamis trace their theological lineage. Guru Ghasidas was born in 1756; however, the antecedents of the sect lie further back in history. The expression sat naam (literally "true name") was popularised by the 15th century Bhakti poet Kabir, but was likely coined earlier. Kabir, who rejected idolatry and the orthodoxy of organised religion, was a torchbearer of the nirguna bhakti tradition — the worship of an immanent, formless Absolute, which he referred to as sat naam or satya naam in several of his poems. In 1657, a mendicant named Birbhan, who was inspired by the teachings of Kabir, founded a Satnami community in Narnaul in present-day Haryana. The Mughal court historian Khafi Khan (1664-1732) wrote that the Satnamis were "some four or five thousand householders in the pargana of Narnaul and Mewat... their livelihood and profession is usually agriculture and trade in the manner of Banyas [or tradesmen] with small capital" (Irfan Habib: The Agrarian System of Mughal India, 1556-1707). "Ritual and superstition were condemned, and allegiance was explicitly rendered to Kabir... Caste distinctions within the community of believers were forbidden... An attitude of sympathy with the poor and hostility towards authority and wealth is apparent [in Satnami preachings]," Habib wrote in his classic 1963 work. Initially, most Satnamis belonged to an "untouchable" caste engaged in leatherwork. The community has, however, moved away from the profession over time.

Revolt against Aurangzeb "If anyone should want to impose tyranny and oppression upon [the Satnamis]... they will not tolerate it; and most of them bear arms and weapons," Khafi Khan wrote. In 1672, Satnamis living in present-day Punjab and Haryana rose in revolt against Aurangzeb's ever-increasing tax demands. "The revolt...began as a rural affray," Habib wrote. "One of the Satnamis was working in his fields when he exchanged hot words with a [Mughal] piyada (foot-trooper), who was guarding the corn-heap. The piyada broke the Satnami's head by a blow from his stick. Thereupon a crowd of that sect mobbed that piyada and beat him so much as to reduce him almost to a corpse." (Habib: Agrarian System). When the local Mughal shiqdar (police chief) sent troops to arrest the culprits, open rebellion broke out. The rebels occupied Narnaul and Bairat for some time, but the Mughals eventually crushed the rebellion and killed thousands of Satnamis. Despite lacking weap-



ons and equipment, the Satnamis fought valiantly and "repeated scenes of the great war of Mahabharata", the Mughal chronicler Saqi Mustad Khan wrote in the Maasir-i-Alamgiri. Revival under Ghasidas Aurangzeb all but wiped out the community, which would see a revival only in the mid-eighteenth century — in present-day Uttar Pradesh under Jagjivandas, and in present-day Chhattisgarh under Ghasidas. There are several theories as to the sources of Ghasidas' inspiration and spiritual development — from Sant Ravidas (15th or 16th century) to Kabir. However, "most present-day Satnamis either deny or know nothing of a connection between Ghasidas and the previous Satnami movements" in northern India, religious studies scholar Ramdas Lamb wrote in *Rapt in the Name: The Ramnamis, Ramnam, and Untouchable Religion in India* (2002). Nonetheless, the religious philosophy of Guru Ghasidas echoed that of the older Satnamis. His "first and foremost rule was the worship of one true God, through the chanting of his name, 'Satnam', and the abolition of any form of image worship," Lamb wrote. This rejection of deity worship effectively allowed the 'untouchable' Satnamis to transcend the restrictions on temple-entry. Ghasidas also asked his followers to abstain from eating flesh (and flesh-like fruits such as eggplant), and consuming alcohol, smoking, or chewing tobacco. He asked them to use brass utensils instead of clay, stop working with leather and carcasses, and to wear a necklace of beads made from tulsi, like those worn by the Vaishnavas and Kabirpanthis. He also told his followers to drop their caste names and use 'Satnami' instead. The

Satnamis today At the time of Ghasidas' death, his following was estimated to be nearly a quarter million strong, belonging almost entirely to a particular Scheduled Caste. He stipulated a lineage of gurus who would lead the sect after him, starting with his son Balakdas. According to Lamb, by the late 1800s, a two-tiered organisational structure developed with the guru at the top, and several village-level priests below him. This structure broadly persists even now. "These priests performed marriages, mediated disputes, meted out penance as well as acted as intermediaries in the organisation," Lamb wrote. Over the years, many Satnamis adopted caste-

Hindu practices, beliefs and rituals, and came to see themselves as part of the Hindu religious mainstream. Some started to worship idols of Hindu Gods, and claimed to be of Rajput or even Brahmin lineage. Satnamis are now an increasingly assertive political force.

Satnami leaders enjoy clout over not just members of the sect, but also over the rest of Chhattisgarh's 13% SC population. The sect has been historically associated with the Congress, but since 2013, some Satnami gurus have shifted allegiance multiple times. The Satnami vote is today divided among various political parties in Chhattisgarh.

## Osmania Arts College to undergo major restoration and enhancement

Hyderabad: The iconic Osmania Arts College building is all set to undergo a major transformation soon. The Osmania University has decided to facelift the college with major repair works and painting to enhance its aesthetics. The initiative of the administration is aimed at restoring the past glory of the college that has been neglected over the several years, taking a toll on the structure. The outer and interior walls of the 84-year-old building took a beating with cracks and visible beams at several places besides appearing damp at places due to rain water leakage.

To address this issue, the university

administration recently used a modern-age waterproofing system and stopped seepage of water from the roof top without altering the structure. Further to beautify the college building, MA&UD principal secretary and Osmania University (OU) in-charge Vice Chancellor M Dana Kishore announced HMDA funds for taking up painting and repair works of the college. Kishore, who visited the college on Wednesday, instructed the OU chief engineer and HMDA officials to prepare the necessary estimates immediately. He also directed the development of new fencing around the college and a new lawn in front of SBI beside the college.

# Stovekraft Announces 15th Edition of Its December Sale with Value-Packed Kitchen Appliance Combos



Hyderabad: Stovekraft Limited, one of India's leading kitchen solutions and cookware companies, has announced the 15th edition of its popular December Sale, featuring unique combo offerings, with their prices, mirroring the number of the upcoming new year. The sale includes specially curated combinations such as the Pressure Cooker + Induction Cooktop combo, the Breakfast Combo (Kettle + Water Bottle + Pop-Up Toaster), and an LPG Gas Stove + Cookware combo and other such combos, bundled together and available to customers. The combos will be accessible through Pigeon's national network of around 125,000 retail stores, modern trade outlets and regional retail stores across the country, besides its network of Pigeon Exclusive stores across the country.

Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Rajendra Gandhi, Managing Director, Stovekraft Limited, said, "The December Sale reflects our focus on offering meaningful value for consumers. By introducing thoughtfully curated combo offerings, we are making it easier for households to access reliable, high-quality kitchen solutions, both cookware and appliances at very affordable prices."

Started in 2012, Pigeon's annual December Sale has evolved into one of the most iconic marketing events in the category. It offers consumers a once-a-year opportunity to upgrade their kitchenware through exciting, value-led combinations. Over the years, the sale has become eagerly awaited by millions of value-seeking households, reinforcing Pigeon's leadership in the Indian kitchen.

This year's sale, titled "India's Choice Sale 2026", offers combos ranging from 3-litre Pressure Cookers paired with 1800-watt Induction Cooktops, 550-watt Mixer Grinders with 3-litre Pressure Cookers, Cast Iron Tawas with 2-burner Gas Cooktops, 1.8-litre Single-Pot Electric Rice Cookers paired with 280mm Die-Cast Cookware, and even 2000-watt Infrared Cooktops, among others.

## K. Srihari Assumes Charge as Kapra Deputy Commissioner



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, December 27, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):”“K. Srihari has assumed charge as the Deputy Commissioner of Kapra. Prior to this appointment, he served as Project Officer, where he gained experience in administrative planning, project implementation, and public service delivery. After taking charge, Srihari reviewed the functioning of various departments under the Kapra Circle and interacted with officials to understand ongoing works and public issues. He emphasized the need for efficient administration, timely resolution of public grievances, and

improved coordination among departments. Srihari stated that priority would be given to civic amenities, sanitation, infrastructure development, and transparent governance. He also stressed the importance of field-level monitoring to ensure that government schemes reach the intended beneficiaries without delay. Officials and staff of the Kapra Circle extended their cooperation and expressed confidence that his experience as Project Officer would contribute to effective administration in the division.

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