

ANALYSIS 7

NATURE: THE BHARATIYA  
BIOCENTRIC DISCOURSE

MONEY 8

GLOBAL SHARES RISE BROADLY  
CHEERED BY US EARNINGS, RALLY

SPORTS 11

AN EVENING  
IN PARIS

VIJAYAWADA, SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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'MY ROLE  
TAUGHT ME TO  
IMPROVE MY  
ACTING SKILLS'

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## BABY BORN WITH 'PERMANENT SMILE' DUE TO RARE CONDITION

A baby born with a rare congenital anomaly is putting the smile on the faces of millions on social media users. Ayla Summer Mucha, born in December 2021, was diagnosed with bilateral microstomia, an ultra-rare condition, which affects the aesthetics and function of the oral cavity. This has given the baby a "permanent smile", which has made her a star on TikTok and Instagram. Her parents Cristina Vercher, 21, and Blaize Mucha, 20, were given the news by the doctors in Australia, who said Ayla developed this condition in the womb. Blaize and I were not aware of this condition nor had I ever met someone born with a macrostomia.

## HINDU MAN KILLED OVER RELATIONSHIP WITH MUSLIM WOMAN IN K'TAKA: COPS

The murder of a 25-year-old Hindu man over a relationship with a Muslim woman has prompted authorities to step up security and call in additional forces in Karnataka's Kalaburagi district. Vijaya Kamble, a resident of Bheema Nagar Layout in Wadi town, was waylaid by a group of men near a railway bridge on Monday night. An argument is said to have ensued before they attacked him with sharp weapons, leaving him bleeding profusely. Vijaya died from the injuries on the spot. We were sitting and having a chat. And they suddenly appeared from nowhere. There were two people standing before us. We are not aware of who they are.

## NOTHING CAN CHANGE SPECIAL TIES WITH AFGHANISTAN: AJIT DOVAL

India was and is an important stakeholder in Afghanistan, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval said today and called for enhancing the capability of the war-torn country to counter terrorism and terrorist groups which pose a threat to regional peace and security. Speaking at the 4th Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan in Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe, Mr Doval said that India has historical and civilisational relations with Afghanistan and New Delhi has always stood by the people of Afghanistan and it will continue to guide India's approach.

## FOR 'SHODDY' ARYAN PROBE, ACTION ORDERED AGAINST OFFICER: SOURCES

Anti-narcotics officer Sameer Wankhede, who initially investigated the Mumbai drugs-on-cruise case, faces action for allegedly submitting a fake caste certificate and "shoddy investigation" into the drugs case, people familiar with the matter in the Home Ministry have said. "The competent authority has been asked by the government to act against Sameer Wankhede for shoddy investigation. Action will be taken against him for his fake caste certificate," a Home Ministry officer with direct knowledge of the matter said.

# Jagan's 'betrayals' destroyed AP: Naidu

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national president and former chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday alleged that the Jagan Mohan Reddy government has crushed the AP people with its 'welfare betrayals, all-round looting and unbearable taxes'.

Naidu said the ruling YSRCP leaders were so criminalised, corrupt and incorrigible that they had no right to rule any longer. All sections of people were rejecting the false welfare claims being made by Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy.

The TDP chief delivered his inaugural speech at the party's two-day Mahanadu conclave in Ongole when he described Jagan Reddy as an 'inefficient leader' who has been presiding over a rule by maniacs, liars, and hardcore corrupt criminals. In just three years, the YSRCP misrule had pushed Andhra Pradesh into an Rs 8 lakh crore debt trap with zero development and no roads.

Naidu accused Jagan Reddy of selling Rajya Sabha nominations while at the same time telling blatant lies to the people. One YSRCP RS nomination was given to a Telangana former TDP leader who got 12 backward castes like 'Thurpu Kapu' and 'Koppula Velama' delet-



## LOKESH SAYS NO TICKETS FOR 3-TIME LOSERS: P3

ed from the BC list. This leader had gone to court and put hurdles in 4 percent reservations to Minorities.

Chandrababu Naidu said the general public were not at all acknowledging the bus yatra that the YSRCP Ministers were conducting to take 'false credit' for social welfare. The people's non-cooperation began in the Chief Minister's Eluru meeting itself when the public left the venue despite the police

pleas and threats.

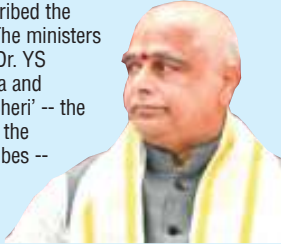
The TDP chief asserted that if Jagan Mohan Reddy would not quit politics, AP would not see good and happy days again. All sections should unitedly raise the slogan of 'Quit Jagan' so as to save AP from future destruction. Jagan had such a black track record that he turned 'babai Viveka' axe attack into heart attack and enacted 'Kodi Kathi' drama to win polls with sympathy vote.

Condemning the YCP regime, Naidu said the Government was giving far less under Amma Vodi and taking back a lot more through Nanna Buddi. The TDP spent 52 percent of the budget on welfare as against just 41 percent of Jagan rule.

## TDP IS A CLOSED CHAPTER: SPEAKER

*Calls Mahanadu a 'vallakadu' graveyard)*

Assembly Speaker Tammineni Sitaram has described the ongoing Mahanadu as 'Vallakadu' (graveyard). The ministers and other YSRCP leaders paid floral tributes to Dr. YS Rajasekhara Reddy's statue near Patha Gajuwaka and addressed a public rally there. 'Samajika Nyayabheri' -- the four-day Bus Yatra by 17 ministers belonging to the Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes and Tribes -- reached Visakhapatnam on the second day on Friday.



How can Jagan claim welfare credit when he removed Anna Canteens, Videsi Vidya, Pelli Kanuka, Sankranthi Kanuka,

Ramzan Thofa, Christmas Kanuka and Chandranna Beema?

## KCR halts Bharat yatra

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's trip to Ralegan Siddhi to meet Anna Hazare has been postponed.

Without giving reasons for the postponement, sources said the trip was only postponed and he cancelled. The Chief Minister will meet Anna Hazare eventually.

The CM was also supposed to visit Shirdi Sai Baba and pray as well. After this, the CM was supposed to go to Bengal or Bihar.

Sources said that there is no travel schedule until Sunday. This change comes a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Telangana. The PM also took potshots at the TS government.

Meanwhile, as the TS government couldn't raise loans in the last two months, a financial crisis is looming large. Everything was going well as per the initial plan as KCR met Arvind Kejriwal in New Delhi, Bagwant Mann in Chandigarh and HD Deve Gowda in Bengaluru. The CM also distributed cheques to farmers who died protesting against the Bill.



## YSRCP MLA Kotamreddy hospitalised after stroke

PNS ■ NELLORE

Nellore Rural YSRCP MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy suffered a heart stroke and he was admitted to Apollo hospital here on Friday.

YSRCP sources said that at around 2 pm, the MLA participated in the 'Gadapa Gadapaku' programme. He complained of chest pain at Amancharla village. As soon as he reached home, he collapsed. He was admitted to the Apollo hospital. He is likely

to be shifted to Chennai for better treatment tonight.

Agriculture minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy visited the minister in the Apollo hospital. The minister spoke with the hospital doctors. Sources said that arrangements are being made to shift to a private hospital in Chennai. YSRCP state general secretary Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, MP V Vijay Sai Reddy, and MLA Anam Ramanarayana Reddy enquired about his health.



Power cuts make life difficult for rural people

P2

## 7 soldiers killed as vehicle falls into river in Ladakh

PNS ■ LEH/NEW DELHI

Seven soldiers were killed and several others injured when a vehicle carrying them skidded off the road and fell into the Shyok river in Ladakh on Friday, Army officials said. The accident took place in the Tuktuk sector at around 9 am at a place which is around 25 kilometres from Thoise in the Nubra region of Leh district, they said.

A party of 26 soldiers was moving in the vehicle from Partapur transit camp to a forward location in sub-sector Hanif, the officials said. The vehicle skidded off the road and fell into the river, resulting in



injuries to all of them, they said.

A rescue operation was carried out swiftly and all the soldiers were evacuated to field hospital in Partapur, the officials said.

"Seven individuals have been declared fatal so far. There are griev-

ous injuries to others as well. Dedicated efforts are underway to ensure that the best medical care is provided to the injured, including requisition of air effort from the Air Force to shift the more serious casualties to Western Command," an official said.

## TDP's income drops as that of YSRCP rises in 2020-21

SNV SUDHIR  
■ VIJAYAWADA

Even as the TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu's passionate appeal to the party supporters to liberally donate at the ongoing two-day annual jamboree-Mahanadu hogged the attention on Friday, an analysis has shown that TDP's income in the second year it lost power had seen a steep fall as low as by 96 pc in 2020-21 Financial Year (FY) when compared to 2019-20 FY. On the other hand, the ruling YSRCP's income went up slightly by 16 pc during the same period.

Notably, TDP's expenditure was more than the income in that year. While YSRCP had the highest unspent income during the period, it stood third among the regional parties whose income had wit-

nessed an increase. In the same period, YSRCP stood second among all the regional parties to declare the highest income.

As per the analysis of the audit reports of the regional parties for 2020-21 by the Delhi-based Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR), TDP's income during the period was Rs 3.252 crore whereas it was Rs 91.53 crore in the previous FY registering a sharp decline by 96 pc.

While the YSRCP's income was Rs 92.739 crore in 2019-20, it was Rs 107.99 crore the following year witnessing a 16 pc increase.

YSRCP had spent only Rs 80 lakh as 99.25 pc of that year's total income remained unspent. TDP declared expenditure of Rs 54.769 crore which is 1584.16 pc more than that year's declared income.

Among all the regional parties,

### YSRCP RECEIVES HIGHEST DONATIONS THROUGH ELECTORAL BONDS

Among the regional parties in the country, YSRCP received the highest donations worth Rs 96.25 crore or 89.13 pc of its total income through electoral bonds followed by DMK declaring electoral bonds worth Rs 80 crore or 53.35 pc and BJD Rs 67 crore or 91.35 pc. All the 31 regional parties whose IT returns were analysed, collected Rs 376.865 crore or 71.19 pc of their total income from voluntary contributions that includes donations via electoral bonds and other donations (and contributions) for FY 2020-21. Out of these 31 parties whose annual audit reports are available on the ECI website, five parties have declared receiving donations through Electoral Bonds amounting to a total of Rs 250.60 crore. The total income of the 31 Regional Parties for the FY 2020-21 was Rs 529.416 crore. DMK reported having the highest income of Rs 149.95 crore, which forms 28.324 pc of the total income of all the parties analysed, followed by YSRCP with an income of Rs 107.99 crore or 20.398 pc and BJD whose income was Rs 73.347 crore or 13.854 pc of the total income of the 31 regional parties analysed by ADR. The total income of top five parties amounted to Rs 434.255 crore, which comprised 82.03 pc of the total income of the political parties analysed, collectively.

DMK reported the highest increase in its income of Rs 85.046 crore followed by JDU and YSRCP which

declared a total increase of Rs 41.956 crore and Rs15.251 crore respectively, between FY 2019-20

and FY 2020-21. During FY 2020-21, the top five political parties with an excess of income over expenditure include YSRCP, BJD, JDU, TRS, and SHS. YSRCP has the highest 'excess of income over expenditure' of Rs 107.183 crore, followed by BJD with Rs 66.332 crore and JDU with Rs 40.963 crore.

ADR analysed the total income and expenditure incurred, all over India, by 31 out of 54 regional parties during FY 2020-21, as declared by the parties in their IT Return submitted to the Election Commission of India.

While the due date for submission of annual audited accounts for the parties was October 31, 2021, five parties had submitted their audit reports on time, while 26 parties delayed the same by several days, ranging from one day to 144 days.

## Germany respects India's Ukraine stand: Envoy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Germany respects India's stand on the Ukraine conflict and it never sought to criticise New Delhi over the matter, the European country's envoy here Walter J Lindner said on Friday and asserted that every nation has the right to calibrate according to its interests.

Interacting with journalists at the Indian Women's Press Corps, Lindner also announced that his assignment as the German ambassador here would come to an end in some weeks and that he is retiring soon. The envoy said the Ukraine war had given an "extra push" and "urgency" to the efforts to work towards an EU-India free trade agreement, stressing that "we need partners to keep the trade flowing".

**TODAY**

**ALMANAC**

**Month & Paksham:**

**Tithi:** Trayodashi: May 27 11:48 AM to May 28 01:09 PM

**Chaturdashi:** May 28 01:09 PM to May 29 02:55 PM

**Nakshatram:**

**Bharani:** May 28 02:26 AM to May 29 04:39 AM

**Kritthika:** May 29 04:39 AM to May 30 07:12 AM

**Rahukalam:** 8:59 AM to 10:36 AM

**Yamagandam:** 1:50 PM to 3:27 PM

**Varjyam:** 05:56 PM to 07:42 PM

**Gulika:** 5:45 AM to 7:22 AM

**Amritakalam:** 11:25 PM to 01:09 AM

**Abhijit Muhurtham:** 11:47 AM to 12:39 PM

**VIJAYAWADA WEATHER**

**Forecast:** Sunny

**Temp:** 42°

**Humidity:** 55%

**Sunrise:** 5:38 AM

**Sunset:** 6:37 PM

**Updated:** MAY 27, 2022 5:00 PM



# Decoding Modi's speech at Begumpet

A kin to an incident that changed the political discourse of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh state four decades ago at the Begumpet airport, a speech by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the same venue on Thursday is all set to bring in a world of good for the people of Telangana.

While the 1982 incident at Begumpet, in which Congress scion Rajiv Gandhi publicly humiliated a Dalit Chief Minister reflecting the arrogant behaviour of the Gandhi-Nehru dynasty, Modi's highly electrifying speech exposed the threat posed by 'Pariwarvadi' (family-centric) parties to the democratic fabric of the nation.

Here is another parallel related to the pride of Telugu! In the 1982 incident, the then Congress general secretary Rajiv Gandhi humiliated AP Chief Minister T.Anjaiah calling him a 'buffoon'. Now, the Chief Minister of Telangana K.Chandrashekar Rao tried to inflict humiliation on the most popular Prime Minister Narendra Modi by violating protocol norms.

The people of Telangana

are known for their hospitality and grand reception. But KCR, true to his reputation for arrogance and ego, is spoiling age-old customs and practices by deliberately trying to humiliate the Prime Minister and the Governor. As they say, the only thing more dangerous than ignorance is arrogance.

Having been a technocrat who had worked in the Silicon Valley for over a decade, I can vouch for the importance of high-quality management education for the progress of any country.

The Indian School of Business (ISB), which celebrated its 20th anniversary in the presence of Modi on Thursday, stands tall among the best management institutes in the world.

The then Chief Minister had taken initiatives with the backing of the Vajpayee government to get ISB established in Hyderabad. But the present Chief Minister of Telangana appears to be clueless about the significant contribution of such great institutions to the state's progress and standing.

As far as I know, KCR has never visited the interna-

**In the 1982 incident, the then Congress general secretary Rajiv Gandhi humiliated AP Chief Minister T.Anjaiah calling him a 'buffoon'. The CM of TS K.Chandrashekar Rao tried to inflict humiliation on the most popular Prime Minister Narendra Modi by violating protocol norms.**

tionally-acclaimed management institution. To know the difference between pebbles and pearls, you need not be a B-school grad. A bit of common sense is more than enough.

The speech delivered by Modi, before taking part in ISB's celebrations, is of huge significance for Telangana for more than one reason. The speech's themes of misadministration, ill-impact of 'family rule', 'stickering' of central schemes, and superstitions costing development are indeed clarion calls to the people of Telangana -- a people, who lost hundreds of their beloved sons and daughters to realise their aspirations for self-respect and self-reliance through a separate state.

Twelve days after Union

Home Minister Amit Shah assured the people of Telangana that only BJP can achieve 'Bangaru Telangana' by fulfilling their agenda of Neellu, Nidhulu and Niyamakalu, at a mammoth public meeting in Tukkuguda to conclude the 31-day second phase of Praja Sangrama Yatra' undertaken by the state BJP under the leadership of BJP state unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Modi explained what has been ailing the newest State in India and what people can expect once the BJP forms the government in Telangana.

Modi has a reason for underlining the disastrous impact of family rule. We are witnessing how family rule ruined Sri Lanka, once a prosperous country.

A landlord family of



KISHORE POREDDY

Rajapaksas occupied all the important positions in the Sri Lankan government and created political, social and financial havoc over the last two decades. You have a big list of family members at the helm of key affairs of the nation. The Presidency, the Prime Ministership, the Finance, Irrigation, Defence and many other ministries were all occupied by the members of the Rajapaksa family.

Be it in Colombo or Hyderabad, family rule breeds nepotism, despotism and corruption -- the three dangers for democracy.

Family rule is the root cause of inefficient administration, unprecedented debt burden, unemployment, and many other ailments that are troubling every section of society.

During his two terms in power, KCR fully institutionalised his family rule by sidelining the real fighters of the Telangana movement. He made a travesty of the anti-defection law and ridiculed parliamentary democracy by indirectly inducting opposition party MLAs into his cabinet. There is a core family circle which totally controls the reins of power in the state. He, his son, daughter and two nephews form the core family clique.

Electoral verdicts are no reason for keeping family members out of power. For example, the daughter was made an MLC after her electoral defeat at the hands of the BJP.

The son and the heir apparent KT Rama Rao is omnipotent and omnipresent even as the remaining ministers in the cabinet have been reduced to dummies. Dad made his son all-powerful within the government and the party.

Taking a cue from the Big Boss, almost all top leaders in TRS brought their sons and sons-in-law into the party fold by 'pleasing' the working president, leaving no room for new leaders to emerge.

That is what exactly Modi said in his Begumpet speech: "Statehood certainly is not for a single family."

As he said, "Pariwarvadi party is not just a political problem, but the biggest enemy of democracy and the youth of our country. India has seen how corruption becomes the face of those political parties that are dedicated to one family and its welfare."

Modi hinted at how determined efforts of the Telangana people have gone waste under KCR's rule and gave a clarion call to show their valour and throw KCR and his party out of power.

He, that is why, at the outset, hailed the determination and valour of Telugus in chaste Telugu: "Pattadalaku, pourushaaniki maaruperu ayina Telangana prajalaku namaskaramulu".

Among the many important issues raised by Modi in his succinct speech is the

issue of KCR's superstitions that proved to be detrimental to the State. I wonder why KCR announced so confidently in Bengaluru, after meeting the former PM Deve Gowda and his son Kumarasamy, about a sure shot 'change at the national level in the next two to three months.'

If the political grapevine is to be believed, an astrologer hailing from Andhra Pradesh made KCR believe so.

What can you do with a leader who demolishes the Secretariat, confines to his farmhouse, and avoids paying visits to the great spiritual town of Bhadrachalam at the behest of astrologers?

The only way out is to throw him out of power, as called by Modi.

Whenever political leaders failed to recognise Telugus' pride and self-respect, they taught such leaders a bitter lesson. The Begumpet airport remains a testimony to such political transformations.

(The author is BJP TS spokesperson)

## Power cuts make life difficult for rural people

C PRADEEP KUMAR  
VIJAYAWADA

Power consumption across the State has increased sharply over the past few days. With the sudden increase in consumption, the department has started unauthorised power cuts again forcing people to spend sleepless nights as the power supply was cut off for many hours on Wednesday night.



On Wednesday, the demand was 198.21 million units and the supply could not be met. As a result, it was dark in municipalities and rural areas on Wednesday night. However power supply was restored after 1 to 2 am in the municipalities but in rural areas the power supply was not restored till Thursday morning. Even on Thursday night, power supply was cut off in several towns and villages in the state.

Department officials say that for adjustment of emergency load, cuts had to be made, due to a lack of wind power as expected and technical glitch in the thermal units led to

reduced power production. Officials estimate that power consumption in the state was likely to be between 190 and 200 million units and the officials felt that the power coming from the currently available sources would be sufficient.

On the other hand, the power holiday imposed on industries in Andhra Pradesh has been eased in a phased manner.

The demand of power on Wednesday was 198.21 million units and it was not possible for

the Discoms to supply accordingly.

The power from various sources to the state are through Thermal power 84.36 million units, hydropower 6.49 million, wind power 22.93 million, solar power 14.08 million, other sources 5.73 million and central generating power 48.62 million units. The discoms bought 6.73 million units of electricity from the exchanges. An additional 3.59 million units were taken from the national grid under the unscheduled

interchange, leaving a shortfall of 5.68 million units of power in the state.

Paryavarana Parirakshana Samithi president Raireddy Sridhar said that during summer, power cut was expected but untimely power cut was a big setback by the Electricity Department and the State government. He said that every year, there were power cuts, but there used to be a specified timing. He further said that there were never power cuts during Class 10 and Intermediate examinations but this year students have suffered a lot due to unannounced power cuts, he added.

Sunkara Srinivas, a private employee of Kanchala village in the NTR district, said that power cuts were imposed for hours in the village without any specified time. When people call the department to know when the power will be restored, the staff are clueless. The department should announce the timetable for power cuts so that the people will be ready and mentally prepared.

## Forex reserves rise US\$ 4.23 bln to US\$ 597

PNS ■ MUMBAI

India's forex reserves increased by USD 4.23 billion to USD 597.509 billion for the week ended May 20 on the back of a high accretion of core currency assets, according to RBI data.

The country's foreign exchange reserves had declined by USD 2.676 billion to USD 593.279 billion in the previous reporting week ended May 13.

During the reporting week, the rise in the reserves was mainly on account of a drop in Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, and gold reserves, as per weekly data released by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday. FCAs increased by USD 3.825 billion to USD 533.378 billion in the week.



## Telangana Governor meets Harichandan

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Telangana Governor TAMILISAI Soundararajan has called on Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan and his wife Suprava Harichandan at the airport lounge at Hyderabad International Airport on a courtesy visit on Friday.

Governor Harichandan, on his return from Bhubaneswar after partici-

pating in the Maha Samprokshana programme at the newly constructed temple of Venkateswara Swamy Varu organised by TTD, stayed at the airport lounge before proceeding to Vijayawada.

Both the Governors discussed various matters. TAMILISAI Soundararajan felicitated Harichandan and Suprava Harichandan by presenting them with a shawl.

## 'SHIV-JI KI BARAAT' Lalu's fans arrive to meet him riding buffalo

PNS ■ PATNA

Stripped down to their waists and with their torsos painted in a dark shade of green, three die-hard supporters of RJD president Lalu Prasad on Friday reached the residence of his wife Rabri Devi to pay obeisance to their leader.

What made the sight more bizarre was slogans denouncing the CBI in conspicuous white over the green paint and one of the three fans of the former Bihar CM riding a buffalo, its body similarly colored.

Spectators had some more reason to have a good laugh when the rider of the buffalo announced that his name was "Natwarlal", evoking memories of the infamous conman who, incidentally, belonged to Siwan, a district adjacent to Prasad's native Gopalganj.

## BJP to name Pawan as CM candidate

Continued from Page 1

The BJP decision is set to cheer up the ruling YSRCP as it does not want to fight with a united opposition comprising all major political parties in the State. Once Jana Sena, which is gaining significant ground in the State in recent times, refuses to join the TDP-led alliance, the electoral dynamics would quickly change and the BJP-Jana Sena alliance will gain greater leverage in the post-poll scenario, according to the BJP strategists.

Even if the alliance gets past the 50-seat mark it would become the king-maker and decide the political agenda for the next government in Andhra Pradesh.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹300
Without Skin	₹320
Broiler at Farm	₹169

EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	385
VIJAYAWADA	385
VISAKHAPATNAM	410
RETAIL PRICE	₹3.85

## RSVP receives huge response for admissions

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

The Tirupati-based deemed university of Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidya Peetham (RSVP) received a whopping 10,679 applications this academic year as against 3000 only last year.

RSVP will become one of the three National Sanskrit Universities in the country and all admissions will be through common entrance tests of (CUET) as per Central University Act.

Addressing a press conference here on Friday, University Incharge Vice Chancellor

Acharya Radhakrishna Thakur said that 10,679 applications had been received this academic year as against 3,000 only last year.

Vice-Chancellor said as per the national education policy of 2020, all students would get options for change of courses and centres and also be entitled to earn while they learn schemes. He said as per NSU norms all PhD students would get a stipend scholarship of Rs 8000 as against Rs 2000 paid earlier. An Agama lab was also under installation for students of Agama shastras.

Thakur said the NSU has a Central grant of Rs 220 crore for 2021-22 as against its estimates of Rs 300 crore. The Tirupati Center also participated in the three day Utkarsh mahotsav held at Delhi where a comprehensive action plan for development and Research of Sanskrit language was framed.

He said the Tirumala Tirupati devasthanam (TTD) had provided 14.4 acres of land besides an annual grant of Rs 1 crore for the university in addition to 43 acres given for the Vidyaapeetham.

## TDP is a closed chapter: Speaker

Continued from Page 1

The Bus Yatra is a unique drive by the YSR Congress Party in a bid to reach out to the masses to highlight the state government's initiatives on 'social justice and government welfare agenda. The yatra commenced from the Srikakulam district on Thursday.

Speaking at a meeting in Visakhapatnam as part of 'Samajika Nyayabheri', the Speaker said the TDP's chapter was closed and there was no point in holding meetings now. The Speaker said that the Opposition parties were getting trampled under the wheels of Jagan's juggernaut and there were no takers for TDP chief

N Chandrababu Naidu among the people now. He said that Naidu had the dubious history of throwing his own party's election manifesto into the dustbin and alleged that Naidu had insulted the Dalits in the State. Sitaram added that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had given top priority to the weaker sections, which no other chief minister in any part of the country had done. Unable to tolerate the growing support for Jagan from weaker sections, the Opposition parties were creating troubles in Andhra.

Reacting to the torching of a Dalit minister's house at Amalapuram, the Speaker demanded to know whether

the Opposition parties were supporting or opposing the naming of Konaseema after Dr. BR Ambedkar. He claimed that the people were extending support to the State government's Gadapa Gadapaku Mana Pradhutvam programme.

Home Minister Taneti Vanitha said that the Chief Minister had been providing equal opportunities for the BCs, SCs, STs, and minorities in the governance, and 70 per cent of them were given posts in the State Cabinet. "This has never been done in the history of the country and no one has given the Backward Classes this kind of respect and role in policymaking," she said.

## Jagan's 'betrayals'...

Continued from Page 1

Chandrababu Naidu said Jagan looted people with his own harmful cheap liquor brands while the sand mafia raised the cost of a tractor loan from Rs. 600 under TDP to Rs. 5,000 at present. No sand is available for the CM's false claim of constructing 30 lakh houses for the poor. The YSRCP leaders grabbed assignment and dotted lands.

The TDP chief said that the 'crazy CM' was signing false MoUs at Davos with the same companies that worked under the TDP rule. The agreement with Adani Data Centre was signed during the TDP rule.

## TS Sishu Vihars adjudged the 'best' in the country

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has recognised the efforts of the Telangana State government in protecting the health and well-being of children in the Shishu Vihar. The Shishu Vihars are the best in the country and the

officials of National Institutes directly visiting to study them is proud moment for Telangana, said Satyavathi Rathod, Minister for Women and Child Welfare. The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (Nimhans) and Dialogue team will visit the Shishu Vihar in Hyderabad.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT  
TENDER NOTICE

No. 39 to 40/ATQ/2022-23 Date: 26-05-2022

Tenders are invited as follows through AP e-procurement online portal to execute 30 works worth Rs 1297.72 lakh under Jal-Jeevan Mission, Nava Ratnalu - houses for the poor and the MPLADS in the limits of the Superintending Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department, Vijayawada, NTR District, in the districts of NTR District and Krishna district. The number of first call bid works is 7, while the second call works is 13. 1. Availability of tender documents: From 11.00 am on 30-05-2022 to 4.00 pm on 13-06-2022. 2. Date of submission of tender documents: From 11.00 am on 30-05-2022 to 4.30 pm on 13-06-2022. 3. Date of opening of technical bids: At 5.00 pm on 13-06-2022. 4. Date of opening of financial bids: At 11.00 am on 14-06-2022. For further details, see e-market place [www.approcurement.gov.in](http://www.approcurement.gov.in). e-mail id: se\_nrs\_krnag@ap.gov.in Phone No.: 9199121300, 9199121309.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer  
S.O.No: 4722/CLN/ATQ/11/2021-22 Dt. 27.05.2022 Rural Water Supply Circle, Vijayawada, NTR District

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# 'CM crushed Polavaram with reverse tenders'

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national president and former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday recalled how his all-out efforts could finally bring the Indian School of Business (ISB) to Hyderabad in the united AP.

"PM addressed ISB 20th annual day celebrations. It brought back many memories to me. The PM did not mention my name. It doesn't matter. I did that for my Telugu race and it gives me satisfaction," quipped Naidu.

The TDP chief said when he sent an invitation to the ISB think tank, they said they were considering Bangalore, Mumbai and Chennai with Hyderabad not even on their list.

"I requested them over the phone to come for breakfast and coffee. I sent my Ministers to receive them at the airport. I served them meals personally. A lot of effort was made for that."

Chandrababu Naidu said the then Prime Minister Vajpayee came and laid the foundation stone for ISB Hyderabad. It became a jewel eventually. The TDP brought hundreds of such jewels for the sake of the Telugu people. Genome Valley came to the rescue of the entire country at the height of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Naidu pointed out that the people of neighboring states were reaping rich benefits out of the institutions and



**Chandrababu Naidu said the then Prime Minister Vajpayee came and laid the foundation stone for ISB Hyderabad. It became a jewel eventually. The TDP brought hundreds of such jewels for the sake of the Telugu people.**

projects brought by the TDP regime. A new direction was given to shift from physical labour to mind-based endeavours. This was why IT was developed in a big way. Now, the Telugu girls were going

abroad and earning more than their male counterparts. The TDP chief lamented that the people of residual Andhra Pradesh suffered greatly because of bifurcation. The TDP rule came out with

a 2029 Vision to develop AP on par with its sister State. As part of this vision only, Amaravati Capital was visualised and it was developed into an Rs 3 Lakh Cr asset. What crime had Amaravati committed that Jagan Mohan Reddy had destroyed the Capital?

Chandrababu Naidu said Polavaram was a boon for farmers of the entire AP but it was also crushed in the name of reverse tenders. The TDP laid 20,000 kilometers of cement roads in villages in five years. The Jagan regime did not lay even 2 kilometers of roads till now.

## LOKESH SAYS NO TICKETS FOR THREE-TIME LOSERS

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

TDP national general secretary Nara Lokesh on Friday said party chief Chandrababu Naidu has decided not to give tickets in the coming polls to those who lost three times in consecutive elections previously.

Lokesh also said that on his part, he had proposed a 2 + 1 system in giving party positions. A debate was going on within the party on this. Anybody occupying a post for two consecutive terms should be given an upper-level post or lower level one or none but not the same post for a third time.

In a chat with the media at the Mahanadu venue in Ongole, Lokesh said he had asked the party chief to apply the new proposal to him (Lokesh) as well. Such proposals would help in infusing young blood at every level in the party. All would get equal opportunities to serve the party and the people.

Nara Lokesh said that Jagan Mohan Reddy had given license to his party activists to do whatever they would like. As a result, the



**Lokesh indicated that the TDP would allocate 40 percent tickets to the youth. Among them, in addition to the political heirs, those not having any prior political background would also get a chance.**

YSRCP gangs, who targeted the opposition leaders and the general public till now, had started victimising their own party cadres these days.

Lokesh indicated that the TDP would allocate 40 percent tickets to the youth. Among them, in addition to the political heirs, those not having any prior political background would also get a chance. Not just the heirs of leaders would constitute the youth. They would include all those who would work hard for strengthening the party.

The TDP MLC said after Mahanadu concluded, he

would expose two more massive scams that were committed by Jagan Reddy. Full evidence was also available to prove these frauds. The situation right now was that the YSRCP cadres themselves were revolting against their party leaders.

Lokesh said that he was ready to undertake padayatra or take part in any agitation if the party leadership ordered him. The TDP was ever ready to face the elections. Any debate on alliances should be taken up at the time of elections. The response to Mahanadu touched new peaks.



## AP Polycet on May 29

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

AP Technical Education Commissioner Pola Bhaskar has said that the polytechnic entrance test would be conducted on May 29. As many as 1,37,371 candidates applied for the Polycet and the government would set up 404 examination centers in the State, he said.

Addressing a press conference here on Friday, Bhaskar said the Polycet would be held from 11 am to 1 pm. The students should reach the centers one hour before the commencement of the test, he added.

He said that there are 84 government and 175 private polytechnics in the State. They offer three-year diploma courses in 29 trades. A total number of 70,569 seats are available both in government and private colleges, he said and added that the State government had framed a fee structure. Those who get seats in government colleges would have to pay Rs 4,700 and those joining private institutes must pay Rs 25,000 per year, he added.

## Stern action against corrupt cops: SP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Krishna district Superintendent of Police Siddhartha Kaushal has taken the gambling incident in Manthana village in Kankipadu mandal very seriously and ordered a departmental inquiry into the incident. Based on the investigation report, departmental action was taken against the Kankipadu Police Station Inspector, Sub-Inspector and Special Branch Constable for their negligence while discharging duties and tarnishing the image of the Police Department.

The SP said that police personnel indulging in anti-social or corrupt activities would not be tolerated under any circumstances. He said that if any of the police personnel of any rank were negligent in performing their duties properly and tarnished the reputation of the police, departmental



and criminal action would be initiated against them.

The SP warned that all were equal before law and legal action would be taken against those found to be involved in the incident. The SP further said that people should report such activities to the police station or to the police helpline numbers. One can also report to the WhatsApp number 9182990135 and their details would be kept confidential.

## Spl summer camp for kids concludes

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam, organised a special summer camp to create awareness among the children about wildlife and nature. This summer camp, which began five days ago, concluded on Friday. About 30 children between the ages of 5 to 11 years actively participated in this summer camp.

As a part of the summer camp on the first day, the zoo education team created awareness to the children about the various species of animals in the zoo. The second day kids were explained about the differences between animals and their pug marks, carnivores and herbivores etc. and also described about the stripes and marks of the animals. On the third day they were taken to the veterinary hospital and explained about various treatment methods and on the fourth day the children learned about butterflies and their life cycle. The students were delighted to learn so many things during these 5 day



summer camp.

Children enthusiastically participated in a variety of activities such as drawing and coloring etc. Dr. Nandani Salaria, Curator, IGZP thanked the parents for taking the time and encouraging their children to participate in this summer camp. The Zoo Park has been hosting summer camps since last year. Due to Corona last

year's summer camp was conducted through online mode, for the first time the summer camp was conducted offline and received a good response. Children from this age need to stay close to nature and learn about wildlife.

It was a great opportunity to learn so many things about how the animals were treated at the Veterinary Hospital in the Zoo.

More such programs will be organized for children in the future, said Curator. Certificates were presented to those who participated in the Summer Camp.

Assistant Curator Uma Maheshwari, Forest Section Officers Vijay Kumar, Ramana, Zoo Education Team and parents of the students have participated in the programme.

## Traffic curbs due to 'Samajika Nyayabheri' bus rally

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Traffic curbs will be imposed in the city on account of the 'Samajika Nyayabheri' bus rally by the ruling YSRCP BC, SC, ST, and Minority leaders on Saturday. Traffic will be diverted from 12 noon to 1 pm in Vijayawada, said the NTR District Police Commissioner Kanti Rana Tata on Friday.

The vehicles coming from Bandar Road towards Benz Circle will be diverted from Tadigadapa Junction to Enikepada 100 feet road.

Vehicles coming from Bandar Road to Guntur and towards the city will be diverted from NTR Circle via Krishnaveni School Road - Gulzar Bridge - Ramalingeswara Nagar - Skew Bridge. No vehicles will be allowed towards Benz Circle from 12 noon to 1 pm.

No vehicles will be allowed on the National Highway from Kanakadurga Varadhi towards Ramalingeswar Nagar from 12 noon to 1 pm. The vehicles will be diverted either onto the flyover or towards Fakirgudem Junction.

## Govt urged to supply all seeds, fertilisers at 50 per cent subsidy

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham State president P Ramachandraiah and general secretary KVV Prasas have demanded that the State government should supply all types of seeds and fertilisers on 50 percent subsidy. The India Meteorological Department has informed that the monsoons would come to the State early this year, they said in a press release on Friday.

The Rythu Sangham leaders further said that the Agriculture Department should supply groundnut seeds through Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs) in the Rayalaseema region soon. Both the government and private dealers sell groundnut seeds at the same price even though the government is providing subsidy, and it is not useful for the farmers, they alleged.

They also urged the State government to supply paddy

seeds to the farmers in Krishna and Godavari deltas immediately. The State government has announced a schedule to release irrigation water to canals from June 1. Sufficient seeds and fertilisers would be stocked in the godowns for the entire season. Sale of fake seeds should be prevented.

Ramachandraiah and Prasad also demanded that the government pay compensation to those who had lost their crops in the recent rains.

## Safety workshop held in Vizag

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Director of Factories D Chandra Sekhar Varma has explained the importance of a safety culture in process industries and control measures to prevent accidents.

He spoke at the one-day workshop on 'Building Risk-Based Occupational Health and Safety Culture in Process Industry' conducted at Learning and Development Centre in RINL Visakhapatnam Steel Plant by

the Factories Department of AP government.

Laurus Labs Ltd, Director and National Safety Council, AP Chapter Vice Chairman S S Rao had briefed about the activities the National Safety Council has taken to improve the competencies of employees to build a strong Safety Culture.

As many as 240 employees from pharma and chemical industries in Visakhapatnam participated in the programme.

## Entrepreneurs invited to set up industries in Tirupati dist.

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

Collector K Venkataramana Reddy on Friday appealed to industrialists and entrepreneurs to establish industries in Tirupati district where an abundance of resources including land, water, power resources, and road and rail connectivity is available.

Addressing a press conference here on Friday he said the government is keen to resolve all land, water, and power issues to promote speedy industrial growth in the district.

The Collector Tirupati with its rail, road and air connectivity was ideal for automobile, IT, and food processing sectors and called upon them to come forward to set up industries here. Venkataramana Reddy extolled the Sri City management for allocation of space for fire stations and also police stations. The Collector also discussed issues of four-lane highway between Tada-Sri Kalahasti and rescheduling of Telugu Ganga Water cess.

Earlier Sri city MD Ravi Sana Reddy with a PPP highlighted the scope and infrastructure at the SEZ which already had 190 enterprises and employed 50,000 persons. He sought the government to resolve minor land and power issues pending for a long time.

## 31 Siddhartha students land Divis jobs

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As many as 31 students of P.B. Siddhartha College of Arts and Science pursuing final year M.Sc. and B.Sc. in Chemistry got selected by Hyderabad-based Pharma major Divis Laboratories for various jobs, Principal of the college M Ramesh said here on Friday.

Training and Placement Officer of the college Sridhar Kavuri said that the students performed well in two rounds of the selection process containing a written test, an HR interview to secure a job offer as Junior Chemists in Quality Control, production, and R&D departments.

College Director V Babu Rao appreciated the efforts of



Chemistry Faculty members and Placement Cell in moulding the students into potential manpower through meticulous training that led to success. The selected students

were congratulated by Siddhartha Academy president Ch. Nageswara Rao, secretary P Lakshmana Rao, college dean Prof. Rajesh Jampala, staff and students.

## 400<sup>th</sup> locomotive from Waltair division's loco shed flagged off

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The East Coast Railway (ECOR), Waltair Division's diesel loco shed achieved another milestone on Friday when Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Anup Satpathy flagged off its 400th locomotive.

The diesel loco shed in Visakhapatnam came into existence in 1965 with a holding of 13 WDM 1 locomotives to meet the traffic needs in transportation of Kottavalasa-Kirandul line, mainly iron ore, from Bailadila Mines to Visakhapatnam Port Trust. Now, it holds a fleet of 400



locos of various capacities. Speaking on the occasion, DRM Anup Satpathy said it was the largest diesel loco

maintenance depot of the Indian Railways with a fleet of 400 locomotives including 176 electrical locos.

Various types of locomotives are being maintained in the shed for freight, passenger and shunting purposes. The augmentation of the DLS is to facilitate uninterrupted maintenance works.

Anup Satpathy also inaugurated the augmented diesel loco shed for homing electric locomotives. The funds for the extension works were allotted in 2015-16 and the works were completed by March.

The construction work was taken up by the M/s IRCON International limited.

The DRM also inaugurated the electronic test bench in the newly constructed shed.





# Permissions granted for 43 industrial units in Bapatla

PNS ■ BAPATLA

Emphasising on the need for the industrial development of the newly created Bapatla district, Collector Vijaya Krishnan said that permissions were accorded for the establishment of 43 industrial units in the district. The Collector held a meeting with the officials concerned on industrial development here on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, she asked all the officials to work in a coordinated manner for the industrial development of the district.

She said that 51 permissions had been given to establish 43 industries in the district. She said that at present there are 7 heavy industries and 2,500 small and micro level industries in the district.

The Collector informed that the government had intro-



duced 'Jagananna Badugu Vikasam' schemes in order to encourage the enthusiastic SC/ST industries in the state to establish industries, adding that the government would extend a 45 per cent subsidy to them. The government is also extending a lot of subsidies to

minorities and women for the establishment of industries. It is required to make youngsters into entrepreneurs.

The Collector directed the officials concerned to identify 100 acres of land for the establishment of an industrial area and auto nagar. She also asked the

officials to prepare plans for a comprehensive drainage system in the industrial township. Joint Collector K Srinivasulu, District Industries department office G Murali, APIICZP Gopi, LDM Rambabu and mining department AD Obul Reddy were among those who were present.

# Expedite construction works of Urban Health Centres: GMC chief

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Guntur Municipal Corporation (GMC) Commissioner Keerthi Chekuri has directed the officials to expedite the construction works of the YSR Urban Primary Health Centre and provide them with all required medical equipment.

The Commissioner along with district medical officer Chukka Manmohan and engineering officials inspected the YSR Urban Primary Health Centre at Brindavan Gardens and another one located on Amravati road on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, she said that she inspected the laboratory, meeting hall, OP room, operation theatre, maternity room, doctors' room, general ward, and pharmacy room at Brindavan Garden and Urban Primary Health as part of the visit to Centres located in Amravati Road.

She asked the officials and



contractors for details of the medical equipment assigned by the Urban Primary Health Centres. She instructed them to arrange for the equipment to be installed in the allocated rooms. She also asked for complete information on how many types of tests will be conducted in the lab and the allocation of equipment related to it. She told them to get the beds, trolleys, and wheelchairs for the health

center. The DPMO has been directed to discuss with DM & HO the list of medical equipment allotted so far and the required medical equipment and provide her the complete details by Saturday. She said that she would speak to APMSIDC MD in this regard if needed.

She said that civil works in the waiting hall and laboratory should be completed and chairs

and examination tables should be provided for health care. She told them that steps should be taken to set up a help desk for Arogyasri. She also interacted with the SE and knew the reasons for the setting up of Rythu Bazar on the same premises. She spoke to ANMs and Asha works at the Urban Health Centre located on Amravati road.

She got details about the programmes which they carry out every day, such as vaccination. She asked them to provide details of the nutritional distribution provided to them. She told them that from now on every delivery should take place at the Urban Health Centre, only in case of an emergency, the pregnant woman should go to a government hospital. SE Dasari Srinivasa Rao, Chief MHO Vijaya Lakshmi, DEE Srinivasa Reddy, ACP Ajay Kumar Medical and Municipal officials and staff were present.



# VIMUKTHI hails SC verdict recognising sex work as profession

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

VIMUKTHI, State forum sex workers and survivors of human trafficking, has welcomed the Supreme Court judgment recognising sex work as a profession. It said that the Supreme Court had allowed the sex workers to live with dignity as equal citizens of the country. Speaking to media persons here on Friday, Vimukthi vice-president P Rajani, joint secretary B Pushpa, treasurer A Apoorva and member M Mounika termed the SC judgment as a historical one.

The VIMUKTHI leaders complained that after raids, even without an FIR, the police used to detain sex workers in police stations for four to five days. They added that most of the time, the cops refused to give them back their phones.

Moreover, some of the police personnel referred the victims to the lawyers with whom they were already in a tie-up. There were many victims who lost to Rs. 40,000 - 50,000 to the lawyers suggested by police in the name of bail though it was not a crime. The adult women were under forced detention for months in shelter homes. Now, they got relief from such malicious practices.

VIMUKTHI leaders said that they were against the idea of sex work being a 'profession' because abuse and exploitation were involved in it. Girls/women do not enter into sex work for their pleasure or with the sole intention of earning money. Most of them were deceived and took up sex work as they found no alternative means of livelihood to survive, and also due to social stigma.

# Make 'Bus Yatra' a success: Ambati Rambabu

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Minister for Water Resources Ambati Rambabu called upon people to take the bus yatra a big success.

Addressing a gathering in the Sattenapalli YSRCP office and at Saibaba temple in Narasaraopet on Friday, he said that the Samajika Nyayabheri bus yatra programme would be held in Narasaraopet on May 28 and appealed to all to make the programme a big success.

Speaking on the occasion, he said Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy was giving top priority to the weaker sections and underprivileged sections politically. The Samajika Nyayabheri bus yatra programme is a prestigious programme for Narasaraopet district and all leaders including councillors and in-charges should play a vital role to



make the programme a success.

The Minister said "The Samajika Nyayabheri bus yatra is being organised from May 26 to May 29 across the state and out of the 25 Cabinet ministers, 17 belonging to the backward castes and weaker sections.

The government is committed to the political uplift of backward castes leaders," he said.

YSRCP state secretary Nimmakayala Rajanarayana said that 17 ministers and other people's representatives are taking part in the bus yatra. He asked the party

cadres to take steps to make the public meeting to be held on the occasion a big success. Deputy mayors Vanama Bala Vajra Babu, Sheik Sajila, ASP A Srinivasa Rao, and Mirchi yard chairman Chandragiri Yerusatnam were among those who were present.

# Thieves arrested, Rs 15 lakh seized

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

The police arrested two notorious interstate thieves and recovered 207 grams of gold, 1 kg silver and two bikes worth Rs 15 lakh from him.

Police here on Friday said that on the directions of SP Y Rishant Reddy and under the supervision of Chittoor subdivision DSP N Sudhakar Reddy a police team led by P Srinivas Reddy arrested the notorious criminal Peddineni Tirupati Swamy alias Vamshi and P Neerugatta Ganesh.

The police recovered gold jewellery weighing 207 grams, silver ornaments weighing 1 kg



and two bikes all together worth Rs 15 lakh. Tirupati Swamy committed

crimes in Kadapa, Guntur, Srikakulam, Nalgonda, Prakasam, Chittoor and

Anantapur district and he was involved in 57 offences and was sent to jail a few times.

## SHORT TAKES

### Family suicide pact: Case booked against firm

**HYDERABAD:** The Panjagutta police in the city have booked a case against a company in connection with the suicide attempt of a family in a lodge at Dilshuknagar PS. The family suicide attempt was reported early this week. The subcontractor Shashi Kumar attempted to commit suicide along with wife and two children. It was alleged that the company had handed over electricity department contract work to Shashi Kumar, a resident of Khammam district, but harassed him by not paying him money, forcing them to attempt suicide on Wednesday. Shashikumar's brother-in-law Suresh made a complaint to the police in this regard. The Saroornagar police booked a zero FIR case against GVRP Engineers Pvt Ltd at Hindi Nagar in Panjagutta and transferred it to the latter on point of jurisdiction. Earlier Saroornagar police registered a case and later transferred to Panjagutta police station.

### 48-yr-old woman stabbed

**HYDERABAD:** A 48-year-old woman in Hyderabad was stabbed multiple times in broad daylight in Hafeez Baba Nagar area under the limits of Kanchanbagh Police Station on Friday. The woman has been identified as Syed Noor Bano. She was immediately shifted to a local hospital and is undergoing treatment. CCTV footage shows the woman being attacked from behind while she was crossing the street. One of the daughters of the victim said that the attacker had been following her mother for over a year now. Officials at Kanchanbagh police station said that a case has been registered and they are on the lookout for the culprit.

### Mahankali Jatara on July 17, 18

**HYDERABAD:** This year, the Mahankali Jatara will be held on July 17, 18 and no thoughts on interchanging the goddess idols, says Minister Talsani Srinivas Yadav. While inspecting the development works at Gandhi statue, Secunderabad, he said, "The propaganda that the idol of Goddess Mahankali is missed is untrue and it is not right to do politics in the name of Goddess. The grand Mahankali Jatara festivities will be held on July 17 and 18. Bonalu is declared as a state festival and is being organised in a grand manner." He also criticised the opposition for trying to hurt the sentiments of the devotees. He said that the temple's reputation was being deliberately tarnished. The campaign that the Gandhi statue will be removed is false. The statue and the surrounding areas will be beautified, he added.

# 'Villages, towns will be made clean with people's cooperation'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao has said that the government officers will develop villages and towns as clean and healthy with the cooperation of the public partnership. As part of Jagananna Swatcha Sankalp programme, Dilli Rao visited Velvadam village of Mylavaram mandal near Vijayawada on Friday.

The Collector inspected the sanitation programmes in the village and convened a meeting with the self-help groups, sachivalayam welfare assis-

stants, anganwadi workers, engineering staff and grama volunteers.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that the people of Velvadam would give their support to create a clean village as well as development. Every person should use toilets, avoid open defecation and clean their hands with soap. Each household should plant two saplings to control the pollution, he urged.

He also encouraged the people to use cloth and jute bags instead of plastic bags. "If the villages follow the government

suggestions, we will give all support to develop Velvadam as a clean village," he assured.

The Collector visited the waste-to-wealth creation centre and inspected the process of door-to-door garbage collection and segregation of dry and wet waste. People are responsible for the removal of stilt and drainage maintenance in front of their houses, he added. He appreciated the waste-to-wealth organisers for producing vermicompost. Dilli Rao suggested that the farmers use vermicompost fertilisers for their paddy fields. RWS

Superintending Engineer Satyanarayana purchased 15 kg of vermicompost.

Later, Dilli Rao promised to the farmers to pay compensation for the lands taken over for the extension of the national highway four years ago. He visited the Jagananna layouts at Chandrala.

Velvadam sarpanch Dharma Raju, MPP Prasanna Rani, Vice MPP Ratna Babu, DRDA PD Venkata Rao, DPO Chandra Sekhar, Tahsildar Rohini Devi, MPDO Ameer Bhasha and others were present.

# Over 1.22L people download the Disha app in Bapatla dist

PNS ■ BAPATLA

As many as 1,22,870 people have downloaded the Disha app in the district in a single day. Bapatla District Collector Vijaya Krishnan and SP Vakul Jindal participated in the awareness program conducted at St. Ann's College of Engineering & Technology here on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, District Collector Vijaya Krishnan said that the students should set lofty goals and reach the highest peaks in the future. She spoke to some students face to face and gave them

advice on how to reach a better level in life.

SP Vakul Jinal said that the Andhra Pradesh state government is very ambitious to bring in the Disha Act for the protection of women, as part of which Disha receptions would be set up at police stations, which would have trained female constables who would speak politely to the complainants who came to the station and immediately find out their problems.

The SP said that appropriate action would be taken on the complaint received through the Disha app, adding that the



Disha app is part of the Disha Act and in collaboration with the District Collector, all the government departments in

the district jointly downloaded the Disha app on a record number of 1,22,870 mobile phones across the district in a

single day.

He said the drive was aimed at having the Disha app on everyone's mobile in the district, stating that the Disha app would serve as a shield for people at risk as the police come to rescue within minutes of pressing the Disha SOS button. The police also track the route of women traveling alone in autos and cabs using the Track my Travel option. He explained that if the vehicle does not go in the right direction, the police immediately alert the police personnel in the area.

It is suggested that every woman, student, and a young

woman who has a smartphone should download this Disha app and register properly, the SP said.

He thanked the District Collector, officials, and staff of all government departments in the district who were directly involved in assisting in downloading the Direction app on a record 1,22,870 mobile phones.

Joint Collector K Srinivasu, Addl SP P Mahesh, St. Ann's College Principal Dr. M Venu, DSPs P Srikanth, A Srinivasa Rao, CIs A. Srinivasa Rao, and K Suryanarayana were among those who were present.

## AG&P Pratham to invest Rs 400 crore in Anantapur

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

With the aim to harness the potential of the State of Andhra Pradesh through providing a robust pipeline infrastructure and working with the local communities to create direct and indirect employment for the people of the State, AG&P Pratham, a leading city gas distribution company, is all set to invest Rs 400 crore in Anantapur in the next five years to develop gas distribution infrastructure. The investment will also provide direct and indirect employment to more than 1,000 people in the district.

Gumalpalali A Venkatesh, regional head, Anantapur and YSR Kadapa districts, AG&P Pratham, said that the company was working towards making Anantapur a cleaner and greener city, by providing easy access to economical natural gas, which was expected to enable the people of the district to lead more sustainable livelihoods. "As part of our larger vision for Andhra Pradesh, AG&P Pratham decided to set up an LCGN station in Anantapur. The establishment of this LCGN station is intended to supply gas to several demand centres.







# Getting their due

The SC has finally validated prostitution as truly a ‘profession’, not just ‘dhandaa’

Patriarchy is the last bastion women have to fell to feel truly empowered and liberated. Before that, however, the second-last bastion — prostitution — needs to be vanquished. The Supreme Court helped women do just that by declaring this Thursday that the “oldest profession in the world” is legally a profession. Not many countries, not even the United States, have done that. The apex court said the practitioners are entitled to dignity and equal protection under the law. It protected the women’s natural right to liberty and choice by declaring that where sex workers are adults and participating with consent, the police cannot take criminal action against them. The order also addressed the ambiguity of Indian legislation that deals with the business of sex. Prostitution is not illegal in India, but soliciting and public prostitution are. It is also illegal to own a brothel. Brothels are the best-kept open secret of a hypocritic India where the business of sex is freely practised with the laws enforced rarely or the enforcers bribed to look the other way. The court’s decision addresses the moot question: Prostitution is legal, but how can the sex workers practice if it is illegal to have an office to conduct sex work? The court decision settles the issue. Parliament should now bring the existing legislation in line with the new ruling. There is a lot left for the Government to accomplish.

The priority is to extend labour rights to sex workers and recognise their associations. That will help in two ways. It will call for a gradual end to the exploitation of sex workers by brothel owners and pimps and unsafe and unhygienic working conditions. Two, it can pave the way for sex workers to organise themselves into a registered body to fight for their rights and rightful wages. Just because their ‘work’ has become a profession does not mean they will no longer be stigmatised or oppressed and exploited. Social acceptability campaigns should become an integral form of the affirmation process. Deeper reforms are necessary to give them access to health, social, economic and cultural benefits. However, changes cannot come about till the lawmakers lose their patriarchal hangover. A sex worker, it must be understood, is not a victim who needs to be rescued and rehabilitated. Except where a person is not forced into the profession through trafficking or exploitation, the sex worker is on a par with any other service professional. The Supreme Court order is a call for the United Nations to reframe its sex worker narrative. For the UN, paying for sex is a form of “sexual abuse”. It prohibits the purchase of sexual acts. It calls for abolishing prostitution. It believes the profession is an obstacle to the dignity of the human person. Such a patronising attitude cannot sell any longer. Look at Germany where prostitution jobs are freely advertised and processed through HR companies with no eyebrows raised.



Fans at the Narendra Modi Stadium for the quarter-final match between RR and RCB, in Ahmedabad

# Throes of despair

The Congress has badly fallen from its position of strength in Tamil Nadu

The Congress, which ruled Tamil Nadu continuously for almost two decades after Independence, is now virtually on its last breath in the State. The party, once led by titans like C Rajagopalachari, K Kamaraj, S Satyamurti and C Subramaniam, is now run by minnows who would not be able to win even a civic body election without the DMK’s support. The Dravidian major has literally sucked out the blood from the ‘grand old party’ that once had a commanding presence in the State. The Congress has been made to eat humble pie by the DMK, which has thrown its way just a single Rajya Sabha seat from the State in the upcoming biennial election. And it’s not new; just another episode in the series of humiliations heaped upon the Congress by the DMK since the parties forged an alliance in the State in 2004. Since the DMK was launched in 1949 as an offshoot of the Dravida Kazhagam led by EV Ramasami Naiker, a self-proclaimed backward community leader from then Mysore Province, the DMK had only one mission and that was to annihilate the Congress.

The first time the DMK joined hands with the Congress in modern times was during the 2004 Lok Sabha election which saw the Front consisting of other fringe parties like the MDMK and PMK, obliterating the AIADMK by winning all the 38 seats. The DMK, sulking from an unexpected defeat in the 2001 Assembly election, was striving to register a win in 2004 and had allotted nine seats to the Congress, which won all of those. But the DMK, which had won 16 seats, used the opportunity to extract the maximum benefit from the Congress by demanding the most “healthy” Ministries (which were known by the acronym ‘ATM Ministries’). The DMK had even threatened to walk out of the UPA if its demands were not met. The rest is history. The infamous 2G scam was DMK’s major contribution in the UPA Government’s downfall. The party also played a major role in vitiating the ties between India and Sri Lanka, putting Tamil chauvinism to good use. The Congress leadership in the State comprises political migratory birds who return to Sathyamurthy Bhavan, the TNCC headquarters, for nesting. The party needs a thorough overhaul and freedom from the colonial rule of the Dravidian major.

# Justice delayed is justice denied

It’s time that the Supreme Court put a strict end to the vicious practice of lawyers striking work on the flimsiest of excuses in their own interest

Over the years, the disruption of work in trial courts due to strikes by lawyers in western Uttar Pradesh has put thousands of litigants to financial hardship and untold inconvenience. The gravity of the matter can be gauged from the fact that in Uttar Pradesh, more than 51 lakh cases are pending in trial courts which is over 25 per cent of total pendency in all States taken together. A report prepared by a panel of experts and submitted to the Allahabad High Court listing 10 districts where lawyers disrupted work for more than 100 days on an average every year for five years (March 1, 2010, to March 31, 2016) is an eye opener.

During these five years, in Muzaffarnagar district, 753 days were lost due to lawyers’ strike, at an average of 150 days a year. In Aligarh, the figure was 697 days (140 days a year), followed by Agra 690 days (140 days a year), Faizabad 693 days, Sultanpur 603 days, Moradabad 596 days, Mathura 591 days, Ghaziabad 573 days, Balrampur 560 days and Chandauli 524 days. Although the latest data is not available, the situation has gone from bad to worse in the last five years. Taking into consideration the weekly and religious holidays, trial courts generally work for an average of 250 days a year. If over 100 days are lost due to strikes, one can well understand the reasons for higher pendency of cases.

Now, the pertinent question is who benefits from these strikes? Certainly not the litigants. As it is, it is difficult to get your case heard, and then there are frequent adjournments. So it is deeply frustrating to find the courts shut on the appointed day of hearing. There are a large number of petitions that require immediate hearing every day. The foremost examples are bail applications. If the courts don’t work, thousands of citizens are deprived of their right to resume their freedom. Urgent interim orders are sought to protect persons and properties; cause lists show



hundreds of cases where parties seek interim orders. Even a day’s delay is crucial for individuals and causes them irreparable loss. After all, courts are the institutions where complaints and grievances are taken for resolution and lawyers are the experts who provide services to resolve disputes. So, it is a reflection on the honesty and integrity of lawyers if they hold courts to ransom and cause inconvenience to their clients by boycotting courts over petty demands.

The report, prepared by the Allahabad High Court and submitted to the Law Commission of India, states that the strikes based on resolutions passed by Bar associations were called on “unacceptable and flimsy grounds”. In addition, the report says: “Some of the common causes for strike in all UP districts were non-declaration of holidays like Agrasen Jayanti, Basant Panchami, etc.” It adds: “In most districts, the strike is virtually institution-alised. Often these strikes are called for specific actions, where a group of lawyers either do not want a particular case to be taken up or they



AS IT IS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO GET YOUR CASE HEARD, AND THEN THERE ARE FREQUENT ADJOURNMENTS. SO IT IS DEEPLY FRUSTRATING TO FIND THE COURTS SHUT ON THE APPOINTED DAY OF HEARING. THERE ARE A LARGE NUMBER OF PETITIONS THAT REQUIRE IMMEDIATE HEARING EVERY DAY

desire a particular matter to be adjourned.”

However, it is observed that most lawyers are opposed to boycotts and do not approve or support stoppage of work in courts, except in extreme cases of threat to the legal profession or the independence of judiciary. They prefer to keep silent in the face of a vociferous minority that commands proceedings at the meetings of Bar associations and takes arbitrary decisions on behalf of all advocates. Judges are forced to adjourn cases when lawyers do not appear in the courtroom. The lawyers who wish to appear fear obstructive and violent behaviour from those on strike. The vicious circle goes on and the situation has exacerbated over the years.

The Supreme Court of India took the initiative of stemming the rot by instructing the Bar Council of India to suggest ways and means of putting a stop to these incidents of strikes in courts. The issue of whether lawyers can go on strike was dealt with by the Supreme Court in Common Cause vs Union of India (AIR 2005 SC 4442).



BRIJENDER SINGH PANWAR

The court held that it is unprofessional for a lawyer to strike and boycott the court. The Bar associations should not permit meetings calling for such strikes. It is the duty of the State and National Bar Councils to take action against striking Bar associations and sponsors of boycotts. The courts must hear matters posted before them undeterred by boycotts and it is only in the rarest of rare cases that abstention from court is justified, such as dignity, integrity and independence of the Bar and Bench, which must be decided by the judge. Even this must be allowed for only one day, the apex court said.

As the saying “Justice delayed is justice denied” goes, the legal professionals should be aware that with each boycott, they erode their image in the eyes of the public and the institution that protects the rule of law. The Supreme Court should take steps to seriously enforce its ruling. (The writer is a senior journalist and Chairman, Panwar Group of Institutions, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### SENSELESS KILLING OF SCHOOLCHILDREN

Sir — The senseless killing of 19 children in a classful of innocent kids needs to be condemned in the strongest terms and the US flag should be flown at half mast round the year. Now is the time for the US to realise its own folly rather than giving lessons to other countries. We feel sadness and pity for the young children. But we have come to the conclusion that shooting in schools there is a regular feature and there is no Government control over such killings. It was pathetic to know that the children were made to die in this fashion.

But in the name of God, the brewing up of vengeance made the matter worse and needs to be condemned at all levels. School security must be beefed up in and around sensitive places to avoid recurrence of such merciless killings. It was pathetic to know that the children killed were aged between seven and 10. It was notable that the slain children and teachers were barricaded in a single classroom by the gunman. It is a regular feature in the US and the gun culture has spoiled the future of schoolgoing children rather abruptly.

Krishnan S Maniam | Calicut

### PM SHOULD DELIVER ON HIS PROMISES

Sir — It is appreciable that Prime Minister Narendra Modi who visited Tamil Nadu to launch multiple infra structure projects said to be worth over ₹31,500 crore has been accorded a deserving welcome by the Tamil Nadu Government and its people. In his address, Chief Minister MK Stalin spoke in detail the expectations of his Government in the Centre-State relationship and reiterated emphatically that his Government will extend all support to the Centre and, at the same time, will never fail to raise its voice for the rights of the State.

He also explained what is meant by the Dravidian model his Government is pursuing. The Prime Minister touched upon various infra structure projects in

## Sibal’s exit will hit G-23 camp



The move by renowned lawyer and former Union Minister Kapil Sibal to resign from the Congress is not surprising at all, particularly when he openly admitted to his intentions earlier: “Everyone has to think about themselves.” For Sibal, Congress was in power for 65 years. Now when it is not in power, many who don’t want to struggle and just want power, like him, are leaving for greener pastures. Sibal is not a mass leader and, without the help of any party, he cannot fight any

election. For him, the chances of getting a Rajya Sabha (RS) seat from the Congress were bleak after criticising the Gandhi family.

Hence, after Mamata and Abhishek Banerjee’s refusal, Sibal refused to join the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and, therefore, the only plausible option left for him was to join the camp of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav. Though, for Sibal, politics is a part-time job to enjoy perks and to be relevant in the contemporary political scenario. Not only was his exit “amicable”, but the Congress has stayed soft on Sibal after his exit. Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera rightly commented: “We admired Kapil Sibal for his commitment to the ideology (of the party) and I hate to believe that he took this decision just for a Rajya Sabha seat.” Whatsoever, Sibal’s exit will also have a huge impact on the G-23 camp, rather than the Congress.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

the State and other developments that have taken place under his leadership. It is, however, a great disappointment that he failed to touch on any of the requests made by the Chief Minister and went to continue to recite his prepared speech! While it is laudable that the PM has announced schemes worth ₹31,500 crore for TN, one only hopes that all of them will be implemented soon.

Tharcus S Fernando | Chennai

### GOVT MUST ATTEND TO INFLATION

Sir — As the disruption in global supply chains on account of the Russian invasion of Ukraine is driving inflation across the globe, pragmatic protectionism appears to be a safe bet for India in the short run. The decision to put a cap on sugar exports reflects the lessons learnt to avoid the problems faced by wheat traders. With India recording highest global sales for the first time in six years, forcing the Government to restrict exports to the tune of 10 million tonnes

till October 2022, it is a pragmatic step to ensure that the Government does not end up buying expensive sugar in future to meet domestic demand, considering the current geopolitical uncertainties.

As food inflation is showing an upward trajectory jumping from 7.68 per cent in March to 8.38 per cent in April 2022, duty-free import of crude soyabean and sunflower oil until 2024 follows similar relief on crude palm oil and lentils to ease retail prices. Given the fact that this grim geopolitical scenario is unlikely to subside soon, increased prices, aggravated by high energy costs and supply side bottlenecks are here to stay. Easing the pain by whatever means should drive the Government’s policies. Fiscal policy can be used to top up support prices and enhance procurement by the Government.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## SOUND BITE

The Tamil language is eternal and the Tamil culture is global.



Prime Minister — Narendra Modi

As a nation, we have to ask when in God’s name we’re going to stand up to the gun lobby.



US President — Joe Biden

Like our Mumbai industry, the South industries also try to make different kinds of films.



Actor — Raveena Tandon

All the 23 players are different characters, they bring different things to the table.



Indian cricketer — Hardik Pandya

Our country is unique... Unlike America, we are different. We speak different languages but are united.



Makkal Needhi Maiam leader — Kamala Haasan



FIRST COLUMN

PUTIN SACKS TOP GENs FOR KHARKIV FAILURE

Agreeing to a ceasefire is the only way out for Russia



PK VASUDEVA

President of Russia Vladimir Putin has sacked a top General who failed to capture Ukraine's key city of Kharkiv, blaming him for botching his war. Lieutenant General Serhiy Kisel was the head of the elite 1st Guards Tank Army, charged with taking Ukraine's second biggest city. But he has now been suspended for his failure to capture Kharkiv. Vice Admiral Igor Osipov, the commander of Russia's Black Sea Fleet, has also been suspended following the sinking of the flagship Moskva last month. This was one of the greatest successful events of the Ukraine's Navy. It seems that Putin is very upset in losing battles but still not agreeing for a ceasefire, which may salvage his prestige. Putin may have also lost the confidence in General Valery Gerasimov, his senior-most general in Ukraine, as his campaign faltered. As a matter of fact Putin has fired a number of senior commanders who have performed poorly and failed to capture of Ukraine's important strategic military establishments. A culture of cover-ups and scapegoating is prevalent within the Russian military system. Many officials involved in the invasion of Ukraine are likely to be distracted by efforts to avoid personal culpability for Russia's setbacks. This is likely to place further strain on Russia's centralised model of command and control, as officers are increasingly seeking to defer key decisions of their superiors resulting in unrest among the officers and soldiers. However, Russian forces have been forced to withdraw



from around Kharkiv after months of heavy bombardment failed to break stiff resistance, leading to Moscow's second major defeat during the war. It has been reported that a number units have revolted the higher command orders. Chances of a military Coup cannot be denied if the present defeats of Russian troops persist. At the end of March 2022, Russian forces carried out a tactical retreat from the capital city of Kyiv, after a sustained bombardment. Kyiv was considered to be the main objective of the Russian Army. Intelligence sources indicate that Russia might have pulled back its forces from Kharkiv to relocate them to the eastern Donbas region now a priority target.

The poor performance of the mighty Russian Army has shocked the Western strategic analysts who feel that the Russian troops had lacked direction, motivation, intelligence failure, poor strategic vision and the proper equipment to achieve its objective of capturing Ukraine. A lack of experience and empowerment among Russian army's cadre of noncommissioned, and junior commissioned officers so important in world armies and battlefield tactical tinkering by Putin, has also hampered the performance of the Russian troops. Despite their reinforcements, there is widespread scepticism that Russian forces will achieve any breakthrough fast. Russian forces have already sustained high losses after nearly three months of conflict and morale is thought to be low. Their units are made up of men enlisted from the local separatist areas, many under duress, as well as the broader Russian army. The US Senate on May 19 approved a \$40 billion emergency and humanitarian aid package for Ukraine, as the US deepens its support for an increasingly costly and protracted fight against Russian invasion. The measure would bring the total investment in the war roughly \$54 billion in just nearly three months. The Senate approved it overwhelmingly on a vote 86-11, in the latest reflection of the remarkable bipartisan support on Capitol Hill for a massive investment in Ukraine's war effort, which propelled the spending package through the House. The US and EU military aid to Ukraine has shown good results of repelling attacks in Ukraine and Russia is now feeling the heat even as Putin continues his belligerence against the Ukrainians.

(The writer is former Senior Professor, International Trade and Member, Vivekananda International Foundation. The views expressed are personal.)

# Nature: The Bharatiya Biocentric Discourse

In the Vedic culture, plants are believed to have consciousness like humans and can feel pain as well as happiness



RAGHAVENDRA P TIWARI

The United Nations proclaimed May 22 as 'The International Day for Biological Diversity' (IDB) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. The focal theme of IDB 2022 is 'Building a shared future for all life'. For actualizing this noble mission of the United Nations, it is of paramount significance that we revisit the past civilizational discourses that we have had in protecting nature in its totality.

The Civilization heritage of ancient Bharat is well documented in the Vedas, the Upanishads, the Puran as and several other scriptures. The preaching in these scriptures are the set of norms governing our cultural and social lives. One of the greatest and unique strengths of the Sanatan Dharmahas been its adoration for nature in its entirety for preserving all possible and probable habitats for all forms of life to flourish on the 'Mother Earth'. Perhaps, no other civilizational discourse, attached so much significance and interconnectedness to various facets of nature as the Sanatan way of lifestyle, values and virtues.

In Vedic culture, natural resources have never been considered commodities to be consumed for enjoyment and worldly pleasure as are viewed now. Contrarily, people were outlawed from the over exploitation of natural resources. They were mentored to worship the divinity that exists in the animate and the inanimate world including plants, animals, water, air, soil, fire, stones, hills, mountains and planets etc, necessary components for sustaining biodiversity. Hindus recognised, appreciated and preserved the purity of varied facets of nature in all their life activities. In essence, they practised nature-centric civilisational and development discourse that ensured the longevity of all forms of life. The degree of respect and interconnectedness that Sanatan is had with nature is amply demonstrated by the Yajurveda sloka necessarily recited on rituals 'Om dyauh shanti rantariksham shantih, Prithvi shanti rapah shantih Oshadhayah shantih; Vanaspatayah shantih, vishvedeva shanti Brahma shantih; Sarvam shantih, Shantireva shantih, Saamaa shantiredhih; Om shaantih, shaantih, shaantih' meaning that 'May peace radiate there in the whole sky as well as in the vast ethereal space everywhere; May peace reign all over this earth, in water and in all herbs, trees and creepers; May peace flow over the whole universe; May peace be in the Supreme Being Brahman; And may there always exist in all peace and peace alone'. All sphere of human activities centred on the purity of nature and were zero-emission and zero-waste based.

Vedic people had a co-existential frame of mind with the lithosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and atmosphere. They knew that life originated in water and cannot be sustained without ensuring its



THOUSANDS OF SPECIES HAVE ALREADY BECOME EXTINCT AND THOUSANDS ARE ON THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION. EMISSION OF GREENHOUSE GASES, TEMPERATURE RISE & CLIMATE CHANGE HAVE CROSSED ALL LIMITS. WE NEED TO RESTORE VEDIC CULTURE, TRADITIONS AND WAYS OF INTERACTION WITH NATURE IN ALL SPHERES OF HUMAN DOMAIN

(The writer is Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda. The views expressed are personal.)



purity. Hence they worshipped various forms of water bodies including clouds, rivers, lakes and oceans for securing their purity. Vedic people appreciated that mountains, hills, grasslands and riverine regions are repositories of biodiversity and there was utmost necessity for preserving and sustaining life-supporting ecosystems; hence they worshipped these landforms as well. We have been worshipping trees, herbs and creepers since Vedic time in recognition of the fact that all animal forms depended on these for food, fodder, fuel and medicine besides their utility in maintaining carbon neutrality and enriching biodiversity.

This belief ensured that the plants and their products became an integral part of our rituals and ceremonies. Plants like peepal, banyan and neem (Triveni), kadamb, bael, tulsi, aonla, mango, banana, coconut, lotus, paan, sandalwood, rudraksha, camphor, parijaat, asoka, etc., were revered on various occasions. Vedic people were conscious of their nutritious, environmental, medicinal and ornamental values. Even several forms of animals and birds were worshipped to showcase their usefulness to the ecosystem. Vedas accorded the status of GOD to all forms of natural energy including Agni and Vayu. Yagnas were performed for the purification of air. All of these created a conducive environment for all forms of life to flourish resulting into great biodiversity all around.

'Less is More' and ethical use

of natural resources were two among the several civilization traits that governed our lives. The first sloka of Ishopnishad taught us 'Isavasyam Idam Sarvam, yat kinca jagatyam jagat; tena tyaktena bhunjitha, magadha? kasyasvidhanam' implying that every animate and inanimate entity in the universe is controlled and owned by the Almighty. One should therefore accept only those things necessary for himself, which are set aside as his share, and one must not accept other things, knowing fully well to whom it belongs.

For the previous few centuries, especially during the foreign rule, Vedic culture, traditions and value system underwent stark departure and erosion. Our holistic world view became fragmented; 'Less is More' became 'More is Less', 'Sarve Bhawantu Sukhinah' became 'I Bhawantu Sukhinah', 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' became 'Live in Relationship' 'Not Me but You' became 'Not You But Me', 'Nature Centric' became 'Self Centric' and 'Environmental-friendly' became 'Environmental-enmity'. Vedic philosophy that 'Objects around are the extension of the Self' is vanishing now from our thought and action process and as a consequence, we do not stay connected with the outside world. We have embraced an individualistic and consumerist mindset and lifestyle resulting into the over exploitation of natural resources.

Every facet of nature has now become fragile and vulnerable. Water bodies are silting-up and

becoming dry, hills are being destroyed, trees are being cut for paper and napkins, soils are under stress to produce more, and environmentally friendly dwellings and things of daily use are replaced by concrete structures and plastic made materials, respectively. The health of soil, water and air has become extremely vulnerable owing to pollution and excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides. As a result, the great biodiversity that 'Jammu Dweep Bharat Khande' supported is dwindling fast. The plants, invertebrate and vertebrate species inhabiting the land, water and soil, so essential for building a shared future for all life-forms, are under ever-increasing threat as their habitats are fast becoming unsuitable for survival and proliferation of biodiversity. Several thousands of such species have already become extinct and several thousands are on the verge of extinction. The emission of greenhouse gases, temperature rise and climate change have crossed all limits.

Under the circumstances, should we wish to build and secure a shared future for all forms of life on the planet Earth including Homo sapiens, we need to restore our Vedic culture, traditions and ways of interaction with nature in all spheres of the human domain. Everyone's commitment is a must for saving mother earth and nature. Let us accept the fact that we have become cruel to mother Earth and are inflicting irreparable damage to its life support system for actualizing our limitless greed.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

I HAVE FILED NOMINATION (TO THE RAJYA SABHA) AS AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE. I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE AN INDEPENDENT VOICE.  
— CONGRESS EX-LEADER KAPIL SIBAL



HE HAD ALREADY WRITTEN TO PARTY PRESIDENT (SONIA GANDHI). PEOPLE COME AND GO FROM OUR PARTY. THIS IS A BIG PARTY.  
— CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY KC VENUGOPAL

# Taiwan: The Codger Misspeaks Again - or Does He?

Joe Biden did not actually promise to commit American forces to defend Taiwan against a Chinese invasion

Well, my dear, we didn't know where to look. The old codger was getting away with it again, fielding the questions like a man only nine-tenths of his age, and then somebody asked him about Taiwan. He must have rehearsed that one, but still he blew it - big time. We'll be picking up the pieces for weeks."

President Joe Biden was speaking at a Tokyo press conference, looking not a year older than 79, and somebody asked him if he were "willing to get involved militarily to defend Taiwan if it comes to that?" Since the official US position on that question for many years has been 'constructive ambiguity', he was supposed to avoid both 'yes' and 'no'.

Biden has been playing the international game at the high-



GWYNNE DYER

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'The Shortest History of War'. The views expressed are personal.)

est level for longer than most people have been alive, and he should know the drill. Say how much he loves Taiwan and how devoted he is to its democracy. He can even mention that he'd be really disappointed and quite cross if China invaded it. But he mustn't say what the United States would actually do.

Instead, with a loud clatter, the president of the United States jumped the tracks. "Yes", he said, "that's a commitment we made. The idea that (Taiwan) could be taken by force, just taken by force, is not...it would dislocate the entire region and be another action similar to what happened in Ukraine."

Compounding his crime, Biden went on to express the hope that China was paying attention to how the US and its allies have responded to the



Russian invasion of Ukraine.

"This is not just about Ukraine," he said. China is watching to see if the Western response to the invasion stays strong, or if it loses focus as the war drags on. It must stay strong, because otherwise "what signal does that send to China about the cost of...attempting to

take Taiwan by force?"

Quite a performance, and the headlines said things like 'US would defend Taiwan militarily if China attacked'. But being an old codger has its advantages, and one is that people panic less when you make some apparently radical remark or commitment. They're in doubt as to

whether you just misspoke, or whether you really meant it. Was Biden really sending a serious warning to China, but doing it in a way that did not compel China to respond directly? I suspect the answer is yes, because if you listen closely to what he said, he did NOT actually promise to commit American forces to defend Taiwan against a Chinese invasion.

He meant it to sound as if he had said that - warning that China would be "flirting with danger" if it invaded Taiwan - but there was no such definitive statement.

Maybe Joe Biden has just lost his marbles, but instilling a bit more doubt in the Chinese regime about his likely reaction in the event of a Chinese attack on Taiwan is not necessarily a blunder. 'Constructive ambiguity'

requires both the 'yes' and the 'no' to be plausible, and the 'yes' has been losing credibility recently.

In the much more fraught case of the US response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Biden has been notably cautious in his actions. Before the invasion had even begun, he made it publicly clear that American or NATO forces would not intervene directly to defend Ukraine.

As the strength of the Ukrainian forces and the sheer incompetence of the Russian army became clear, his willingness to give Ukraine more advanced weapons in larger quantities grew. But his seemingly accidental asides about how Putin cannot remain in power never become actual policy. Every option remains open.

This is a man who has been around the block a few times, and he knows how the game is played. So, if I were an adviser to Taiwan's president, I would tell her the most important thing in the event of a Chinese invasion attempt is to make a good show of resistance in the first few weeks.

There is no more difficult military operation than an opposed amphibious landing, and China has no real-world experience of carrying out that kind of attack across 200 km. of open ocean. So, if you can hold the invaders on the beaches for a week or two, American arms and supplies will start to flow in abundance.

But don't expect US troops to help you directly. Biden is not willing for fight a war against China either. Consider Ukraine.



## Allcargo Logistics Q4 profit jumps to Rs 247 crore

Allcargo Logistics on Friday reported nearly five-fold rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 246.85 crore for quarter ended March 31, 2022. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 53.71 crore for the year-ago period, Allcargo Logistics said in a filing to BSE. Income went up to Rs 5,786.65 crore in the quarter from Rs 3,360.07 crore in the year-ago period, the filing said. This has been the best ever performance recorded by the company, setting stage for next phase of growth on the back of strategic acquisitions and transformational initiatives undertaken by Allcargo, it said in a statement. According to company's chairman Shashi Kiran Shetty, Allcargo Logistics' record performance is a result of sustained strategic initiatives over last few years. The company's sharp focus on technology has benefitted it in many ways, be it using data science and automation to drive optimisation, or digital platforms to serve customers better, he said.



## India Cements Q4 net loss at Rs 10.58 cr, sales down 3.72 pc to Rs 1,417.62 cr

The India Cements Ltd on Friday reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 10.58 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2022. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 50.19 crore during the January-March quarter of 2020-21, India Cements Ltd (ICL) said in a regulatory filing. Its revenue from operations was down 3.72 per cent to Rs 1,417.62 crore during the quarter under review, as against Rs 1,472.45 crore in the corresponding period a year ago. ICL's total expenses were at Rs 1,459.28 crore, up 2.51 per cent in Q4/FY 2022, as against Rs 1,423.42 crore in the year-ago period. For the fiscal year ended March 2022, ICL's net profit was down 62.05 per cent at Rs 78.46 crore. It had reported a net profit of Rs 206.77 crore in the previous fiscal. Its revenue from operations was at Rs 4,858.35 crore in 2021-22, 7.71 per cent higher than Rs 4,510.55 crore in the year-ago period.



## BEML Q4 consolidated net profit drops to Rs 133 crore

State-owned BEML on Friday posted 15.4 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 133.42 crore for the quarter ended March 31, 2022. The company had logged a profit of Rs 157.81 crore in the year-ago period, BEML said in a filing to BSE. Revenue from operations during the quarter under review dropped to Rs 1,683.58 crore from Rs 1,805.74 crore in the year-ago period, the filing said. BEML Ltd, formerly Bharat Earth Movers Ltd, was established in May 1964 as a public sector undertaking for manufacture of rail coaches and spare parts and mining equipment at its Bangalore Complex. The company has partially disinvested, and presently the Centre owns 54 per cent of total equity, rest 46 per cent is held by public, financial institutions, foreign institutional investors, banks and employees. BEML serves the country's core sectors like defence, rail, power, mining and infrastructure.



# Global shares rise broadly cheered by US earnings, rally

PNS ■ TOKYO

Global shares gained Friday as investors cheered a strong set of earnings from retailers that has sent US shares higher.

European shares rose in early trading, while benchmarks in Asia finished higher, including Japan, China, Australia and South Korea.

France's CAC 40 added 0.8 per cent in early trading to 6,460.20. Germany's DAX rose 0.6 per cent to 14,319.07. Britain's FTSE 100 was little changed, but slightly higher, at 7,567.34. US shares were set to drift higher with Dow futures up nearly 0.1 per cent at 32,626.00. S&P 500 futures gained 0.2 per cent to 4,065.50. "Improved risk sentiments in Wall Street, along with earnings outperformance from Alibaba and Baidu, may aid to fuel some upside for the Asia region into today's session," said Yeap Jun Rong, market strategist at IG in Singapore.

Shares of Alibaba and Baidu surged after they reported better than expected results, eas-



ing some concerns about the negative impact from restrictions to curb COVID-19 infections. Both shares continued to rise.

Gauging Japan's economic path will be on investors' minds as data on manufacturing, housing and employment for April are set to be released next week. Some analysts expect the numbers to be dim because of a slowdown in exports to China during that period.

But some optimism is also in the air, with Tokyo's restrictions on tourists easing and the daily cap raising from 10,000

incoming people to 20,000 starting June 10. The Japanese government, led by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, is also set to push ahead in parliamentary discussions with a supplementary budget, another possible plus for investors.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 added 0.7 per cent to finish at 26,781.68. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 surged 1.1 per cent to 7,182.70. South Korea's Kospi jumped 1.0 per cent to 2,638.05. Hong Kong's Hang Seng surged 2.9 per cent to 20,697.36, while the Shanghai Composite edged up 0.2 per

cent to 3,130.24. Moody's Investors Service lowered the 2022 growth projections for G-20 economies to 3.1 per cent in 2022, down from 5.9 per cent growth in 2021. The latest forecast is half a percentage point lower than the 3.6 per cent growth estimated in March. Slowing economic activity in China from the nation's "zero COVID" policy is dampening growth, Moody's said.

The US retail sector is being closely watched by investors looking for more details on just how much pain inflation is inflicting on companies and consumers. Inflation is at a four-decade high and businesses have been raising prices on everything from food to clothing to offset higher costs.

The impact from Russia's invasion of Ukraine worsened inflation pressures by fueling higher energy and key food commodity costs. Supply chain problems worsened in the wake of China's lockdown for several major cities as it tried to contain COVID-19 cases.

## Structural reforms essential for inclusive growth: RBI

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Making a strong case for structural reforms, the Reserve Bank on Friday said they are essential for sustained, balanced and inclusive growth, and also to deal with the after-effects of the pandemic.

In its annual report, the Reserve Bank of India also stressed that the future path of growth would be conditioned by addressing supply-side bottlenecks, calibrating monetary policy to bring down inflation and boosting capital spending.

"Undertaking structural reforms to improve India's medium-term growth potential holds the key to secure sustained, balanced and inclusive growth, especially by helping workers adapt to the after-effects of the pandemic by reskilling and enabling them to adopt new technologies for raising productivity," it said in the chapter on 'Assessment and Prospects'.

The escalation of geopolitical tensions into war from late February 2022 has delivered a brutal blow to the world economy, battered as it has been through 2021 by multiple waves of the pandemic.

## TACKLING COVID States used Rs 1,460 cr from district mineral foundation fund

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State governments have spent a total of Rs 1,459.93 crore from District Mineral Foundation funds on various activities to curb COVID-19 during the past more than two years, according to the ministry of mines.

The ministry also said that several states, including Odisha, Telangana and Karnataka, are still using District Mineral Foundation (DMF) funds to battle coronavirus. District Mineral Foundation (DMF) is a non-profit statutory trust, which has been set up for the welfare of the districts affected by mining-related activities. It is an initiative of the government to ensure that funds collected under DMF are utilised for the welfare of those affected by mining-related operations.

The total funds available under DMF as on March 28, 2020 was to the tune of Rs 14,694.47 crore, the ministry said.

"State governments are continuing to use District Mineral Foundation funds to combat



COVID-19, wherein Rs 1,459.93 crore has been spent till April 28, 2022," the ministry said, adding that the amount was spent between March 28, 2020 and April 28, 2022.

Of the total amount utilised during the pandemic, Odisha spent the maximum Rs 445.54 crore, followed by Telangana at Rs 334.08 crore. Karnataka spent Rs 199.58 crore, while Rs 139.79 crore has been utilised by Andhra Pradesh and Rs 91 crore by Chhattisgarh.

Other states which spent DMF funds to combat COVID-19 are Assam, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh,

Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

However, Bihar, Haryana and Kerala did not spend funds for activities related to COVID-19 since March 28, 2020 till last month.

As on March 28, 2020, Bihar had DMF fund of Rs 84.50 crore, followed by Haryana Rs 20.24 crore and Kerala Rs 2 crore. DMF has been created in each district under the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015.

## Ruchi Soya Q4 profit declines 25 pc to Rs 234.33 crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Edible oil major Ruchi Soya Industries Ltd on Friday reported a 25 per cent decline in its standalone net profit to Rs 234.33 crore for the March 2022 quarter, mainly due to higher tax expenses. Its net profit stood at Rs 314.33 crore in the year-ago period.

The company's total income rose to Rs 6,676.19 crore in the fourth quarter from Rs 4,859.5 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding fiscal. Net profit increased to Rs 806.3 crore in 2021-22 from Rs 680.77 crore a year ago.

Total income surged to Rs 24,284.38 crore during the last fiscal from Rs 16,382.97 crore in 2020-21. Its tax expenses stood at about Rs 61 crore in the quarter. The firm had received a tax credit of Rs 166 crore in the year-ago period.



■ Net profit increased to Rs 806.3 cr in 2021-22 from Rs 680.77 cr a year ago

■ The company also announced a dividend of Rs 5 per share for shareholders

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Ruchi Soya was acquired by Baba Ramdev led-Patanjali group in 2019 for Rs 4,350 crore through an insolvency process. Recently, Patanjali Ayurved announced the sale of its food retail business to group firm Ruchi Soya Industries Ltd for Rs 690 crore as part of its strategy to focus on non-food, traditional medicine and wellness business. Ruchi Soya Industries Ltd has recently raised Rs 4,300 crore through a follow-on public offer (FPO).



## Godrej Industries Q4 profit at Rs 423 crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Godrej Industries on Friday reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 422.82 crore for fourth quarter ended March 31, 2022.

The company had posted a loss of Rs 92.17 crore for the same quarter of previous fiscal year, Godrej Industries said in a regulatory filing.

Revenue from operations during the quarter under review stood at Rs 4,444.87 crore. It was Rs 2,610.69 crore in the year-ago period, it added. Total expenses in the quarter was higher at Rs 4,202.23 crore. It stood at Rs 2,813.8 crore in the corresponding period a year ago.

## IMF wants 'adequate assurances' on Sri Lanka

PNS ■ COLOMBO

Since Sri Lanka's public debt is assessed as "unsustainable," the IMF has said that it requires "sufficient assurance" from the country that it will restore debt sustainability during the debt restructuring process, a media report on Friday quoted the global crisis lender as saying.

"The (IMF) team welcomes the appointment of financial and legal advisors to engage in a collaborative dialogue with their creditors. It is an important step towards restoring public debt sustainability," the EconomyNext website cited the International Monetary Fund as saying after the end of technical level negotiations between the crisis-hit country's officials and the IMF team.

"Since Sri Lanka's public debt is assessed as unsustainable, approval by the Executive Board of an IMF-supported programme for the country would require adequate assurances that debt sustainability will be restored," the



IMF said.

The global lender's comments come as Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, who is also the finance minister, on Thursday said he would quickly prepare an economic reform programme and seek approval from the IMF.

Wickremesinghe said: "I have placed my special attention on this because of the present global situation, the war in Ukraine and global inflation. From what we can see, a number of countries

may have to face economic problems like ours."

On Thursday, Wickremesinghe met the chairmen and top management of all state and private banks in the country and inquired from them issues such as the dollar deficit and credit expansion as well as the amount of savings, media reports said.

Sri Lanka has been going through the worst economic crisis since its independence from Britain in 1945, triggering a political crisis as well.

The nearly bankrupt country, with an acute foreign currency crisis that resulted in foreign debt default, announced last month that it is suspending nearly USD 7 billion foreign debt repayment due for this year out of about USD 25 billion due through 2026. Sri Lanka's total foreign debt stands at USD 51 billion.

The IMF on Thursday also said that the inflation had accelerated "driven by many factors, including the shortages of goods, fuel price increases, and currency depreciation".

"In this context, we are deeply concerned about the impact of the ongoing crisis on the people, particularly the poor and vulnerable groups," the statement from the global lender said.

"The IMF team held technical discussions on a comprehensive reform package to restore macro-economic stability and debt sustainability. The team made good progress in assessing the economic situation and in identifying policy priorities to be taken going forward," it added.

## GAIL net jumps 40% on higher gas margins

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State gas utility GAIL India Ltd on Friday reported a 40 per cent jump in its March quarter net profit as margins on natural gas sales rose.

Net profit in January-March at Rs 2,683.11 crore was higher than Rs 1,907.67 crore in the same period a year back, according to the company's regulatory filing.

Revenue from operations rose to Rs 26,968.21 crore from Rs 15,549.07 crore in January-March 2021.

For the full fiscal ending March 31, the company reported its highest ever net profit of Rs 10,363.97 crore, against Rs 4,890.18 crore in the previous year.

Pre-tax earnings from natural gas marketing jumped to Rs 1,725.93 crore in the fourth quarter of 2021-22, up from Rs 280.89 crore a year back.

## Ola scouts for land to set up cell, electric car factories

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mobility giant Ola Electric is scouting for land to set up its cell and electric car factories and is in talks with multiple states, sources said.

Ola Electric needs 1,000 acres of land to set up its cell gigafactory and electric car factory which is expected to attract an investment of Rs 10,000 crore.

Some states are already vying, sources aware of the



matter said.

Ola Electric's four-wheeler ambitions are taking a serious

shape with some concept designs almost ready.

It is in talks with govern-

ments of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana for land acquisition, they said adding the company is likely to finalize it as early as next month.

The firm already has 500 acre in Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu where it has built its Futurefactory, the world's largest two-wheeler factory.

A company spokesperson declined to comment on the developments.

## BGR Energy Systems loss widens to Rs 72 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BGR Energy Systems loss widened to Rs 72.37 crore in the March quarter mainly due to lower revenues.

The consolidated net loss of the company stood at Rs 64.08 crore in the year-ago period, BGR Energy Systems said in a regulatory filing.

Total income in the March quarter declined to Rs 208.21 crore from Rs 382.82 crore in the same period a year ago.

## High WPI may put pressure on retail inflation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sounding a note of caution, the Reserve Bank said on Friday said there is a risk of high wholesale price inflation (WPI) putting pressure on the retail inflation, albeit with a lag.

In its annual report, the RBI said that the cost-push pressures from high industrial raw material prices, transportation costs and global logistics, and supply chain bottlenecks continue to impinge on core inflation.

"The substantial wedge between wholesale and retail price inflation amidst a sharp rise in manufactured products' inflation poses the risk of a possible passthrough of input cost pressures to retail inflation with a lag, although slack in the economy is muting the pass-through," the



central bank noted.

The conflict over Ukraine and the consequent spike in commodity prices has over-cast the outlook for inflation in India as in the rest of the world, it added. To control spiralling prices, the government had recently cut excise duty on petrol and diesel and also waived import duty on some raw materials used in the steel and plastic industry.

## Tata Motors files record 125 patents in FY22

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Motors on Friday said it filed record 125 patents related to powertrain technologies in the last fiscal.

The company said the number of patents filed in last financial year were the highest ever for the auto major so far.

The patents filed entail a diverse range of innovations and developments in traditional and new energy powertrain technologies, safety, connected vehicle technologies, body in white (BIW) and trims along with other vehicle systems, Tata Motors said in a statement.

Of the total filings, 56 patents were approved in 2021-22 fiscal.

"We have established a legacy of setting new benchmarks with cutting-edge technologies and features in the areas of new energy solutions, safety, product performance, cost of ownership and digitalisation," Tata Motors President and CTO Rajendra Petkar noted.





## Kubbra Sait's maiden work as author *Open Book* to release next month

Actor Kubbra Sait's debut work as an author titled *Open Book*, will be coming out on June 27, HarperCollins India announced on Friday.

Part memoir and part inspirational treatise, the book will span the actors' early days growing up in Bengaluru, including her tryst with social anxiety to body shaming, as well as acquiring artistic success.

According to a press release issued by the publisher, the book will contain 24 chapters, each named idiosyncratically after the pivotal theme outlining the narrative of the chapter.

It's been a labour of love. I was asked by many who knew I was writing a memoir, Aren't you too young to write one? This was my time and my way to reflect on the journey thus far, and to recognise how much I've learnt over the last three decades," Sait said in a statement.

The actor, best known for starring in movies *Sultan* and *Ready* as well as series *Sacred Games*, called writing the book a cathartic experience.

"It made me smile, it brought a lump to my throat but above it all, I made a cross-over. The past is behind me. The present is a new book to pen. I'm excited to bring you all *Open Book*, because that is literally who I am, as a person. Enjoy this story," she added.

Sait also shared a photo of the memoir's cover art on her social media accounts.

Trisha Bora, senior commissioning editor, HarperCollins India said: "*Open Book* is honest, intimate, irreverent and profound a dazzling memoir of a remarkable life."

## Susan Sarandon, Fat Joe join Fox's animated comedy *The Movers*



Actor Susan Sarandon and rapper Fat Joe are set to lead the voice cast of animated comedy series *The Movers* being developed at Fox. According to Variety, the show is based on an original idea by

Sarandon, her son Jack Henry Robbins, and Danielle Uhlarik. Robbins and Uhlarik are writing the script and will serve as co-creators and executive producers along with Sarandon.

*The Movers* is described as a half-hour workplace comedy that explores New York City through the dysfunctional employees of the 78th ranked moving company in Manhattan.

Fat Joe will also executive produce. Fox's Bento Box Entertainment will produce.

Sarandon is also working with Fox on country music drama *Monarch*.

## Varun Dhawan hints at OTT debut



Bollywood actor Varun Dhawan, who was in the capital to unveil the new track from his upcoming film *Jug Jug Jeeyo*, has given a cryptic reply on him making a digital debut. "I don't think I can give details about this. But something in the works... Hai kuch something prime. The world is getting

smaller in concerns with information and technology. There are certain genres that work well on streaming and there are some in theatres but definitely, audience wants to consume content. They want to be entertained for sure. Right now whatever the environment is... we want entertainment. We want to laugh and enjoy," he said.

Varun was in New Delhi with his co-actor Kiara Advani to unveil the first track *The Punjaabban* song from the upcoming film, which also stars Anil Kapoor and Neetu Kapoor.

The film, which delves into the concept of divorce, is slated to release in theatres on June 24.

*Jug Jug Jeeyo* is directed by Raj Mehta.

## Fox Star Studios rebrands to Star Studios



Fox Star Studios, one of India's leading movies studios, on Friday introduced a new visual identity and announced that the company has rebranded to Star Studios.

With this brand refresh, Star Studios plans to present universal story themes with iconic characters and new-age cinematic spectacles backed by cutting-edge technology for theatrical releases as well as direct-to-digital, the company said in a release.

The studio said the aim is to bring genre-agnostic stories to global audiences starting with *Brahmastra Part One: Shiva*, *Babli Bouncer*, *Gulmohar* and a remake of

Malayalam film *Hridayam*.

"With Star Studios, we aim to harbour the best creative minds and bring unique stories to audiences with an expanding entertainment palate. We are creating a diverse range of stories across genres from grand visual spectacles to family dramas

and everything in between.

We are delighted to create a collaborative studio environment at Star Studios, that helps create cinematic experiences across theatrical and direct-to-digital films. We have already announced a few of these films, and in weeks and months we will be

announcing many more films," Bikram Duggal, Head of Studios, Disney Star said in a statement.

Under the name Fox Star Studios the banner has previously backed blockbuster films like *M.S. Dhoni The Untold Story*, *Sanju*, *Neerja* and *Chhichhore*.

## Zee Theatre celebrates timeless magic of 'The Sound of Music'

Zee Theatre continues to redefine entertainment in India with a month-long celebration of award-winning musical blockbusters on the small screen, beginning with *The Sound of Music Live*. To mark the arrival of the live version of this glorious musical on Indian television, Zee Theatre has synergized with The Aflatunes, a Mumbai-based A cappella group to create an extraordinary video. A unique Cappella video is created where some of the most iconic musical moments from the soundtrack are recreated.

The video was created understanding the enduring appeal of the classic *The Sound of Music* and melodies like *My Favorite things* and *Sixteen going on Seventeen*. The band mixed the energy of beatbox with the sweetness of A cappella while adding a unique contemporary touch to the old favourites. The song has a fresh

approach while maintaining the essence without using a single instrument. The video demonstrates how timeless stories and golden melodies never get dated and are reinterpreted in every epoch.

The creators of this A cappella video, The Aflatunes says this video was a fresh, interesting, and fun challenge as they have only recreated a lot of Bollywood songs and Billboard chart-toppers till now. Talking about *The Sound of Music*, the band was very conscious of elements they could not change. They add, "The essence of *The Sound of Music* is sacrosanct and it was daunting to be approached by Zee Theatre to create a tribute because it has such a high benchmark already. We have tried to let the beauty of the melodies shine while performing them in our own way."

*The Sound of Music* will air at TataPlay Theatre on May 29.

## FUN

### ARCHIE



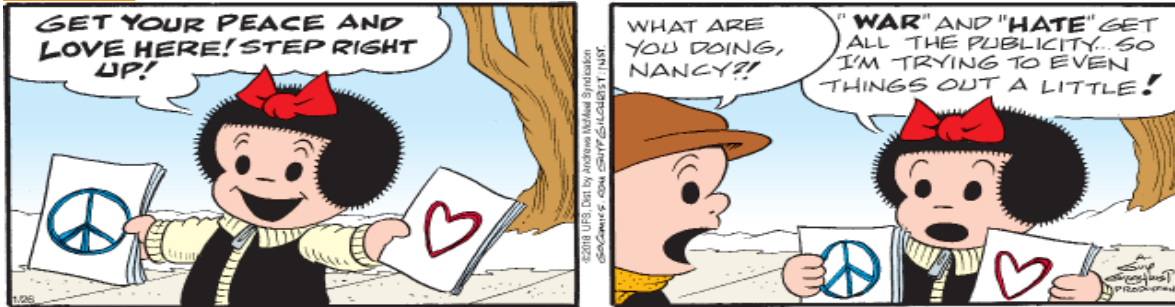
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### GARFIELD



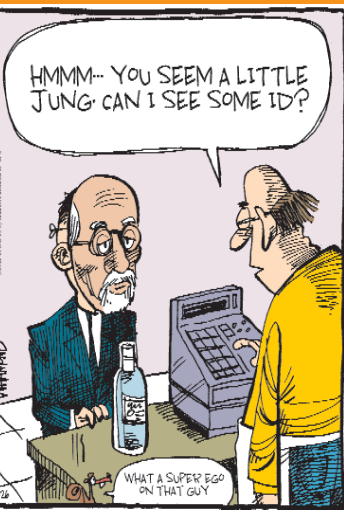
### NANCY



### GINGER MEGGS



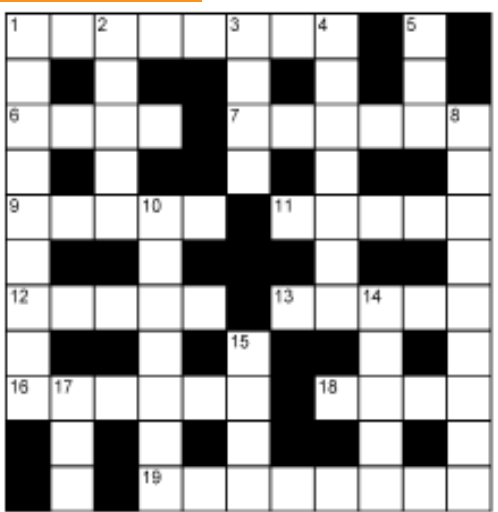
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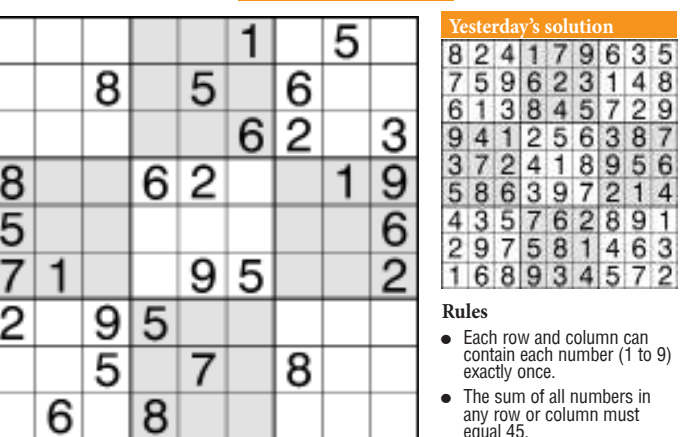
### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



### SUDOKU



#### ACROSS

- The punishment announced to a criminal in court
- Strong affection
- To make or become larger
- Bend
- Salary
- From Ireland
- Go in
- A stinging plant
- A month
- Recall

#### DOWN

- Choice
- Not ever
- Requirement
- Say why

#### 5 Come first in a race

- A type of warship
- Someone who calls in to see you
- You have one on each hand
- Group of players in a game
- Pixie





Yoga and Naturopathy treatments are effective in treating PCOS with long-lasting benefits. It can be easily practiced by the ladies in the rural population as a safe, effective and economical way of treating PCOS.





AP ■ PARIS

Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool are seeking to cap a remarkable season by avenging their 2018 defeat against Real Madrid when the sides meet again in the Champions League final in Paris on Saturday, but the Spanish giants have their sights on a 14th European Cup triumph.

It is Liverpool's third Champions League final in five seasons, after they followed their 3-1 loss to Real in Kyiv by beating Tottenham Hotspur in Madrid a year later, and they are widely seen as slight favourites at the Stade de France to become kings of Europe for a seventh time.

That would put them level with AC Milan, with only Saturday's opponents having won the trophy more often, and it would allow the Anfield club to finish the campaign with a treble after they lifted the English League Cup and FA Cup.

For a long time an unprecedented quadruple was on, but Klopp's side fell just short in the Premier League, finishing a point behind Manchester City. "Without the Champions League it would be a great season. With the Champions League it would be a fan-

## AN EVENING IN PARIS

Liverpool eye revenge against Real Madrid in Champions League final rematch

tastic season," said Klopp.

It has already been a memorable few years for Klopp's side following their loss in Kyiv, when Mohamed Salah was forced off injured in the first half, Loris Karius endured a nightmare in goal, and Gareth Bale's brilliance won the trophy for Real.

"I think it is revenge time," Salah, scorer of 31 goals this season, admitted recently. Liverpool appear well placed given how much they have strengthened since 2018, chiefly in goal with the arrival of Alisson, while Thiago Alcantara has been a standout in midfield.

ANCELOTTI TARGETS NUMBER FOUR

The problem is that you could be forgiven for thinking that Real's name is on the cup, as it has literally been so many times before.

While Liverpool saw off Inter Milan, Benfica and Villarreal in the knockout rounds, it is easy to forget now that Carlo Ancelotti's Real side lost at home to Sheriff Tiraspol in the group stage, such has been their extraordinary run since.

They were 2-0 down on aggregate to Paris Saint-Germain in the last 16 before a Karim Benzema hat-trick in 17 second-half minutes in the second leg took them through.

Against Chelsea in the quarter-finals they scored late at home in the return leg to force extra time before Benzema got their winner.

The best was saved for the semi-final against Manchester City when they went into the 90th minute of the second leg needing two goals just to force extra time. They duly got them, and Benzema then struck the winner.

The 34-year-old Frenchman now leads Madrid into the final in his home country after a campaign in which he has scored 44 goals, with 15 in Europe and 27 on their run to the Spanish title.

Benzema will surely be nailed on to win the Ballon d'Or if his club triumphs in Paris, where victory would also help Real supporters get over Kylian Mbappe's decision to snub them. Madrid are chasing their fifth Champions League in nine seasons, a run that began when they beat Atletico Madrid in Lisbon in 2014.

Benzema was in that team, as was Luka Modric, while Ancelotti was the coach in his first spell in charge.

The veteran Italian can now become the first coach to win the Champions League four times, having also triumphed with AC Milan in

2003 and 2007.

The latter victory came against Liverpool and was revenge for the Anfield club's win over Ancelotti's Milan in Istanbul in 2005.

"Playing a final with them is something special. They have won six Champions Leagues, and if they reach seven they would go level with Milan, so I have extra motivation to win this final," smiled Ancelotti, who had a spell as boss of Liverpool's local rivals Everton before returning to Madrid. This will be the third final between the clubs, who also met in Paris in 1981 — then the English side were victorious thanks to Alan Kennedy's goal at the Parc des Princes.

Champions League Final  
Live from 12:30am IST  
SONY TEN 2 NETWORK

## Ibrahimovic intends to continue playing: Maldini

AP ■ MILAN

Zlatan Ibrahimovic intends to continue playing despite the end of his contract with AC Milan and a lengthy layoff in store following knee surgery, club director Paolo Maldini said on Friday.

"From what I understand, his intention is to continue," Maldini told Gazzetta dello Sport, two days after the striker, who turns 41 in October, underwent surgery that is expected to sideline him for eight months.

"We have made an appointment in a fortnight. I don't see any problem in reaching an agreement. He is certainly not at ease playing so little. We will see what happens in the next two weeks," Maldini said.

Ibrahimovic, who returned to AC Milan in January 2020 eight years after leaving and has just helped the club win their first Serie A title since 2011, has had the anterior cruciate ligament in



his left knee reconstructed. The former Inter Milan, Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester United forward said this week he endured six months of sleepless nights due to the pain in his knee because he was determined to fulfil his promise to AC Milan of delivering their first Serie A crown in 11 years.

## Thiago, Fabinho fit for final

AP ■ PARIS

Liverpool's preparations for the Champions League final were boosted by the news that midfielders Thiago Alcantara and Fabinho will be fit to face Real Madrid after injury scares.

Thiago was brought off at half-time of Liverpool's 3-1 win over Wolves last weekend nursing an Achilles problem.

Fabinho has not featured since sustaining a muscular injury in a 2-1 win at Aston Villa on May 10. However, the Brazilian took a

full part in an open training session in front of the media on Wednesday.

"Thiago Alcantara and Fabinho will be included in Liverpool's travelling squad for the Champions League final against Real Madrid," Liverpool said in a statement.

"The pair will be among the players journeying to Paris for Saturday's clash at Stade de France following injury concerns and are set to come into contention to return." Both players have been pivotal to Liverpool's stunning season that has already seen them lift two trophies in the League Cup and FA Cup.

## Confident India eye revenge against Japan

PTI ■ JAKARTA

Having risen like a proverbial phoenix from the ashes, a rejuvenated Indian men's hockey team would like to put up a much-improved performance when it takes on Japan in its first 'Super 4' match of the Asia Cup here on Saturday.

Despite facing a below-par Indonesia in its final group league game, the young side coached by Sardar Singh must be lauded for being able to score a whopping 16 goals in just an hour.

It was one more than what India required to put a final nail in Pakistan's coffin as far as harbouring World Cup qualification hopes were concerned.

Both India and Pakistan finished on four points each in Pool A behind Japan but the defending champions qualified for the next round due to better goal difference (+1).

But it was not a smooth sailing for India in the first two matches.

Having already qualified for next year's World Cup by virtue of being the hosts, India fielded an inexperienced team with as many as 12 debutants for the tournament to gain much-needed experience.

The young boys did not have the best of starts drawing 1-1 with Pakistan before losing 2-5 to Japan, which pushed them on the brink of elimination.

But the Indians were in no



India vs Japan  
Live from 5:00pm IST  
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

mood to bow out without a fight even as they stood at the point of no return. They staged a dramatic turnaround to keep alive their hopes of title defence.

They were also aided by Japan, who beat Pakistan 3-2 in their final match.

Their first goal achieved, the Indians would like to start afresh in the Super 4 stage, where Japan, South Korea and Malaysia are the other three teams. All the teams will play each other with the top two progressing to the final. Revenge

would be high on India's agenda having lost to the Japanese in the pool stages.

But it would be easier said than done as the nimble-footed Japanese rely mostly on counter attacks to surprise their opponents, a play they used to perfection against India in their last outing.

One of the perennial areas of concern for India is poor percentage of penalty corner conversions as this team doesn't have a designated drag-flicker like Rupinderpal Singh or Amit Rohidas. In fact, even against minnows Indonesia, India failed to convert even half of the 20 plus short corners that they earned.

## Asian Games postponement give us more time to improve: Savita

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Indian women's hockey team captain Savita is confident of a good show at the Asian Games as the postponement of the continental event in Hangzhou provides the side with more training time and improve just like it did when Tokyo Olympics was deferred by a year. "We will once again deal with this postponement as an opportunity to train and be better prepared for the Asian Games," Savita said on the Hockey India podcast 'Hockey Te Charcha'.

"The one-year postponement for the Olympics gave us significant time to

improve and personally for me, I got to work closely with Janneke (Schopman), who has had a great impact on my improvement as a goalkeeper," she added.

One of the most successful goalkeepers in recent times, Savita will lead the Indian team in the FIH Pro League matches in Europe ahead of the FIH Women's World Cup which begins in July.

"Having finished fourth in Tokyo, everyone took notice of us. Earlier, there were expectations from the men's team only. But now, people expect the women also to finish in top three in any tournament we play and that is good for the sport,"

"No one expected we will go beyond the quarterfinals in the Olympic Games. Many of our supporters thought we would reach upto the quarterfinals at the outset, but I don't think anyone believed we could win the quarter finals.

"This zeal to win and not to give up till the last second of the match was inculcated by our coaching staff. We had to, and we knew we would change the script of Tokyo," added the experienced goalkeeper. Speaking about the team's preparations here in SAI, Bengaluru, for the Pro League and World Cup Savita said the side is hoping for a top four finish.

## Fit-again Chhetri boosts India's chances in Jordan friendly



PTI ■ DOHA

Upbeat with the return of talismanic striker Sunil Chhetri in their ranks, India still have a tough task at hand when they face higher-ranked Jordan in an international football friendly match here on Saturday.

The 37-year-old Chhetri last played for India during their 3-0 win over Nepal in

the SAFF Championships final in October 2021, but since then was side-lined due to injuries.

The match is India's last preparatory outing ahead of the 2023 AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers which kicks off in Kolkata from June 8.

Jordan is placed at 91st as against 106th of India in the FIFA rankings.

"Another game against a stronger team will always

help," head coach Igor Stimac said about which team which reached here on Wednesday.

"It's our last friendly game prior to qualifiers, and we need to get final answers on certain questions. Some of our youngsters will have a great opportunity to gain more experience at international level," he added.

The squad has been in a preparatory camp for over a month, first in Bellary in Karnataka and then in Kolkata, and the coach said that the fitness levels of his players "are quite good".

"We have another 10 days (before the Asian Cup qualifiers), and it should be perfect. The boys have done a great job, and they need to be rewarded with some good results in the Qualifiers," Stimac said.

About Jordan as an opposition team, the coach said: "Jordan are ranked better than Belarus (FIFA Ranking 93) but are not as physical as Belarus. So for us, it should be a bit easier in regards to the build-up and ball possession."

The 'Blue Tigers' had played against Belarus in the FIFA international window in March, a match where they went down 0-3.

The Indian squad has been bolstered by the joining of the ATK Mohun Bagan players, who missed the preparatory camp owing to their club commitments in the AFC Cup.

## Djokovic, Nadal roll into last 16 at French Open

AP ■ PARIS

Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal closed in Friday on a blockbuster clash at the French Open as both reached the last 16, while Carlos Alcaraz prepared to face the only man to beat him on clay this year.

Reigning champion Djokovic and 13-time winner Nadal are on course to meet in the quarter-finals, with the Spaniard seeded outside the top four at Roland Garros for just the second time.

World number one Djokovic strolled to a 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 win over Slovenia's Aljaz Bedene and Nadal eased past Dutch 26th seed Botic van de Zandschulp 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

"I'm always very motivated when I get on the court, with the desire to produce my best level each time. It's not always possible to do it, but today it was very good," said Djokovic.

The 35-year-old Serb is aiming to become the oldest men's singles champion in Paris in the Open era as he chases a record-equalling 21st Grand Slam title.

Next up for Djokovic, who was also French Open champion in 2016, is a match-up with Argentina's Diego Schwartzman, the 15th seed.

Nadal, the 21-time major champion, improved his record at Roland Garros to 108-3 after seeing off 2021 US Open quarter-finalist Van de Zandschulp.

He has now reached at least the fourth round in 17 of 18 visits to Roland Garros, with the exception of 2016 when he withdrew in the third round with a wrist injury.

"I think I played a good match against a good player. I'm very happy to win," said Nadal.

The Spaniard had a break point for 5-0 in the third set, but Van de Zandschulp refused to roll over, winning four of the next five games before Nadal put away his second match point, having saved a break point in between the two.

"You always feel a little bit the nerves to finish the match, so I'm happy to be through in straight sets," said Nadal, who plays Canadian ninth seed Felix Auger-Aliassime



French Open (Day 7)  
Live from 2:30pm IST  
SONY TEN 2, 3, 4 & SIX

for a place in the last eight.

"I think it was my best match of the tournament so far for two-and-a-half sets, so I'm very happy with that."

Amanda Anisimova, the 27th seed and a 2019 semi-finalist, advanced to the last 16 as injury-plagued Karolina Muchova retired down 6-7 (7/9), 6-2, 3-0 after falling and twisting her ankle midway through the second set.

Last year's US Open runner-up Leylah Fernandez beat Olympic champion Belinda Bencic 7-5, 3-6, 7-5, while Aliaksandra Sasnovich defeated three-time Grand Slam winner Angelique Kerber 6-4, 7-6 (7/5). Coco Gauff, the youngest player left in the French Open, made the last 16 with a straight-sets win over Kaia Kanepi, the oldest woman in the tournament at 36.

After saving a match point in a thrilling five-setter against countryman Albert Ramos-Vinolas, Spanish teenage star Alcaraz goes up against Sebastian Korda, the US 27th seed who won their meeting in Monte

Carlo last month.

"I believe in myself, and of course I work hard every day," said the 19-year-old Alcaraz.

"You have to have a good goal, good dreams. Of course trying to follow your dream. Work hard every day. I think that's the secret."

"I'm still young, but I would say pretty experienced player now. I feel comfortable playing on the big stadium, big matches, playing in a Grand Slam. As I said, physically I'm strong. Mentally I'm strong, as well."

Alexander Zverev, the third seed and 2021 semi-finalist, was also starting at defeat in the second round against Sebastian Baez, saving a match point on serve at 4-5 in the final set after fighting back from two sets down.

The German Olympic champion meets Brandon Nakashima of the US who is enjoying his best Grand Slam run on his Roland Garros main-draw debut. It is the first time since Wimbledon in 2011 that all top 12 men's seeds have reached the third round at a major.



# 'My role taught me to improve my acting skills'

TEJAL SINHA

**1** *120DB Dhvani* gained a positive response among other box office movies on May 20 and is growing among audiences due to its unique concept. The plot captivates the viewer with its special screenplay by unfolding multiple twists, keeping the audience engaged throughout the movie.

The story revolves around a mysterious and brutal attack that curses Arun, an ENT specialist with an extra-sensitive hearing problem, and his wife gets killed. He, along with his friends, unravels the secret behind the attack. Ravindra Reddy, a former bodybuilder, makes his debut in the film. He played the character of Kiran and carried off multiple emotions as a lover and a great friend with ease.

We got in touch with the debutant and asked about what made him get into acting. To this, he shares, "Acting in films was always my interest since my childhood. I was always a great fan of Megastar Chiranjeevi. Be it his dance, his dialogue delivery, his appearance, or his style, everything was mesmerizing. I have been attracted to the industry because of him. Likewise, the fanboy in me kept growing and the actor in me was devoted to him till now. Another reason is that I was always a hyperactive student. I loved sports and socialising and had leadership qualities from my childhood. I was always encouraged by my father. Everything that I am today is all because of my father's encouragement. I really miss him today and wish to hug and thank him for the support. He would have been the first person to feel happy about my success. I hope he showers you with all of his blessings and support from above."

The former bodybuilder believes that *120DB Dhvani* made him an actor instead of a character artist. For this, he thanks the director of the film. "I'm so thankful to my director, Durga Rao Sana, for believing in me and giving me the opportunity to prove my calibre. My co-actors, Trinadh and Vinay, also performed their best. Our story of the film has so much potential that everyone gets a chance to display their shades of hero and villain in the same film. This is the

main point which was applauded by the audience and gave us a huge success and appreciation. It's not a routine film with four songs, three fights, and some stuff. Our story is completely new. It says everyone turns hero and everyone turns villain

**Ravindra Reddy, who is seen playing the role of Kiran in *120DB Dhvani*, shares with *The Pioneer* some exclusive details about his experience as a debutant**

ing to the time and situation, which gave us space to perform, and as in the title, *120DB dhvani* db stands for decibel, a unit to measure sound. Our movie is the first sound-based film."

Coming from a different field itself was a big challenge for the 2017 Mr. Hyderabad (bronze) and 2018 Mr. Lean Muscle (gold) winners. He shares, "Getting a chance to act in films was not so easy as it took more than 13 years of struggle to get that one good chance. Getting those chances was very difficult as I don't have any film background or big family behind me to support, but the hard work and struggle were fruitful. After a long wait, the role in the film taught me a lot about improving my acting skills. It would be easy to get a chance if you had some support from the industry. In fact, sometimes it's a bit of luck and sometimes it's a huge burden to be from a big family in the industry. Having a family in the film industry would help in getting chances and promoting ourselves is easy, but while acting it becomes a huge burden as they have to carry their families' legacy on their shoulders and outperform them. Then only you can be identified as a good actor. If you fail to act well, no matter what or a big hero's son, it doesn't help you. I mean, entry into the industry is easy, but to sustain it is almost equal effort and hard work for both filmy and nonfilmy peers. The film industry is open to everyone who is passionate, but it

gives success to those who stay with consistency, hope, love, and passion."

He believes that his destiny gave him a chance after seeing all his hard work and struggle. "It came through a friend, Samuel Sajeeth, who is also a director and was helping director Durga Rao Sana as executive producer for the film, so he called me to the director and narrated me the story in the first sitting. I was so impressed and he offered me a hero. It was a wow moment for me."

"I got a good script and a hero with different shades, felt happy and immediately said yes to *120DB Dhvani*," he adds.

Sharing about Tollywood films being appreciated by audiences in pan India, he shares, "Films like *Baahubali*, *RRR*, and *KGF* have erased the limits of films from Tollywood or Bollywood etc. It is now called Indian Cinema and not a different language industry. It's a happy moment and a good sign for the film industry that it has grown to a world level. The audience has also changed their preferences regarding the type of content they would like to see."

Ravindra also adds on stating that nowadays it's hard to pull the audience to the theatre and impress them as it's now the era of OTT films has started and price hikes on ticket rates are also affecting the audience's ability to pull to theaters. But luckily the team was able to impress the audience with our story and performance. He wishes that theatres regained their allure and that audiences could experience true cinema in theaters.

"Tollywood always welcomes new talents and now with growing opportunities on OTT platforms other than theatre, new talents are being encouraged who are coming with new-age content. With wider opportunities out there, it is definitely a welcome for new talents," he adds, sharing that bodybuilding is part of his day-to-day life and while doing workouts he only thinks of how to be

better than yesterday.

For him, fitness is not just a week or a month-long program; it's a way of life.

He adds, "I never skip workouts, so I need not work hard overnight to get into good shape. That's the reason I got good chances in modelling and then in films, and with diet, I eat everything in moderation. I eat to kill my hunger, not to fill my stomach. Diet varies from person to person. In general, people see a programme on the internet and follow the program, but they don't see results. That's because diet and workout vary from person to person. To see results, consult a doctor, a nutritionist, and then a trainer to see good results."

Sharing about the types of movies and characters that he would like to work on in the future, he shares, "I want to be a versatile actor, not restricting myself to one particular genre, but from the depth of my heart, I love to play villains. I feel I can live in it with ease, so I feel more inclined towards villains, but as said in a director's actor, I'm happy to play any role with my style of mannerism."

It looks like, with *120DB Dhvani*, the debutant has got a huge list of projects that he will be working on. Giving us some exclusive hints about it, he shares, "I'm super excited to share my upcoming projects. I have acted in 3 pan-India films and 2 regional films.

*Virataparvam*, starring Rana Daggubati and Sai Pallavi, will be released on July 1. Then I have *Sita Ramam*, starring Dulquer Salman, Mrunal Thakur, and Rashmika, which will be released on August 5, *Kushi* starring Vijay Devarkonda, Samantha, which will be released on December 23rd, *Raju Yadav* starring Getup Sreenu, and Ankita Kharat, which will be released in August or September."

"I also have an Indian super cop film with a very big budget and a pan-Indian film to be announced soon and I am playing the second lead in it, directed by Samuel Paul. Apart from these, a few other projects are under discussion with those to be fruitful and I am surely not going to look back," he signs off.



**Vishwak Sen's AVAK to stream on OTT from June 3**

**W**ith Vishwak Sen and Rukshar Dhillon as the

lead pair, the movie *Ashoka Vanamlo Arjuna Kalyanam* (better known by its acronym AVAK) had a good theatrical run, with the hero grabbing the attention of critics.

The makers have now announced that this feel-good movie will start

streaming on the popular Telugu OTT platform, aha, from June 3.

Directed by Vidyasagar Chinta, *Ashoka Vanamlo Arjuna Kalyanam* is a family entertainer with a tinge of romance and dollops of highly enjoyable comedy.

Arjun Kumar Allam (Vishwak Sen), the 33-year-old boy next door, is the focus of the story. He and his family leave for a village named Ashokapuram,

where he is to marry Madhavi (Rukshar Dhillon). Due to the Covid-19 lockdown, however, Arjun and his family are stranded in Ashokapuram. Arjun and Madhavi's families decide to have a low-key wedding as a result of the situation. Madhavi, though, has other plans. She elopes with the man she loves. The film follows Arjun as he navigates the next set of challenges.

## Anil Ravipudi releases video, targets trolls

**I**n the middle of the buzz surrounding

Anil Ravipudi's Telugu family entertainer *F3*, the director has released a video in which he attempts to silence his trolls. Ravipudi and his film have been the targets of troll attacks on social media. Unfazed, Ravipudi has stated that he will continue to make films in his signature style and therefore does not take the negative feedback to heart.

The debutant

director compares trolls who try to bring down his films to non-vegetarians who shame vegetarians by comparing each individual's food choices. "Non-vegetarians have no idea of what vegetarian food tastes

like and vegetarians will not stop eating the way they do just because they are being trolled," Ravipudi said. There is an audience for all types of films as long as they are well-made.

With his over-the-top films that pack in a lot of fun, Ravipudi has carved a niche for himself. His latest, *F3*, is out in theatres and early reports suggest that the movie is an entertainer.



## Vikram to release in 400 screens in Telugu states

**K**amal Haasan's *Vikram*, directed by Kollywood's hitmaker

Lokesh Kanagaraj, will be released on 400 screens in the two Telugu-speaking states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on June 3. It will be the biggest Kamal Haasan movie release ever in the two states.

The Telugu version of the film, which also



features Vijay Setupati and Fahadh Faasil, is being bankrolled by Sreshth Movies. As reported earlier, Kamal Haasan and the core

team of *Vikram* will attend a pre-release event scheduled to take place soon in Hyderabad.

The action film, which stars Kamal Haasan as the enigmatic protagonist, has Vijay and Fahadh in spellbinding grey roles. Suriya Sivakumar will be seen filling a short, yet important role in the rather dark film. *Vikram* has received U/A certification from the Censor Board.

## Is *Adhikari* the title of Ram Charan-Shankar's film with Kiara Advani?

**T**he upcoming big-budget film starring Ram Charan and directed by Shankar Shannmugham has been in the works for some time. There are rumours aplenty now that a tentative title has been circulated.

According to online sources, the tentative title for *RC15* is *Adhikari*. The title has been well received on social media, as it is



appropriate for all of the languages in which the film is being produced. Ram Charan plays an IAS officer and the plot revolves

around politics. Kiara Advani, who previously appeared alongside Ram Charan in *Vinaya Vidheya Rama*, will also be seen with the

Telugu star in this political drama. Ram Charan, who made national headlines with S.S. Rajamouli's blockbuster *RRR*, has shifted his focus entirely to this film with Shankar following the failure of *Acharya*, where he appeared with his father Chiranjeevi.

*RC15*, which is being bankrolled by Dil Raju, has been written by Karthik Subbaraj of *Petta* fame.

## Major ticket prices at the lowest rate

**A**divi Sesh's Pan-India film *Major*, directed by Sashi Kiran Tikka, is all set for grand release worldwide on June 3rd. The makers announced the film would have affordable ticket prices on single-screens and multiplexes. While the single-screen ticket price in Telangana is Rs 150, it will be Rs 147 in Andhra Pradesh, with multiplexes

charging Rs 195 and Rs 177, respectively. These are the lowest ticket prices for any film post-pandemic. The makers have reduced ticket prices for everyone to watch. This will surely bring a family audience to the theatres, and moreover, the movie will have repeats with the affordable ticket prices in Telugu states. The makers also took the brave decision of screening early premieres

across the country, much before the film's theatrical release. The first screening was already held a few days ago in Pune, and it got unanimous positive talk. The audience indeed had a standing ovation after watching the show. The film is produced jointly by Sony Pictures Films India in association with Mahesh Babu's GMB Entertainment and A+S Movies.

A perfect tribute to selfless, brave military personnel, Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan, who sacrificed his life for the nation in the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, the film also features Sobhita Dhulipala, Prakash Raj, Revathi, and Murli Sharma in prominent roles.

Vamsi Patchipulusu handled the cinematography of the movie, which is one of the most-awaited movies of 2022.

