

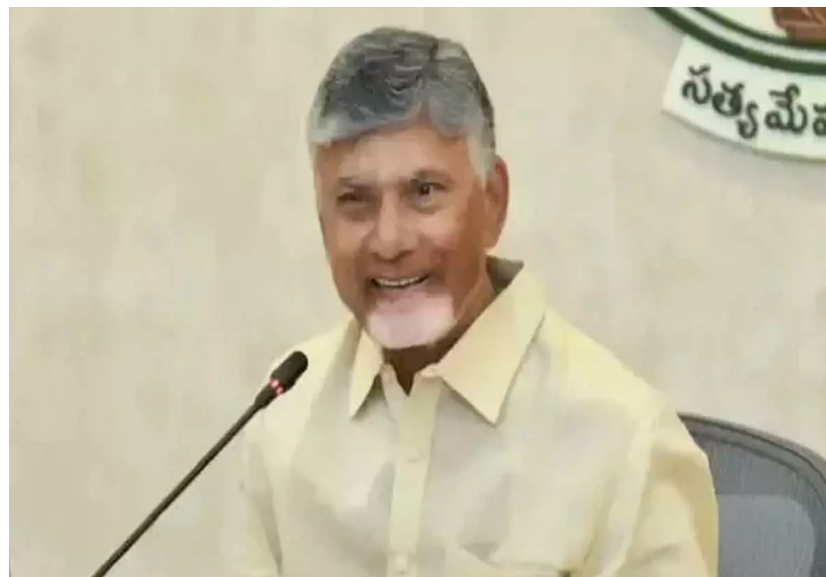
## Chandrababu pays tribute to Savitribai Phule on her birth anniversary



On the occasion of Savitribai Phule's birth anniversary, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu paid heartfelt tributes to the pioneering figure who defied societal norms to champion women's education in India. Naidu highlighted Phule's extraordinary courage, which not only paved the way for women's education in her time but has also empowered contemporary women to seize opportunities more effectively than their male counterparts. He urged modern women to honour the legacy of Savitribai Phule, whose contributions continue to inspire and uplift generations.

## Andhra Pradesh Sees Investment Surge, Naidu Highlights Policy Reforms

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has hailed the significant increase in investments within the state as a promising start to the new year. He noted that the results of the 'Speed of Doing Business' initiative are becoming increasingly apparent, contributing to enhanced investor confidence through substantial policy reforms. During his remarks, Naidu emphasised the importance of Andhra Pradesh securing the top position in domestic investments, describing it as positive news for the populace and a testament to the forward-thinking policies being implemented by the govern-



ment. He asserted that the 'Speed of Doing Business' programme is enabling investors to receive services more efficiently. In a bid to

ensure transparency in the distribution of incentives, Naidu revealed the introduction of an ESO-based system. He highlighted that

clear guidelines have been established for various sectors to bolster investor trust. The Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to the investors who have selected Andhra Pradesh as their preferred destination, thanking them for their faith in the state's vision. He also commended the efforts of the government team, urging that this achievement should be viewed not as a conclusion, but as a foundation for future development. Looking ahead, Naidu reaffirmed the government's commitment to fostering further investments, partnerships, and sustainable growth throughout the state.

## Cold snap grips AP, Telangana, here is weather update and forecast

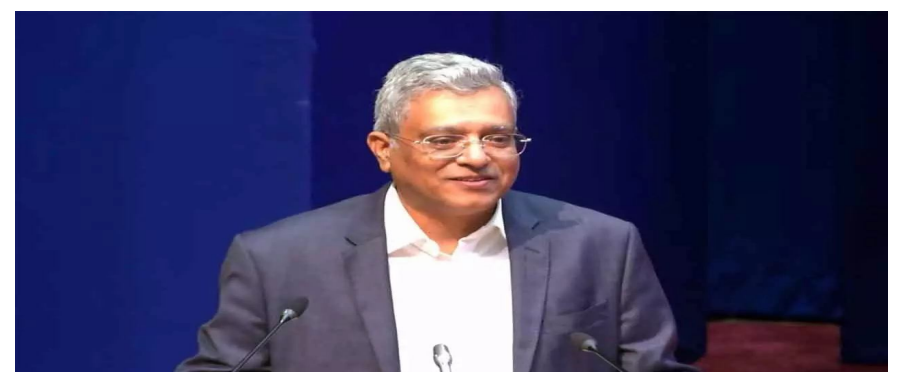
The Telugu states Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are currently experiencing a gripping cold snap, with several districts in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana recording single-digit temperatures. Despite a slight easing of this cold spell in recent days, meteorological experts warn that the chill is expected to intensify once more. In a key update from the Meteorological Department, it has been reported that dry weather is anticipated across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, with fog expected in certain areas. Andhra Pradesh Weather According to the Amaravati Meteorological Centre, winds from the northeast and east are influencing weather patterns in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, and Rayalaseema. The forecast for the next three days indicates: Dry weather is expected in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh &



Yanam, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh, and Rayalaseema, with fog likely in isolated locations on Saturday to Sunday. Telangana Weather Warning The Hyderabad Meteorological Centre has provided insights into weather patterns in Telangana, noting that lower-level winds are primarily originating from the

east and southeast. The forecast for the coming days includes: Continued dry weather is predicted, with fog possible in some areas during the next two days from Saturday to Monday. Residents are advised to take precautions against the cold and potential fog while commuting.

## Justice Narasimha Advocates for Telugu at World Telugu Conference



Guntur hosted the grand third World Telugu Conference, where Supreme Court Justice Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha delivered an inspiring speech during the inaugural ceremony. Expressing surprise at the scale of the event, he remarked, "I never imagined in my wildest dreams that such a large Telugu conference would be held." Justice Narasimha emphasised the deep bond that individuals form with their mother tongue from birth, stating, "Language is not just for expressing thoughts; it has the power to create a whole world. We are all related through language, and it provides us with our identity." In a strong call for the promotion of the Telugu language, he argued that it should be made mandatory in official proceedings, insisting, "Court proceedings up to the district level should be conducted in Telugu." His remarks underscored the importance of preserving and celebrating the Telugu language in all facets of life.

## 75,000 NCC cadets took part in Operation Sindoor: DG

New Delhi: About 75,000 NCC Cadets participated during Operation Sindoor, assisting the civil administration and providing medical support, Director General Lt Gen Virendra Vats said on Saturday while sharing details of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Republic Day Camp (RDC) 2026.

Lt Gen Vats said that the camp is a platform to provide cadets with exposure to the rich culture and traditions of our nation through important events that take place in the National Capital during the run-up to Republic Day. He also highlighted the role NCC plays in inculcating character and discipline in youth through various camps, congratulating the NCC fraternity on completing 77 years of service, said an official statement. This year, the RD camp is



witnessing a participation of 2,406 cadets, including 127 Cadets from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, and 131 Cadets from the North East Region.

Cadets and Officers from 25 Friendly Foreign Countries will also take part under the Youth Exchange Programme (YEP), said the statement.

The camp, organised at Delhi Cantonment, will be visited by a large number of dignitaries, including the Vice President, the Defence Minister, the Chief Minister of Delhi, the Defence Secretary, the Chief of Defence Staff and the Chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Force. The activities will culminate with the PM's Rally on January 28, 2025. While addressing the media, Lt Gen Vats highlighted the increasing presence of NCC Units in more than 90 per cent of districts across the country. The strength of NCC Cadets has increased significantly from 20,000 at the time of its inception in 1948 to nearly 20 lakh at present, which constitutes 40 per cent girl Cadets, he said. Lt Gen Vats also highlighted the role NCC plays in inculcating

character and discipline in youth through various camps. He said that in 2025, NCC organised 1,665 Annual Training Camps, 06 Special National Integration Camps and 33 Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Camps to promote integration and strengthen bonds amongst cadets of varied regions and cultures. Some of the highlights of NCC's activities in 2025 include: Special Mountaineering Expedition to Mt Everest; assisting the civil administration and providing medical support, including voluntary blood donation, during Operation Sindoor; border area outreach under Vibrant Villages Programme; plantation of 8 lakh trees under 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam' campaign and participation by 4 lakh cadets Viksit Bharat young leaders dialogue quiz.

## Medipally MKBR Hall: Festive Season 2 Lifestyle & Fashions inaugurated...

Inaugurated by former minister and MLA Mallareddy and former Mayor Jakka Venkat Reddy



**Medipally, January 3 (Metro Udayam)**

The Festive Season 2 Lifestyle & Fashions event, organized by V4 Events under the leadership of Poreddy Kavitha Reddy and Chilumula Rajitha Reddy, at the MKBR Convention Hall in Medipally, Boduppal Circle, within the GHMC limits, attracted a large number of visitors on Saturday. Offering fashion, lifestyle, and shopping all on one platform, the event created a festive atmosphere. Former Minister and Medchal MLA Chamakura Mallareddy and former Mayor Jakka Venkat Reddy attended the event as chief guests and inaugurated it. Speaking on the occasion, they stated that such programs encourage local businesses and women entrepreneurs, and congratulated the organizers. The organizers said that various fashion stalls, lifestyle products, and handmade items are the special attractions of the event. They requested the public to participate in large numbers and make the two-day event, held on January 3rd and 4th, a grand success by shopping at the stalls. BRS party General Secretary Yedavalli Raghavaradhan Reddy, former corporators Kolthuri Mahesh, Lethakula Madhavi Raghupathi Reddy, Madhusudhan Reddy, senior leaders Kotha Ravi Goud, Samala Sandeep Reddy, Pappula Rajeshwari Anji Reddy, BRS Women's President Nirmala, Javed Khan, Youth Presidents Prabhu, Balaraju, Yasaram Srinivas, Praveen Reddy, Satish Goud, Jagan Reddy, Varikal Srinivas, Mallam Venkatesh Goud, Kiran Naik, Bathula Kiran, Pasham Narender Reddy, Bullet Shankar, Srikanth, Srinivas Reddy, Upender, and other public representatives and leaders participated in the program.



## On the occasion of the National Road Safety Month celebrations, on 04-01-2026, as per the directions of the District Collector, a District Road Safety Committee meeting was held at the office of the Superintending Engineer, Roads & Buildings Department.



Officials from the Panchayat Raj Department, GVMC (Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation), National Highways Department, APSRTC, Transport Department, and DM & HO participated in this meeting.

During the meeting, extensive discussions were held on measures to further improve road safety, particularly on National Highways and other major roads. The

discussions focused on road engineering and design modifications, installation of signboards at required locations, clear road markings, warning indicators for pedestrian safety, installation of speed limit boards, and construction of speed breakers near hospitals and schools to ensure the safety of children.

It was resolved to prepare a comprehensive report on the issues discussed in the



meeting and submit it to the District Collector. This report will be presented to the District Collector under the chairmanship of the Superintending Engineer, Roads & Buildings Department. Additionally, Motor Vehicle Inspectors of the Transport Department created awareness among auto-rickshaw drivers traveling on National Highways regarding passenger safety precautions.

Awareness was also provided to learning license holders and the general public on road rules and regulations, the importance of adhering to speed limits, and overall road safety through a PPT presentation at the District Transport Office on the theme "Safety through Training - Transformation through Technology."

## Prof. Venkatarajayya's in memory Janagama Thapana Anthology Poster Unveiled

**Jangaon, January 03, Metro Udayam:**

Under the leadership of Janagama Poets Artists' Aikyavadi Late Prof. Dr. Tatikonda Venkata Rajaiah in memory meeting and Janagaon Tapan Anthology Collection inaugural poster to be held at Jangaon District Centre on 4th of this month the book to be released. G. Krishna and Ayila Somanarasimhachari will preside over the function at Gowtham Model School at 3 pm on Sunday. The chief guest Colonel Macharla



Bikshapathi, Nellutla Ravinder Rao, Pesaru Linga Reddy and Mothe Surender Reddy will be the special guests. Tallapalli Lakshman Goud will introduce the book. Dr

Yadavalli Saidulu, Lagishetti Prabhakar, Petloju Someswarachari, Potabathini Bhaskar, Kokkonda Jagadishwari, Kotte Sreelatha, Chilumou Saikiran, Mantena

Veeranarsaiah, Kolipaka Balayya, Panuganti Ramamurthy, Sambaraju Yadagiri, Jogu Anjaiah, Reddy Ratnakar Reddy, Kadakanchi Papaiah, Renukuntla Murali and Nakka Suresh will be guests of honored, Coordinator and Programme in charge Dr. Vemula Sadanandam will preside. Manoj Kumar will declare vote of thanks. Col. Dr. Macharla Bikshapathi, Nellutla Ravinder Rao, Seveli Sampath, Mangalampalli Raju will be the Chief guests.

# The first female teacher in modern India.

- A pioneering woman activist who worked for the educational advancement of women.
- A leader and a great writer who tirelessly strived for the liberation of women.
- AISF State Secretary Putta Lakshman.

**Boduppal January:03 (Metro Udayam)**

Grand celebration of Savitribai Phule's 195th birth anniversary at the AISF office, Uppal Depot. We welcome the Telangana State Government's declaration of Savitribai's birth anniversary as Women Teachers' Day. On Saturday, Savitribai Phule's 195th birth anniversary celebrations were grandly organized under the auspices of the AISF District Committee at the AISF office in Boduppal Circle, Peerzadiguda Division. AISF State Secretary Putta Lakshman attended the program as the chief guest. Tributes were paid by garlanding Savitribai's portrait. On this occasion, he said that Savitribai Phule was a mother figure of social revolution who constantly yearned for all people, irrespective of gender, caste, and religion, to have the natural right to education, and for everyone to live equally. Savitribai's importance in



today's society is immense. Savitribai was born on January 3, 1831, in Naigaon, Satara district, Maharashtra. By 1847, she and her husband had started the first school for girls in Pune. Some people disliked the running of this school, leading to harassment and physical attacks against her. They threw mud and stones at her on her way to school and used abusive language. Despite this, she showed immense courage in pursuing her goal without fear. She worked tirelessly for the education and advancement of girls. In 1852, she established a women's organization called the Mahila Seva Mandal. She led various struggles against discrimination against widows and



the killing of infants in the name of illegitimate children. She considered all orphaned boys and girls as her own children. In 1874, the Phule couple adopted the child of a widow as their son.

They named him Yashwant, raised him, and made him a doctor. In 1873, under the name of "Satyashodhak Samaj Women's Wing", she facilitated many inter-caste marriages.

Along with her husband, she faced numerous insults and hardships. She sacrificed her personal life for the education of girls and the eradication of social evils. She established shelters and ashrams for orphaned women and children. When her husband, Jyotirao Phule, died in 1890, she performed his last rites. The severe famine and plague that struck Maharashtra in 1896 and 1897 devastated the lives of its people. In such circumstances, she went door-to-door, collecting donations for the poor and providing relief to drought-affected areas. She personally cared for poor people afflicted with the plague, organizing medical camps for them and providing meals to thousands. On March 10, 1897, while serving a child, she contracted the disease herself and passed away. It was stated that Savitribai Phule was a great poet, writer, and a woman of sacrifice, service, and commitment, and that she will continue to shine as a guiding star in the history of modern India. AISF Medchal district president Chinna, vice-president Harish, district leaders Arvind, Krishna, Sai, Raju, Shruti, Jyoti, Pramila, Sujatha, Venkat, Ramu, and others participated in this program.

## Savitribai's birthday should be declared as National Women's Day.

Savitribai Phule's 195th birth anniversary celebrated grandly under the leadership of Panga Pranay Kumar

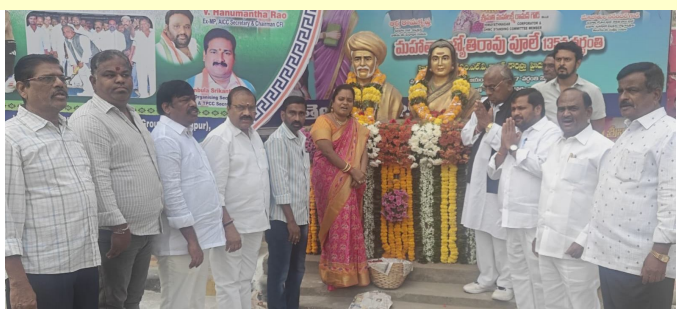


### Medipally, January 3 (Metro Udayam)

Panga Pranay Kumar stated that Savitribai Phule was a revolutionary who defied Brahmanical ideology and dedicated her entire life to the education and upliftment of women, and that efforts should be made to realize Savitribai Phule's ideals. He paid tribute to Savitribai Phule on her 195th birth anniversary by garlanding her portrait at the Martyrs' Memorial in Medipally division. On this occasion, Panga Pranay said that she earned the name of India's first female teacher. He said that Savitribai was a learned woman who, in the 19th century, broke through the darkness of ignorance and the shackles of slavery, and achieved education and respect for women, widows, girls, and the downtrodden sections of society. He said that there is a great need to declare Savitribai's birthday as National Women's Day. He said that Savitribai's services to the upliftment of women were unparalleled and that she is described as the first-generation Indian feminist. He said that she led many movements against child marriages and Sati (widow burning). He praised her as a great personality who brought about a situation where women could also receive education, from a time when only men were allowed to study. On the occasion of Savitribai Phule's birth anniversary, they demanded that the central government declare it as National Teachers' Day. They stated that they welcome the Telangana state government's declaration of Savitribai Phule's birth anniversary as Women Teachers' Day. They described it as a fitting tribute and recognition for the courageous woman who worked tirelessly for women's empowerment. Those who participated in this program included BSP District General Secretary Sukka Dayanand, BC community leaders Pasham Raju Yadav, MRPS Medipally Mandal President Bandari Sai, Pasham Satyam Yadav, Kuthadi Sampath, Srinivas, Naveen, Veeramallu, Venkatesh, and Prashanth.

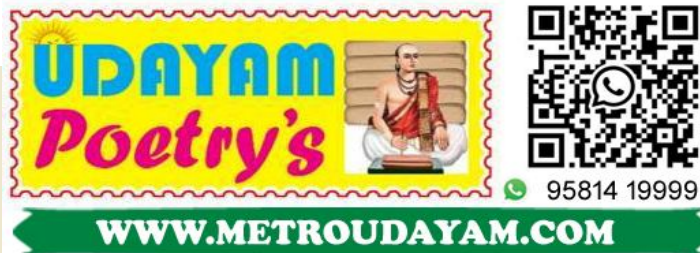
With social movement greetings,  
Panga Pranay Kumar  
MRPS President  
Medchal Malkajgiri District

## 194th birth anniversary celebrations held in Himayat Nagar Division



### Hyderabad January:03 (Metro udayam)

On the occasion of Savitribai Phule's 194th birth anniversary today, a program was organized at Jyotiba Phule Chowrasta in Himayat Nagar division. Senior Congress leaders V. Hanumantha Rao and Himayat Nagar division corporator Mahalakshmi Raman Goud attended as chief guests and paid their tributes. Speaking on the occasion, they urged everyone to embrace Savitribai Phule's ideals and inspiration and move forward in all fields. Senior Congress leaders G. Raman Goud, BC Welfare Association President Narender Goud, Ramakrishna, Rajendra Prasad, Poornachandar, Joseph, Balakishan, Mahesh, Jeswal, Srinivas Goud, Jai Krishna, Sandeep, and others participated in the program.



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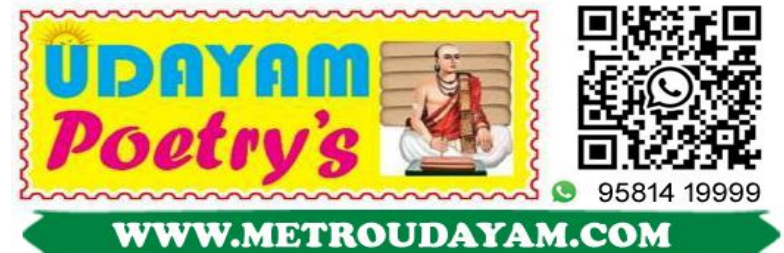
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## A Time When Letters Became Weapons:

Savitribai Phule was India's first woman teacher. She was born on January 3, 1831, in Naigaon village of Maharashtra. Her father's name was Khandoji Nevase Patil. She was married to Jyotirao Phule at a very young age. After marriage, giving importance to education changed the course of her life. With the support of Jyotirao Phule, she began her education. In a dark age, she opened the first door to knowledge. She was the courageous voice that boldly declared that education is a woman's right. Firmly believing that education is essential for a woman to stand as a symbol of self-respect, Savitribai Phule lit the lamp of education and sowed the seed of change.



In 1848, she established the first girls' school in Pune. Standing at the threshold of the school was a revolution itself. She resolved to give every girl strong wings through her footsteps. While going to school, people threw stones and garbage at her, yet she never lost courage. Her journey did not stop even in a rain of insults. She worked tirelessly for Dalits and marginalized communities. She fought against untouchability, heralding a sunrise of questions that shattered caste walls. She strongly opposed child marriage.

Proving that today's light can overcome yesterday's fears, she stood bravely against despair. She demonstrated through actions, not just words. This heroic woman endured many humiliations for social awakening and worked especially hard for the development of children. Phule's vision blossomed in children's smiles.

She established shelters for orphans and served patients during the plague epidemic. While serving the sick, she lost her life on March 10, 1897. Savitribai Phule taught the lesson of respecting labor and stood as a towering alphabet of justice. Her courage inspired countless people. Her determination, tested by time, never retreated. She laid the foundation for the Indian women's movement.

Her life taught that education is the path to liberation. She was a guide for social reform. Savitribai Phule was also a good poet. By strengthening society through teaching, she taught people to question and shaped the future. Every student should take her as an ideal.

From childhood itself, with strong determination, her struggle for education marked a time when letters became weapons. Dedicated to every girl's education, her life, with the modernity of her thoughts, continues to inspire even today.

"Education is the true weapon that frees a human being from slavery."

--Bonasi Renuka  
Village: Mandela Gudem  
District: Jangaon

## When Big B spoke about his make-up artiste reportin



Mumbai: Veteran Bollywood legend Amitabh Bachchan, who hosts the quiz based reality show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati', once spoke about his make-up artiste Deepak Sawant, and his dedication.

A recently resurfaced video of the Bollywood legend from 'KBC' shows the actor heaping praise on his make-up artiste. He said, "This is Deepak Sawant. He has been working with me for 50 years. And let me tell you one more thing. In 50 years, I have worked in at least 200 films. There was not a single day when he was not with me. Absolutely duty-bound. He will come on time, no matter what happens. Whether you are sick or whatever. Not a single day in 50 years when he is not with us. And there is

a serious problem in saying one more thing, but let me say it". He further mentioned, "Three days ago, Deepak Sawant's brother died. And despite that, he has come to work. He did not have anyone to tell him to work today. This is integrity. This is commitment".

Amitabh Bachchan had his breakthrough with 'Zanjeer', which established his image as the "angry young man" of the 1970s. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, Bachchan delivered multiple commercially successful and influential films, including 'Deewaar', 'Sholay', 'Don' and 'Trishul'. He suffered an injury during the filming of 'Coolie',

which marked a significant turning point in his career and public life. His popularity declined in the late 1980s, followed by a brief stint in politics as a Member of Parliament from Allahabad. After financial setbacks in the 1990s, Bachchan returned to prominence with character-driven roles in films such as 'Mohabbatein', 'Black', 'Paa', and 'Pink'. He has won multiple National Film Awards and remains active in cinema and television, notably as the host of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati'.

## Pawan Kalyan Visits Kondagattu Anjaneya Swamy Temple



Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Janasena Party founder Pawan Kalyan visited the Kondagattu Anjaneya Swamy temple in the Jagtial district today, where he participated in special prayers. During his visit, he is set to officiate the groundbreaking ceremony for a new 96-room guesthouse and a vow completion hall for devotees, funded by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) at a cost of Rs. 35.19 crore. Following the ceremonial activities, Kalyan will convene with Janasena party workers at a resort on the outskirts of Nachupalli before returning to Hyderabad in the afternoon. In light of the Deputy Chief Minister's visit, extensive security arrangements have been implemented by local police.

## VHT: Skipper Pant's unbeaten 67 propels Delhi to eight-wicket win over Services



Bengaluru: India wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant struck an unbeaten 67 off 37 balls to lead Delhi to a commanding eight-wicket victory over Services in the 2025/26 Vijay Hazare Trophy game at the BCCI Centre of Excellence Ground 2 on Saturday.

Captain Pant's explosive knock, laced with four boundaries and six maximums, comes on the day when the national selectors are due to announce India's squad for the upcoming three-game ODI series against New Zealand, starting on January 11 in Vadodara. Delhi's bowlers set up the win's foundation by dismissing Services for 178 in 42.5 overs. Seam bowling all-rounder Harshit Rana claimed 4-47 runs while pacer Prince Yadav took 3-28. In reply, Delhi romped home in just 19.4 overs with left-handed opener Priyansh Arya smashing 72 not out

off 45 deliveries, studded with nine fours and three sixes.

Despite losing Sarthak Ranjan (4) and Nitish Rana (32), Arya and Pant shared a match-winning 85-run partnership off 51 balls that sealed Delhi's dominant victory. Pulkit Narang and Nitin Yadav picked up a wicket apiece for Services but were unable to stem the flow of runs as Delhi reached home easily. Meanwhile, left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh captured his third five-wicket haul in List A cricket as Punjab thrashed Sikkim by 10 wickets at the Jaipuria Vidyalaya Ground in Jaipur. Arshdeep returned with figures of 5-34 from 10 overs as Sikkim were bowled out for just 75 in 22.2 overs. Punjab's decision to field first paid immediate dividends, though Shubman Gill was unavailable at the last moment due to food poisoning. Sukhdeep Bajwa removed openers

Amit Rajera and Ashish Thapa before Arshdeep tore through the middle order with a devastating five-for, while leg-spinner Mayank Markande mopped up the tail. The modest target proved to be no obstacle for Punjab's openers, who completed the chase in just 6.2 overs. Prabhsimran Singh hammered 53 off 26 balls with seven fours and two sixes, while Harnoor Singh remained unbeaten on 21. Brief Scores: Services 178 all out in 42.5 overs (Vikas Hathwala 26, Raj Bahadur Pal 25; Harshit Rana 4-47, Prince Yadav 3-28) lost to Delhi 182/2 in 19.4 overs (Priyansh Arya 72, Rishabh Pant 67 not out; Pulkit Narang 1-34, Nitin Yadav 1-41) by eight wickets Sikkim 75 all out in 22.2 overs (Palzor 13; Arshdeep Singh 5-34) lost to Punjab 81/0 in 6.2 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 53 not out, Harnoor Singh 22 not out) by ten wickets

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The success of an emperor is viewed by historians from different angles. Things like political policies, social settings, cultural combinations, economic empowerment, and Administrative reforms are some of the yardsticks used to measure the overall successful reign of a king or a ruler. Some rulers achieved an all round and balanced development while some were more successful in one or two spheres only.

In his book, **BADSHAH BANDAR BAZAAR**, Jagjeet Lally, a London based journalist and historian, looks at the trade, commerce, and quotidian life in the Mughal India afresh in the light of the material available due to a recent and new research. What made him write this as there is already a lot of material available on the Mughal period? According to Jagjeet, while the historians during the British Raj wrote an ill-balanced, lopsided and often distorted account of the Mughal times for the advantage of their masters. Even scholars like Irfan Habib endorsed the view that the Mughal rule in India was despotic and oppressive.

But, thanks to the research in recent times, many historians

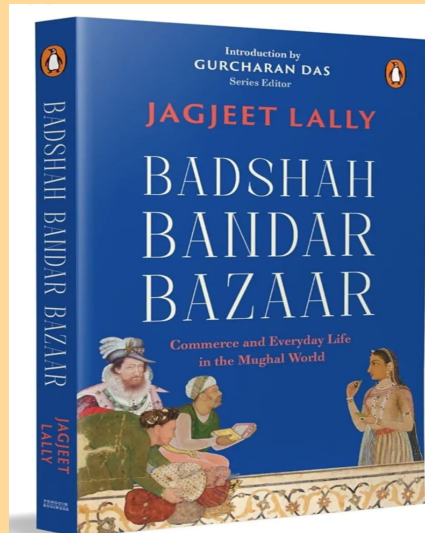
feel that there is an urgent need to set the records straight with a new perspective into the lives and economic activities of ordinary people of that time. Commerce in the Mughal India, contrary to the above views, flourished and the people had participated direct in the State affairs, and saw real progress and prosperity during the reign of the six Mughal emperors in the following order beginning with Babur in 1526;

- 1) Babur
- 2) Humayun
- 3) Akbar
- 4) Jahangir
- 5) Shah Jahan
- 6) Aurangzeb

Writing in stunning details about the flourishing trade and commerce, the author fills the chapter titled, **EYEWITNESSES IN THE BAZAAR**, with facts and figures about the trade activities of merchants along the 2,500 km route from Iran to North India via the Punjab. The details about the **CARAVAN TRADE**, in particular, make our jaws drop when we are told that huge varieties of goods carried on the back of a train of about 20,000 to 30,000 camels from Iran into the markets of North India and the Deccan and about carrying

## SUNDAY BOOK REVIEW

### HISTORY OF COMMERCE IN MUGHAL INDIA.



back camel loads of precious Indian items including textiles, cash crop items! He also reels out information about the revenue, tax collecting, and currency systems during the Mughal reign.

Further the author says that researchers dug up information from ancient textual material namely the account books of Punjab merchants-cum-followers of Guru Nanak who lived through and witnessed the reigns of Babur, Humayun and Akbar and from the writings of Banarasidas, a Jain merchant. Here Jagjeet delves deep into the lives of Thomas Roe, a representative of the East India Company and Banarasidas and his rich father, their ways and methods

of trade and finance business.

The author doesn't stop there without dealing in detail issues that are related and relevant to the trade and commerce. For example how merchants and others run their families, handle religion, protect their properties, rights, settle ownership disputes. Here comes into the picture the role of courts and legal setup in the Mughal age, the vital part played by bureaucrats and others connected with the State governance. He dedicates one chapter each (total 6) for these issues and conundrums.

Elaborating the nexus between business and religion, the author, in the chapter, **A WORLD OF GOODS**, tells the reader how some religious gurus and saints encouraged some sects of wealthy people to make money and indulge in worldly pleasures and these people in turn financially supported those gurus and saints.

**KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY** is yet another interesting chapter where the author with deep understanding states that the trade and business during the Mughal age helped people from many forward communities such as Khatris, Aggarwals, Jains and Brahmans occupy important posts and positions in the



Mughal court. These families for generations continued to mix state services, education, finance, and other businesses, gaining both administrative power and economic clout.

Every chapter reads like a mystery story from history and shows the painstaking efforts of the scholarly author. I for one can say that reading this book has exposed my ignorance of our history.

The last few pages, where the author provides chapter wise names of books and other sources he relied on in writing this fascinating history, are undoubtedly of great help for history buffs. Even other wise this two hundred-odd page book, published by Penguin as a part of a history series, makes a great read.

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