

**ANALYSIS 7**  
BJP AIMS RECORD HAUL  
IN A THREE-WAY POLL**MONEY 8**  
INDIA TO GROW AT 'MODERATELY BRISK  
RATE', INFLATION TO EASE: FINMIN**SPORTS 11**  
SOUTH KOREA HOLDS  
URUGUAY TO 0-0 DRAW

VIJAYAWADA, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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IS SAMANTHA  
HOSPITALISED?  
TEAM DISMISSES  
THE RUMOURS

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**UAE BARS ENTRY OF PEOPLE WITH  
SINGLE NAME IN PASSPORTS**

Individuals having only single name as surname or given name in their passports will not be allowed to enter the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with new guidelines coming into force. "Any passport holder with a single name (word) either in surname or given name will not be accepted by UAE immigration and the passenger will be considered as INAD," according to a circular issued by Air India and Air India Express, mentioning about the latest UAE guidelines. INAD refers to Inadmissible Departee. According to the circular, dated November 21, such passengers will not be issued a visa and in case, the visa was issued previously, then he or she will be considered as INAD by the immigration authorities.

**'JHUND' ACTOR PRIYANSHU KSHATRIYA  
ARRESTED FOR THEFT**

Priyanshu Kshatriya (18), who played a prominent role in Amitabh Bachchan-starrer 'Jhund', has been arrested for an alleged theft. Nagpur city police said on Thursday. Pradeep Mondave (64), a resident of Mankapur area, had filed a complaint about a theft of jewellery and cash worth Rs 5 lakh from his house, said a police official. The police apprehended a minor suspect who disclosed Kshatriya's alleged involvement in the crime and the latter was arrested on Tuesday, the official said. He was produced before a court which remanded him in police custody till November 25. The stolen items were recovered from a pigeon box in Gaddigodam area, the official said.

**INDIANS OVERTAKE CHINESE AS  
LARGEST GROUP OF STUDENTS IN UK**

Indian students have for the first time overtaken Chinese as the largest group of foreign students studying in the UK with a massive 273 per cent hike in visas granted over the past few years, according to the country's official immigration statistics released on Thursday. The UK Home Office data collated by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) reveals that Indians also continue to be the top nationality granted visas in the skilled worker category, with 56,042 granted work visas in the past year. Indian nationals also represented the highest number of visas at 36 per cent of the total under the tailored Skilled Worker Health and Care visa targeted at medical professionals, reinforcing Indian contribution to the state-funded NHS.

**TWITTER, OTHERS SLIP ON REMOVING  
HATE SPEECH, EU REVIEW SAYS**

Twitter took longer to review hateful content and removed less of it in 2022 compared with the previous year, according to European Union data released Thursday. The EU figures were published as part of an annual evaluation of online platforms' compliance with the 27-nation bloc's code of conduct on disinformation. Twitter wasn't alone most other tech companies signed up to the voluntary code also scored worse. But the figures could foreshadow trouble for Twitter in complying with the EU's tough new online rules after owner Elon Musk fired many of the platform's 7,500 full-time workers and an untold number of contractors responsible for content moderation and other crucial tasks.

# Homes for all, vows CM

Officials directed to provide basic infra in Jagananna colonies

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The main objective of the government is to provide shelter for all people who do not own houses, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has said and directed the Housing department officials to provide basic infrastructure of electricity, drinking water and drainage system in all colonies by the time the construction of the houses is completed.

During a review meeting on the Housing department held here on Thursday, the Chief Minister directed the officials to constantly monitor the construction of the houses for which the government had already spent Rs 5,655 crore in the present fiscal.

Underlining the need for constant supervision of the construction of houses, he said it would help the official machinery take follow-up action periodically to achieve targets in the housing sector.

When the officials informed him that every Saturday is being observed as Housing Day and inspection teams are visiting the lay-



Jagan Mohan Reddy underlined the need for constant supervision of the construction of houses saying it would help the official machinery to take follow-up action periodically to achieve targets.

outs without fail on that particular day to supervise the progress of construction of the houses, the Chief Minister asked them to upload the details of the visits on related websites.

While instructing the officials to complete the construction of the houses well before the scheduled deadlines, he asked them to concentrate on the construction of the houses for the people who have chosen Option 3. He directed them to

identify the priority works in all layouts without compromising on the quality of construction by strict adherence to the SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) which would be made available to construction teams. Quality control measures should be applied and quality evaluation tests conducted at every stage of the construction to ensure the good quality of the houses.

2

## FILE THEFT FROM NELLORE COURT AP HC orders CBI probe

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Thursday ordered a probe by the CBI into the theft of case property (material evidence) from a local court in Nellore, relating to a case in which State Agriculture Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy is the prime accused.

A bench of the High Court headed by Chief Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra and Justice D V S S Somayajulu, while handing over the (theft) case to the CBI, directed it to conduct a "proper investigation and submit the charge sheet at the earliest".

The bench passed the order while disposing of a suo motu (taken up on its own) public interest litigation petition, based on a report filed by the Principal District Judge, Nellore.

On the intervening night of April 13-14, thieves broke into the court of the fourth additional judicial magistrate of the first class in Nellore and made good their escape with a bag containing a laptop, mobile phones, and several documents related to a criminal case of 2016 filed against Govardhan Reddy and three others by the then Agriculture Minister Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy of the TDP.

The bag was later found dumped in a culvert but with the crucial documents and other material evidence missing.

The theft occurred only five days after Govardhan Reddy was sworn in as a minister.

Somireddy filed a criminal case of forgery and fabricating documents, besides criminal defamation, against YSRC's Govardhan Reddy, then an MLA from the Sarvepalli Assembly constituency.

Upon establishing forgery, police filed a charge sheet in the court in 2017 and the case trial was supposed to start in May.

The theft of crucial evidence hap-

**KAKANI HAILS VERDICT**

PNS ■ NELLORE

Agriculture Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy has said that the State government welcomes the High Court verdict handing over the investigation of the case of stealing files from the court custody to the CBI.

2

pened against this backdrop.

2

## 'Biased and inaccurate'

**India slams USCIRF's observations**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday termed as "biased and inaccurate" the US Commission for International Religious Freedom's (USCIRF) latest observations claiming that religious freedom and related human rights are under threat in the country, and said the body continues to be guided by its prejudices and pursues a motivated agenda.

The US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) is a Congressional-appointed body. Its recommendations are, however, not mandatory to be implemented by the US State Department. Religious freedom and related human rights in India are under ongoing threat, the USCIRF alleged on Tuesday in an unusual year-end update of the status of its assessment of religious freedom in the country. Asked about the report at a media briefing here, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, "We consider these biased and inaccurate observations about India by USCIRF. They (USCIRF) have a tendency to consistently misrepresent facts and this shows their lack of understanding of India, our constitutional framework, plurality and our robust democratic system."

2



## Unemployment rate dips to 7.2%: Survey

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above in urban areas declined to 7.2 per cent during July-September 2022 from 9.8 per cent a year ago, the National Statistical Office (NSO) said on Thursday.

Joblessness or unemployment rate is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons among the labour force. Joblessness was high in July-September 2021 mainly due to the staggering impact of Covid-related restrictions in the country.

The latest data based on a periodic labour force survey, underlining a decline in the unemployment rate amid an improved labour force participation ratio, point towards a sustained economic recovery from the shadow of the pandemic.

The unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above in

April-June 2022 was 7.6 per cent in urban areas, the 16th Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) showed.

It also showed that the unemployment rate among females (aged 15 years and above) in urban areas declined to 9.4 per cent in July-September, 2022 from 11.6 per cent a year ago. It was 9.5 per cent in April-June, 2022.

Among males, the unemployment rate in urban areas dipped to 6.6 per cent in July-September 2022 compared to 9.3 per cent a year ago. It was 7.1 per cent in April-June 2022. Labour force participation rate in CWS (Current Weekly Status) in urban areas for persons aged 15 years and above increased to 47.9 per cent in the July-September quarter of 2022, from 46.9 per cent in the same period a year ago.

2

## Ban on women's entry into Jama Masjid goes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Jama Masjid on Thursday withdrew a controversial order restricting the entry of women in the mosque, after an outrage over the issue prompted Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena to intervene.

The notice by the mosque's administration read: "Jama Masjid mein ladki ya ladkiyon ka akele daakhla mana hai (The entry of a girl or girls is not permitted in Jama Masjid)."

"The LG spoke to me. We have



removed the notice boards. But people visiting the mosque have to maintain its sanctity," Syed Ahmed

Bukhari, the Shahi Imam of the Jama Masjid, told PTI.

The administration of the mosque had put up notices outside the main gates banning the entry of "girls", whether alone or in groups. As the issue led to an outrage in some quarters, the Shahi Imam had earlier in the day stepped in to say the order was not applicable to those coming to offer prayers.

The notices, which had no date, came up a few days ago outside the three main entry gates, sources in the mosque administration said.

2

## Did not have one person who could complete term

SC comments on panel recommendations for Election Commissioner post

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The list of bureaucrats the Union law ministry recommended to the prime minister for picking an election commissioner did not have the name of even one person who could complete the stipulated six-year tenure at the poll panel, the Supreme Court said on Thursday.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice KM Joseph wondered was the government not closing the doors on meritorious younger candidates by appointing retired bureaucrats.

"There is a law. We expect you that you would act in such a way that you would comply with the statutory requirements. Why is that you will have a pool of retired bureaucrats, why not others? Why only

four names, why not have a larger pool of candidates?"

"Are you not shutting out the meritorious younger candidates? You seem to be hell bent that no chief election commissioner or for that matter EC gets a complete six years tenure and it is against the statute," Justice Joseph said.

Under the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991 an EC can have a tenure of six years or up to the age of 65, whichever is earlier.

Justice Joseph said the point is that from the pool of a large number of officers the government has selected only those people who are never going to complete the six-year tenure.

"Why were the names sent to prime minister and not the council of ministers?" Justice Joseph asked.

Attorney General R Venkataramani responded, "Batch is one criteria, date of birth is other, seniority from the batch is other. Similarly, there are several other aspects which are being considered. Several discussions are done. Everything is not in black and white. There are several ways of appointment. Some files go to the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) through cabinet secretariat and some go directly to the prime minister."

The bench, also comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and C T Ravikumar, clarified there should not be any misunder-

standing that the court is against the government and it is only debating and discussing the issue. The AG replied, "Yes, My Lord. It is a debate and I am bound to answer the court's questions. If we start doubting every appointment, look at the implications for institution's reputation". Justice Joseph said, "So, ultimately your point is that only those people need to be appointed who are on the verge of retirement, so that they don't get a full six year period."

2



## TTD earns Rs 48 cr from e-auction of human hair

PNS ■ TIRUMALA

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has earned an income of Rs 47.92 crore from e-auction of human hair on Thursday.

According to GM (Auctions) Krishna Reddy, a total of 21,100 kg of all varieties of human hair was bid in the e-auction which fetched TTD a revenue of nearly Rs 48 crore.

**TODAY**

**ALMANAC**

**Month & Paksham:** Sukla Paksha  
**Titthi:** Dwitithya: Nov 25 01:37 AM to Nov 25 10:35 PM  
**Trithiya:** Nov 25 10:35 PM to Nov 26 07:28 PM

**Nakshatram:**  
**Jyeshtha:** Nov 24 07:37 PM to Nov 25 05:21 PM  
**Moola:** Nov 25 05:21 PM to Nov 26 02:58 PM

**Rahukalam:** 10:39 AM to 12:03 PM  
**Yamagandam:** 2:49 PM to 4:12 PM  
**Variyam:** 01:32 PM to 02:58 PM  
**Gulika:** 7:53 AM to 9:16 AM  
**Amritakalam:** 09:23 AM to 10:50 AM

**VIJAYAWADA WEATHER**

**Forecast:** Scattered thunderstorms  
**Temp:** 31°C  
**Humidity:** 79%  
**Sunrise:** 6:16 AM  
**Sunset:** 5:32 PM  
**Updated:** NOVEMBER 24, 2022 5:00 PM





## Indian Naval ships complete Busan visit



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kamorta, during their stay at Busan from November 21 to 23, participated in multiple activities with the RoK Navy that included official and social interactions, cross-deck visits, and sports fixtures. The Commanding Officers of both IN ships also called on Vice Admiral Kang Dong Hun, the Commander Republic of the Korean Fleet, who welcomed the IN ships and discussed

avenues to further strengthen maritime cooperation between the Indian Navy and the RoK Navy. Vice Admiral Kang visited INS Shivalik and interacted with the Ambassador of India to RoK Amit Kumar. On departure from Busan, Shivalik and Kamorta undertook a Maritime Partnership Exercise with RoK Navy Ship No Jeok Bong. The exercise signified the close bonds of friendship and further enhanced interoperability between both navies.

# Survey of India chief all praise for Jagan

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Survey of India Director SV Singh has said that for the first time in the country, accurate maps have been prepared at the village level due to a visionary CM like Jagan

India's Central engineering agency Survey of India, which is in-charge of mapping and surveying, has lauded Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan for his visionary steps to correct land records in the state.

Speaking at a State government event at Narasannapeta in Srikakulam district, the agency's Director SV Singh said, "Everyone knows the condition of land records in India. Maps used in villages across the country are not correct. An attempt was made to correct this anomaly in 2002 which was revised again in 2008. But

nothing happened on that front."

He then added how Andhra Pradesh became the first state in the country to take up the exercise of correcting land records due to the efforts of CM Jagan.

"AP has a good, visionary Chief Minister. He not just dreamt but decided to correct land records in the state. At first, 10,000 surveyors were appointed. The state government then started using technology for land resurvey programme, including drones, helicopters, GNSS rovers etc to identify the land. Due to this, maps have now been made accurate, with a variation of just five centimetres," Singh detailed.

"This is a milestone in the country. This is the first time in India that accurate maps have been prepared at the vil-

"Everyone knows the condition of land records in India. Maps used in villages across the country are not correct. An attempt was made to correct this anomaly in 2002 which was revised again in 2008. But nothing happened on that front."



lage level. This model needs to be implemented in other states as well. Many other states have approached us after looking at this and we have started working on it," Singh said.

The agency's director praised CM Jagan for his direct supervision on this front. "The survey has been completed in 7,000 out of 17,000 odd villages. This was possible only due to direct supervision by CM Jagan himself. He continuously conducted reviews with

officials. This is an indication of the mutual cooperation between the Center and the State. Due to team work, we were able to make accurate maps. My special thanks to dynamic and young CM Jagan for making this happen," Singh concluded.

Background of Jagananna Saswatha Bhui Hakku and Bhui Raksha Pathakam Scheme

The YSRCP government has taken the initiative of conducting a mammoth compre-

hensive re-survey of lands, a first in 100 years. This flagship programme was launched in December 2020, and is expected to be concluded by December 2023. The sole objective of the survey is to provide litigation free property to people. With this, the

YSRCP government is aiming to put a full stop to all land disputes and to empower people with land rights which nobody can challenge in the future. AP government under CM Jagan aims to survey 40 lakh public and private properties in 123 urban areas and 85 lakh public and private properties in 13,371 Gramkham (village habitations). Additionally, this is the first time that these municipal lands and village sites have been inspected. The project has been undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs 1,000 crore.

As per the government's schedule, land registrations of 2000 villages will be completed by November 2022, then another 4000 by February 2023; another 6000 by May, 9000 by August, 13,000 by October and 17,584 by December 2023.

## 'Pattu Vastrams' presented to Goddess at Tiruchanoor



PNS ■ TIRUMALA

As part of the tradition, every year during Karthika Brahmotsavams of Tiruchanoor temple, the Chandragiri MLA and TTD ex-officio board member Dr Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy presented 'Pattu Vastrams' to Goddess Padmavati on behalf

of Tummalagunta Venkateshwara Swami temple on Thursday.

Earlier, Dr Bhaskar Reddy, accompanied by his spouse, was given a traditional reception at temple Mahadwaram by TTD JEO Sri Veerabrahmam. Later, he had the darshan of 'Ammavaru'.

Speaking to the media later,

### Majestic ride of Goddess

The much-awaited moment for the devotees who have been longing for the past two-and-a-half years, arrived on Thursday evening at 7 pm when the Goddess of Riches, Padmavathi Devi, took out a celestial ride on Her favourite carrier 'Gaja Vahanam' in Tiruchanoor on the fifth day evening as a part of the ongoing 'Karthika Brahmotsavams'. Adding the extra glamour to the celestial beauty is the 'Lakshmi Kasula Haram' brought from Tirumala which was adorned to Her to enhance the divine charm for this special and momentous occasion.

This significance for the divine elephant has been attributed in various ways with many puranic references. The elephant is not only considered mighty just because of its size but of its intelligence, martial skills, and divinity but is often considered a symbol of royalty.

Goddess Padmavathi represents wealth, prosperity, brightness, light, wisdom, fortune, fertility, generosity, and courage. She symbolizes royal elegance, beauty, grace, and charm and hence she prefers to take a pleasure ride on the "Royal Elephant" which is Her favourite ride during the Brahmotsavams.

the MLA said for several years the practice of presenting 'Pattu Vastrams' on the occasion of 'Gaja Vahana' during 'Karthika

Brahmotsavams' is in vogue. Temple DyEO Lokanatham and other officials were present.

## Govt focussing on edu, health, & farming: Botsa

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Stating that the government is mainly focusing on health, education and agriculture, Minister for Education Botsa Satyanarayana said the Navaratnalu schemes are benefiting the students in a long way to continue their education and get employment. Botsa Satyanarayana on Thursday inaugurated the Poly Tech Fest 2022-23 organised by The Department of Technical Education on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, Satyanarayana said that events like Tech Fest will bring out the talents of the students. He congratulated the organizers and the students participating in the three-day event that will end on November 26.

Director of Technical



Education Chadalavada Nagarani delivering the inaugural address said 253 projects were selected for the Fest. She said polytechnic students from various parts of the state are taking part in the Tech Fest 2022. She said the event helps the student to exhibit their talent and new innovative projects. She said technological innovations will be possible with the participation of students. Malladi Vishnu, Vice

Chairman, A.P Planning Board & MLA Vijayawada Central, Lavanya Veni, Director of Employment & Training, V Padma Rao Joint Director, K Vijaya Bhaskar, Secretary SBTE, J Satyanarayana Murthy RJD Kakinada, A.Nirmal Kumar Priya RJD, Tirupati, and other officials were present.

Students of Siddhadrachyogi Kalapeetham, Kuchipudi performed classical dances.

## HC slaps Rs 1L...

Continued from page 1

The Jana Sena chief is also getting ready to distribute Rs 1 lakh each to them in a couple of days. Prompted by his support, the villagers moved the High Court and obtained the stay orders on further demolitions, claiming that the municipal authorities were demolishing their houses for road widening without giving them prior notice.

The High Court expressed anger at the petitioners for misleading the court and obtaining interim stay orders with false information. The court asked the lawyer of the petitioners why he had not informed about the issuance of notices by the municipality well in advance. When the lawyer admitted that the petitioners were indeed given notices, the High Court questioned why it cannot take action for the contempt of the court for suppressing the facts and obtaining interim orders.

In accordance with court orders, all 14 petitioners attended the hearing on Thursday. The court found the farmers to be at fault and imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh each.

Speaking to The Pioneer, counsel for Ippatam farmers, K Chidambaram, said that despite the authorities serving 'show cause notice' and 'notice to demolish the



encroached structure' the farmers were ignorant of the same and could not inform the court of the same before filing the case. He said, "I was speechless when the authorities showed all evidence that notices were served on the farmers in April and again in June to demolish the encroached structures. After receiving the order, the farmers would approach the division bench seeking the waiver of the fine or reduction in the fine amount considering the ignorance of the illiterate farmers."

Tirumalasetty Narasimha Rao, a farmer who appeared before the court, said, "Due to lack of knowledge we could not furnish all the documents received from the authorities which resulted in vacating the stay order and imposition of fine. We will approach the court with complete documents and file an appeal as per the directions of our counsel," he added.

### 'Biased...

Continued from page 1

"Given its past record, we are not surprised to see that USCIRF continues to be guided by its prejudices and pursues a motivated agenda that calls into question its own credibility," Bagchi said. In its 2022 Annual Report earlier this year, the USCIRF had recommended that the US Department of State designate India as a "country of particular concern".

## AP HC orders CBI probe

Continued from page 1

The Principal District Judge, who conducted a preliminary inquiry in April, reported to the High Court that the four police personnel on court guard duty failed in their duty.

He further stated that the police concerned did not collect footprints and fingerprints on the main door, which was broken open by the miscreants, and did not even call the dog squad to the scene of the crime.

The Principal District Judge opined, prima facie, that truth might come to light only if the investigation was handed over to an independent agency, the High Court bench said.

The judges also noted that the Supreme Court directed the fast-tracking of cases

(against elected public representatives) and monitoring by the High Courts.

"When such importance is accorded to criminal cases against MLAs and MPs, the court concerned at Nellore as well as the state machinery, including the law enforcing agency, should have taken due care and caution to secure the case property. Otherwise, in the absence of case property, being produced and proved in the court, the trial against MLAs and MPs may fail for lack of evidence," the HC bench said.

"It is, for this reason, the matter assumes importance. If timely and proper steps are not taken to book the culprits, people at large may lose faith in the judicial process. It is necessary to reach to the root of

## Kakani hails verdict

Continued from page 1

Addressing a press conference following the High Court's verdict on Thursday, the minister said that several articles were circulated on the theft of documents from the court custody in Nellore District Court and that he had faced accusations in the case.

Kakani Govardhan Reddy said that when High Court asked for its opinion, the State government made it clear that it is ready for any investigation. Moreover, his

advocate had personally appeared before the High Court and told the court that he had no objection to the investigation by the CBI.

The High Court had handed over the investigation of stealing files from Nellore District Court to the CBI and the State government had hailed it, Kakani said.

Stating that the CBI is the highest investigating agency in the country, the minister hoped that all facts in the case would come out in the CBI investigation.

the incident as to who are involved in the theft of case property, wherein influential

people are accused," Chief Justice Mishra and Justice Somayajulu observed.

## Unemployment...

Continued from page 1

It was 47.5 per cent in April-June 2022. Labour force refers to the part of the population which supplies or offers to supply labour for pursuing economic activities for the production of goods and services and, therefore, includes both employed and unemployed persons.

NSO launched PLFS in April 2017. On the basis of PLFS, a quarterly bulletin is brought out giving estimates of labour force indicators namely unemployment rate, Worker Population Ratio (WPR), Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), distribution of workers by broad status in employment and industry of work in CWS. The estimates of unemployed persons in CWS give an average picture of

unemployment in a short period of seven days during the survey period.

In the CWS approach, a person is considered unemployed if he/she did not work even for one hour on any day during the week but sought or was available for work at least for one hour on any day during the period.

Labour force, according to CWS, is the number of persons either employed or unemployed on average in a week preceding the date of the survey. LFPR is defined as the percentage of the population in the labour force. WPR (in per cent) in CWS in urban areas for persons aged 15 years and above stood at 44.5 per cent in July-September, 2022, up from 42.3 per cent in the same period a year ago. It was 43.9 per cent in April-June, 2022.

## Is BJP eyeing votes of AP BCs settled in Hyd?

MARTHI SUBRAHMANYAM ■ VIJAYAWADA

Is the BJP trying to step into the shoes of the TDP? Did it eye on the votes of Andhra settlers in Hyderabad? Is it devising a strategy to corner the BC voters from AP in Hyderabad?

It may be recalled that the KCR government, soon after taking reins of state administration, cancelled quota for 26 BC communities in Telangana. After eight years, the BJP opposed the withdrawal of quota only to eye on the BC voters of AP. What is the motive behind the BJP submitting memoranda to Governor Tamilisai at Raj Bhavan?

Within three months of TRS coming to power annulled quota for 26 AP BC communities in Telangana attracting criticism from AP BC communities then. But, Telangana BC communities did not react on the issue. It took place eight years ago. No political outfit raised its voice on the issue then. To the surprise of one and all, the BJP took up the issue stirring a lot of political interest. Let us analyse the reasons

for the BJP's latest political move.

The BJP is exploring all possible ways to gain good grip over Telangana. In a latest move, the settlers issue became handy for the BJP. The BJP which is spreading its tentacles in Telangana wants to include the 26 BC communities, who settled in Hyderabad long back, quota issue in its armoury.

The TRS government on Aug 14, 2014 issued a GO cancelling quota for the 26 BC communities of AP. These communities enjoyed the fruits of quota in undivided AP.

At a recent BJP training camp, the BJP MP CVL Narasimha Rao, who addressed on media relations, also touched the issue of withdrawal of quota for 26 AP BC groups. He asked the party rank and file to take up the issue to the affected BC communities to render them social justice. Consequently, the BJP OBC Morcha entered the fray. OBC National Morcha president Dr K Lakshman led a OBC delegation to Governor Tamilisai Sounder Rajan and submitted her a memorandum reviving of 26 BC communities and include them under the BC Welfare Department. In fact, BJP MPs GVL and Dr Lakshman discussed about it 10 days ago to woo the AP settlers in Hyderabad towards the BJP fold.

But, the Andhra settlers in Hyderabad since long have become the traditional support base of the TDP. In the wake of Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy becoming the CM, the Rayalaseema settlers shifted their loyalty to the Congress. Thus the Andhra settlers in Hyderabad divided their loyalties between TDP and Congress, but did not support any other party.

After the bifurcation of AP, Chandrababu Naidu proceeded to AP. Leading to dwindling of TDP operations in Hyderabad. Even after the bifurcation, the TDP got 15 seats and BJP with the support of TDP got 5 seats in constituencies in and around Hyderabad. After the vote for note controversy, the TDP leadership quit Telangana. In this backdrop, the settlers

inclined towards the TRS as it was inevitable for them. The TRS leadership gave them MLA and municipal corporator seats in proportion to their population and won their hearts. In the last GHMC elections, the TRS candidates won from all divisions that have sizeable population from AP. The people who belonged Telangana districts but settled in Hyderabad lent their support to the BJP. Thus the BJP, which know the importance of Andhra settlers, suddenly changed the political strategy and took up the Andhra BCs issue stirring up curiosity. The eight year old issue helps the BJP get the support of at least 50 lakh people.

Since the issue is predominantly a state government subject, the BJP wants to fight for the quota at the state level. The BJP has decided to lend support to the Andhra BCs behind the screen. The BJP leadership, observing that the Andhra settlers are inclining towards the TRS, wants to convert them into its vote bank, if the latest political developments are any indication.



DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING, BUT....

# 60% Jagananna houses still incomplete

State govt plans to conduct housewarming function on December 21

DASARI SRINIVASA RAO  
■ VIJAYAWADA

Though the State government is giving top priority to the construction of houses under the prestigious Pedalandariki Illu, the works are not progressing at the desired pace. The State government had decided to conduct the housewarming function on December 21 after completing the construction works. However, not even 40 per cent of houses are complete in the last week of November. The remaining 60 per cent of houses must be completed by December 21.

The State government has sanctioned 83,633 houses to NTR district, and the district administration set a target to complete 12,264 of them by December 21. As of today, however, only 4,780 houses have been completed. The remaining houses are in different stages of construction. According to the Housing Department officials, at least 7,500 houses must be com-



pleted to conduct the housewarming programme on December 21.

Sources in the department said that 4,585 houses must be completed in Vijayawada Revenue Division by December 21, 2,722 houses in the Nandigama division, and 178 houses in the Tiruvuru division. Following the directives of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan

complete 2,294 houses every week.

For the past month, District Collector Dilli Rao has been conducting review meetings with Housing, Panchayat Raj, MPDO, Revenue, and other departments to complete the targeted 12,264 houses. But the works are so slow, only 100 to 150 houses are completed every week, the sources added.

In NTR district, there are seven assembly constituencies and the department plans to conduct housewarming of a total of 12,264 houses on December 21 -- 5,184 in Mylavaram constituency, 2,771 in Nandigama, 2,086 in Jaggaiahpet, 1,196 in Vijayawada Central, 500 in Vijayawada East, 392 in Tiruvuru and 135 houses in Vijayawada West.

However, in the Mylavaram constituency, 3,161 houses are still in various stages of construction. As many as 1,614 houses are to be completed in Nandigama, 1,108 in

Jaggaiahpet, 986 in Vijayawada Central, 385 in Vijayawada East, 178 houses are to be completed in Tiruvuru and 52 in the Vijayawada West constituency.

The department observes every Saturday as Housing Day, but due to the lack of funds, the beneficiaries are unable to complete their houses.

"The sanctioned amount of Rs.1.80 lakh is not sufficient to complete the house. Due to the increasing prices of building materials such as cement, iron, and others, the construction cost is more than Rs. 6 lakh. So, I am unable to complete the house with the amount allocated by the government," said D Subrahmanyam Raju, a beneficiary.

The State government has assigned the house construction works to a third party, but the agency is not ready to continue because the sanctioned amount is inadequate, he said. He urged the State government to take steps to complete the houses as early as possible.

## MLA Vishnu promises permanent solution to potable water problem

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada-Central MLA and Planning Board Vice-Chairman Malladi Vishnu conducted the 'Gadapa Gdapaku Mana Prabhutvam' programme in the 59th division at Ajith Singh Nagar in Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) on Thursday.

He visited houses, and small business vendors and enquired about the welfare and development schemes in the State. Also, he received petitions from people and directed the officers concerned to resolve them as early as possible.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Vishnu said that a permanent solution for the drinking water problem in the constituency would be provided with State government funds of Rs 2 crore allotted to each constituency. Also, the government had allotted Rs 20 lakh to each sachivalayam to provide infrastructural facilities, he said.

He further said that around



**MLA Vishnu said that a permanent solution for the drinking water problem in the constituency would be provided with State government funds of Rs 2 crore allotted to each constituency.**

Rs 8.69 crore worth of welfare schemes were implemented in the three-and-a-half years of his party rule. Also, 497 people were getting house pattas under the prestigious Pedalu Andariki Illu, he added.

Meanwhile, he made serious allegations against former chief minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, and former minister

and MLC Nara Lokesh. Chandrababu Naidu failed to implement welfare and development programmes during his five years of rule, he alleged.

VMC corporator Md Shahina, Zonal Commissioner Ambedkar, DE Ramakrishna, AMHO Ramakoteswara Rao, CDO Jagadeeswari, and others were present.

## Paddy procurement tardy in Krishna, NTR districts

Farmers approaching middlemen because of fast payment

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Paddy procurement is taking place slowly both in Krishna and NTR districts though the harvest started one month ago. As the State government had delayed the payments last time, the farmers are not interested in selling their grains at the paddy procurement centres in Krishna and NTR districts and they are



approaching middlemen for speedy payments. Though the State government has announced that 486 procurement centres would be set up in Krishna and NTR districts for the purchase of paddy, the procurement process is happening slowly due to the non-opening of several centres.

As per the official data, about 6,800 tonnes of paddy was procured from 387 farmers in Krishna and 1,800 tonnes from 50 farmers in NTR district. Millers and middlemen are purchasing the grains at the paddy procurement centres, even though Sachivalayam staff and volunteers are present

there. According to sources, the Civil Supplies Department has paid Rs.2 crore to the farmers in Krishna district and Rs.80 lakh to those NTR district farmers. The State government has permitted the sale of paddy to others if they are willing to pay the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs.2, 060 for Grade-A per quintal and Rs.2, 040 for common grade variety per quintal.

The Agricultural Department has expected about 5.50 lakh metric tonnes of paddy yielding in Krishna district and 1.24 lakh MT in NTR district. For this, both the district administrations have arranged 486 procurement centres at the YSR Rythu Bharosa Kendars (RBK) -- 316 in Krishna and 170 in NTR district.

"If we sell paddy to the middlemen, we may lose Rs.500 per quintal. But we will receive the amount within two weeks. The State government will not give the money until it's at least one month," said farmers.

### AUSPICIOUS OCCASION



Devotees release lamps in River Krishna on the concluding day of the 'Kartika Masam' in Vijayawada on Thursday. Women thronged the river for the auspicious ritual since early in the morning. Pic by Ch Vijaya Bhaskar

## Dr YSR UHS announces men's badminton team

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Dr YSR University of Health Sciences Sports Board Secretary Dr E Trimurthy has announced the university men's badminton team that will take part in the South Zone Inter University Badminton Tournament to be held at Jain University, Bengaluru, from November 27 to 30.

He said that the team would leave Vijayawada on November 26 to take part in the South Zone Men's Badminton Tournament. K Naga Raju, Physical Director of Konaseema Institute of Medical Sciences, Amalapuram, will be acting as coach-cum-manager. Dr YSR University Vice Chancellor Dr P Shyama Prasad and Registrar Dr Ch Srinivasa Rao congratulated the players.

**MEN'S BADMINTON TEAM:**  
B Venkat Thimma Raju, Sk Suleman, J Udith Royal,



D Sachin Vinay (GSL Medical College Rajamahendravaram), V Charan, K Jaya Surya Chowdary (Dr Pinnamaneni Siddhartha Institute of Medical Sciences, China Avutapalli), K Dinesh (St.Joseph College of Nursing, Eluru).

## 'Rural students doing well in Civils exam'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Education Minister Botsa Satyanarayana said that students from rural areas are succeeding in CIVILS these days and the coaching should be within the reach of the rural and financially poor students. The Minister released the Civils coaching study material of Sharat Chandra IAS Academy at a programme on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the government has been taking measures to ensure that students studying in government schools excel and reach great heights in their careers. He said that communication skill classes are being held to compete with the present competitive exams besides

IAS and CIVILS exams. The students studying in government schools are speaking fluent English and infrastructure is being provided for the overall development of the students.

He said that IAS is a tough exam that needs dedication, hard work, and self-confidence to crack the exam, in recent times students from rural areas have succeeded in getting through IAS, IPS, IFS.

Academy director Tota Sharat Chandra said that they have been giving coaching besides informing the students about the changes being done in the exam pattern and accordingly the study material is being prepared. He said that many students from the institute have cracked CIVILS in recent times, he added.



## SRM-AP student for intl meet

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA



Saranya Sekharan of S R M University-AP, a research student has been selected for the prestigious Pasteur Jubilee Conference to be held at the University of Warsaw in Poland on November 29 & 30. The special conference on the discoveries in biotechnology is being organised by the University of Warsaw as part of the 200th birth anniversary celebrations of the renowned scientist Louis Pasteur, who is considered the father of microbiology. Saranya's project work, 'One Health Approach', has been selected for participating in the Pasteur Jubilee Conference - Warsaw 2022. The university has arranged facilities for Saranya to stay at the University of Warsaw for five days. Prof Jayaseelan Murugaiyan, Head of the Department of Biological Sciences at SRM AP, mentioned that the DBT travel grant has also been sanctioned to Saranya.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Manoj K Arora and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof. D Narayana Rao of SRM University-AP congratulated Saranya on her achievement.

## Rare surgery done for urinary bladder cancer

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A rare laparoscopic surgery was done for Urinary Bladder Cancer successfully, giving a new lease of life to a 75-year-old patient at Andhra Hospital.

A lady, the resident of Vuyyuru, was suffering from severe urinary symptoms for 2 months. She visited the hospital in Early November and was diagnosed to have Large Growth in the urinary bladder. A biopsy was done and she was diagnosed to have a rare bladder tumor called Urachal Adenocarcinoma which was



very rare.

The Doctors have successfully performed a Laparoscopic Partial Cystectomy surgery and bilateral Pelvic Lymph Node dissection. Surgery was performed by Chief Urologist

Dr Koushik Amancharla along with a team of medical experts at Andhra Hospital.

This surgery is a challenge owing to the complexity of cancer & its unusual location in the dome of the urinary

bladder. The highly sophisticated Laparoscopic surgery gave clear advantage to patients of having the least pain and gave complete cancer clearance.

Andhra Hospitals is an apex centre for laparoscopic surgeries and has been performing complex surgeries in minimally invasive techniques.

For us writing about rare conditions is all about educating people- Caregivers, Scientists, Patients & Family members. Dr PV Ramana Murthy, Managing Director, Andhra Hospitals addressed the media persons on Thursday.

## Perni inspects TIDCO house works

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Machilipatnam MLA Perni Venkataramaiah (Nani) has instructed the officials to provide all infrastructural facilities in the TIDCO houses without delay.

He inspected the Machilipatnam TIDCO layout and laid the foundation stone for the construction of a CC road at a cost of Rs 1.47 crore on Thursday.

Later, he reviewed the progress of the house construction and asked the officials concerned to hasten

the works. He ordered the completion of all works related to drinking water facilities, drainage, parks, and roads by spending Rs 10.56 crore. He also said that all the eligible persons will be handed over to the houses soon.

AP TIDCO PO Chinnodu,

Machilipatnam corporation Mayor Moka Venkateswaramma, Deputy Mayor Kavitha, Lanka Suri Babu, DWMA PD Surya Narayana, Municipal Commissioner Chandrayya, and others attended.



## Narayana to visit Rushikonda today

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As per an order of the High Court, Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) Managing Director K Kanna Babu has permitted CPI national secretary Dr K Narayana to visit the Rushikonda Tourism Project site in Visakhapatnam. The APTDC MD wrote a letter to Narayana asking him to inform the exact date of the visit to the Executive Engineer, APTDC, Visakhapatnam.



Rushikonda Tourism Project site on Friday along with party workers. He has informed the same to the APTDC officials.

As per the court orders given by Justice DVSS Somayajulu, Narayana must have visited the Rushikonda tourism project on November 1 or 2, but he was abroad at that time.

So, he wrote another letter to Tourism officials seeking permission to visit the project site after returning from the foreign trip. Later, the court permitted him to visit the Rushikonda tourism project on November 24 or 25.

## Naidu blames YSRCP govt policies for crisis in aqua sector

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Aquaculture is in deep crisis now in Andhra Pradesh due to the faculty policies of the State Government, said the former chief minister and TDP national president, Nara Chandrababu Naidu, here on Thursday.

Participating as the chief guest of the State-wide seminar on 'Idemi Kharma Aqua Rytanganiki' (what is this ill-fate for aquaculture), Chandrababu Naidu said that the policies of the State Government should always be in favour of the farming sector but this Government is only trying to have an upper hand on all the sectors. Those who ruled the State earlier had always worked for the betterment of all systems but due to the wicked policies of this Government aqua farmers are suffering a lot now, Chandrababu Naidu observed.

Chief Minister, Jagan Mohan Reddy, always thinks of his share in every decision that he takes and he

works only to mint money, the TDP national president maintained. Prices of all commodities, including petrol and diesel, are skyrocketing only in Andhra Pradesh, and even the prices of essential commodities and power tariffs too highest in the State, he stated.

The 'Badude Badudu' programme organised by the TDP to highlight the highest tax structure in the State evoked tremendous response from the public, Chandrababu Naidu noted. "When the TDP was in power, we encouraged every sector, including agriculture and aquaculture but now no Minimum Support Price (MSP) is being paid for any farm product, leave alone aqua products, he said.

The aqua production was encouraged in the State, including in Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema areas, when the TDP was in power and horticulture was very encouraging but now both aquaculture and horticulture suffered a lot, he remarked. Observing



that 'Idemi Kharma Mana Rashtraniki', Chandrababu Naidu said that destroying the whole system now pushing State into a deep crisis. The whole farming community is facing several problems now and aquaculture has fallen a victim to the inefficiency of the administration.

Chandrababu Naidu asked as to why the Ministers, who held a meeting on aquaculture, did not speak to the farmers. The situation in the State has come to such a pass that the aqua farmers are resorting to committing suicide, he said.

The former chief minister felt that several enactments have been made only to control the aqua farmers. The new legislations are only aimed at making money by looting the farmers, he remarked.

Chandrababu Naidu promised to supply power at Rs 1.50 per unit when the TDP comes back to power and also assured subsidy to the farming sector for installing solar energy systems.

"I am promising that quality seed and feed will be supplied to the farmers," he said and felt that if Jagan is ready to sacrifice his commission, he too can give subsidies in power and products.

TDP national president said that Jagan is ruling the State by threatening everyone, including those in the film industry. "Even our state party unit chief, Atchennaaidu, is no exception," Naidu stated.

Why Jagan is harassing the farmers who sacrificed their lands for the sake of the State capital, Amaravathi, the former chief minister asked. "During my visit to Kurnool it is made quite clear that three capitals is not possible," he maintained.

Since the Andhra Pradesh High Court has ordered for CBI probe into the cases pending against Kakani Goverdhan Reddy, he should be immediately removed from the Cabinet, Chandrababu Naidu said and expressed doubts whether Jagan will initiate such action as he too is facing cases.

Chandrababu Naidu called upon the farmers across the State to fight for justice for aqua farmers and the TDP will certainly stand by them.



# ‘CM scared to visit people’

PNS ■ SRIKAKULAM

Jana Sena Political Affairs Committee chairman Nadendla Manohar came down heavily on Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy asking him why he is scared to come to the people and alleged that the government resorting to abusing opposition leaders personally instead of taking steps to resolve issues.

Manohar, as part of his north AP district visit, visited D Matsalesam village and interacted with the fishermen. He knew their problems.

Later talking to the media he deplored that the youths were migrating to other areas seeking livelihood. “The government, which is to take steps to check the exodus and provide employment, is deceiving the people in the name of three capital cities. The ministers are indulging in personal abuse of opposition leaders instead of knowing and resolving the problems of the people of the area,” he lashed out.

The people of the area are angry at the government and massive disenchantment in the government is growing. Celebrating Fisherman’s Day would not resolve the problems. The politics of seeing fishermen as a vote bank is not proper for the government. The State



Government is in the unfortunate situation of not being able to provide the subsidy money extended by the National Fisheries Department, which is a Central government agency, to the fishermen, he lambasted, adding that the fishermen are not being extended the oil subsidies.

Manohar assured the fishermen’s community people to stand by them and extend all needed help. The JSP would launch an institute for their skill development and create employment, he announced.

“Pawan Kalyan has highlighted the kidney disease problem that prevailed in Uddanam village and he fought for the cause. Pawan Kalyan took the Uddnam kidney issue to the international level and brought experts to the village. Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has no idea what is the problem of Uddanam and he does not know the kidney problem of the villagers,” he lashed.

“Though it has been three-and-half years since Jagan Mohan Reddy came to power, he has not spoken to the media

personally. What can we say about such a Chief Minister? The YSRCP leaders are plundering the natural resources of the state and the government is mortgaging public properties,” he flayed.

Later Manohar handed over a Rs 5 lakh cheque to the family of JSP activist Guntur Srinivas, who was killed in a road accident. He consoled his wife Geeta, inquired about the education of their children, and handed the cheque. He also assured the family to extend all needed help in the future also.

## Woman, son electrocuted

PNS ■ NARASARAOPET

In a tragic incident, a woman and her son were electrocuted when they came into contact with a live electric wire at Indiranagar colony at Karampudi near here on Thursday.

Police said that Rama Kotaiah (30) was drying up his clothes on a wire on the terrace.

As electricity was passing through the wire, he was electrocuted. His mother Nagamma ( 53) went to rescue her son but she too was electrocuted.

Both the woman and her son died instantaneously.

The deceased Rama Kotaiah is survived by his wife and two children. The family solely depended on Rama Kotaiah as he was the breadwinner of the family.

A pall of gloom descended on the colony with the death of a woman and her son.

# Victim of harassment to get free ration for three months

PNS ■ NARASARAOPET

State SC Commission Chairman Marumudi Victor Prasad met a girl who was allegedly subjected to harassment at Prakashnagar here on Thursday and enquired about her plight.

Talking to the media, Victor Prasad said that the teenage victim was taken to the house of Sambaiah Chowdary to work as a maidservant. Sometime later she was tortured mentally and physically by the accused.

Moreover, the girl was forced into the flesh trade. The pathetic tale of the girl came to light and the Pattabhipuram police registered a case. However, the police had not arrested the accused so far, Victor Babu said. The names of three more accused were not included in the FIR, he stated.

The SC Commission is striving to do justice to all the victims, he said, and condemned the girl being forced into the flesh trade by the accused. He directed the officials concerned to provide the victim accommodation and other facilities in the women’s hostel. Efforts are being made to provide a



**The girl was forced into flesh trade. The pathetic tale of the girl came to light and the Pattabhi-puram police registered a case.**

ting suicide but did not do so for the sake of her blind elder brother. He asked the officials to provide her with essentials sufficient for three months and provide accommodation for her visually challenged brother at a social welfare hostel.

Castes under section 347/376 SC/ST Atrocities Act were registered against the accused on November 8. Steps were taken to disburse ex gratia to the atrocities victim, Victor Prasad informed. DRO Seshi Reddy, Social Welfare T Obul Naidu, MRO Ramana Naik and DSP Vijay Bhaskar Rao were among those who were present.

## Woman gives birth to triplets

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A woman has given birth to triplets in a private hospital in Nandigama.

The woman sheik Ameena was admitted to a private hospital in Nandigama in the NTR district for delivery. She gave birth to triplets including two baby boys and a baby girl on Thursday. The newborns were kept in an incubator. The doctors said that both the mother and her three newborns were healthy.



# Bring all dropouts back to school: CS to officials



**Representations received in ‘Spandana’ programme should be resolved promptly, the CS instructed the officials and ordered the District Collector and Joint Collector to speed up the construction of houses in the layouts.**

PNS ■ ELURU

Chief Secretary Sameer Sharma along with CCLA Commissioner Sai Prasad, secretaries and senior officers of various departments reviewed the progress of various welfare and development works being implemented by the state government through a Video Conference with the collectors of all districts on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary directed the authorities of the Education department to take steps towards enrolling all the out-of-school children in the schools by reviewing the enrolment and drop-out num-

bers of the students in the schools.

Similarly, towards the achievement of sustainable development goals, volunteers, Asha workers and ANM’s should pay special attention and take special measures on anaemia and malnutrition as per the specified 8 indicators and 4 parameters, the Chief Secretary told the district administration.

The officials of the Medical and Women & Child Welfare Department should take measures to provide nutritious food and iron tablets to pregnant women, infants and adolescent girls to reduce anaemia, the CS directed

them.

Representations received in ‘Spandana’ programme should be resolved in a timely manner, he instructed the officials and ordered the District Collector and Joint Collector to speed up the construction of houses in the layouts. CCLA Commissioner Sai Prasad reviewed with the Collectors on re-survey and mutations related to Jagananna’s permanent land rights.

Afterwards, Kona Sashidhar, Commissioner of the State Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department, reviewed the issues of Swamitva, Swachh Sankalpam, Employment Guarantee Scheme and Jal Jeevan Mission. He directed them to take steps to ensure that the Jagananna Swachh Sankalpam programme, brought to provide better sanitation to the rural people, is firmly implemented.

District Collector V Prasanna Venkatesh Joint Collector P Arun Babu, ZP CEO K Ravi Kumar, RWS SE NVV Satyanarayana, DWMA PD Rambabu, Panchayat Raj In-charge SE M Ramana Murty and others participated in this video conference.

# Speed up Gandhi Park works: GMC Commissioner

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Municipal Commissioner Keerthi Chekuri has directed the Superintending Engineer and other officials to expedite the development works of Gandhi Park.

The Municipal Commissioner here on Thursday inspected the development works of Gandhi Park and the construction of the CC drain at Mahaboonnagar locality.

She spoke with the SE on the progress of the park renovation works. She told the officials that Gandhi Park is located in the heart of the city and would play a significant role to provide some entertainment to the denizens if it was renovated. She directed the officials to construct a walking track, grow greenery and install play equipment for children in the park. The Park should come up in a modern get-up to entertain the people, she told them.

She would inspect and review the development works of the park every week henceforth, she told the officials.

Later she inspected the newly



**The quality control should register the progress of the works at various stages in the record book, she instructed the officials.**

constructed CC drains and examined the measurements of the drain and the quality of work. The quality control should register the progress of the works at various stages in the record book, she instructed the officials. She warned of

action if there are defects in the construction works.

She told the secretariat secretaries that all buildings should be constructed after taking approvals from the Municipal Corporation.

The garbage collection should take place efficiently, she said, and directed the amenity secretaries to collect samples of water while chlorine is being laced. Corporator M Bharati, SE Bhaskar, and EE Koteswara Rao were among those who accompanied her.

# Kakani should quit: Somireddy

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Former minister and TDP senior leader, Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy, on Thursday, demanded the immediate resignation of Minister Kakani Goverdhan Reddy, if he has any ethical or moral values.

Narrating the incidents that indirectly proved Kakani Goverdhan Reddy, guilty, Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy told media persons here that Goverdhan Reddy created fake documents that he (Somireddy) owns properties worth Rs 1000 cr in some foreign countries. “As I complained to the police then with regard to these fake documents, an inquiry was conducted and the gang which prepared these fake docu-



ments was taken into custody,” Somireddy explained.

But, Kakani, who was behind the preparation of these fake documents moved to the Supreme Court and obtained conditional bail then. The police, however, submitted the documents and the inquiry report along with evidence, to the court. Kakani Goverdhan Reddy took oath as Minister on April 11 this year but within a couple of days, on April 13,

these documents missed from the court, the TDP leader pointed out.

The High Court considered this seriously and admitted the case of these missing files as suo moto and ordered a CBI probe into it.

This clearly indicates that the judiciary does not have faith in the State police or even the CID, Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy said adding that Kakani Goverdhan Reddy is facing charges in a spurious liquor case in Nellore also.

In view of this, Kakani should immediately resign as Minister if he has any ethical or moral values, he added. The TDP leader also wanted the CBI to investigate the case fast without dragging the matter.



# Expedite construction of houses: Collector

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Krishna District Collector P Ranjith Basha has instructed the officials concerned to expedite the house construction in the Jagananna layouts.

He participated in a video conference conducted by Chief Secretary Dr Sameer Sharma. During the meeting, the Collector explained the progress of the welfare schemes in the district to the CS. Later, he convened a meeting with the district authorities and informed them that so far 6,753 houses were completed in the district out of 94,256 houses.

The Collector said 2,150 houses had been given electricity connections and 2,164 were given drinking water facilities.

During the ‘Gadapa Gadapaku Mana Prabhuthvam’, 508 problems were identified, of which 406 works were sanctioned by the government and 368 works were grounded. The sachivalayam staff will complete all the pending work

**During the ‘Gadapa Gadapaku Mana Prabhuthvam’, 508 problems were identified, of which 406 works were sanctioned by the government and 368 works were grounded.**

regarding the welfare schemes and government services.

The Collector also said that they received 855 petitions during the last Spandana programme for the sanction of pension, of which 331 petitions were solved. The petitioners gave 1,237 applications for rice cards and 1,459 petitions for caste certificates in the last week, and all the applications will be solved within 90 days.

DRO M Venkateswarlu, DRDA Project Director Prasad and others were present.







## Undead

The National Anti-profiteering Authority will live on as a part of Competition Commission of India

The Government has given the Competition Commission of India (CCI) the mandate that the National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) enjoys. The reason is that the NAA will cease to exist by the end of this month. The NAA has a mandate to ensure that reductions in goods and services tax (GST) are passed on to consumers. It was meant to check any profiteering by businesses; hence the name. The decision is reportedly in accordance with a recommendation by the GST Council, which has representation from the Centre as well as state governments. So now, even as the NAA will cease to exist, its work will be carried out by the CCI mandarins. Right from the beginning—that is, 2017 when the NAA came into being—it was an affront to the business class. In fact, the very word ‘profiteering’ has a ring of dirigisme around it; this is the reason that Leftists use it quite often. It presupposes that all businesspersons are unconscionable, blood-sucking villains who exploit their employees and fleece their customers. Added to the malice is the erroneous notion that government can control or check prices by coercive means. Right from the brutal regime of Alauddin Khilji to the pre-1991 days of Nehruvian socialism, such controls were put in place; they never brought any relief to the man on the street; invariably they led to shortages, black-marketing, and corruption. One of the most anti-business decisions in the last few years has been the setting up of the NAA.

It was supposed to complete its work of monitoring GST rollout in two years, so it was given a two-year term. But that was not to be. As the famous economist Milton Friedman said, nothing is so permanent as a temporary government programme. The NAA kept getting extensions; what was supposed to die in 2019 is still alive—and will remain so. It needs to be mentioned here that it is not just the Narendra Modi Government that is responsible for the perpetuation of a price control mechanism; the entire political class is involved in it, for the GST Council includes various states. The NAA perpetuation highlights a disturbing fact: our political masters have little faith in economic reforms. What liberalisation they have carried out in our country, they have done under compulsion, not by choice. This is not surprising, for liberalisation is essentially the process of the retreat of the State from the processes of economy; it involves less regulation, less intervention in the market. While all this is good for the economy and the people at large, it is not so good for politicians and a section of intellectuals who are ideologically wedded to the theories which are predicated upon the big State. Besides, there are a lot of people—bureaucrats, economists, technocrats, et al—who grew up reading and internalising Leftwing books. This is the reason that Leviathan marches on and abominations like NAA never die.

### PICTALK



People light earthen lamps on 400th birth anniversary of Ahom Commander Lachit Borphukan in Nagaon

## demonetization woes

The People have the right to know if demonetisation was a masterstroke or a blunder.

As the hearing on the demonetization gets underway in the the Supreme Court, new facts and new arguments might tumble out after six years when the Prime Minister Modi had announced demonetization on November 8, 2016; banning high-denomination currency notes of Rs.500 and Rs.1000 and replacing them with the new currency notes of Rs. 500 and Rs. 2000 denomination. The standard argument at that time was that it would be a big blow to the black money and the economy would be purged in one stroke. The government sticks to its argument in the affidavit submitted to the apex court saying that it was a ‘well-considered decision’ taken after duly consulting the Reserve Bank of India. The Union government filed the affidavit in response to a batch of 58 petitions that had challenged demonetisation. A five-judge constitution bench comprising Justices S.A. Nazeer, B.R. Gavai, A.S. Bopanna, V. Ramasubramanian, and B.V. Nagarathna is now hearing the matter again.



The new facts that have come to light through an RTI give a very different picture than what the govt would have us believe. The RBI was not in favour of demonetization as it maintained that black money in the country was not in the form of currency notes but its opinion was brushed aside. The govt submitted that demonetisation was executed on the specific recommendation of the RBI's Central Board. However, according to RTI activist Venkatesh Nayak, who accessed the minutes of the 561st Meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the RBI through a RTI application, Para 4.4 of the minutes seems to indicate that the Board was simply not aware of this planning before the tabling of the Deputy Governor's memorandum on the subject at its meeting less than six hours before the Prime Minister announced the decision to the country. The minutes provide that the Board was only “assured” that the matter had been under discussion between the Central government and the RBI. Nayak noted that the RBI's directors had – contrary to the government's stand – opined that most of the black money is not held as cash but in the form of real estate, jewelery etc. The matter is subjudice and it is for the court to decide upon the validity of the claims made by both sides but one thing is clear; there is more to demonetization than meets the eye. Apart from bringing hardships to people, it did not succeed in either curbing the black money or ending terrorist funding. Will people ever know the truth?

# Climate finance is the pivot of COP27

The fight against climate change is not developing nations vs. developed ones. It's against the fatal fallout of climate change vs the existence of humanity.

The global mean temperature of the planet is 1.15 degree Celsius above the pre-industrial average and we have been having the conference of parties (COP) every year since 1995, wherein world leaders come together to think of solutions to fight the looming dangers of climate change. This year the summit at Sharm El-Sheikh was attended by world leaders arriving in their respective private jets, close to 400 of them, contributing significantly to greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. One would think what a great way to kickstart the discourse around climate change.

Over the last decade or so, green washing has become a norm and we all have assumed that someone else would take care of the problem of climate change. The corporations have used the issue of climate change to fill in their coffers and the global leaders have done little to help either. Lip service has been the norm as far as climate change is concerned. Every year, these conferences signal hope. Eminent leaders from different parts of the world make pledges, talk of achieving net zero emissions by so and so year, promise aid to emerging economies and so on. But when it comes to progress on ground, the results are invariably dismal. They paint a sorry picture of our fight towards climate change. It is demoralizing and one can't help but give in to the gnawing cynicism around these summits.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres said, “A third of Pakistan got flooded. We have seen Europe's hottest summer in 500 years. The Philippines got hammered. The whole of Cuba was in blackout. And ... in the United States, Hurricane Ian has delivered a brutal reminder that no country and no economy is immune from the climate crisis.” All these events serve as a brutal reminder for entire humanity to get its act together.

The COP27 summit did set its agenda right with focus on mainly four focus aspects of mitigation, adaptation, finance and collaboration. What needs to be seen is how many countries significantly contribute to the said areas in all earnestness. One of the major themes of COP27 has been loss and damage. It is only this year that the developed nations agreed to put the subject into the formal agenda. An important issue for the group of developing nations, called G77, their leaders underscored how they needed aid from the wealthy nations to mitigate the causes of climate change and prepare against the fallouts of it in future. A positive headway has been made at the summit in this direction with respect to the creation of a ‘loss and damage’ fund. The fund may help the emerging economies to address the harmful effects of natural disasters like droughts, floods and cyclones etc. However, the details of how it will be used to stop climate change and who the list of donors would be is still unclear.

Back in 2009, the developed nations had made a pledge to supply \$100 billion every year by 2020 to less wealthy nations to help bring down further rises in temperature. But what happened to that? Wealthy nations have



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THIS YEAR'S COP WAS CALLED THE COP FOR IMPLEMENTATION BECAUSE PLEDGES ALONE DON'T MAKE THE CUT. ONE NEEDS A DETAILED ROAD MAP AND MORE TRANSPARENCY WITH RESPECT TO CLIMATE FINANCE

clearly not delivered on the promise to date. The \$100 billion won't even make the cut, as developing nations have clearly outlined that they would need \$6 trillion to \$11 trillion to meet climate targets. It is crucial for aid to come through to developing nations, without which they won't be able to make much progress on reducing greenhouse emissions.

Speaking at a press conference at COP27, John Kerry, the U.S. presidential envoy on climate, asserted that the negotiations won't end with rich countries signing up for open-ended liabilities. The emerging nations rallied against making a ‘loss and damage fund’, but the wealthy nations shrugged off the idea by saying they favoured existing financial channels.

This year's COP was called the COP for implementation, because pledges alone don't make the cut. One needs a detailed road map and more transparency with respect to climate finance. A case in point: The US president, Joe Biden, gave an assurance at the summit that the US would hit its climate targets by 2030 and apologized for pulling out of the Paris agreement. However,

he and other world leaders hardly explained why the promises made earlier were not met to date. Biden rightly said that the world faced a ‘pivotal moment’ in the fight against the climate crisis. But failed to lay out the steps that humanity should take.

With the COP27 having come to an end, some inspiration has been rekindled. What global leaders do in the coming years will be watched carefully, but at the same time, the citizenry all across the world must also do what they can at individual level. We need more people actively raising clamour around this subject. Young climate warriors need to come about and for that, introducing climate change as a subject in school curriculum will prove to be a step in the right direction.

Hope is clearly not a good strategy to adopt in view of climate change. Therefore, one must strive to surpass all hurdles, shun inhibition, deliberate and make a sincere endeavour to avert the global catastrophe awaiting us. We owe this to our collective future generations.

(The author writes on news pertaining to women rights, and social and environmental issues. Views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Sir — The climate emergency is a direct consequence of heavy land use and agriculture, transport, buildings, industrial processes and use of polluting energy sources. Without profound changes to these sectors and a drastic cut to carbon footprints, there is little hope of protecting the planet from the worst effects of a warmer world.

The UN environment programme (UNEP) stands at the core of the action in the fight against climate change. We call for greater responsibility from countries and recognition of the benefits of integrating natural systems into concrete climate action. A global fund for “loss and damage”, providing financial assistance to poor nations stricken by climate disaster is a solution. The deal was far from perfect, with several key elements flawed or lacking. Some countries on limiting temperatures to 1.5C represented progress on the Cop26 conference in Glasgow last year, but efforts for phasing out fossil fuels was weak. Countries have now agreed to finalise the details of the fund by 2024. Let's hope for the best.

Mithlesh Panwar | Ujjain

### MANAGING LIFESTYLE DISEASES

Sir — Despite the best advances in technology and drug research, the modern medicine is yet to find successful curative management of not only disorders like diabetes, hypertension, chronic gastrointestinal disorders etc but almost all neurological diseases and the psychiatric illnesses also, what to talk of the recent covid19 pandemic across the world. Even the best invention and abuse of antibiotics or hormonal interception and other drugs for neurological or psychiatric drugs have caused havoc of dangerous side effects rather than providing sustained relief to the patients. On the other hand Ayurveda along with Yoga offers drugs along with procedures such as Panchkarma and Yoga provides hope towards a healthy and happy life.

The need of the hour is to acknowledge the handicaps of modern medicine

## Traffic congestion in Bengaluru



In light of exponential expansion of Bengaluru horizontally and the setting up of a large number of Information Technology parks(IT), increasing the number of vehicles and more so after Corona-19 people have started going to offices. Physically, I would like to give some suggestions to ease out the traffic congestion in Bangalore, which can be examined. Though in these trying circumstances, Bengaluru traffic is doing good work.

In areas which experience heavy traffic in morning and evening, the government should suggest Information Technology (IT) companies/ large PSU's to divide their starting and closing working office hours in morning and evening. Say they can change office hours with 15-20 minutes gap. Also these IT companies could also be advised to employ some people on Saturday/Sunday so that the traffic load may further get divided on roads. There are a large number of IT parks, in Whitefield, Electronic city, Sarjapur road and near Manyata Technology park side. Another suggestion is start point-to-point Bus service from a particular place in Bengaluru direct to IT parks. Traffic police department, Principal secretary Information Technology(IT) department can call a meeting of IT companies and make a framework to implement this suggestion. If these plans are successful, there will be some relief for commuters and traffic congestion may reduce in short to medium term till Metro connectivity improves and reaches all parts of Bengaluru.

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bengaluru

in the management of certain diseases and syndromes to join hands with the scholars of Ayurveda to overcome the most disgusting conclusions in the management of such disorders where Ayurveda presents the hope towards a better life. Not only India but the entire world population also can be benefitted by the encouraging results that the integrated research may conclusively offer curative management of certain diseases such as Parkinsonism et. al. The super specialist medical institutions shall have to initiate with or without government's support to reach the wisdom of Ayurveda to begin integrated research for certain diseases where Allopathy has limited approach with hazardous side effects.

Dr Jai Prakash Gupta | Ambala

### ELECTIONS PROVIDING JOBS

Sir — After struggling for two years with no work due to the COVID-19 pandemic,

ic, the Assembly elections in Gujarat have become money-spinner for a large number of powerloom workers in Surat. Over a lakh workers are engaged in weaving, dyeing and stitching the election material and tricolour for the last month to meet the high demand from the political parties.

Workers are busy round the clock for stitching saffron colour caps for the BJP at a factory in Surat, Gujarat ahead of Gujarat Assembly Election and it is a make or break situation at present. Again, for 32 years BJP has had a stronghold as Modi and Amit Shah both hail from the same state and work in tandem to achieve a dream of winning again. The BJP IT section is also busy making the dream come true. The elections are indeed a boon to workers.

CK Dorai Ramani Suresh | Ghaziabad

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

## SOUND BITE

The current challenge is to save the law and the democracy and we will do anything to save it.



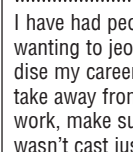
Bihar Deputy CM — Tejshwi Yadav



What happened was everybody – Germans, French, Italians, everybody, (US President) Joe Biden – saw that

there was simply no option. Because you couldn't negotiate with this guy (Putin). That's the key point.

Former UK Prime Minister — Boris Johnson



I have had people wanting to jeopardise my career, take away from my work, make sure I wasn't cast just because I was doing well in what I was doing. In India, very few of us are happy for somebody else's success.

Actor — Priyanka Chopra



One-day cricket was probably my best format in international cricket, so it's nice to be playing some white ball and Ford Trophy. I'm really looking forward to it.

New Zealand cricketer — Ross Taylor



I am sure India took it up and will take it up. But the point is he is a Malaysian national and if he is invited somewhere... whether they knew, I have no knowledge of that.

Union Minister — Hardeep Puri



FIRST COLUMN

INDIA-UAE TRADE PACT:  
PATH TO PROSPERITY

India is close to starting free trade negotiations with GCC



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Qatar was in news, not just for dazzling the world with billions of dollars of investments for showcasing and hosting one of the largest sports events of all time, the FIFA world cup, but also for pulling off one of its kind supply deals with China. Qatar signed a 27-year natural gas supply deal with China, which is being touted as one of the longest in the history of hydrocarbons.

The agreement according to Chinese government officials would also provide access to the strategic North Field South Project in (NFS) in Qatar. The NFS expansion project is a mega LNG transport train which promises to make Qatar one of the largest natural gas traders in the world in a decade. The expansion project allows international enterprises participation and so far all western big names from Total, Shell, Exxon Mobil, etc., are partners for helping Qatar reach its stated target. In comes China, with a long agreement with Qatar and it also wants to have full access and share in the hydrocarbon-led geopolitical rubric playing out. This agreement with China comes at a time when the European Union is scrambling for securing natural gas supplies from sources other than Russia.

The traditional European inertia to get into long term binding contracts is one of the other reasons such agreements between the West and Qatar are not maturing. In the middle of all this, India is close to starting Free Trade Negotiations with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) of which Qatar is an important member. The GCC is an intergovernmental, political, economic union consisting of six Arab nations. India has had a framework agreement with the GCC since 2004. The framework, according to the commerce ministry, provides for exploring ways and means for extending and liberalizing trade relations and initiating dialogue towards a free trade agreement.

However, despite two formal dialogues in 2006 and 2008 the GCC, according to the Government of India, could not persuade its member countries to move further to a Free Trade Agreement level negotiation. Regional economic issues among the Arab states, their bilateral relations with India played a significant role in the delay.

The recent pandemic has made Gulf countries willing to expand their economic clout beyond hydrocarbons; this has led to a change in the mindset. India signed a CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) with one of the most influential GCC countries, the UAE, earlier this year. This CEPA allows India's goods to have preferential access for 97 per cent tariff lines, which accounts for 99 per cent of India's exports to the UAE. India primarily exports gems and jewellery, textiles, leather footwear, sports goods, plastics, furniture, wood products, engineering products, pharma and medical devices to the UAE.

India's major import from UAE is primarily energy. The CEPA, one of the first off the block, agreed by India after it has been dragging its feet on getting into binding trade agreements for more than a decade aims to achieve \$115 billion bilateral trade of goods and services in just five years. India had earlier walked out of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, one of the largest economic partnerships, citing a China dictated framework.

India now realises the importance of trade as a significant contributor to the national GDP. India realises that trade in goods and services will be a key contributor towards the economy reaching \$40 trillion in the next two decades. India signed a Free Trade Agreement with Australia earlier. Similarly, a free trade agreement negotiation with the UK has been progressing for more than six months now. FTA negotiations with GCC, if concluded successfully, could be another milestone in India's multi trillion-dollar economic path.

*(The author is a foreign affairs commentator)*



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# RBI must opt for alternatives to digital currency

## Many transactions can be made compulsory through digital mode and there can be limits on cash payments

The Reserve Bank of India on October 7 released a concept note on Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). The purpose behind the issue, as claimed by the RBI, is to create awareness about CBDCs in general and the planned features of the Digital Rupee (e?), in particular. It explains the objectives, choices, benefits, and risks of issuing a CBDC in India. The Note also seeks to explain Reserve Bank's approach towards introduction of the CBDC, which has been launched on a pilot basis now.

As explained by the RBI the e? will provide an additional option to the currently available forms of money. It is substantially not different from banknotes, but

KALYAN SUNDARAM

*(The author is a retired banker)*

being digital it is likely to be easier, faster and cheaper. It also has all the transactional benefits of other forms of digital money.

The RBI claims that its approach is governed by two basic considerations – to create a digital Rupee that is as close as possible to a paper currency and to manage the process of introducing digital Rupee in a seamless manner.

The concept paper lists out the following as features of CBDC:

- CBDC is sovereign currency issued by Central Banks in alignment with their monetary policy
- It appears as a liability on the central bank's balance sheet
- Must be accepted as a medium of payment, legal tender, and a safe store of value by all citizens, enterprises, and government agencies.
- Freely convertible against commercial bank money and cash
- Fungible legal tender for which holders need not have a bank account
- Expected to lower the cost of issuance of money and transactions.

There can be two types of currencies which are used for settlement of transactions. One is physical currencies and another digital form of currency. As we have now all the bank deposits which can be transacted through digital platforms are part of digital currencies only. So whose custody is not important. How digitally it can be trans-

acted only matters.

Hence the question arises why there should be a digital currency from the RBI now? If the aim is to completely wipe out the physical currency, it is a different matter. Not only is our country, no other country in the world is aiming for any such proposition.

Our bank accounts provide seamless digital transactions by means of debit cards, credit cards, NEFT, RTGS, IMPS, UPI etc. Now in this concept paper RBI broadly defines CBDC as the legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form. It is akin to sovereign paper currency but takes a different form, exchangeable at par with the existing currency and shall be accepted as a

medium of payment, legal tender and a safe store of value. Hence, it is almost identical to the digital transactions provided by banks except the sovereignty.

The RBI says that the key motivations for exploring the issuance of CBDC in India among others include reduction in operational costs involved in physical cash management, fostering financial inclusion, bringing resilience, efficiency, and innovation in payments system, adding efficiency to the settlement system, boosting innovation in cross-border payments space and providing public with uses that any private virtual currencies can provide, without the associated risks. Again, these are already available for digital transactions through bank accounts.

The RBI claims that CBDCs have some clear advantages over other digital payments systems, as it being a sovereign currency, ensures settlement finality and thus reduces settlement risk in the financial system. This may be theoretically and conceptually true. But then this undermines the banking system we have under the same RBI regulation. If any bank fails in any settlement system, then it will speak about RBI's supervision.

As per the scheme, the CBDC issued will be the liability of the RBI and whoever wants to have this will have to pay to RBI to acquire this CBDC. Hence it is similar to deposits obtained by commercial banks. But the RBI has decided not to pay any interest on this. As it is primarily introduced as a method of payments like cash, it would not bear interest.

Instead of going in for CBDC, the RBI can further improve penetration of digital transactions by making many transactions compulsory through digital mode. There can be limits on cash payments. There can even be restricted use of cheques. This will reduce cost for the economy as well as arrest illegal and unaccounted transactions.

Irrespective of the form of money, in any economy, money performs three primary functions—medium of exchange, a unit of account and a store of value.

# BJP aims record haul in a three-way poll

## The BJP is set on its target again, lest an undercurrent shakes it off or throws a fractured delivery



DEEPAK K UPRETI

After 27 years in the saddle in Gujarat, the Bharatiya Janata Party wants to do it again. And when one says it is 'the BJP contesting the poll' in Gujarat, it actually translates into Prime Minister Narendra Modi who may have vacated Gandhinagar in 2014 but it is he who is seeking mandate for the seventh time in the western Indian state in 2022 and in turn in his decisive run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Another win for the saffron party tiding over almost three-decade anti-incumbency would possibly press a 'delete' button on the Congress and allow the 'third-factor' Aam Admi party (AAP) to rise in the western shores.

Ironical as it may sound for the BJP backers, the Congress despite the BJP's 'double-engine' domination over the power, in last 2017 state elections not only increased its Assembly seats tally but also improved upon its vote share. In contrast, there has been a steady decline in the number of seats collected by the BJP since 2002.

The BJP's seats at 99 went downwards in 2017 from 116 of 2012 Assembly results, but its vote share at 49.1 increased by 1.25 per cent. The Congress, which had won 60 seats in 2012 Gujarat assembly elections, had gained significantly in 2017 by winning 77 seats. The main opposition party had thus not only improved its position by 17 seats but also collected 41.5 per cent vote share, a jump of 2.57 per cent from 2012 Gujarat Assembly polls.

The Congress could not gather enough steam in 2017 to beat the BJP, which had the formidable advantage of its well-oiled organizational machinery and Modi's 'realpolitik' checks and balances to keep the voters interest in the party vis-a-vis a faceless Gujarat Congress and its unimaginative central leadership.

As the stage is set for 2022 December one and five poll for the 15th Gujarat assembly polls, the dynamics of Gujarat elections can be read as "waveless" which could be won by technical management which is: 'right selection' of candidates coupled with 'right booth handling' that is ensuring good turnout of the support base.

Palpably anxious of declining number of seats in successive assembly polls, the BJP has denied tickets to 40 of its sitting MLAs and given place to the fresh and young, not loaded with the burden of anti-incumbency. With winnability being the prime factor for all political parties vis-a-vis the 'ideology', the BJP too has, so far, blessed 10 out of 19 Congress MLAs who resigned and joined the BJP after the 2017 elections with its tickets.

In contrast, Congress has, 'understandably', retained most of its sitting MLAs as party candidates. It is indeed a game of reshuffling of the available players on the ground for both the parties and creating a 'new rainbow' before the voters.

To defend its Gujarat fort and make



PALPABLY ANXIOUS OF DECLINING NUMBER OF SEATS IN SUCCESSIVE ASSEMBLY POLLS, THE BJP HAS DENIED TICKETS TO 40 OF ITS SITTING MLAS AND GIVEN PLACE TO THE FRESH AND YOUNG, NOT LOADED WITH THE BURDEN OF ANTI-INCUMBENCY



it 'unbreachable', the BJP has selected the Congress turncoat Patidar Hardik Patel, 29, who crossed-over to the saffron party in July from 'Viramgram', his home town, which had been twice won by the Congress. The roping in of the leader of 2015 OBC reservation stir would further consolidate the BJP's hold over the influential Patel community.

Among other young and new faces also include Cricketer Ravindra Jadeja's wife Rivaba, 28, who is the BJP candidate from Jamnagar North seat. Before joining the BJP, she served as the leader of the Rajput Community's throw-back organisation 'karni Sena'.

The choice of Kantilal Amrutia, 60, for the Morbi assembly seat, which witnessed a bridge collapse disaster, killing over 135 people, is another reflection of the BJP's 'careful micro-management' of seat distribution. Following the tragedy, the saffron party denied ticket to the sitting MLA of Morbi and selected Atrutiya after videos showed him jumping into the river to save lives. A former MLA, Amrutia had lost in 2017 assembly polls.

Apart from the main rivals of the past – Congress and the BJP -- the entry of AAP has introduced an X factor in the Gujarat polls, leaving political players wondering which way it would impact the elections and to whose advantage. The freebie announcements by AAP's mercurial leader Arvind Kejriwal has prompted many to anticipate that it may nibble into the urban votes of the BJP and may do less

harm to Congress which is rather strong in rural pockets of Gujarat.

The BJP's state president CR Patil thinks otherwise, saying the AAP would cut into Congress votes and thus help BJP's prospects. The AAP has banked heavily on the Patidar community and fielded its Gujarat president Gopal Italia from Katargam in Surat as well as former Patidar agitation leader Alpesh Kathirya from Varachha in Surat city.

Currently, campaigning most aggressively, the AAP is now banking on its success in Gujarat in 2021 civic polls when it ousted congress from the Surat municipal corporation, winning over Patidar votes. The AAP also won one seat in Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation.

In the 2022 Gujarat poll, the AAP is not without some resonance and digging deep to create its place as against the well-entrenched BJP and Congress. The AAP's approach to Patidars and fielding of backward community member Isudan Gadhvi as the chief Ministerial candidate indicates its calculated long-term planning after scoring victory in Punjab.

The 'Hindustava' card of Kejriwal, however, may not pay its dividend against the BJP which has its master key with itself.

The main challenger to the ruling BJP, the Congress is currently on to its 'door-to-door' silent campaigning, bridging the connection it left uncovered in 2017.

As for the BJP, its 'guarav yatra' apart, the Prime Minister has laid out a slew of mega projects in

Gujarat, two of which shifted from Maharashtra to convince voters that continuity in its governance would ensure uninterrupted 'development' in the state with the guarantee of funds from the central government. The hair-splitting analysis of television anchors notwithstanding, the election match in Gujarat, in a way, seem to be dominated by 'turncoats', including the likes of Hardik Patel and Alpesh Thakor.

Italia, one-time Patidar agitation spearhead and close associate of Hardik, who is famous for hurling a shoe at a BJP minister Pradipsinh Jadeja outside the legislative assembly 2017, is now an AAP nominee. The BJP is set on its target again, lest an undercurrent shakes it off or throws a fractured delivery.

The 'facts' laid-out can, however, be deceptive at times. In 1985 Congress in Gujarat returned to power with 149 seats and 55 per cent votes and in the 2002 assembly poll BJP won 127 seats and gained 49.8 per cent of the votes and cycles are slowly reversing again.

If journalism is said to be 'history written in a hurry', it would not be irrelevant to quote historian EH Carr from his noted book 'What is History?' to put elections in a perspective.

"It used to be said that facts speak for themselves. This is, of course, untrue. The facts speak only when the historian calls on them: it is he who decides to which facts to give the floor, and in what order or context... a fact is like a sack—it won't stand up till you have put something in it." Please, take your pick from Gujarat!

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

VOTES FROM SOME MACHINES SHOULD BE "INVALIDATED."  
— OUTGOING BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT JAIR BOLSONARO



NO MORE PROCRASTINATION, IRRESPONSIBILITY, INSULTS TO INSTITUTIONS AND DEMOCRACY .THE ELECTION WAS DECIDED IN THE VOTE AND BRAZIL NEEDS PEACE TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE.  
— THE PRESIDENT OF LULA'S WORKERS PARTY GLEISI HOFFMANN



# India to grow at ‘moderately brisk rate’, inflation to ease: FinMin

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is well placed to grow at a "moderately brisk rate" in the coming years on the back of macroeconomic stability, despite global monetary tightening, a finance ministry report said on Thursday.

It further said inflationary pressures will ease in the coming months with the arrival of kharif crops and at the same time job opportunities will increase with improvement in business prospects.

The 'Monthly Economic Review for October 2022' also cautioned that the US monetary tightening is a "future risk" which could lead to dip in stock prices, weaker currencies and higher bond yields, resulting in higher borrowing costs for many governments around the world. It said a rapid deterioration in global growth prospects, high inflation, and worsening financial conditions have increased fears of an impending global recession.



The spillovers of the global slowdown may dampen India's exports businesses outlook. However, resilient domestic demand, a re-invigorated investment cycle along with strengthened financial system and structural reforms will provide impetus to economic growth going forward.

"In a world where monetary tightening has weakened growth prospects, India appears well placed to grow at a moderately brisk rate in the

coming years on account of the priority it accorded (to) macroeconomic stability," the report said. The ministry said, so far in current year, India's food security concerns have been addressed and will continue to receive the utmost priority from the government.

"Easing international commodity prices and new kharif arrival are also set to dampen inflationary pressures in the coming months," it said.

India's wholesale and retail

price inflation fell in October after remaining high for most part of the year mainly due to supply chain disruptions following outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war in February.

Retail or CPI inflation fell to 3-month low of 6.7 per cent, while wholesale or WPI inflation was at 19-month low of 8.39 per cent. Russia and Ukraine are among the most important producers of essential agricultural commodities, including wheat, maize, sunflower seeds and inputs like fertilisers. Together with other countries bordering the Black Sea, they constitute the world's breadbasket. Along with an uncertain macroeconomic outlook, the year 2022 also brought to the fore the vulnerability and interconnectedness of the global food system to shocks, the ministry said. India's grain availability was impacted by the untimely heatwaves and deficiency of the southwest monsoon in the current year.

## ‘Circular economy must deal with climate change issues’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There is a need to promote a circular economy to deal with the issues related to climate change, India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant on Thursday said.

Addressing an event virtually, Kant noted different ministries and states are taking initiatives to promote a circular economy.

He said in COP 27, India underlined its long-term low carbon emission strategy.

India's Presidency for the G20 from December 1 provides an opportunity to the country for an accelerated transition towards the circular economy, he added.

Noting that there is a need to create a business environment for the circular economy, he said, "We need to ensure that regulations do not become burdensome".

The G20 comprises 19 countries -- Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South

**India's Presidency for the G20 from December 1 provides an opportunity to the country for an accelerated transition towards the circular economy, he added.**



Africa, Turkey, the UK, the USA and the European Union (EU).

Together, they account for over 80 per cent of the global GDP, 75 per cent of international trade and two-thirds of the world population.

## ‘Lagged data, reviews make monetary policy’s task challenging’

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Michael Patra on Thursday said formulating monetary policy is a challenging task in a volatile environment like the current one, given lagged data inputs, which are also frequently reviewed. Patra said that next week, the deliberations will be starting for the next policy review to be announced in the first week of December and will have to depend on inflation data for October and growth data for July-September coming out on November 30.

"Monetary policy has to be forward-looking, and that is because when the policy rate is changed, it takes quite a while before it reaches lending rates and aggregate demand in the economy. Hence, we can only target future inflation, not yesterday's," Patra said in a speech at the annual SBI conclave. "On the basis of one month ago and three month ago data, I will have to assess

what is inflation and growth going to be one year down the line," he added. Patra, who oversees the important monetary policy function at the central bank, said there are shocks like the war in Ukraine, and the jump in oil and food prices, which the monetary policy has to contend with after the release of the dated official data. Additionally, there is the risk of frequent reviews as well, he rued, pointing out that in India, we have preliminary, partial, revised and final styles of account presentations. "Another complexity to this whole tightrope walking is that the whole data on this data from NSSO (National Sample Survey Office) from 3 months ago are subject to revision. And sometimes the change is drastic," he noted.

He pointed to a quote from former Fed chairman Ben Bernanke pointing to the limited options that exist before the central bank in the case of such an outcome and stressed that the situation applies to India as well.

## Rooftop solar capacity installations fall 29% to 320 MW

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rooftop solar capacity installations in India fell 29 per cent to 320 megawatt (MW) in July-September 2022, according to Mercom Research India.

The country added 448 MW rooftop solar capacity in the same quarter a year ago, the research firm said in a report on Thursday.

During January-September, the installations at 1,165 MW were also down 11 per cent compared to 1,310 MW in the corresponding nine-month period of the last year, the report titled 'Mercom India Rooftop Solar Market Report Q3 2022' said.

In the third quarter of 2022, 46 per cent of rooftop solar capacity was installed in the industrial sector, followed by 32 per cent in residential, commercial 21 per cent and the remaining in the government sector. According to the report, at the end of Q3 2022,



cumulative rooftop solar installations reached 8.3 GW.

"We are seeing rooftop solar installations trending down as costs have risen. The market is struggling with supply issues because of the Approved List of Module and Manufacturers (ALMM), and installers are finding it a tough environment to operate in overall," said Raj Prabhu, CEO of Mercom Capital Group.

The tendering process increased 46 per cent year-on-year to around 311 MW of rooftop solar projects in July-

September 2022, of which 33 per cent were announced by the Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency, 16 per cent by Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) and 51 per cent by other state agencies.

Gujarat became the leading state with the highest rooftop solar installations, followed by Maharashtra and Rajasthan. The top 10 states accounted for approximately 73 per cent of cumulative rooftop solar installations.

## Rupee gains 30 paise to close at 81.63 against US dollar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated 30 paise to close at 81.63 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday as a weak greenback in the overseas market and a rally in domestic equities boosted investor sentiments.

Forex traders said the dollar fell in international trade post the weak US data and dovish Fed minutes.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 81.72 and touched an intra-day high of 81.60 and a low of 81.77 against the greenback.

The local unit finally settled at 81.63, registering a rise of 30 paise over its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee depreciated 26 paise to close at 81.93 against the US currency. "Rupee continued to trade in a narrow range and volatility remained low in the past few sessions.

## Coal stock at thermal power plants may reach 45 MT

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday said it is planning to augment coal stock at thermal power plants to 45 million tonnes by March-end. The coal ministry said that it further plans to increase the stock of fossil fuel at the pithead.

"The Ministry of Coal is planning to build stock at domestic coal-based plants to the tune of 30 million tonnes by the end of November, 2022," the coal ministry said in a statement.

It has plans to keep building the stock so that by the end of March 31, 2023, coal stocks at Thermal Power Plants (TPP) go up to 45 million tonnes.

The total coal output in the country stands at 448 million tonnes (MT) as of October, 18 per cent higher than the production of the corresponding period of the previous financial year.

"The growth of coal production from Coal India Ltd (CIL) is also more than 17 per cent," the ministry said.

The average coal rakes per day availability registered a growth of nine per cent in the April-October period of the current fiscal, thereby helping transportation of higher quan-



**"The Ministry of Coal is planning to build stock at domestic coal-based plants to the tune of 30 million tonnes by the end of November, 2022," the coal ministry said in a statement.**

tity of dry-fuel and building up stocks at power plants. The power ministry is also augmenting transportation of coal through rail-cum-road mode.

"CIL has communicated a quota for RCR mode of lifting to all the power generating companies for next eight months. This will help power generating companies to plan transportation logistics in advance," it added.

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Ministry of Power, Railways and Coal are working hand in hand in a bid to encourage

transportation of dry-fuel via sea route.

So far, transportation of coal from CIL arm Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) to Paradip by rail and thereafter to power plants on Eastern Coast is being made through rail-sea-rail (RSR) route.

The government is encouraging transportation of dry-fuel from coal mines in eastern parts of the country to power plants located on the western coast or northern part. Accordingly, the capacity of coal transportation to Paradip is being increased. It

is planned to start movement of coal for western coast plants through RSR by early next year. The government is mulling to give a fillip to transportation of coal through all three possible modes. The Centre is monitoring issues related to production, transportation and quality of domestic coal closely.

Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output.

Several states in the country faced power outages in the summers due to shortage of coal.

## Govt fixes Rs 7,409 crore indicative value for ‘The Ashok’ hotel under NMP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has fixed an indicative value for Delhi's iconic 'The Ashok' hotel at Rs 7,409 crore under the national monetisation programme, according to sources.

The Ashok and the adjacent hotel Samrat are among the eight India Tourism Development Corp assets listed under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last year. The sources said

investor consultation has already been undertaken and a cabinet note for the sale of the sprawling 25-acre property in the heart of the national capital is under consideration. "The Ashok hotel's monetisation will take place through public-private partnership (PPP) mode and an indicative value of the hotel has been fixed at Rs 7,409 crore," the sources told PTI. In August 2021, Sitharaman announced the Rs 6 lakh crore NMP over four years to unlock value in infrastructure assets across sectors.

## Sensex hits record high, Nifty jumps 216 pts

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark BSE Sensex closed at an all-time high of 62,272.68 on Thursday, tracking a firm trend in global markets after the US Fed minutes indicated a slower pace of rate increase that bolstered investors' sentiment. Extending its rally to the third straight day, the 30-share BSE benchmark rallied 762.10 points or 1.24 per cent to settle at 62,272.68, its record closing peak. During the day, it jumped 901.75 points or 1.46 per cent to its lifetime high of

62,412.33.

The broader NSE Nifty gained 216.85 points or 1.19 per cent to end at 18,484.10. During the day, it hit its 52-week high of 18,529.70, higher by 262.45 points or 1.43 per cent. Two triggers assisted the Sensex rally to record highs.

One, in the mother market US, the market construct turned favourable with rising equities, declining bond yields and falling dollar. Two, macro developments in India show steady rise in credit growth and capex indicating strong economic recovery.

## MONEY MATTERS

### IOC launches ‘TB-mukt IndianOil Parivar’ programme



State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has launched the 'TB Mukt IndianOil Parivar' programme to eradicate the menace of Tuberculosis from the IOC family by 2025. The firm aims to reach out to almost 7 lakh stakeholders to

eradicate Tuberculosis by 2025, the company said in a statement. The 'TB Mukt IndianOil Parivar' pledge is in line with the government's call to end TB in India by 2025, five years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of 2030. "The program will reach out to almost 7 lakh IOC stakeholders and family members. The stakeholders include employees, contractual workers, fuel station customer attendants, LPG delivery personnel and tank truck crew," it said. IOC will implement a tuberculosis elimination workplace policy at its locations across the country, by screening the entire workforce for TB, creating awareness and capacity-building in-house medical doctors and paramedical staff. This is aimed at accelerating the National Tuberculosis Elimination Program," the statement said. Speaking on the occasion, S M Vaidya, Chairman, IOC, said, "Tuberculosis remains a public health crisis and a health security threat, and its rising footprint in India is a matter of grave concern."

### About Rs 400 cr tax deposited by filing updated ITRs so far



The recently introduced provision of allowing taxpayers to update their tax returns has seen as many as 5 lakh re-filings with about Rs 400 crore additional tax coming in, a senior government official said on Thursday. The Finance Act, of 2022 introduced

a new concept of updated returns, which permitted taxpayers to update their ITRs within two years of filing, subject to payment of taxes. New form ITR-U was made available in May this year for taxpayers to update their income tax return (ITRs) with any income or earnings that may have been skipped in the original filings for fiscal years starting 2019-20 (the assessment year 2020-21). "So far about 5 lakh updated ITRs have been filed and about Rs 400 crore taxes have been paid," he said. The official said compliance has improved substantially and even corporates are filing updated income tax returns. "Data showed that one company has filed an updated return and the amount of tax paid is Rs 1 crore.

### Andaman gears up for G20 Presidency meeting



Arrangements are in place for one of the much-awaited meetings of the G20 Presidency, which will be held in the picturesque Andaman and Nicobar Islands on November 26, official sources said. It will be held at Swaraj Dweep (popularly known as

Havelock Island), which is a nearly two-and-half-hour sea journey from Port Blair in government ferries and private cruises. The delegates will reach Port Blair in a chartered flight on November 25 and the meeting will take place the following day, the sources said. They will likely depart from the archipelago on November 27. Considering its popularity and mesmerising natural beauty, the G20 secretariat in New Delhi decided to hold one of its meetings at Swaraj Dweep, the sources said. A series of cultural events, consisting of traditional dance and music, have been lined up for the guests, who will also be served delectable local recipes, they said. The delegates will also undertake a tour of the Cellular Jail during their stay at Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the sources added. Security has been beefed up across the Union Territory ahead of the high-profile event. "The people of Andaman are very excited for the event, and are gearing up to accord the delegates a warm welcome.

## Exporters demand fiscal incentives, credit at affordable rates

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Exporters on Thursday demanded fiscal incentives, tweaking in customs duties on certain products and credit at affordable rates in the forthcoming Budget to boost exports and create jobs.

In a pre-budget virtual meeting with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) said the depreciation of the rupee against the US dollar is affecting exports' competitiveness and the sector requires more support. "Creation of employment is

the biggest challenge faced by the country...We would urge the government to provide fiscal support to units which provide additional employment in the export sector," the exporter's body said.

It said that incentives may be provided based on twin criteria of growth in exports and the creation of additional jobs.

The body stated that at a time when global demand for goods is declining, it has become fundamental to go for "aggressive" marketing.

It argued that the Rs 200 crore support given under Market Development Assistance (MDA) scheme for



promoting exports to USD 460-470 billion is just a "drop in the ocean".

"Therefore, for aggressive marketing, there is a need for the creation of an Export

Development Fund with a corpus of minimum 0.5 per cent of preceding year's exports," it suggested adding a special scheme for goods exported by MSME can be introduced in

the Budget.

On the direct tax front, it has demanded an increase in the deduction for investment. On R&D, and procedural simplification by the abolition of TCS (Tax Collected at Source) has been sought.

It also asked for a 200 per cent tax deduction on the expenditure made by exporters for overseas marketing; and extension of tax incentives for the private sector to set up a global Indian shipping line to tap the market.

On loans to MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises), FIEO said the credit rate is currently between 11-13 per

cent and it may increase further in the next few months.

"Therefore, there is an urgent need to restore the interest equalization (subsidy) benefit of 5 per cent to manufacturer MSMEs and 3 per cent to all 410 tariff lines (broad sectors) as existed prior to October 2021, as cost of credit has crossed the pre-COVID level and is adversely impacting exporters," it added.

On Goods and Services Tax (GST), the body asked for a tax refund to foreign tourists at the airport as it would give a fillip to tourism and exports of handicrafts, carpets, khadi, and leather goods.

### Maha: Steel manufacturers seek restoration of electricity subsidy

PNS ■ JALNA

The Steel Manufacturers Association of Maharashtra (SMAM) on Thursday sought restoration of power subsidies first given by the Devendra Fadnis government in 2019 to boost the ailing sector in some parts of the state. In 2019, the then BJP-led government had started supply of power at Rs 5 per unit for steel units in Marathwada, Vidarbha and Khandesh, but this relief was withdrawn on June 23 this year, SMAM president Yogesh Mandhani said. "This scrapping of subsidy led to a drastic fall in industrial growth and production.

Now, neighbouring states like Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh provide electricity at Rs 5.25 per unit, while it is Rs 8 per unit in Maharashtra," he said. "Due to this, 36 steel units have shut down, and 10 units have shifted base to Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat. We want the Eknath Shinde-Fadnis government to bring back this subsidy to give a boost to the ailing sector," he claimed.

Steel manufacturing unit owner Satish Agarwal said prices were volatile since the COVID-19 pandemic, which was also impacting the construction sector.



## After Katrina, Kareena, and Deepika, Kiara Advani set to dazzle on screen with *Bijli*

Bollywood and special dance numbers have been made for each other since the inception of Hindi cinema in India. Over the years, we have had so many brilliant performers, gifting the audience, some of the most iconic songs that continue to rule parties and our hearts even after ages.

From Katrina Kaif's *Sheila Ki Jawani*, Kareena Kapoor's *Halkat Jawani*, to Deepika Padukone's *Lovely*, our leading ladies have offered a sensational tadka of music, dance and expressions with the chartbuster songs in their films. Making an addition to the list, Kiara Advani is all set to set the internet on fire with her upcoming song *Bijli* from Govinda Naam Mera.

While dance numbers have been quite common for Hindi films, Bollywood has witnessed very few notable instances of leading ladies treating the audience with iconic chartbusters from their own films.

### Katrina Kaif - *Sheila Ki Jawani*

Portraying an aspiring actor in *Tees Maar Khan*, Katrina Kaif featured in



probably the most popular and loved song of her career with *Sheila Ki Jawani*. Despite the film failing at the box office, the song continues to rule the audience's hearts and minds

### Kareena Kapoor Khan- *Halkat Jawani*

Depicting the role of a superstar

in *Heroine*, Kareena Kapoor Khan featured in *Halkat Jawani* as a part of an award show performance. The raunchy and foot-tapping number is one of the most iconic dance tracks and amongst the top favourites for all parties.

### Deepika Padukone- *Lovely*

From the blockbuster film *Happy New Year*, *Lovely* depicts Deepika Padukone in her sultry and sexy avatar as a dancer. Serving as the perfect intro to Deepika's character in the film, the song went on to become one of the most loved tracks of Deepika ever!

### Kiara Advani- *Bijli*

With just a glimpse of the song, Kiara Advani has already created an uproar on social media, adding to the ongoing frenzy for the film *Govinda Naam Mera*. Playing a choreographer in the film, Kiara Advani flaunts her dance moves with perfect expressions, leaving everyone excited for the song release as well as streaming of the film.

## Vidhu Vinod Chopra is directing *12th Fail* based on real life events of IPS, IRS officers

Filmmaker-producer Vidhu Vinod Chopra, who is known for films such as *Parinda*, *1942: A Love Story*, *Mission Kashmir* and several others, is directing and producing his next film titled *12th Fail*. Bollywood actor Vikrant Massey will be headlining the film.

The film has been adapted from author Anurag Pathak's bestselling novel of the same name, and is inspired by the real life story of IPS Officer Manoj Kumar Sharma and IRS Officer Shraddha Joshi.

However, it is not a biography, rather it's a portrait of the power of one - how one man or one woman with integrity can bring about a huge change in an ecosystem. Major portions of the film have been shot in Mukherjee Nagar, New Delhi, the location that has seen the birth of generations of bureaucrats.



Talking about the film, Vidhu Vinod Chopra says, "If an honest person is in a position of power, the world can truly change. I have seen that with countless IAS and IPS officers I have come across in the process of writing this film. *12th Fail* is a tribute to all of them. If this film can inspire even 10 more officers to strive for honesty, 10 more students to strive for excellence? I will believe I have succeeded." Lead actor Vikrant Massey says that the film is a tribute to all the students who dare to dream and brave the odds.

He shares, "It's the tragedy of our times that honesty and sincerity are a rarity. This film is a dedication to all the students who dream, to all the honest officers who are the backbone of our country and constitution. Working with VVC is a dream-come-true and a huge challenge since he's such a thorough director."

Vidhu Vinod Chopra has wrapped the first schedule of *12th Fail* in Chambal, Agra, and is currently filming the second schedule in Delhi. The film is scheduled for a 2023 summer release.



## Johnny Depp not returning for new *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie after Disney abandons spin-off

Actor Johnny Depp is not on board a new *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie despite report stating otherwise.

Sources debunk an earlier report which said that the actor is set to reprise his role as Captain Jack Sparrow for the upcoming sixth instalment of the Disney film series, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

The Sun floated the rumour of Depp's alleged return to the franchise,

claiming that his name has been spotted on a call sheet for a supposed new *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie.

According to the U.K. news outlet, the 59-year-old actor is scheduled for a test shoot in the U.K. in February 2023.

Insiders told the site that the movie's current working title is *A Day at Sea*. One of the sources dished, "Johnny is set to return as

Captain Jack Sparrow and is scheduled to start filming at the beginning of February at a top secret location in the U.K.

"Everything is in the early stages and there is still no director attached to the project, which is being called *A Day at the Sea*," the source further spilled.

"Johnny is expected to do a test shoot in early February before the production gets fully underway."

"A call sheet has been distributed among those in the know," it addition-

ally claimed.

Bruce Hendricks, who worked on the first three films, is named as the Executive Producer on the new project."

The source added, "All the other details are being kept under lock and key. The whole project is shrouded in secrecy and Disney wants to keep everything under wraps as best they can."

However, Daily Mail's sources beg to differ, saying that the information is false. Disney has not commented on the report of Depp's return to the *Pirates of the Caribbean* franchise.

Back in 2020, Disney confirmed it was developing a new female-focussed version of *Pirates of the Caribbean* that would star Margot Robbie.

The project would reunite the *Suicide Squad* star with her *Birds of Prey: And the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn* writer Christina Hodson, with franchise producer Jerry Bruckheimer producing.

Disney was also developing a second reboot written by franchise veteran Ted Elliott and *Chernobyl* creator Craig Mazin.

In an interview with The Sunday Times in May, Bruckheimer said that both films remained in development, while Depp, who starred in all five past *Pirates* installments, was not involved in any future projects at the moment amid his legal battle with Amber Heard.

## Eva Mendes was once fired from a hotdog stand

Actress Eva Mendes was once fired from a hotdog stand after giving an "inappropriate" gift to a co-worker.

The 48-year-old actress worked as a hotdog vendor before finding fame in Hollywood and revealed that she was dismissed from her position after giving a colleague an "inappropriate gift" during the holiday season, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

Without revealing exactly what the gift was, she told Will McMahon and Woody Whitelaw on KIIS FM, "I got fired from one place only, but it was a hotdog on a stick place. Oh god, this is bad too... I was a Secret Santa and I gave an inappropriate gift. I'm giving you guys way too much right now. You're like, literally this is the end of my day. But the good thing about getting fired is you get to collect unemployment (benefits)!"

Meanwhile, *Hitch* actress has been in a relationship with fellow Hollywood star Ryan Gosling since 2011 but has repeatedly fuelled speculation over the last week that they have in fact tied the knot and the revelation comes just days after she referred to him as her husband.

She said, "Everyone is so welcoming here and my husband Ryan is here and we are having the best time."

Later, Mendes was asked about marriage gossip in an interview on Australian radio's *The Kyle and Jackie O Show* on Friday (November 18) with stand-in co-host Brittany Hockley asking the actress, "There's a rumour that you guys might have secretly tied the knot. Is that true?"

Mendes then replied, "But who says we weren't already? I like to keep it all mysterious."

She then went on to address the tattoo, initially joking it was a temporary "press on" before adding, "I do have a tattoo. No, it's not a press on. But I got it years ago. I posted a picture and I've gotten a lot of funny questions."

Many fans are convinced the tattoo confirms the couple are husband and wife.

The *Place Beyond the Pines* stars were previously hit with marriage rumours back in 2016 when US Weekly reported they had tied the knot in private in front of a small group of family and friends with a source telling the publication, "Eva and Ryan have always felt like a married couple. They are infatuated with each other." However, a representative for the stars later denied a wedding had taken place.



## FUN

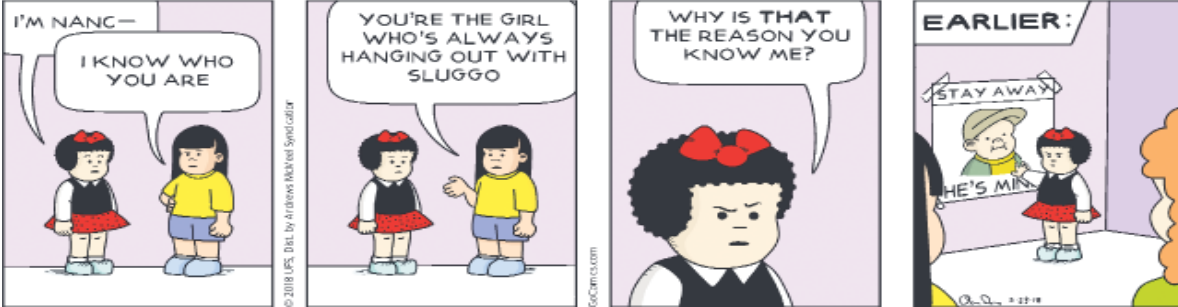
### ARCHIE



### GARFIELD



### NANCY



### GINGER MEGGS



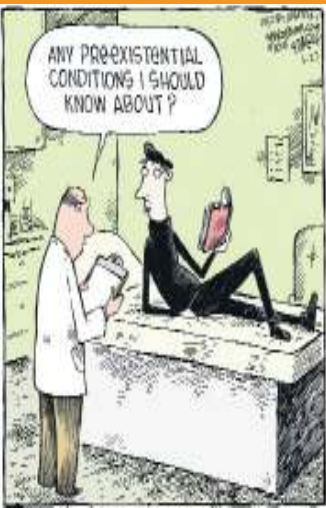
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



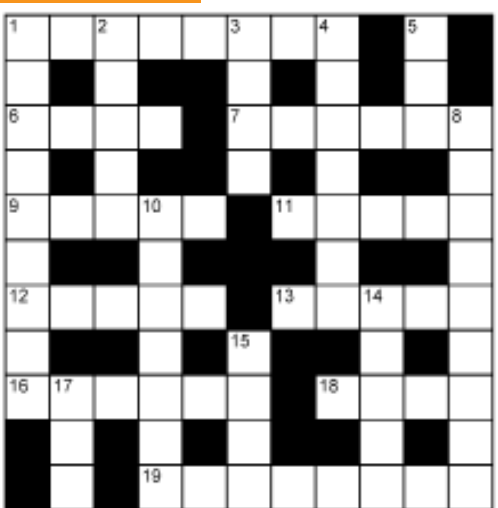
### REALITY CHECK



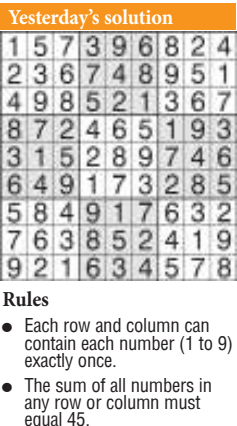
### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



### SUDOKU



Rules

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

### ACROSS

- Expecting a baby
- Scraps of material
- Weigh yourself with these
- Frequently
- A row of metal rings fastened together
- Jumble together (3,2)
- Sneak
- Baby's toy
- A stinging insect
- A newspaper employee

### DOWN

- Actor or singer
- An octagon's number of sides
- As well
- Instructor







Uorfi, the viral sensation, is not only ruling the internet but also the Splitsvilla kingdom in its ongoing season. Bringing to you the travel tales of Uorfi, *The Pioneer* connects with the internet sensation, sharing with us her travel diaries.

# THERAPEUTIC SEA SOUNDS MAKE UORFI TRAVEL BACK TO GOA

SHIKHA DUGGAL

The mix of Indian and Portuguese cultures at once makes the viral internet sensation, Uorfi Javed visit Goa most of the time. The dotted beach huts, reddish sand, and lagoons are the most favourite parts of this trending island. Moving away from the overly crowded areas, she's rather interested in the hidden spots. "I even love doing water sports there; that place calms me down. Yes, it's touristy, but the few secret lakes do the trick for me," she shares. There's always something new to explore in Goa because, as small as it appears on the map, it's rather massive in its interior. Uorfi, who is currently seen ruling the Splitsvilla kingdom, continues, "My preferred place to stay in Goa is always a villa because that's what I miss back in Bombay. We need some space to breathe! I always stay in the same villa in Goa; nothing changes there. The sound of the sea can be very therapeutic. If you're looking for peace and quiet, a stay at one of the villas on the beach might be the best option. There's nothing like waking up to the sound of the gentle waves!" Goa was once a Portuguese colony, and the influences can be found in their food too. With a mix of tamarind, coconut, curry leaves, mustard, and

magic, Goans definitely know how to rock their curries too. "You can not only find plenty of fresh seafood but also real beef steaks, which are rare in India. Moreover, Goa has some amazing places for European food too. Most of the beaches are dotted with sea-facing shacks that are typically run by local Goan families. It's easy for me to spend almost an entire day sitting on the beach beds of these shacks and gazing at the sea. I love it! Almost all of these shacks have a beach bar too, where I order from a range of local brews." And what about the old-school psychedelic trance gatherings? So for Uorfi, travelling is more of a learning experience. She says, "You learn languages. You learn about their culture. You learn history. You get to know their political situation too; it intrigues me. You explore the exotica, and the list continues." She's planning a trip to the Maldives soon, hoping to see the famous white sandy beaches and turquoise ocean, as well as live in a stilted waterside villa. "The dining experience is something else that attracts me — the underwater restaurant. It's like dining among the wild fish! The seafood also offers you a Thai mix, as I have heard from my friends, so why not give it a try, although my true attachment lies in Goa only," she concludes.

TANISHA SAXENA

The USP of the TVF series is their everyday archetypal characters. And the *Girls Hostel* is no different. It is about the mundane, complicated, yet amusing things that take place inside a girl's hostel. While the first and second seasons of the show showed hostel life and college politics, the third season attempts to deal with sensitive subjects. But the narrative is by and large carried forward from the previous seasons. Set at SVM Dental College, the story revolves around the girl gang (Jo, Zahira, Mili, Richa and Ramya) as they navigate hostel life. In the first season, we met the girls as they adjusted to a hostel's unforgiving yet all-embracing nature. In the second season, we saw how the college election process treats these girls. The third season begins on a familiar note, but things have progressed. This time, these girls are facing another set of problems, ranging from a power cut to executing a talent show. There are a lot of expectations from the president

internship in the realm of politics over a dental degree. Zahira is a courageous president who is struggling in her academic space but wishes to do wonders for the girls as always. However, this time it is extremely difficult for her to manage both. Richa (played by Ahsaas Channa) takes up bigger responsibilities in this season. She takes major decisions and in tackling all the issues her character speaks volumes about the idea that an individual can't keep everyone happy and that leadership comes with a cost. Well, Tanvi Lehr Sonigra as Vipassana does a fabulous job in delivering a powerful performance. It is not easy to initiate a dialogue around gender identity so simply and while this is not sufficient it is at least honest. When Vipassana explained that 'It is not necessary to understand everything

TEJAL SINHA

Disability is just a matter of perception. It was the English theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking, who once said, "Concentrate on things our disability doesn't prevent you from doing well, and don't regret the things it interferes with." Today, we have with us Hasitha Illa, who proves the saying very well. Hasitha had no idea how quickly her life would change when she was a cute, bubbly kid in her childhood. And definitely not an easy one. One day, she abruptly started limping, which left her parents worried too. major issue throughout the show remains the execution of the talent show and everything else just revolves around

# Wheels over heels

HASITHA ILLA DEFIES ALL ODDS BY TRANSFORMING HER DISABILITIES INTO HER STRENGTHS. THE PIONEER BRINGS TO YOU HER JOURNEY FROM DEMOTIVATION TO BECOMING A MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER.

## Girls Hostel 3.0: Progressive, inclusive, & above all, Relatable

of the student's council, Zahira Ali (played by Parul Gulati). Directed by Harish D. Kalia, this five-part series touches upon the courageous topics including LGBT rights. Written by Anuya Jakatdar, Alka Shukla, and Shreyasi Sharma, *Girls Hostel 3.0* rises above the ordinary, not in the sense of the characters but the subjects they choose to weave the story around. The college dean Dr. Sarla Desai (Jayati Bhatia), is a corrupt woman who also hates her daughter who wanted to go to a hostel. The reason as stated is how girls dress, behave, and above all practice the concept of 'women empowerment' in hostel premises. It's not shocking to hear from such remarks from Desai but it surely does reflect the stereotyping of hostellers in society. Desai, one of the many women of our society who appreciates patriarchy in one way or the other. Jo (Srishti Srivastava) decided to hear her inner voice and take a tough step by choosing to go for her dream

about the LGBT community what's important is to respect the identities each of us possesses, the statement is loud and too nuanced to understand but it is applaudable, to begin with. Ramya Mantri (played by Shreya Mehta) is still arrogant but towards the end of the series we see a spark in her and it is positive. She doesn't join hands with her opponents but stands for what is right. Mili (Played by Simran Natekar) is a naive character in the show. Her sense of humour might not be as praiseworthy as her quirky response to the situations in the hostel, be it the arrangement of an inverter or taking up the onus of the things that could have turned disastrous in turn— her character is engaging. The girl gang indeed delivered an honest and compelling performance to make their characters relatable. The dialogues are another superpower in the show. Meticulously pointed out at the right moment, the dialogues rule the show by purgation of emotions. The

doing the same, yet making it all worthwhile. There's not one but several messages that the series promises to give. The five episodes of *Girls hostel 3.0* are engaging and assure you of being glued to your screens. **Rating: 3.5/5** She couldn't even hold plates properly due to her imbalance. At one point, while we enjoyed playing games and going to parks, she had to go for hospital visits and, in fact, discontinue her playtime because of her physical transformation. She was diagnosed with Friedrich's Ataxia, a progressive disease, at the age of 10. While she had previously used her wheelchair on and off, it wasn't until about five years ago that she began using it on a regular basis. Hailing from Pune, Hasitha is currently based in the US and working as an HR professional. Beginning with her struggles, Hasitha said, "Self-acceptance was my biggest struggle. It was tough for me to accept this and be someone different from the rest of the people. There was not much representation of people with disabilities back then, so I didn't know much about people living in wheelchairs. I had no idea what to do as a child at the time. It felt as if I was the only one in the wheelchair, which made it more difficult for me. While kids enjoyed their childhood days, I

couldn't. People around me were also not very friendly. I was bullied for being different." During this tough phase of her life, she says her family has been her biggest support and strength. Not only this, but her mom had also encouraged her to participate in the Miss Wheelchair India Pageant held in Mumbai. "My mom wanted me to participate in this; I didn't want to participate, but my mom enrolled me in it. Because of this, even my stage fright had disappeared. Even though I didn't win, I learned a lot." While she began accepting herself as she was, she began gaining interest in writing and started expressing herself through her YouTube channel and Instagram (@lifewithhasi). You might wonder if this was her turning point in life, but it was "when I gave my first motivational speech with singer and composer Shankar Mahadevan. It was then that I realised I could inspire others like me, as well as others in general." She believes that awareness about anything begins from childhood. And, thus, she recently released her own book 'Wheeling Away'. The book, written by the debut author and motivational speaker, talks about being an ally to people with special needs. To make Wheeling Away

happen, Hasitha, joined hands with parenting coach Saakshi Singla, and for sure, anyone who reads the book, will surely learn more about inclusivity and acceptance. Morgan Freeman once said, "Attacking people with disabilities is the lowest display of power I can think of." There are many people out there who are fighting against the odds, making their own mark. However, the discrimination and ill-treatment of people with disabilities never goes off. "Awareness begins in childhood itself. When they are kids, one can point them in the right direction. However, when they grow older, they have their own perceptions. People with disabilities face a great deal of discrimination in all aspects of life. Treating people with disabilities as if they were any other human being is the way to go! People always ask me how I approach a person with a disability. Do it the same way you would approach anyone else. Also, I like it when people take the time to get to know me instead of just my medical history. The list goes on and on, and I talk more about it via my Instagram handle, @lifewithhasi," she signed off.



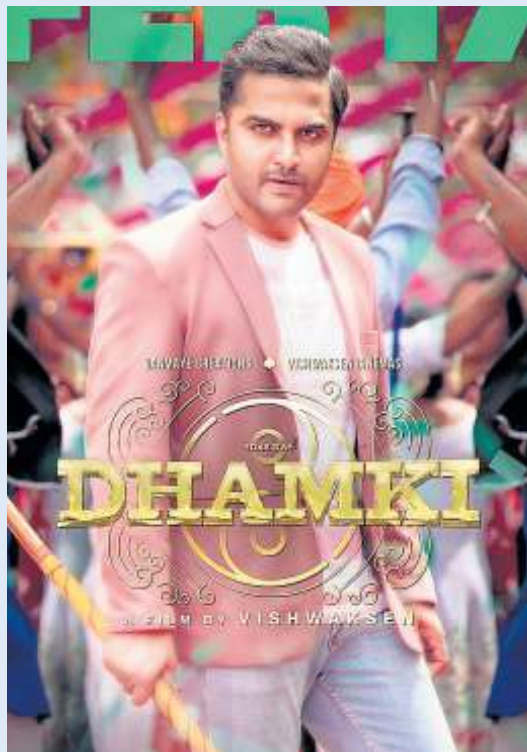
Review:











## Vishwak Sen starrer *Dhamki* to hit theaters on Feb 17, 2023?

**V**ishwak Sen, who recently entertained in class avatar in *Ashoka Vanamlo Arjuna Kalyanam* and *Ori Devuda*, is set to shed it and done his tailor made mass avatar in his upcoming film *Dhamki*. Vishwak Sen's first look and the film's teaser released by Natasimha Balakrishna got a huge response from the masses.

According to sources, Vishwak Sen has now finalised the *Dhamki* date. The film will be releasing on February 17, 2023. The film's new release

poster showing Vishwak Sen in a serious look carrying a stick attracted the attention of all.

The film is directed by Vishwak Sen himself and features Nivetha Pethuraj as the female lead. The film stars Hyper Aadi, Rangasthalam Mahesh, Rohini and Rao Ramesh in important roles while Dinesh K Babu is the cinematographer and Leone James scored the music. The film is bankrolled on Vannaye Creations and Vishwak Sen Cinemas banners and is releasing in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi and Malayalam languages.

# Meet Cute : A genuine attempt with a beautiful idea

**Director:** Deepthi Ganta  
**Produced by:** Nani  
**Cast:** Rohini Molleti, Adah Sharma, Varsha Bollamma, Akanksha Singh, Ruhani Sharma, Sunaina, Sanchita Poonacha, Ashwin Kumar, Shiva Kandukuri, Deekshit Shetty, Govind Padmasooraya, and Raja Chembolu.  
**Music Director:** Vijai Bulgaganin  
**Editor:** Garry BH  
**DOP:** A Vasanth  
**Production House:** Wall Poster Cinema

AMARTYA SMARAN

**S**ony LIV's *Meet Cute* is a 5-part anthology that follows a set of accidental meetings between strangers. The anxiety that kicks in when you have to meet someone for the first time is suffocating. How about that crippling anxiety gradually withering away as time passes on the first meeting? Not just that, but also the conversations you have that lead to life changing experiences. To be succinct, this is what *Meet Cute* thrives on.

If there is something that the series excels at, it is to put the idea right across the viewer's face. Ever thought of how a rigid first meeting could go well or how meeting an old man at a consulate when you're pissed off with your husband can change your perspective about love. What about faking your name in order to know who your son is dating? Or how about giving a superstar a ride because her car breaks down?

The series has some really good lines that make you think. Like "What doesn't break you makes you stronger" and "Where there is no love, there is no relationship". The aim of the series is to perhaps put forward some of our deepest fears and make us feel like it's okay to

feel nervous about the uncertainties in life. Director Deepthi Ghanta tries her best to put the idea across, but shines only in parts. The production values, camera work, set design and the music add up quite well, but the writing seems half cooked in a few portions.

Episode one is a big let down. *Meet the boy*: It is about Swati Ganta, an Imptech manager, who is reminded by her mother to meet Abhi, a consultant at Demoite. I know, the fake names of these famous companies are funny? The matrimonial set up is what frustrates a lot of would be married guys and girls. That same frustration can be seen in the face of Swati. While Swati waits in the parking lot, we see "Dude No 11" pop-up on her phone screen. This just shows how disinterested she is in meeting Abhi. Anyway, let's cut to the chase.

What starts off as a forced meeting turns rosy when Abhi tells Swati that it is not the first time he's seeing her. "Meet the boy" just doesn't land right. Although the idea is in the right place, the execution could have been better. When Abhi describes the nature of his job to Swati, she seems disturbed. She asks him, "So! All that you did was just a marketing trick, huh? Just like your job!". Abhi comes off as a yes man as he keeps concurring with Swati's idea of love.

Some of the most brilliant moments from the series come from episodes two and three. For instance, the super irritated Saroja recognises this old journalist at the consulate struggling with his papers and helps him out. Through the conversation, Saroja begins to understand that love is all about the small things. The Urban Herald journalist asks pertinent questions like Are you sentimental or expressive? The director does a good job in episode three where the idea of companionship is promulgated. The most cherished thought of



Romanticism seems childish after watching the episode ends. You begin to wonder, "Right! Companionship is the truest form of love isn't it?". As we go ahead with the series, episodes four and five don't really offer much except for some good lines here and there. The narrative slows down and turns too filmy at times and makes it harder to believe some of the situations that the characters have been put in. A random stranger meeting another is fine, but giving a ride to a superstar? Umm... okay! Fine, but taking her home? Quite not believable even if you consider the

theme of the series. Scenes like this make the series look unreasonable at times.

Despite having a great idea, *Meet cute* doesn't quite hit the target with most of its writing and narrative. Technically, the series is great and it's visually pleasing to the eye. From the standpoint of narration, it takes a backseat. *Meet Cute* is a genuine attempt at presenting a beautiful idea but it is caught up in a storm where the captain tries too hard to sail the ship in the right direction.

**Rating: 2.5/5**

## Animal Welfare Board of India issued notice *Varisu*

**T**halapathy Vijay is on a mission to make inroads into the Tollywood market with his upcoming film *Varisu*. The film will be releasing in Telugu as *Varasudu* and it will lock horns with Mega Star Chiranjeevi's *Waltair Veerayya* and Natasimha Balakrishna's *Veera Simha Reddy*. The film is directed by award-winning director Vamsi

Paidipally. When everything is going right for the film, the makers landed in serious trouble as people complained against them for torturing and tormenting animals. They alleged that the *Varisu* team during the shooting tortured five elephants. Following this, the Animal Welfare Board of India issued notices to *Varisu* makers for torturing the elephants and casting them in the film without obtaining prior permission. It has to be seen how the *Varisu* makers react to this controversy. The film stars Rashmika Mandanna as the female lead with Thaman being the music director. Prabhu, Sarath Kumar, Prakash Raj, Jayasudha, Srikanth, Shaam, Yogi Babu, Sangeetha, and Samyuktha are starring in the film.



## Makers of *Hari Hara Veera Mallu* confident about the film being a milestone

**T** Pawan Kalyan is speeding up his upcoming period entertainer *Hari Hara Veera Mallu*. He is keen to complete the project as quickly as possible so that he can concentrate on politics and take his party, Jana Sena, to power in the upcoming elections in 2024.

The shooting of the film had already begun in the last week of October at the Ramoji Film City in Hyderabad.

Now, sharing some more updates on the shooting of the film, the makers had said that the shoot of the film is progressing at a brisk pace.

Mega Surya Productions on Thursday said, "Any work of quality cinema with historic significance that stands the test of time, demands meticulous detailing, research and immense effort of hundreds of cast and crew. The shoot of *#HariHaraVeeraMallu* is progressing at a brisk pace in an enormous set erected at Ramoji Film city as per



schedule since October last week with sri @PawanKalyan garu along with a nine hundred cast and crew participating with all their might. We are extremely confident that *#HHVM* will be a milestone movie and sure will be celebrated by one

and all around the globe. We require all your love and constant support going forward."



## Is Samantha hospitalised? Team dismisses the rumours

**E**ver since Samantha Ruth had announced being diagnosed with Myositis, her near and dear ones, along with her fans have been wishing for her speedy recovery.

Despite her health condition, the actress did her part promoting and giving as many interviews as possible for her latest release, *Yashoda*. Not only this, but the actress made sure to connect with her fans as much as possible, and thanked them for all the love.

Now, there have been rumours doing rounds on social media which claim that the *Majili* actress has again been hospitalised. However, according to the

reports by India Today and Pinkvilla, Samantha's team had refuted these rumours and said that the actress is not hospitalised. The actress is currently at her home and is in shock at how a piece of wrong news is being spread on the Internet. Samantha has not gone to any hospital for even a routine checkup in the last 2-3 weeks.

With unconventional roles in films like *Oh Baby*, *Super Deluxe* and the web show *The Family Man 2*, Samantha Ruth Prabhu has proved she is a powerhouse of talent. Even on a personal level, Sam has proved to be fiercely independent, confident and courageous.

Ahead of her film *Yashoda*'s release, she opened up about her health condition in a courageous note.

## Nagarjuna's next, a masala comedy?

**N**agarjuna is known for doing different genres. However, of late he is seen in action entertainers like *Officer*, *The Ghost*, and *The Wild Dog*. Both the films bombed at the box office and in between even the romantic track *Manmadhudu 2*, the sequel to his classic *Manmadhudu* turned out to be a disaster. Apart from the results of these films, Nagarjuna has been trolled for quite some time now on social media even by his fans for the selection of the scripts.

Under these circumstances, reports are coming that Nagarjuna is planning to try a comedy track and totally undergo a changeover from serious to hilarious. Earlier rumors spread that Nagarjuna would be teaming with *Thani Oruvan* fame Mohan Raja but seeing the *Godfather* result, he decided against it. He is planning a masala comedy entertainer

and discussed the same with Prasanna Kumar Bezawada after knowing that, he wrote a mass masala comedy for Raviteja's upcoming film *Dhamaka*.

But Prasanna Kumar Bezawada is dreaming of turning director and Nagarjuna is not keen to take charges with debutantes. Nagarjuna put conditions that he needs a top director and Prasanna Kumar is in a dilemma. In the meantime, reports are also coming that Nagarjuna is planning to remake a Malayalam film *Porinju Mariam Jose* which was released in 2019. The film is an emotional action thriller between three friends.

Sources say Nagarjuna is keen to rope in Allari Naresh for one role and planning to rope in another young star. It has to be seen how Nagarjuna takes off his career from here.

