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Fake certificates issue hits
Telangana Intermediate Education

Hyderabad: The issue of fake certificates has hit Intermediate Education in the State. While the fake Fire No Objection Certificates (NOCs) submitted by some private junior colleges for obtaining affiliation caused ripples, the Intermediate Education department has now found fake educational certificates submitted by 37 government junior lecturers for their job regularisation in 2023 As part of a fresh verification exercise, the department re-examined the certificates of nearly 360 government junior lecturers who were earlier regularised from contract services. Accordingly, information on the certificates' authenticity was sought from respective universities.As per the infor-

mation received by the department, junior lecturers submitted post graduate or BTech certificates, which were not issued by respective universities. This prompted the department to recently issue show cause notices.Junior lecturers were directed to respond to show cause notices as to why disciplinary action should not be initiated against them, besides filing a criminal case for forgery and cheating under the relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Samitha, within seven days.Given the vacancies, the department had appointed contract lecturers during the Congress and TDP governments in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh State. Sub-



sequently, the previous BRS government regularised services of the contract junior lecturers. However, there were complaints alleging that several contract junior lecturers

had submitted fake certificates for their job regularisation, prompting the department to hold multiple rounds of certificate verification. During the initial verification itself,

20 junior lecturers who had submitted fake educational certificates were dismissed from the services. Another 20 were terminated during the regularisation process on similar grounds.

MP Chamala calls on party cadres to counter
opposition's false propaganda

New Delhi, August 07: Bhubanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy has made it clear to BRS leaders that they cannot deceive people with social media campaigns. He advised the party leaders to introspect on the consecutive defeats in the last elections. Speaking in New Delhi on Friday, he called on the Congress party ranks to counter the false propaganda being spread by the opposition

parties against CM Revanth Reddy. He said that every Congress leader is responsible for the party's campaign. He said that spokespersons will be appointed at the district and mandal levels. He instructed the mandal presidents to hold press meetings once a week.MP Chamala said that the reason for the Centre's backsliding on the Polavaram-Banakacharla issue was the efforts of CM

Revanth and Uttam Kumar Reddy. On this occasion, he suggested to the BRS leaders to tell the people the facts regarding the 200 TMC water for Telangana. He said that CM Revanth is focusing on improving the quality and skill development in the education system. He reminded that TSPSC and TENT papers were leaked during the previous government's tenureHe explained to the



party ranks that false information should be refuted within hours through

social media. He said that the Congress party is ready to face the false propaganda

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy asks Mines
officials not to harass road contractors

Hyderabad: Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has directed Mines department officials not to harass contractors over the permissions required to source metal and other construction materials for road projects.Sand, soil and metal are essential for road construction, the Minister said, adding that it was unfair to spare those involved in illegal mining while taking coercive action against small and genuine contractors. Along with Mines and Geology Minister G Vivek Venkataswamy Komatireddy held a review meeting at the Secretariat here on Friday. The Ministers discussed the problems faced by road contractors in obtaining mining-related permissions. Representatives of the Contractors Association brought several issues faced by them to the Ministers' notice. The Ministers observed that imposing penalties amounting to 10



times the value of the material on small contractors executing road works was not justified. Komatireddy urged Vivek Venkataswamy to take action against officials responsible for the circumstances that allegedly led to the suicide of contractor Srinivas Reddy. Describing the imposition of a Rs 54 crore penalty over a Rs 5 crore issue as atrocious, Komatireddy said contractors were making payments as stipulated in their agreements. "It is not fair for the Mines department to harass small contractors," he said. The R&B Minister said the State government had taken up road construction works under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) with the objective of developing high-quality model roads across Telangana. "We have launched the HAM road works with great fanfare under the leadership of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. Our goal is to complete the road works by August 2028," Komatireddy said.

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Shock for drug addicts.. Wine
shops closed that day

Hyderabad: Cyberabad Police Commissioner Ramesh has given a shock to drug peddlers. It has been decided to close liquor shops on August 9 on the occasion of Bonala festival. CP Ramesh has issued key orders to close



wine shops, toddy shops and bars from 10 am to 10 pm on that day.

Green signal for distribution of baby fish



Wanaparthi, August 7: The state government has given the green signal for the distribution of fish fry. With this, the fisheries department officials are making arrangements for the tenders. To this extent, the

tender process for the supply of fish fry in Wanaparthi district will begin from today. There are 143 fisheries cooperative societies across the district with 1,430 members. There are five reservoirs and 900

ponds. In these, the officials have formulated an action plan to release a total of 2.36 crore fish fry. 2.36 crore baby fish fry in 5 reservoirs and 900 ponds in the district for the financial year 2025-26. In this, one crore fish fry of 80 mm to 100 mm size will be released in reservoirs and major ponds. The price for these has been fixed at Rs. 1.82 paise. It has also been decided to release 1.36 crore fish fry of 35 mm to 40 mm size in small ponds in the

district. The price has been fixed at Rs. 0.68 paise. However, this time, due to the delay in the tender process and the deadline for spawning fish, it has been decided to complete the seed distribution by the end of August. Applications will be accepted from tenderers from the 11th of this month. So far, 50 percent of the ponds in the district have not received water. Fishermen are hoping for heavy rains when the tenders are held, as the fish will only hatch if the ponds have 1/3 percent water.

Harish Rao lashes out at Congress
govt over Mission Bhagiratha neglect

Hyderabad: 07, August; BRS legislature party deputy leader T Harish Rao lashed out at the Congress government for weakening Mission Bhagiratha without proper operation and maintenance. He urged the government not to allow political differences to affect public welfare schemes. He demanded dedicated funds for Mission Bhagiratha, with immediate repairs to damaged pipelines, motors and pumping systems.City & Local Guides "Governments may change, but people's needs do not," he said, calling for Mission Bhagiratha to be strengthened rather than allowed to deteriorate. He suggested a special monitoring mechanism to respond quickly to water supply disruptions. Marking 10 years of completion of the flagship drinking water programme, Harish Rao said



the scheme, conceived during the K Chandrashekhara Rao government, had transformed access to drinking water across Telangana and helped address the State's fluorosis problem. He said safeguarding the drinking water network created a decade ago and ensuring its sustainability was essential

for improving living standards and providing safe water to future generations.Hyderabad local newsThe senior BRS leader said Mission Bhagiratha was launched with the objective of ensuring safe drinking water to every household and eliminating the need for women

to travel long distances carrying pots. The project was built as an integrated drinking water grid, drawing surface water from the Godavari and Krishna rivers, treating it and supplying it through an extensive network of pipelines, reservoirs, pumping stations and overhead tanks. The former Irrigation Minister stated that the scheme reduced the hardships faced by women in rural areas, saved time and improved access to safe drinking water, particularly in fluoride-affected and remote areas. He also said improved water availability helped reduce health problems and enabled children to spend more time on education.He pointed out that Mission Bhagiratha subsequently became a model for the Centre's 'Har Ghar Jal' programme and described it as more than a government scheme,

KTR, Harish Rao extend National
Handloom Day wishes



Hyderabad: 07, August; BRS working president KT Rama Rao and party deputy floor leader T Harish Rao extended greetings to the weavers community and remembered their

contribution to the nation on National Handloom Day. They criticised the Congress government for pushing the handloom sector into a fresh crisis.Geographic Reference

In a statement, Rama Rao said Telangana's handloom workers, known for their exceptional weaving skills, faced severe hardships and migration in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. He credited the previous BRS government with encouraging their revival through schemes including Nethannaku Cheyutha, Nethanna Bima, Bathukamma sarees, loan waivers and pensions.He called for greater support to the handloom sector and said protecting the livelihoods

of weavers was essential for preserving Telangana's traditional craft.Telangana political newsHarish Rao said handloom workers were now struggling again with migration, debt and suicides after the Congress government allegedly discontinued several welfare programmes implemented during the BRS regime. He urged the government to provide confidence to weavers and revive the sector, stating that its survival depended on supporting the handloom workers who sustain it.

Telangana plans Digital Assembly
and Digital Council: Sridhar Babu



Hyderabad: 07, August; IT Minister D Sridhar Babu said the Telangana government was planning to intro-

duce a Digital Assembly and a Digital Council as part of its efforts to modernise governance through

technology.City & Local GuidesInaugurating the AI Transformation Conclave (Telangana) here on Friday, the Minister referred to Telangana's digital governance initiatives. He said the State government had introduced a Digital Cabinet, a real-time government dashboard integrating 20 departments, the country's first AI-powered data exchange, WhatsApp-based citizen services and the Mee Ticket platform.The State was leveraging emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, data analytics and quantum computing to improve governance and public service delivery. The government was also planning to roll out

blockchain-based certificates to enhance the security and authenticity of citizens' data, he said.Hyderabad local news "Efforts are under way to extend high-speed digital connectivity to rural areas through T-Fiber while ensuring doorstep delivery of government services to senior citizens and persons with disabilities," Sridhar Babu said.The Minister said the government was implementing paperless administration across departments under the Digital Office Project, adding that governance must evolve with technological advancements to become more efficient, transparent and citizen-centric.

EDITORIAL

Gen Z will play a key role
in the upcoming elections

The Gen Z youth movement has now become a challenge not only to the government but also to the opposition. This is not a movement that supports any single political party. They are all 'floating voters' who change their vote strength depending on the circumstances and the severity of the issues. Therefore, their vote decision seems likely to play a key role in the 2029 elections. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigned due to their violent protests over the leakage of the NEET exam question paper. After that, the government agreed to their demands and other developments, although their protests ended, their real impact will be known in the upcoming elections. This movement has sensitized many young voters. It remains to be seen what decision they will take in the elections. If we look at the opposition, they are assessing the Cockroach Janata Party protests as a manifestation of dissatisfaction with the government. They are hoping that they can turn this public opinion into a vote bank for them in the upcoming elections. Their assessment is not wrong, but it is incomplete. People may be dissatisfied with the government. But at the same time, do people have complete trust in the opposition? That is the question. In such circumstances, what determines how the anti-people movement is transformed politically is the alternative, credibility, leadership, and clear action shown by the opposition. In fact, without a leader, without a clear organizational structure, the Cockroach Janata Party took the movement forward by winning the public's support before all the opposition parties. And what could the main opposition parties have done? The Cockroach Janata Party was able to formulate a strategy that completely changed the political equation by mobilizing the public's protests against the government. Can the opposition come up with such a strategy? Or will it be limited to traditional politics? That is not to say that the opposition parties have not achieved any success. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the India Alliance won a record 43 out of 80 seats in Uttar Pradesh. While the BJP went ahead with the slogan 'Ab ki baar 400 par', the India Alliance campaigned extensively to increase the distrust of the people in the BJP by saying that it would change the constitution if it got 400 seats. However, this will not be the case by the 2029 elections. Now Prime Minister Narendra Modi is changing his strategies from time to time. He is trying to reach the Gen Z youth through Instagram. He is bringing new welfare schemes to the fore according to the needs of the people. The total number of Lok Sabha seats in the country is being increased from 543 to 850. Along with the implementation of 33 percent reservation for women, a third of the Lok Sabha seats are being reserved for them.

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If Comedy Strikes Well, KOKA Will Have Golden BO Run!

All eyes are on Korean Kanakaraju aka KOKA, which is all set to hit theatres on August 7. The horror-comedy is being seen as an important film for both actor Varun Tej and director Merlapaka Gandhi, who have been waiting for a solid commercial success.

The film is a crucial release for Varun Tej, whose recent films have struggled at the box office. Director Merlapaka Gandhi is also looking to bounce back with a crowd-pleasing entertainer. Industry observers believe Korean Kanakaraju could become the comeback for both of them have been waiting for if its comedy connects with audiences.

The teaser and trailer have generated positive buzz, raising expectations ahead of the release. The film also stars Ritika Nayak, who recently impressed audiences with Mirai, as the female lead.

One of the biggest strengths of Korean Kanakaraju is expected to be its comedy. It has been a long time since Telugu audiences enjoyed a unanimously appreciated comedy entertainer led by a mainstream hero like Varun Tej. If the humour lands well, the film



could attract family audiences, who have increasingly returned to theatres for clean entertainers in recent months.

Merlapaka Gandhi has built a reputation for creating memorable comic characters and making the most of comedians in his films. Along with Varun Tej, comedians like Satya and

the supporting cast are expected to play a key role in delivering the laughs.

The horror-comedy genre has also enjoyed a good track record at the Telugu box office in recent years. If Korean Kanakaraju offers the right mix of horror, humour and entertainment, it has the potential to

enjoy a strong word-of-mouth campaign and a successful box office run.

For Varun Tej and Merlapaka Gandhi, August 7 could mark the beginning of a much-needed turnaround. If the comedy strikes gold, Korean Kanakaraju may well enjoy a golden run at the box office.

Lokesh Kanagaraj Leaves Karthi and Suriya Clueless

Kaithi was a game-changing blockbuster that established Lokesh Kanagaraj as one of the most exciting directors in Tamil cinema. Naturally, fans have been eagerly waiting for Kaithi 2, with Karthi set to return as Dilli. However, the sequel has faced delays despite repeated assurances that it is still on track. Recently, Karthi admitted that he was unsure about the status of Kaithi 2, leaving fans disappointed. While Lokesh later clarified that the film is not shelved and will begin once his ongoing commitments conclude, there is still no clear timeline. Now, Suriya has spoken about his film with Lokesh and the crazy character Rolex. The actor revealed that, as Lokesh is currently busy with his film with Allu Arjun and Vikram 2, he has no clue when the standalone film in the Vikram franchise will be made.

Interestingly, both Karthi and Suriya seem to be waiting for answers from Lokesh Kanagaraj. For now, the biggest question remains: when will these highly anticipated se-



quels actually go on the floor? Only Lokesh Kanagaraj can answer this question.

On the flip side, there is growing negativity around

Lokesh as many feel he is moving away from the cult franchises that brought him fame. Fans believe he has left those films in limbo, which they see

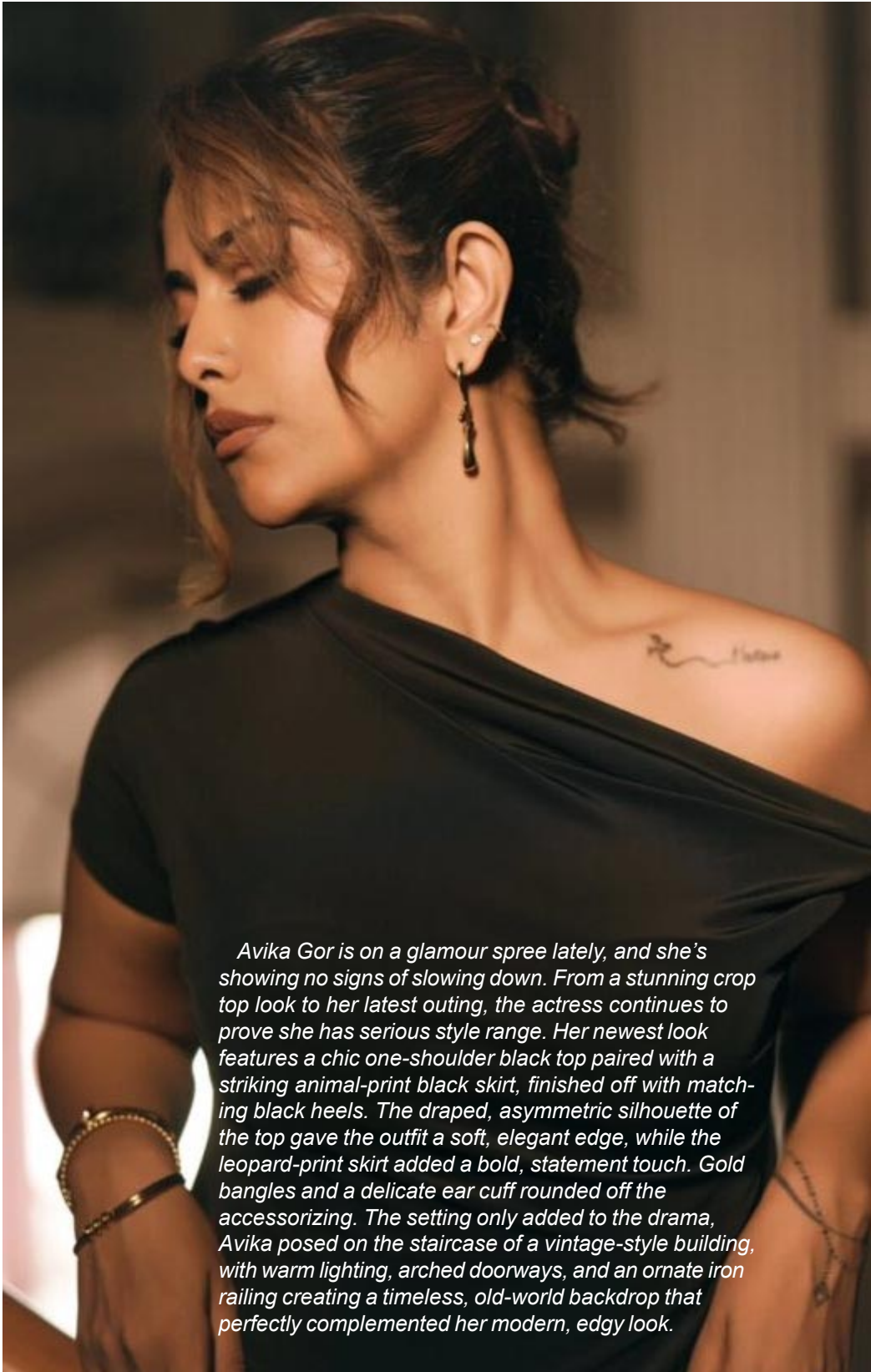
as unfair. They want Lokesh to clarify his plans as soon as possible and return to the franchise universe where he has proven to be at his strongest.

Another Star Actress Falls Victim to Deepfake Videos

With advancements in technology and the widespread use of Artificial Intelligence, there is greater good happening. However, on the other side, there are also shortcomings attached to this. Many people are misusing AI by creating deepfake videos and resorting to morphing. The police acted strictly in the past when Rashmika was a victim of this. Now, it is Mrunal who openly shared her story. Mrunal Thakur took to X, sharing that several people are misusing her identity by creating fake videos. "Creating or sharing deepfake content using my likeness is illegal and unacceptable. Consider this your formal notice to stop immediately. Any further misuse of my identity will result in legal action," she wrote. A lot of videos showing Mrunal Thakur have surfaced online in the recent past, and most of them are not real. Several actors continue to become victims of some online abusers who are misusing technology and unnecessarily creating content that is diverting the attention of netizens. Many people urge that police should take strict and strong actions this time so that this won't repeat in the future for others. However, some argue that strict cyber policies must be enforced so that the culprits will be punished strictly.



Avika Gor Dazzles In Chic Vintage Setting



Avika Gor is on a glamour spree lately, and she's showing no signs of slowing down. From a stunning crop top look to her latest outing, the actress continues to prove she has serious style range. Her newest look features a chic one-shoulder black top paired with a striking animal-print black skirt, finished off with matching black heels. The draped, asymmetric silhouette of the top gave the outfit a soft, elegant edge, while the leopard-print skirt added a bold, statement touch. Gold bangles and a delicate ear cuff rounded off the accessorizing. The setting only added to the drama, Avika posed on the staircase of a vintage-style building, with warm lighting, arched doorways, and an ornate iron railing creating a timeless, old-world backdrop that perfectly complemented her modern, edgy look.

One More Reason To Fall In Love With Nithiin: Nani



Natural Star Nani's Unanimous Productions formally launched Nithiin starrer Alias Rukmini, directed by Murali Kanth Devasoth, yesterday with a traditional pooja ceremony. The announcement video has created an instant buzz, with fans and movie lovers praising the fresh concept and predicting that the film could mark a strong comeback for Nithiin. Alias Rukmini is currently trending across social media, where netizens have been appreciating both the intriguing premise and Nani's decision to back such a unique script for his close friend. Nani recalled that Nithiin had stood by him even before he tasted success. He said audiences had fallen in love with Nithiin through films like Jayam, Ishq, and Gunde Jaari Gallanthayyinde, and expressed confidence that Alias Rukmini would give them one more reason to fall in love with Nithiin. Calling it a beautiful love story with a unique backdrop, Nani added that the film has every ingredient to remain with audiences for a long time.

Nithiin thanked Nani for believing in him and bringing the script his way. Calling it a very special film in his career, he appreciated Nani for introducing him to director Murali Kanth and said the film will make everyone associated with feel proud. Producer Deepthi Ganta recalled getting an instant feeling that the script was something special when director Murali first narrated it. She also credited Nani for suggesting Nithiin for the role of Krishna, saying the actor looked perfect in the character.

Auqib Nabi has magic in his wrists, knew he would go places: Ex-J&K captain Samiullah Beigh



New Delhi: In a modern cricketing landscape obsessed with speed guns, former Jammu and Kashmir captain Samiullah Beigh believes true quality lies in the ability to move the ball off the pitch, a trait he identified in fellow fast-bowling all-rounder Auqib Nabi.

Nabi's sensational rise has earned him a maiden call-up to the Indian Test squad for the upcoming two-match series against Sri Lanka, thus making him the first player from Jammu and Kashmir to get a call-up to the national red-ball side.

Beigh, who also works as an assistant engineer in the Public Works Department in Srinagar, spoke exclusively to IANS about the all-rounder, the physical and mental endurance essential in unearthing relentless seamers in the valley, and how overcoming adversity makes players from smaller states uniquely tenacious.

Excerpts-

Q. Back in 2022, you mentioned somewhere that Auqib Nabi is someone to watch out for. Now that he has been called up to the Indian Test team as Jasprit Bumrah's replacement, how does it feel to see that prediction become a reality?

A. Yes, back in 2022, I held a two-month coaching camp for the senior Ranji team at the JKCA ground in Srinagar. I could see raw talent in him, wherein he could move the ball off the pitch from the same spot without any major change in action.

Having played at higher level myself as a fast-bowling all-rounder, I immediately spotted

that this trait is extremely rare in the cricketing world, and this lad could go places if groomed properly. In that camp, we worked on a few things without tinkering with his natural abilities.

Q. Nabi's teammates call him 'Hacker' because of hitting the exact same spot relentlessly without overcomplicating things. How crucial can this specific brand of discipline be in international cricket compared to the sheer raw pace of someone like Umran Malik?

A. In modern-day cricket, raw pace means nothing unless it is backed up with the ability to deviate the ball off the pitch. Umran Malik is a glaring example of a bowler with raw pace only, which is why he is struggling to get into the state team.

Auqib has magic in his wrists, and the cricketing world will be really surprised to see his skill set in slightly helpful conditions, though Sri Lanka may not necessarily be the place for his ideal debut.

Q. The dry, sluggish pitches in Sri Lanka historically reward seamers who plug away at disciplined lengths and extract subtle movement. Given Nabi's success on flat decks and in stifling humidity in the Ranji Trophy, how well-equipped do you think he is to succeed in Galle or Colombo?

A. Galle as well as Colombo are historically non-ideal for pacers; they are either very flat or square turners. Any fast bowler would hate to make his debut in such conditions. But Auqib, being a rare commodity, will definitely provide lots

of control to the team if given a chance, and he will surely make the new ball talk at least for a few overs.

Q. You have spoken previously about how you would carry drinks for the zonal team despite being amongst the wickets as players from traditional powerhouse states were mainly in the playing eleven. With Auqib in the Test team and six J&K players recently making the North Zone squad for the Duleep Trophy, do you feel that systemic bias has finally been dismantled?

A. No, systemic bias takes a lot to overcome – it is an inherent bias. Although live broadcasts and J&K creating history by winning the Ranji Trophy have helped, I believe the mindset of selectors and people who matter has still not overcome that block regarding selecting players from J&K. If that were not the case, Auqib should have been selected for the tours of England, the West Indies, or Afghanistan, or at least in the first-choice squad for the Sri Lanka series.

Q. Coach Ajay Sharma mentioned that J&K cricketers used to be picked for the Duleep Trophy merely as 'quota players.' As a former player, what does it mean to you to see J&K players now single-handedly pulling their team into winning the Ranji Trophy and commanding spots in the Duleep Trophy on merit?

A. This statement by coach Ajay Sharma exactly highlights that the bias towards cricketers from this part of the country hasn't gone away. There was never a quota system. If that were so, I recall at least two instances where I was not picked for the North Zone squad despite being the highest wicket-taker in the league round of the Ranji Trophy. Simply put, the selectors wouldn't take our performances seriously, and I think not much has changed.

Q. Former J&K players Abdul Qayoom and Mohammed Mudhasir have spoken a lot about the fast bowling talent in J&K. What exactly is it about the J&K cricketing environment that breeds fast bowlers with such

relentless stamina?

A. Fast bowling is about genes and passion. Here, we are naturally well-built and very passionate about fast bowling from a very young age. Plus, our diet and climate help build the stamina and strength needed for a fast bowler to survive the test of time and longevity. Most of our good fast bowlers have served for a decade or so. For instance, Abid Nabi and I played for about 16 to 17 years for the senior J&K Ranji team.

Q. A few years ago, you stated that for J&K to truly capitalize on its gold mine of fast bowlers, the BCCI and JKCA needed to appoint a permanent fast-bowling coach and trainer. With the rise of first Umran and now Auqib, is that need fulfilled, or are the players still relying mostly on raw talent and short-term mentorship?

A. Yes, the JKCA has to appoint a full-time, all-weather bowling consultant for J&K fast bowlers, and not just for one season. Fast bowling is about preparing in off-season and pre-season camps, when J&K currently has no coach available to train and groom fast bowlers across various age groups. The J&K Cricket Association would do well to think along those lines.

Q. What immediate impact do you think Nabi sharing a dressing room with Mohammed Siraj and the Indian support staff will have on the young fast bowlers currently training back in Baramulla, Srinagar and various parts of J&K?

A. Waiting makes you mentally strong and hungry to grab opportunities with both hands. MS Dhoni once said that players from smaller states are mentally stronger than those coming from bigger ones, and I can very well relate to it. We are built to deal with adversity and take things in our stride right from our childhood days.

Everything we achieve now feels like a bonus because, given the adversity we have seen, not many expect us to reach those levels. And when we do, we don't look back. I am sure Auqib will do wonders in the days to come.

P.V. Sindhu unveils vision for sports excellence centre in Andhra Pradesh



Hyderabad: Double Olympics medallist P.V. Sindhu and the Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh unveiled the vision for the P.V. Sindhu Centre for Sports Excellence in Visakhapatnam, marking the public launch of a landmark non-profit institution that aims to redefine sports development in India. Conceived by the former World Champion and Padma Bhushan awardee P.V. Sindhu, the Centre is being developed as an integrated sports and education ecosystem that brings together seven sporting disciplines, high-performance coaching, sports science, recovery, nutrition, strength and conditioning, and academics under one campus. The ceremony marked more than the laying of a foundation stone. Construction is already well underway, with the basement and substructure complete and the superstructure taking shape. The project's vision evolved significantly following discussions with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, who encouraged Sindhu and her husband, Venkata Datta Sai, to think not just about the next few years, but the next hundred. What began as a badminton academy has since grown into a long-term institution designed to serve generations of athletes and students. Inspired by visits to some of the world's leading high-performance sports facilities, including

Aspetar in Doha and the Inspire Institute of Sport, the centre has been designed around the belief that elite performance is created through the seamless integration of coaching, science, recovery, education and culture. The nearly two-lakh-square-foot campus will feature international-standard facilities, including specialised badminton infrastructure, a 25-metre competition swimming pool, Andhra Pradesh's first 25-metre shooting range, integrated sports science and recovery spaces, and an on-campus school that will enable young athletes to pursue both education and sport without compromise. Located in Visakhapatnam, the centre seeks to establish the city as a national destination for sport, education and high-performance training while creating wider opportunities through coaching, talent identification, research partnerships and community outreach. P.V. Sindhu said, "This centre is my most meaningful contribution to Indian sport. I am committing much of what I have earned throughout my career towards building an institution that creates opportunities for future generations. My dream is to create an ecosystem where young athletes have access to world-class coaching, sports science, education and the support they need to realise their full potential. I also appeal to corporates and philanthro-

pists to join us in this journey through CSR and long-term collaboration, so together we can build an institution that will serve generations to come." Mr. Nara Lokesh, Hon'ble Minister For Human Resources Development, Information Technology, Electronics & Communications and RTG, said, "P. V. Sindhu has brought immense pride to India through her remarkable achievements on the global stage. With the establishment of the P. V. Sindhu Centre For Sports Excellence, she is creating a lasting legacy by inspiring and nurturing the next generation of champions." "This initiative perfectly aligns with the vision of the Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu Garu to transform Andhra Pradesh into a leading sporting destination with world-class infrastructure and opportunities for young talent. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is proud to partner in this landmark initiative and remains committed to creating an ecosystem where every aspiring athlete has the opportunity to dream big, train with the best, and represent India with distinction. I congratulate Sindhu, her family, and all the partners associated with this inspiring endeavour, which will shape the future of Indian sport for generations to come." The Centre is expected to be completed by May 2028, when it will welcome its first generation of athletes and students.

Mitchell Marsh arrives at Sunrisers, Sam Curran moves to Durban Super Giants for SA20 Season 5



Johannesburg: Australia's T20 skipper Mitchell Marsh is set to make his SA20 debut for the three-time champions, Sunrisers Eastern Cape, while England all-rounder Sam Curran will don the Durban's Super Giants jersey after moving from MI Cape Town, as the six SA20 franchises secured their core squads ahead of the Season 5 auction on October 7. Marsh will join Quinton de Kock, Matthew Breetzke, Jordan Hermann and captain Tristan Stubbs in a strong batting line-up at Sunrisers Eastern Cape (SEC), while Curran, who represented

MI Cape Town in the first two seasons, will team up with his England teammate Jos Buttler. Joe Root, who returned as England's Test captain and formed a formidable opening partnership with young Lhuan-dre Pretorius for the Paarl Royals a couple of seasons ago, will return to the familiar surroundings of Boland Park for the upcoming season of the T20 tournament. Runners-up Pretoria Capitals have received a major boost to their top order with the additions of Phil Salt and Australian international Matt Short. Salt, who previously repre-

sented the Capitals, will reunite with Short at the top of the order. The duo is expected to add more firepower to a batting line-up featuring Dewald Brevis, Sherfane Rutherford, Andre Russell and last season's breakout star, Connor Esterhuizen. England all-rounder Will Jacks, who had three fruitful seasons with the Capitals, has moved to MI Cape Town to complete the trio of MI franchises, having previously represented the Mumbai Indians in the IPL and currently playing for the MI London setup in The Hundred. Meanwhile, Durban's Super Giants and Paarl Royals are the only two teams to have completed their 19-player squads before the auction, with 19 slots still available across the remaining four teams. SA20 League Commissioner and former Proteas skipper Graeme Smith said the SA20's ability to attract leading stars such as Marsh, Curran and Salt was a sign of the growing stature of the league. "Season 5 is shaping up to be our strongest yet. Bringing in a player of Mitchell Marsh's calibre alongside the class of Joe Root, Sam Curran and Phil Salt shows the growing pull of our league on the global stage," said Smith. "What

excites me most is seeing that quality alongside South Africa's international and domestic stars at the peak of their powers," he added. "The franchises head into the auction with the majority of their squads already locked in, which speaks volumes about the stability and consistency we have built. This sets us up for a highly competitive Season 5." Major League Cricket-winning skipper Jason Holder will don the Joburg Super Kings jersey. Super Kings are looking for a new captain after parting ways with Faf du Plessis, who led the side for the first four seasons.

Among the other prominent players released is England wicketkeeper-batter Jonny Bairstow, who formed a formidable opening partnership with De Kock for the Sunrisers. MI Cape Town have also parted ways with long-serving players Trent Boult, Rassie van der Dussen and Kieron Pollard, while Wiaan Mulder and Nandre Burger, who were marquee signings for the Super Kings, will also enter the auction pool. SA20 Season 5 will get underway on January 17 next year, with the Sunrisers taking on the Capitals in a repeat of last season's final.

India's Glasgow 2026 para champions honoured by M3M Foundation and PCI



Hyderabad: In recognition of India's historic performance at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, M3M Foundation, in partnership with the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), felicitated the country's medal-winning para athletes and their coaches for their outstanding achievements on the international stage. The ceremony honoured India's seven Commonwealth Games para medallists, who delivered the nation's best-ever performance in para events at the Games by winning seven medals — three gold, two silver and two bronze. The athletes felicitated included Sharmila Dhankar (Gold – Women's Shot Put F57), Shilpa Shyla (Bronze – Women's Shot Put F57), Jhandu Kumar (Bronze – Para

Powerlifting), Soman Rana (Gold – Men's F57 shot put) Shubham Juyal (Silver – Men's F 57 shot put), Dilip Manadu Gavitt (Gold – 100 m T47), Mohammed Basil (Silver – 100 m T 47) The event also recognised the invaluable contribution of the coaches and support staff whose dedication has played a vital role in India's growing success in para sports. Speaking on the occasion, Devendra Jhajharia, President, Paralympic Committee of India, said "Our athletes have once again shown the world what determination, resilience and hard work can achieve. This historic performance is not just a medal tally, it is a testament to years of commitment from our athletes, coaches and the entire support system. I sincerely thank M3M Foundation

for recognising our champions and standing firmly with the Paralympic movement. Such partnerships play a crucial role in helping our athletes dream bigger and achieve greater success". Dr. Payal Kanodia, Chairperson, Paralympic Committee of India, said "Every medal won in Glasgow is far more than a sporting achievement, it is a testament to extraordinary resilience, unwavering determination, and the indomitable spirit of the human will. Behind every podium finish lies years of relentless discipline, sacrifice, and the steadfast guidance of coaches, families, and support teams who have shaped these remarkable journeys. Today, we celebrate not just victories, but the triumph of courage over adversity.