



CII India Europe Business Partnership Roundtable: Andhra Pradesh is gateway for Indian market says CM Naidu

VISAKHAPATNAM: Andhra Pradesh is a gateway for India's market with abundant investment opportunities in various sectors, observed Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. Participating as a chief guest for India Europe Business Partnership Roundtable organized here on November 13, 2025, as part of two day CII partnership summit, the Chief Minister praising Visakhapatnam as a beautiful green and safest city, said that Visakhapatnam is going to emerge as global IT hub as Google is going to set up AI data centre with an investment of \$15 billion and sub sea cables will be laid connecting Singapore. Andhra Pradesh has been promoting industries in a big way and as part of it adopted speed of doing business and clearing applications within 45 days. Citing a recent example, the Chief Minister said Premier Energy got clearances with in 45 days with a single phone call. Likewise Reliance is setting the



second largest brewery globally with clearances within a month and planning to start production from February. The Chief Minister said that the state government is going to develop a drone city for both civil applications and defence sector needs. As per the call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to promote space technology in the private sector, Andhra Pradesh is planning to develop a space city. Andhra Pradesh is strong in

the energy sector by producing solar, wind and pumped storage power generation. He said Andhra Pradesh is going to emerge as a green energy hub. While India set a target to produce 500 GW in green energy Andhra Pradesh decided to produce 160 GW of green energy. Andhra Pradesh is strong in several sectors including AI, Data centre, Space, drones, electronics, aero space, semiconductors. When the Government of

India recently announced quantum computing policy, Andhra Pradesh decided to develop quantum valley in Amaravati and confident that quantum computers will be produced in AP in two years. The Chief Minister said India is going to emerge as Number One in the economy and it is unstoppable. Praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Chief Minister said India has an advantage of a stable government. He appealed to global investors to come and invest in Andhra Pradesh. If any one comes forward for investment, the Government will provide an escort officer to follow up their applications for setting up of industries in the state. Earlier welcoming the gathering Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry, India Chandrajit Banerjee praised Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for his visionary outlook and commitment for economic development of both India and

Andhra Pradesh. Dignitaries including Gevorg Papoyan, Minister of Economy, Republic of Armenia, R Mukundan, President Designate, CII and MD and CEO of Tata Chemicals Limited, Ms Clemence Kopeikin, Chief Impact officer FyrstGen Holding Limited, Switzerland, Bertram Lohmuller, Professor kSDG Technology transfer and leadership, export-Akademie Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany, Amit Kalyani Chairman, CII Europe council and Vice chairman and Jt Managing Director Bharat Forge Limited, India were present. It may be noted that India and Europe are witnessing significant growth across sectors including renewable energy, technology and smart manufacturing. Both India and Europe have committed to contribute and collaborate to advance the green shift through collaboration to accelerate green transition and enhance the joint green funding mechanisms.

TS SSC Time Table 2026: Telangana Class 10 Exam Dates, Schedule & Subjects



The Telangana Board will soon release the TS SSC Time Table 2026. Students can check it on bse.telangana.gov.in. Exam Schedule Last year, exams were from March 21 to April 4. This year, exams are expected from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. On Exam Day Exams will be offline. Students should come 30 minutes early. Admit cards will show the centre, roll number, and reporting time. Subjects : Students will write six subjects: Telugu, Hindi, English, Maths, Science, and Social. How to Download : Go to the website. Click on "TS SSC Time Table 2026" to download the PDF. Practical Exams : The board will share Science and vocational practical details soon.

Lokesh calls for transformational shift in higher education

Vijayawada: A strong call for reform in India's higher education landscape marked the CII Southern Region Higher Education Conclave 2025, hosted at VIT-AP University here. Organised by the CII Southern Region Taskforce on Education and Industry-Institute Linkages, the conclave revolved around the theme "Reimagining Higher Education for India's \$5 Trillion Economy." Delivering the keynote address, Nara Lokesh, minister for human resource development, IT, electronics and communication, and RTG, said that while India's \$5 trillion economy goal is achievable, the true challenge lies in accelerating the journey. "India must think beyond and aim for a \$30 trillion economy. The reforms, collaborations, and transformations we pursue today will determine that future," he asserted. Highlighting the nation's demographic advantage — 54 per cent of Indians under 25 — Lokesh emphasised the urgent need to bridge the employability gap. "Only 34 per cent of our workforce has formal training, compared to 96 percent in South Korea and 75 per-



cent in Germany. We must move from degree acquisition to skill activation," he said. Drawing a contrast between graduates struggling for jobs and vocationally trained youth finding employment, Lokesh called for industry-integrated and skill-based curricula. He also underscored the importance of international collaboration to promote global exposure, critical thinking, and quality benchmarks in higher education. Outlining his vision for Andhra Pradesh, Lokesh said the state aims to attract \$1 trillion in

investments by 2029, with Amaravati emerging as a hub for innovation, human capital, and industrial development. Dr GV Selvam, vice-president, VIT, and chairman of CII SR College Excellence Cluster 2025, spoke about balancing technology and creativity. "AI should complement human intelligence, not replace it. True progress lies in maintaining this balance," he said, stressing that dependence on technology must not weaken human ingenuity. Earlier, Dr S V Kota Reddy, vice-chancellor, VIT-AP University, delivered the opening remarks, followed by panel discussions featuring experts such as Dr. Ashwin Mahalingam (IIT Madras), Indrajit Anne (Inventiz), V Srikanth (ICT Academy), and others. The conclave brought together policymakers, academics, and industry leaders for insightful dialogues on employability, innovation, and global competitiveness. It concluded with a collective call to accelerate reforms that align higher education with India's economic ambitions and evolving skill ecosystem.

Tumakuru man grilled by Karnataka Police in Delhi blast case

Bengaluru: The police grilled a man, whom they said was a former terrorist, for more than two hours in Karnataka's Tumakuru on Thursday in connection with the November 10 car blast in Delhi, which claimed 12 lives. According to police, the former terrorist, Mujahid, was questioned by Additional SP Purushottam at the Tilaknagar police station. After questioning, the police released him. Mujahid faced charges of organising a meeting for a terror organisation. He was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) earlier and sent to Tihar Jail in Delhi. He had come out after being in prison for six years, police said. He is now residing at PS Colony in Tumakuru, police said. The police further stated that he was



grilled in connection with the Delhi blasts, and only after it was confirmed that he had no role to play in the terror act, he was released. Further details were awaited. At present, the Karnataka NIA team is on high alert. It is suspected that the main planner or mastermind of the Delhi blast

might have links or connections in Bengaluru. The NIA officers, who are already questioning some suspects in custody, are now trying to find out whether there is any evidence or information connecting the Bengaluru network to the blast. NIA teams in Karnataka have become actively involved in the investigation to uncover any possible link between the Delhi blast and individuals or activities in Bengaluru and other parts of Karnataka, said sources here. The authorities are also suspecting the link between this case and Abdur Rahman, aka Dr Brave, who was arrested in Karnataka's Bengaluru on August 17, 2020. As a student of MBBS at Bangalore Medical College and a resident of Basavanagudi in Bengaluru, Dr Brave got radicalised listening to the online lectures

of hard-line Islamic preachers, including 'Anwar Awlaki'. Subsequently, he came into contact with other radicalised youth and travelled to Syria in December 2013 and participated in various terrorist activities of ISIS. On returning to India, he continued to remain closely associated with the ideology of ISIS and was in regular contact with the terror elements of ISIS in India and abroad. Utilising his knowledge of Ophthalmic Lasers and Medical Science, he made efforts to develop applications for medical and military equipment of ISIS. He was contacting ISIS ideology promoter Jahanzaib Sami through a messaging platform named 'Threema'. The NIA had investigated the case of the Islamic State - Khorasan Province registered at New Delhi under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Sambaraju Yadagiris Salaam Janagaam was released



The discovery has been made about the poets, writers. The meeting was attended by about 250 poets, writers and history remarkable. Pittala Kumar welcomed the speakers to the stage and K. Anandachari presided over the function. Senior journalist Pasam Yadagiri released the book.

Dr. Pasunuri Ravinder introduced the book. The chief guest Prof. Jayadhir Tirmal Rao, Padma Shri Dasari Prasada Rao, G. Ramulu, M. Abbas was present. Dr Gopal Reddy. Former MLA Macharla Bikshapathi, former MLA Rajareddy and others were present. Apart from Kanakareddy, Azarudeen, litterateurs Panuganti Ramamurthy, Kodam Kumaraswamy, Reddy Ratnakar Reddy, Nakka Suresh, G. Krishna, Ayila Somanarasimhachari, Petloju Someswarachari, Lagisetty Prabhakar and others spoke on the importance of local history. Krishna rendered the vote of thanks. The whole process was great from the beginning to the end

For the National Other Backward Classes (NOBC) meeting, our Araku Member of Parliament (MP) Dr. Gumm Tanuja Rani has left for New Delhi.



To the people of the Araku Parliamentary Constituency, officials, YSRCP party leaders, workers, and well-wishers:

Araku MP Dr. Gumm Tanuja Rani has traveled to the national capital, New Delhi, to attend the National Commission for Other Backward Classes (NOBC) meeting and several central committee meetings from today until November 20.

From November 22 onwards, she will once again be available in the Araku Parliamentary Constituency for the public, officials, YSRCP leaders/workers, supporters, and others as per their convenience and requirements.

Dharna at Ekasila and Jayashankar Park on 13th November: REA committee

Jangaon, November 13, Metroodayam:

Retired Employees Association Arrears Remuneration Committee. Warangal district. Chief Secretary Kadari Bhogeswar Kadari Bhogeswar, general secretary of Telangana Retired Employees Association, was the chief guest at the preparatory meeting held at Umapathy Bhavan TPTF office in Jangaon under the chairmanship of Bandarapu Lakshmaiah, associate president of Telangana Retired Employees Association. As part of this, he requested to attend the dharna in



Warangal district on the 13th of this month in large numbers and make it a success. Employees want to lead a peaceful life after retirement. GPF, TSGLI,

Leave Encashment, Commutation, Gratuity, 2020 PRC Arrears are the rights of the employees through which they can get their children married,

build a house and live a peaceful life by paying bank EMIs. But he said his hopes were dashed.

Jangaon District Associate President Bandarapu Lakshmaiah said that since the retirement dues of the retired employees have not been paid since March 2024, the employees are in financial difficulties and are suffering from mental distress, and nearly 20 people have died of depression across the state. Jangaon district president Miriyala Ramesh, Krishna Murthy, Ch. Satyanarayana Reddy and B. Srinivas and others were present

WALT AIR DIVISION CONDUCTS INTENSIVE TICKET CHECKING DRIVE



Waltair Division of East Coast Railway conducted a massive ticket-checking drive across its jurisdiction. A total of 197 ticket-checking staff were deployed for the intensive operation covering major trains and stations under the division under the guidance of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Shri K Pavan Kumar. During the drive, cases of ticketless travel, irregular tickets, and unbooked luggage were detected, resulting in the realization of Rs.

8,45,735/- from 1,586 cases. The drive aimed to curb unauthorized travel and ensure greater passenger discipline while safeguarding railway revenue. In addition, during the month of October 2025, the division achieved a total earnings of Rs. 2,41,10,000/- through ticket-checking activities, registering 46,930 cases. This marks a substantial increase compared to the corresponding month of October 2024, when the revenue stood at Rs.

2,05,55,000/- from 41,940 cases. The consistent growth in earnings reflects the divisions sustained efforts and the consistent measures taken by its ticket-checking teams. Divisional Railway Manager Shri Lalit Bohra appreciated the team commercial for its concerted efforts in ensuring the curtail the ticketless travel and appealed to passengers to travel with a valid ticket and support Indian Railways in maintaining fair and dignified travel practices.

Nitish Kumar will become CM for 10th time: NDA confident ahead of Bihar poll results on Nov 14

Patna: As the counting of votes for the highly-anticipated Bihar Assembly elections will begin on November 14, the NDA on Thursday expressed full confidence that Nitish Kumar will once again become the Chief Minister for the 10th time. Opposition parties, however, also exuded optimism about forming the next government in the state. Speaking to IANS, BJP State President Dilip Jaiswal said, "The people of Bihar have given their mandate, and voters across the state participated with great enthusiasm. The development work carried out by the Bihar government, along with the trust people have in Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will lead to the NDA forming the government once again with a massive majority. Abki Baar NDA Sarkar!"

e added, "There was no need for repolling anywhere, and no incidents of violence were reported. This reflects the trust people have in the government. The voter turnout was also significantly higher, and polling was peaceful across the state. This clearly indicates that there will be an



NDA government again." JD(U) spokesperson Neeraj Kumar said, "The people of Bihar no longer want Tejashwi Yadav, who faces several charges. He will continue to lose because the INDIA bloc has suffered under his leadership. The people of Bihar trust the NDA, and they want Nitish Kumar to take charge as Chief Minister for the 10th time." BJP leader Ram Kripal Yadav also voiced confidence in the NDA's victory. "The result is already known to us even before counting. The NDA will form the government with a huge majority, and Nitish Kumar will once again become the Chief Minister," he said. LJP (Ram Vilas)

MP Shambhavi Choudhary echoed similar sentiments, stating, "The Opposition will, of course, make claims — that's part of politics. But these statements have no factual basis. The NDA is set to form the government once again with a full majority and complete strength. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will take the oath once more." Meanwhile, the Opposition parties have also expressed confidence in their chances.

Congress spokesperson Surendra Rajput said, "We are waiting for the results, but we have no faith in the exit polls sponsored by the government or the BJP. We trust the people's vote and are confident that the Mahagathbandhan will secure a large majority and form the government in Bihar. The NDA had also claimed it would sweep Uttar Pradesh, but the Mahagathbandhan performed strongly there. We are confident of a similar outcome in Bihar." RJD leader Mrityunjay Tiwari added, "Tomorrow, when the results are out, the people of Bihar will triumph."

UDAYAM Poetry's



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WASTE NOT TEARS

Waste not tears
They are precious,
Your liquid assets.

They can sooth
Pain or plight
Act as a balm
For balked love

They can quench
Volcanoes,wild fires
In your heart,
Lighten,lessen
Even loads of lead!

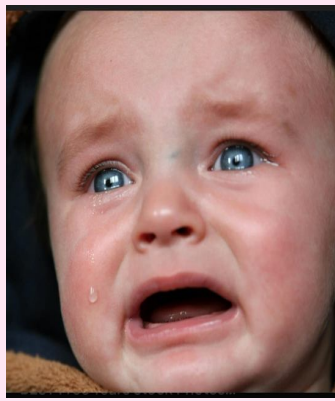
Waste not tears
They are precious
Your liquid assets.

True friends
Are rare,
A dead tribe.
You find them,
Ta-d welling in eyes.

They often talk
About you,
For you.
About others,
For others.

Tears are money
For all those
Who live on screen,
Power for those
Who act in streets
Often,always.

A womans tears
Ruin fortunes,
They say.
A mothers tears
Are real,pure,
Like her milk.



She sheds them
For you
As prayers
See she sheds them
Not because of you.

Tears are letters
Of a childs language
Known only to mother.
Save them,shed them
For her as a child
When Time comes
Wisely for others

Waste not tears
They are precious
Your liquid assets.

**M SOMASEKHAR PRASAD
GANDHINAGAR
HYDERABAD 500020**



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Cherish the Child Within

The child within us never truly fades.
Though we grow into adults, somewhere deep inside,
our inner child still cries for love and happiness.

As children, we cried for chocolates and play,
but as adults, we long to return to those carefree days.

I loved my childhood, yet todays children
are running after technology, losing the simple joys
of life—
the laughter of games, the warmth of pure love.

Kids are growing up faster than they should;
their innocence is slipping away too soon.
They are like little gods, yet these precious souls
are often misunderstood or pushed too hard.

Parents, dont impose your dreams upon them;
understand what your children truly need.
Knowledge may flourish, but the joy of being a
child
cannot be taught—it must be nurtured.

Every year we celebrate Childrens Day,
but do we truly see them with love,
watch over their hearts, and respect their feelings?
Change the way we parent.

Let your children be children,
and be the kind of parent they can confide in.
Teach them right from wrong with care,
not pride in wealth, status, or caste.
Teach them to treat everyone equal Cherish the
Child Within

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child
cannot be taught—it must be nurtured.

Every year we celebrate Childrens Day,
but do we truly see them with love,
watch over their hearts, and respect their feelings?
Change the way we parent. Let your children be
children, and be the kind of parent they can confide in.

Teach them right from wrong with care,
not pride in wealth, status, or caste.

Teach them to treat
everyone equally,
and watch them grow
into kind, happy
human beings. and
watch them grow into
kind, happy human
beings.

**Happy Childrens Day
M. R. Jayasudha
M.C.A
Chittoor, Andhra
pradesh**



UDAYAM Poetry's



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A SALUTE TEACHERS

Ignorance is dark!
Education is light!
Teachers lit lamp!
Shows path of light!

Makes unknown known!
Moulds the character!
Teacher is sculptor!
Turns stone into statue!

Teacher is hard and
rigid!
Makes disciple discipli-
ned!
Stands for moral values!
Instincts morality in stu-
dent!

Good teachers are rare!
Bless the learners ever!

Not for get their affection!
Back bone of our life!

Once again take this
opportunity
to salute your beloved
teachers!

**Written by BSN RAO
(Ba. Sa. Raa)
Vijayawada.**



UDAYAM Poetry's



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BE HAPPY.

Be happy with what you
are having.
Self-content is the best
policy in life .
It gives happiness and
self confidence.

Be happy for leading such
a wonderfull life.
Be happy that we are
Having two hands, With
these we can help each
other...
Be happy that we are
having two eyes,

with these,we can see
the entire world.
Be happy that we are
having two legs
with these we can encir-
cle the world.
Be happy that we are liv-
ing in this beautiful world.
And enjoying the Sun
shine and Silver moon.
Say Thanks to the cre-
ator of this world
And made all of us
B E H A P P Y.

**-M.V.Chandra Sekhara
Rao**



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अगर शासक केवल वादे करता है तो
लोग उस से दूर हो जाते हैं। उम्मीदें
पूरे ना होने की सूरत में शासक से
मांगना बंद कर देते हैं।...

(शकील उवाचा -१३१)

हुकमरान (शासक, मंत्री, अधिकारी)
हमेशा अपने न्याय के लिए पहचाने
जाते हैं। न्याय धर्म का और धर्म के
हर एक पंथ का मौलिक, अति
महत्वपूर्ण और केंद्रीय सिद्धांत है।
न्याय एक ईश्वरीय गुण है। अगर
समाज में न्याय नहीं हो तो फिर पूरा
समाज जुल्मो सितम (अन्याय और
अत्याचार) के चक्की में पिसता हुआ
नजर आएगा। सभी के बीच
न्यायपूर्ण और निष्पक्ष व्यवहार होना
चाहिए ऐसा धर्म का आदेश है जिसे
ईश्वर पसंद करता है। इस जीवन में
ही नहीं बल्के परलोक जीवन में भी मानव को मिलने वाले सुख और
दुःख का आधार न्याय के साथ जुड़ा हुआ है।



पवित्र कुरआन में आया है के, "खुदा (ईश्वर) ईमानदार
(विश्वासी) लोगों से लोगों के बीच न्याय से फैसले करने की आज्ञा देता
है, पवित्र कुरआन में आया है के, "(ऐ ईमानदारों!) खुदा (ईश्वर) तुम्हें
आज्ञा देता है के, लोगों की अमानतें (धरोहर) अमानत रखने वालों के
हवाले कर दो। जब लोगों के बाहमी (आपसी) झगड़ों का फैसला करने
लगो तो इंसाफ से फैसला (न्याय निर्णय) करो। खुदा (ईश्वर) तुमको उस
(न्याय करने) की क्या ही अच्छी नसीहत (उपदेश) करता है। इसमें तो
शक नहीं कि खुदा सबकी सुनता (और सब कुछ) देखता है।" (पवित्र
कुरआन , अध्याय क्रमांक 04, सुराह अन निसा, आयत क्रमांक 58)।

हुक्काम (शासक, मंत्री और अधिकारी) अगर न्यायसंगत
व्यवहार के लिए अपनी नफ्स (आत्मा) को तैयार रखते हैं तो फिर उन्हें
लोगों से मुंह छुपाने की आवश्यकता ही क्या? कहकर इमाम अली इब्न
अबू तालिब अलैहिस्सलाम फरमाते हैं के, "(ऐ मालिक!) और फिर तुम
दो ही तरह के आदमी हो सकते हो, या तो तुम ऐसे हो कि तुम्हारा
नफ्स हक की अदायगी (न्याय करने) के लिए तैयार है तो फिर वाजिब
हुक्कू अदा करने (अनिवार्य कर्तव्य निभाने) और अच्छे काम कर गुजरने
से मुंह छुपाने की जरूरत क्या?" (अब्बास बुक एजेन्सी, लखनऊ द्वारा
प्रकाशित हिंदी पुस्तक नहजुल बलागह, पत्र क्रमांक 53, पुष्ट क्रमांक
658)।

दूसरा यह के, अगर शासक केवल वादे करता है तो
लोग उस से दूर हो जाते हैं। उम्मीदें पूरे ना होने की सूरत में प्रजा
शासक से मांगना बंद कर देती है। इस बारे में इमाम अली इब्न
अबू तालिब अलैहिस्सलाम फरमाते हैं के, "(ऐ मालिक!) और या तुम ऐसे हो
कि लोगों को तुमसे कोरा जवाब ही मिलना है, तो जब लोग तुम्हारी
अता (दान) से मायूस (निराश) हो जाएंगे तो खुद ही बहुत जल्द तुमसे
मांगना छोड़ देंगे।" (अब्बास बुक एजेन्सी, लखनऊ द्वारा प्रकाशित हिंदी
पुस्तक नहजुल बलागह, पत्र क्रमांक 53, पुष्ट क्रमांक 658)।

जब प्रजा यह जान लेती है के शासक हमारी मांग
पूरी नहीं करता तो एक तो उस शासक से उम्मीद नहीं लगाएगी और
अगर उम्मीद भी लगाती है तो ऐसी समस्या लेकर आएगी जो शासक
के जेब पर बोझा नहीं बनता। याने प्राजा की शिकायत किसीके अत्याचार
के बारे में या न्याय की मांग को लेकर होगी। इसलिए शासक लोगों से
मुंह छुपाते फिरना नहीं चाहिए।

इमाम अली इब्न अबू तालिब अलैहिस्सलाम ने जब
मालिक इब्न हारिसे अशतर (र.) को मिस्र (इजिप्ट) का वाली (संरक्षक)
बनाकर भेजा तब उनको लिखे पत्र में कहते हैं के, "(ऐ मालिक!) और
फिर यह लोगों की अक्सर जरूरतें ऐसी होंगी जिन से तुम्हारी जेब पर
कोई बार (भार) नहीं पड़ता। जैसे किसी के जुल्म (अत्याचार) की
शिकायत या किसी मामले में इंसाफ का मुतालबा (न्याय की चाहत)।"
(अब्बास बुक एजेन्सी, लखनऊ द्वारा प्रकाशित हिंदी पुस्तक नहजुल
बलागह, पत्र क्रमांक 53, पुष्ट क्रमांक 658)।

**-डॉ. मोहम्मदशकील ताजमोहम्मद जाफरी (शकील
मंवर), मंवर, पुणे (महाराष्ट्र) भारत**

Gratitude- Thank you

Thank you
Dandavat
Dandyavalu Merci
Dankeschön

Whichever
way we say it
Thank you
is a blessing.
It travels far,
it touches hearts,
it heals quietly.
It is meaningful,
it shows
appreciation
Thank you

I am grateful
It is something
we should say
but sometime

Forget
caught in the
rush of living,
in the noise of
wanting



Yet when
we pause,
and focus on all
we are grateful for,
something shifts
Our hearts open,
our lives brighten,
and more light

Finds its way in.
Nandri. Dandavat.
Thank you again.
For every kindness,
every moment,
every blessing.
—Dr Seshni Moodliar
Rensburg

IPL retention talks underway, says LSG owner Goenka ahead of Nov 15 deadline



New Delhi: IPL side Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) have begun discussions on their retention ahead of the November 15 deadline, said franchise owner Sanjiv Goenka. In 2025, LSG, led by India wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant, finished at seventh place with six wins coming from 14 games. The Lucknow-based franchise had made the knockouts in their first two IPL seasons in 2022 and 2023 respectively. "IPL retention talks for @LucknowIPL are underway. Delighted to have @TomMoodyCricket on board, bringing immense experience and strategic insight. Great discussion with @RishabhPant17, Justin Langer, and Bharat Arun as we plan for the season ahead," wrote Goenka on his 'X' account on Thursday. Also seen in the picture are Goenka's son and LSG co-owner Shashwat Goenka and team analyst Shrinivas Chandrashekar. Post their lackluster time in IPL 2025, LSG made quite a few changes to their coaching staff; while Langer retained his job, Bharat Arun was brought in as the bowling coach while Carl Crowe came in as the spin bowling coach. Tom Moody recently took over as the side's global director of cricket, replacing Zaheer Khan. Post the retention deadline, the mini auction for IPL 2026 will be held either on December 15 or 16 in Abu Dhabi. In terms of retentions, LSG have some tough choices to make:- exciting fast bowler Mayank Yadav, who was retained for Rs 11 crore, is still in rehab at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru after undergoing a back surgery in Christchurch, New Zealand, in July this year. It is understood that Yadav's ongoing rehab means he may not be available for the first half of IPL 2026. David Miller, Arshin Kulkarni and Shamar Joseph also didn't live up to the expected billing in LSG colours during the 2025 season. There's also been word around all-rounder Shardul Thakur being traded to another franchise by LSG before the retention deadline, but nothing concrete has come to the fore.

Director Sundar C opts out of Rajinikanth's #Thalaivar173

Chennai: In news that has sent shockwaves, ace director Sundar C, who was to direct Superstar Rajinikanth's next film, tentatively being referred to as #Thalaivar173, has now announced his decision to opt out of the project.

On Thursday, Sundar C issued a statement saying he was making the difficult decision to step back from the project due to "unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances."

It may be recalled that the film had triggered huge excitement as it is being produced by actor Kamal Haasan's production house Raaj Kamal Films International.

Sundar C, who is one of Tamil cinema's finest commercial film directors, in a statement titled "A Heartfelt Note to My Dearest Fans and Well-Wishers", wrote, "It is with a heavy heart that I share

some important news with you. Due to unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances, I have made the difficult decision to step back from the prestigious project, #Thalaivar173."

The director went on to say, "This venture, featuring the legendary Superstar Thiru. Rajinikanth Avl and to be produced by the illustrious Ulaghanayagan Thiru. Kamal Haasan Avl, was indeed a dream come true for me. In life, there are moments when we must follow the path laid out for us, even if it diverges from our dreams."

Stating that his association with the two icons went back a long way, the director said, "I will always hold them in the highest regard. The special moments we have shared over the past few days will be cherished forever by me. They have taught me invaluable lessons, and I will continue to



seek their inspiration and wisdom as I move forward."

Sundar C, who is also the husband of actress and politician Khushbu, further said that although he was stepping away from the opportunity, he would continue to seek the expert guidance of both stalwarts of Tamil cinema.

"I thank both of them from the bottom of my heart for considering me for this magnum opus," he told the superstars of Tamil cinema before going on to address

his fans.

To his fans, the director said, "Please accept my sincere apologies if this news has disappointed those who had eagerly anticipated this venture. I am committed to making it up to you and promise to continue bringing you entertainment that keeps your spirits high. Thank you for your unwavering support and understanding. It means the world to me, and I look forward to creating more memories with you all."

Stand-up comedians deliver solid punches tickling Big B's funny bone on 'KBC'

Mumbai: The latest episode of the quiz based reality show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' saw a volley of stand-up comedians making their way to the hot seat.

Show host Amitabh Bachchan welcomed Harsh Gujral, Abhishek Upmanyu, Anubhav Singh Bassi, and Ravi Gupta to the show. The comedian, finding the Bollywood legend in front of themselves, didn't feel intimidated by the tall figure, and delivered some solid punches which entertained Big B and the audience alike.

During the episode, Ravi Gupta told Big B that earlier his parents were against him venturing into comedy as they thought the profession isn't financially rewarding. But when he started earning well, his parents told



him not to ever leave comedy, the joke threw Big B into a fit of laughter. Bassi recollected his childhood memory of his mother teaching him one night before his exam when he realised that his mother also isn't aware of the course material, and both mother-son duo ended up studying the same subject for the first time.

During the episode Big B also tried

his hands at stand-up comedy, when he went behind the mic, and delivered a joke, as he narrated the story of a rat who entered the sets of 'KBC' through audience poll. The legendary actor instantly picked the body language, delivery style of saying the punchline with a straight face.

'Kaun Banega Crorepati' season 17 is available on Sony TV, and SonyLIV. Prior to this, Big B was seen visiting the veteran actor Dharmendra, his Veeru from 'Sholay' after the latter was given a discharge from the hospital after his recent scare. Big B drove all by himself to Dharmendra's house. The two veterans live in the same Juhu area of Mumbai within the driving time of 10 minutes.

Once the guiding force behind Rohit Sharma, coach Dinesh Lad seeks support to keep his cricket academy alive

New Delhi: For over three decades, Dinesh Lad, the childhood coach of former captain Rohit Sharma, has devoted his life to nurturing young talent — not for fame or fortune, but out of love for the game. Today, however, the veteran coach finds himself struggling to keep his cricket foundation running and is appealing for financial support to sustain his dream of shaping India's next generation of cricketers.

"I've been providing honorary coaching for the last 30 years — I've never taken money from anyone," Lad told IANS. "My students have gone on to play for India, represent their state teams and for Mumbai across various age groups. For 30 years, this is all I've been doing."

Two years ago, Lad founded the Dinesh Lad Cricket Foundation, a not-for-profit initiative through which he has adopted 22 children, most of them from rural parts of India. "They are all highly talented kids," he said. "But unfortunately, I'm not getting the kind of financial support that's needed. When I was coaching the Mumbai team, I used to divert whatever money I earned to support them."

Lad eventually stepped down from his Mumbai coaching role to focus fully on the children. "They've come from far-away villages — 12 from Maharashtra, one from Delhi, three from Gujarat, and two from Andhra Pradesh," he shared. "I even look after their schooling through



the foundation. The cricket coaching is completely free — I don't take any money for that."

Despite the financial strain, Lad refuses to view coaching as a business. "I don't claim to make anyone a cricketer," he said. "They become cricketers because of their own talent. When people say 'Lad Sir made us,' I feel humbled — but it's their ability that brought them success."

He recalls his early days mentoring a young Rohit, who was then an off-spin bowler. "When I saw him bat, I told him to focus more on batting. Even Rohit said, 'Sir, I was a bowler.' I didn't make him a batsman — I just saw his potential."

Another student who shares a special bond with Lad is Shardul Thakur, who once lived at the coach's home. "Shardul stayed with me, and there was another Muslim boy who lived with us for five

years," he said. "If you see it, what I'm doing is social service. I'm not doing it for money. If I wanted, I could easily earn ₹60-70 lakh a month — but I've never chosen that path. My passion is not money, it's cricket."

A Guru's Legacy

Lad's deepest inspiration comes from his mentor, the legendary Ramakant Achrekar, who coached the legendary Sachin Tendulkar. "I play and teach cricket because of my guru," Lad said with pride. "After Achrekar sir received the Dronacharya Award, I became the second person from Maharashtra to receive it — in 32 years. Becoming a Dronacharya (awardee) like my guru is the biggest achievement of my life."

A Grounded Struggle

Even with national recognition, Lad continues to face practical challenges. The state government allotted him a cricket ground, but it comes with heavy costs. "It's on rent, and I have to bear all expenses — water, maintenance, everything," he explained. "To manage the costs, I rent it out for private matches, which some people misinterpret as me trying to make money. I have a CSR certificate, and many people promise help, but I'm not someone who keeps following up."

A Partner in Every Sense

Behind Lad's unwavering journey stands

his wife, whose quiet strength kept the family afloat. "I gave 30 years of my life to cricket, but I didn't have enough money when I started," he said. "I worked with the railways — that was all. My wife supported me through everything. When I brought Shardul home, she didn't object. She said, 'It's your house — why would I have a problem?' She took care of him as if he were our own child. I don't know how she managed the household, but I am who I am because of her."

Beyond Borders

Lad's reputation as a coach has reached beyond Indian shores. He has also trained international players, including the son of former South African pacer Makhaya Ntini, who stayed with him for a month, and another young South African cricketer who trained for 25 days. "His cricket improved, his technique got better, and he went on to be named Best Junior Cricketer of South Africa," Lad said proudly. "He's even a candidate for the U-19 World Cup captaincy."

Keeping the Dream Alive

Through all his challenges, Dinesh Lad remains steadfast in his mission — to give young, talented cricketers the opportunity he once wished he had. "If I get financial support," he said, "I can do even more for these kids. Who knows — the next Rohit Sharma or Shardul Thakur might just be one of them."