

**ANALYSIS 7**  
SIMPLE GST STRUCTURE  
CAN CHECK TAX EVASION

**MONEY 8**  
RBI'S RATE SETTING PANEL STARTS  
DELIBERATIONS; DECISION TOMORROW

**SPORTS 11**  
INDIA WIN  
LOW-SCORING THRILLER

VIJAYAWADA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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TO PREMIERE  
ON ZEE 5

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## MODEL FEARING MYANMAR MILITARY HEADS TO ASYLUM IN CANADA

A fashion model from Myanmar who feared being arrested by the country's military government if she was forced back home from exile has flown to Canada, which she says has granted her asylum. Thaw Nandar Aung, also known as Han Lay, left on a flight from Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport early Wednesday morning, according to Archayon Kraithong, a deputy commissioner of Thailand's Immigration Bureau. He said he was not authorised to reveal her destination. Thaw Nandar Aung told Radio Free Asia, a U.S.-government funded broadcaster, on Tuesday that she was headed to Canada, after having been granted political asylum there with the assistance of the UNHCR and the Canadian Embassy in Thailand.

## EX NSE BOSS CHITRA RAMKRISHNA GETS BAIL IN CO-LOCATION SCAM

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday granted bail to former NSE boss Chitra Ramkrishna in the co-location scam case but she will not walk out of jail yet because her plea for the relief in the money laundering case related to alleged illegal phone tapping and snooping of some employees of the bourse is still pending. Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain granted 'statutory bail' to Ramkrishna and the National Stock Exchange's ex-group operating officer Anand Subramanian in the co-location scam case being probed by the CBI. It relates to alleged manipulation of the computers at the country's largest stock exchange. Another bench of the Delhi High Court issued notice to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on the bail application of Ramkrishna in the snooping and phone tapping case.

## SEBI ROLLS OUT FRAMEWORK FOR CREDIT RATING AGENCIES

Markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday came out with a new framework for credit rating agencies (CRAs), involving ratings of securities having explicit credit enhancement features. The new framework, applicable from January 1, 2023, is aimed at enhancing transparency and improving the rating process, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular. Under the rule, CRAs can assign the suffix 'CE' (Credit Enhancement) to the rating of instruments having explicit credit enhancement. To enable investors to understand the extent of credit enhancement provided by a third party or parent or group company and support considerations specified by the regulator, including debt backed by a pledge of shares and a letter of comfort, Sebi said that the press release for credit ratings.

## HANUMAN IDOL VANDALISED IN RANCHI, POLICE ON ALERT

A Hanuman idol was vandalised in Ranchi's Mallah Toli area and a person was arrested in connection with it, police said on Wednesday. The gates of the temple were closed on Wednesday morning and there was heavy deployment of Jharkhand police personnel in a bid to defuse the tension in the area. A flag march was conducted from city's Albert Ekka Chowk to Ekra Masjid to maintain peace, a top police official said. Ranchi senior superintendent of police Kishore Kaushal told PTI, There was an attempt to damage the idol. A person has been apprehended on the basis CCTV footage and statement by the guard of a nearby bank ATM counter. The about five feet high idol is made of concrete.

# If you don't change, I will change you: CM

## Underperforming Ministers, MLAs given 60 days to improve

SAMBASIVA RAO M  
■ AMARAVATI

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has warned MLAs and ministers that if they do not improve their performances and change their attitude, he would take a call on them. He conducted a third review meeting on the Gadapa Gadapaku programme and revealed the survey reports on the performance of the leaders. He pin-pointedly warned at least 27 leaders, including ministers, former ministers and MLAs who were displaying very poor performance and not attending the programme. He said that the party had only one aim – win all 175 MLA seats in the ensuing general elections -- and for that he was ready to take any action in the party.

Jagan Reddy was unhappy with the performances of ministers Buggana Rajendranath Reddy, Taneti Vanitha, Karumuri Nageswara Rao, RK Roja, former ministers Balineni Srinivasa Rao, Alla Nani, Kodali Nani, MLAs



He said that he would give them 60 days' time for improving their performances and there would be another round of meetings in November. The Chief Minister said that the fate of the sitting MLAs on getting the party ticket to contest again would be decided just before six months of the elections. He said that if the MLAs could not improve their performances, there would be no question of giving party B-form to contest as MLA.

Kotam Reddy, Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy, Grandi Srinivas, Silpa Chakrapani Reddy, Chirla Jaggireddy, Kodumuru Srinivasulu, Dhanalakshmi, Annamreddy Adeep Raj and Mekapati Chandrasekhar Reddy, sources said.

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November. The Chief Minister said that the fate of the sitting MLAs on getting the party ticket to contest again would be decided just before six months of the elections. He said that if the MLAs could not improve their performances, there would be no question of giving party B-form to contest as MLA.

The Chief Minister made it mandatory to spend at least seven

hours a day in the selected Secretariat limits and they should interact with each and every one in the village or ward.

The MLAs should prioritise the works, make proposals by the evening and send them to the government, which would be sanctioned immediately, Jagan Reddy assured. The government already sanctioned at least Rs. 20 lakh per

each village and ward secretariat and all this money would be spent based on the suggestions of the ruling party MLA or party in-charges of the Assembly constituency.

The State government already sanctioned 5,000 works, out of the 11,000 work proposals received from the MLAs across the State.

# Centre committed on Vizag Railway Zone: Sai Reddy

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA



YSRCP general secretary and Rajya Sabha MP V. Vijay Sai Reddy has reacted swiftly on the reports that Visakhapatnam railway zone was not feasible. Sai Reddy made it clear that there was no such discussion at all at the meeting and the Railway Board officials did not make any observation on Visakhapatnam railway zone. Stating that the YSRCP and leaders of north coastal Andhra had been fighting for the Vizag railway zone, Sai Reddy announced that if the Centre didn't grant the railway zone, he would quit and take up a big fight.

**VIJAY SAI REDDY SAID:** "I am confident that the Centre will clear the railway zone, as it was approved by the Union parliament in 2019 itself. Union railway minister Ashwini Vaishnav also announced that the construction of offices for the railway zone would begin soon and how can they go back now?"

The reports are making rounds that the Railway Board has rejected the proposal setting up a separate railway zone for Visakhapatnam as

promised in the AP Reorganisation Act. As per the reports on the meeting convened by the Union home ministry on Tuesday to discuss the pending issues of AP-Telangana as per the AP Reorganisation Act, the issue of separate railway zone for Visakhapatnam came up. But the railway board officials reportedly made it clear that though the Centre had okayed the proposal long ago, the detailed project report was not submitted by the board because it was financially viable.

# CM commissions Ramco Cement unit

## Rs 2,500-cr investment in the unit provides 1,000 jobs

PNS ■ NANDYAL

Asserting that the proactive policies of the government were paving way for rapid industrial growth, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said the conducive atmosphere and transparent policies reflected in the top rankings in Ease of Doing Business the State has been getting.

Addressing a large gathering after commissioning the Rs 2,500-crore Ramco Cements at Kalwatala near Nandyal on Wednesday, the Chief Minister congratulated the group for coming to Andhra Pradesh and starting the unit in record time, which would be providing jobs to over 1,000 and said that they would provide all help in further expansion of the unit.

"The Chief Minister is just a phone call away and the government will render all help to you in the manner it should be rendered," he said.

"Ramco unit could come to steam in just 30 months, which speaks of the cooperation and support our Government has extended and the same will continue in running the plant," he said, adding that the clinker and grinding capacity would take the production to 3 million tonnes. Despite heavy limestone deposits in the region, there was no development earlier and with the unit coming a new chapter has begun.

Stressing the need to promote green energy, the Chief Minister said



**Ramco unit could come to steam in just 30 months, which speaks of the cooperation and support our Government has extended and the same will continue in running the plant.**

The clinker and grinding capacity would take the production to 3 million tonnes. Despite heavy limestone deposits in the region, there was no development earlier and with the unit coming a new chapter has begun.

The Chief Minister said that if farmers came forward an annuity of Rs 30,000 per acre would be paid to them and the government would enter into an agreement with them with a hike of five percent lease amount every three years.

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The land would be utilised for setting up of renewable energy like

solar and wind and the local MLAs and others can work on it and it would be better if a cluster of 1,500 to 2,000 acres was formed in the region for generating 500 MW power.

# Jagan adopting cheap tricks: Kanakamedala

## CM keeping mum despite serious moves to privatise Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The Railway Board has already made it clear that setting up of the railway zone was not possible while the Centre, too, said that there was no comprehensive detailed project report (DPR) on the zone till now and that it was not profitable, observed Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar, TDP Rajya Sabha member, at a press conference on Wednesday. Despite all these developments, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy was maintaining silence, he remarked.

Kanakamedala criticised that the



government in Andhra Pradesh was keeping mum though there were serious moves to privatise the

Instead of thinking of alternatives like merging the steel plant with the Steel Authority of India (SAIL) or taking over by the State government, the ruling party was simply maintaining silence, observed Kanakamedala. On the other hand, the State government was misleading the people by claiming that it was strongly opposed to privatisation of the plant.

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. Instead of thinking of alternatives like merging the steel plant with the

Steel Authority of India (SAIL) or taking over by the State government, the ruling party was simply maintaining silence, observed Kanakamedala. On the other hand, the State government was misleading the people by claiming that it was strongly opposed to privatisation of the plant, he added.

Stating that the YSRCP was frequently changing tack on the Visakhapatnam railway zone, he asked what was preventing the ruling party leaders from demanding the railway zone from the Centre.

## YSRCP colours replace Hindu gods: Chandrababu Naidu

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

TDP president N. Chandrababu Naidu stated that he was shocked to see images of Hindu gods and goddesses in the temple town were replaced with YSRCP colours, on Wednesday. He also tweeted the same on his official Twitter handle, along with a photo exposing the change of colours on a wall in Tirupati.

# ‘Implement committee report on TTD’

## Dikshitulu made the demand on Twitter, deleted the tweet within hours

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Ramana Dikshitulu, priest of Tirupati Tirumala Devasthanams (TTD), took to Twitter to urge Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to address the long-pending problems of archakas in TTD, on Wednesday. Surprisingly, within hours, he deleted the tweet without giving any clarification.

Pinging Jagan Reddy's official Twitter handle, Dikshitulu stated: "@ysjagan All archakas desperately waited for ur announcement on implementation of one man com-



mittee report. Badly disappointed. Necessary to do it before archaka and temple systems are demolished by anti brahmin forces in TTD."

Reacting to this tweet, there were some critical comments made against him by some persons.

Meanwhile, he deleted the post. The State government appointed a one-man committee in July 2021 to examine the service issues involved in the Hereditary Archakatvam of TTD and suggest steps for its effective implementation. Former High Court judge Justice Dr B Siva Sankara Rao studied the issue and submitted a report to the government.

Now, Ramana Dikshitulu has taken to Twitter to demand action on the report, as his interests were also involved in it, according to the sources in the government.

**TODAY**

**ALMANAC**

**Month & Paksham:**  
Tithi: Chaturthi:  
Panchami:  
Nakshatram:  
Vishaka:  
Anuradha:  
Rahukalam:  
Yamagandam:  
Varjyam:  
Gulika:  
Amritakalam:  
Bhijiti Muhurtham:

**VIJAYAWADA WEATHER**

**Forecast:** Thunderstorm  
**Temp:** 31°C  
**Humidity:** 85%  
**Sunrise:** 5:57 AM  
**Sunset:** 5:58 PM  
**Updated:** SEPTEMBER 28, 2022 5:00 PM

# Study finds 200% increase in heart attack queries

SIDDHARTH KUMAR SINGH  
■ HYDERABAD

Heart disease is the number one cause of mortality and a silent epidemic among Indians. Public health estimates indicate that India accounts for approximately 60 per cent of the world's heart disease burden, despite having less than 20 per cent of the world's population.

In connection with the World Heart Day on Thursday, healthcare company Practo conducted a deep dive into India's heart health trends and witnessed a 200 per cent increase in queries related to heart attacks over the last three months. Tier 1 cities, including Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai and Pune, received 75 per cent of the queries in heart attacks. Besides, there has been a 60% increase in queries on hypertension over the last three months. While 92% of these queries come from tier 1 cities, only 7 per cent of them originated from tier 2 cities. This could be



due to the lack of awareness around heart health in smaller towns and villages. The study also found that cardiology has become one of the top 5 emerging specialties on the firm's platform. About 56 per cent of the consultations came from the 30-39 years age group. From these, 75 per cent were men and remaining women. This only goes to show how heart health is not

necessarily related to age and has become a lifestyle issue with Covid-19 being one of its trigger points.

Also, reports of the demise of many well-known personalities due to heart-related issues have impacted the general awareness about heart health. They have resulted in increased caution, especially among the urban populations living in metro cities.

## Advances in medical tech address CVDs

Cardiovascular Diseases (CVDs) are a group of disorders involving the heart and blood vessels, which, as per the World Health Organization (WHO), result in 30 per cent of global mortality. Out of the total, 85 per cent of the deaths are due to heart or brain attack. The prevalence of CVDs among middle-aged individuals in India is about 30 per cent, making it a very important target for prevention and treatment. Dr Varsha Kiron, Consultant Cardiologist, Apollo Hospitals Jubilee Hills, said: "There are many recent advances in medical technology aimed at treating the burden on CVDs." They include wearable devices that can be used for monitoring the heart rate.



## CM offers prayers at Tirumala

PNS ■ TIRUMALA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy offered prayers at the Tirumala temple on Wednesday. On his arrival at Mahadwaram, he was welcomed by TTD Chairman YV Subba Reddy and Executive Officer AV Dharma Reddy while the traditional Isthiakaphal welcome was rendered by the religious staff amidst the chanting of mantras. After the darshan of Venkateswara Swamy, he was

offered Vedaservachanam and Thirtha Prasadam by the Vedic scholars at Ranganayakula Mandapam. MPs, ministers and other dignitaries were present. The Chief Minister inaugurated the Parakamani building constructed spending Rs. 23 crore in Tirumala on Wednesday. Later, he also opened the renovated VPR Rest House constructed by Vemireddi Prabhakar Reddy MP.



# ‘Ensure every girl is educated’

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

S Suresh Kumar, Commissioner of School Education, State Project Director (SPD), has said all people should take the responsibility to ensure that every girl is educated. Girls should be encouraged to excel in all fields. He inaugurated the Project Kasturi programme, which was jointly organised by Samagra Siksha and Room to Read organisation here on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner said that education was a bridge to life and that every student should work on their reading skills, creativity, life skills and self-confidence. He said that education should be used not only for employment, but also for acquiring knowledge. The students should be encouraged to



review the books they have read and should be trained to be optimistic about life.

He said that the Room to Read programme would be launched, on an experimental basis, for the students of Classes 6, 7 and 8 of KGBVs in Chapadu, Duvvuru, Khazipeta, Mydukur, Valluru and

Pendlimarri of Kadapa district.

As part of this, 10 life skills such as self-confidence, expressing emotions, controlling, empathy, self-control, critical thinking, making decisions, working persistently, conveying emotions, solving problems creatively, building

relationships etc., will be taught. The Commissioner also stated that the programme would be implemented across the State in the coming two to three years.

Addressing the gathering, Room to Read State representative K Narasimhachari said that with the implementation of Project Kasturi, by the time every girl completes 12th standard, her life skills would improve and she would be able to make right decisions in difficult situations in life.

Samagra Siksha SAPD B Srinivasa Rao, Joint Director (Services) Muvva Ramalingam, KGBV Secretary G Nagamani, Room to Read programme officer D Sadasiva Reddy, representatives of several social organisations, principals and Contract Resident Teachers of KGBV of Kadapa district were present.

Row over river water; SC permits Andhra to withdraw 19-yr-old suit against Karnataka

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday closed a lawsuit filed nearly two decades ago by Andhra Pradesh against Karnataka seeking direction to the Centre to set up the inter-state river water tribunal to resolve the dispute over sharing of the river North Pennar water between them. A bench comprising Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and Justices S Ravindra Bhat and J B Pardiwala took note of the fact that much water has flown since 2003 when the original suit was filed by Andhra Pradesh.

The apex court permitted Andhra Pradesh to withdraw the lawsuit to seek other remedies including approaching the Centre for constituting the river tribunal.



## ‘Hiked pension of Rs 2,750 from Jan’

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Housing Jogi Ramesh has said that the State government has decided to increase Pension Kanuka to Rs. 2,750 from January 2023. The pension would again be increased up to Rs. 3,000 by January 2024. The minister distributed financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 5.67 crore under Cheyutha to 3,023 women beneficiaries, at a function held at Guduru of Krishna district on Tuesday.

Addressing the gathering, the minister said that the State government was implementing so many welfare schemes like Cheyutha, Amma Vodi and the zero interest scheme to uplift the women in the

State. “So far, every woman beneficiary has got Rs. 56,250 in three tranches and they will be given another Rs.18,750 the next year,” he said.

He further said that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had promised to give Rs. 75,000 to every person belonging to SCs, STs and BCs, and women in the age group of 45-60 years within four years. “As part of his promises, the CM has been implementing these women empowerment schemes by crediting the amount to their accounts,” he said.

He reiterated that the YSRCP government had been providing benefits of welfare schemes to all, irrespective of caste, creed and politics.

Akash Ambani, Amrapali Gan on TIME100 emerging leaders’ list

PNS ■ NEW YORK

Reliance Jio Chairman Akash Ambani and subscription social platform ‘OnlyFans’ Indian-origin CEO Amrapali Gan have been named by TIME magazine in the TIME100Next list that recognises ‘rising stars from across industries and around the world.’

The TIME100 Next list is inspired by the publication's flagship TIME100 list of the world's most powerful people.

The TIME100Next recognises 100 rising stars from across industries and around the world. What unites these individuals are their extraordinary efforts to shape our world and define our future.

The 2022 TIME100Next list features musicians as well as medical professionals, government officials as well as movement leaders, and high-profile whistle-blowers alongside top CEOs all curated by TIME's journalists and informed by their reporting, it said.



## Govt extends free ration scheme for poor by 3 months

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of assembly elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, the government on Wednesday extended by three months its programme to provide free rations to the poor at a cost of Rs 44,762 crore as it looked to ease pain from high inflation.

The scheme to provide 5 kg of wheat and rice free of cost to 80 crore poor every month, which was ending on Friday, will now run through December 31, 2022, I&B Minister Anurag Thakur said.

The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a meeting on Wednesday decided to extend the scheme by three months, he said.

The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) was started in April 2020 to help the poor whose livelihoods were shattered by a nationwide lockdown aimed at containing the spread of the Coronavirus. The scheme has been extended multiple times and was to end on Friday.

"At a time when the world

is battling with the effects of Covid on its decline and insecurity due to various reasons, India has been successfully maintaining food security for its vulnerable sections while taking necessary steps to keep availability and affordability for common man," an official statement said.

"Recognising that people have gone through a difficult period of pandemic, government has decided to extend PMGKAY for a period of three months so that poor and vulnerable sections of society are supported for the forthcoming major festivals."

Under this scheme, 5 kg of foodgrain per person per month is provided free of cost for all the beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

Thakur said the government has so far spent Rs 3.45 lakh crore on the PMGKAY scheme since its launch in April 2020.

With the additional expenditure of about Rs 44,762 crore for the latest extension, the overall expenditure of the PMGKAY will be about Rs 3.91 lakh crore for all the phases, he said.

## Improve 108, 104 ambulance services: Principal Secretary

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Health and Family Welfare Principal Secretary MT Krishna Babu has expressed dissatisfaction over the performance of 108 and 104 ambulance services. The Principal Secretary stated that earlier, the IT department in Aarogyasri Trust had performed well, but the performance of the current IT department was not satisfactory.

The Principal Secretary held a review meeting with the officials concerned on Wednesday and directed Dr YSR Aarogyasri Health Trust CEO to set up an efficient partner and questioned the Akshara representatives on the steps taken to improve their work style.

He asked the officials about the delay in the repair of the 108 vehicles and was outraged as the 108 vehicles had no GPS. Officers were



asked who was responsible for 164 vehicles out of 748 vehicles not having GPS tracking. He directed them to maintain a buffer stock in all the districts when the officials informed him that due to lack of buffer stock, the services of the 108 were weakened.

He pointed out that there was no supervision by the nodal officer in case of non-functioning and old vehicles and enquired about the tracking system of the 104 vehicles. He was outraged at the technical head

for lack of tracking and directed to improve the system with immediate action.

GPS and Geo-Facing of vehicles should be improved, and if that is not possible, the CEO of YSR Arogya Shree Health Care Trust has been instructed to go to the retender. Krishna Babu instructed the Additional CEO and the Nodal Officer to improve their performances. If there is no improvement within two weeks, action will be taken, he warned.

## Countrymen experienced Lord Ram through songs of Lata: Modi

PNS ■ AYODHYA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday dedicated a road junction here to the memory of legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar, saying people experienced Lord Ram through her songs.

Modi described the deity, for whom a grand temple is coming up in the city, as a symbol of the country.

"From Ayodhya to Rameswaram, Ram exists in

every particle of India," he said in a recorded message played out at the event on the birth anniversary of the singer.

Modi said the sweetness of the singer's voice mesmerised him every time he spoke to her.

Be it the "Shri Ramchandra Kripalu Bhaji Mann, Haran Bhava Bhaya Darunam" mantra or hymns like "Payo Ji Maine Ram Ratan Dhan Payo" of Mirabai and Mahatma Gandhi's favourite "Vaishnav Jan", many countrymen had

the darshan of Lord Ram through her songs, the prime minister said.

Modi recalled that after the "bhoomi puja" of the Ram temple here, he got a call from Lata didi who expressed great happiness at the development.

The prime minister referred to a hymn sung by the singer, "Mann ki Ayodhya Tab Tak Sooni, Jab Tak Ram Na Aaye", and said her name is now permanently associated with the holy city.

"Lord Rama is about to arrive in the grand temple of Ayodhya," he said referring to the temple.

Quoting the Ram Charit Manas, Modi recited "Ram te adhik, Ram kar dasa", which means devotees of Lord Rama arrive before the Lord's arrival. The Lata Mangeshkar chowk built in her memory has come up before the completion of the grand temple, he noted.

Underlining that the veena of Goddess Saraswati installed

at the chowk will become a symbol of musical practice, the prime minister said 92 white lotuses made of marble in the flowing waters of the lake in the chowk complex represent the life span of the singer.

The 40-ft-long and 12-metre-high veena weighs 14 tonnes.

"Lata Ji was one such seeker of Maa Saraswati, who stunned the whole world with her divine voice. Lata Ji did 'sadhana', we all got the boon!", he

said, adding the mantras recited by her echoed her faith, spirituality and purity.

On the occasion, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said his party's double-engine government is determined to develop every place having religious and spiritual significance.

Lata Mangeshkar's family members Adinath and Krishna Mangeshkar, who were also special guests, got emotional at the event.

## CM commissions...

Continued from Page 1

"Recently, we laid the foundation stone at Kurnool for 5400 MW renewable energy projects of solar, wind and pump storage projects of Greenko group, which would provide 2,600 jobs.

We have also given the nod for Indosol, Arcelor Mittal, Aurobindo and Adani groups for an investment of Rs 72,188 crore providing 20,000 jobs to locals as 75 percent reservation for locals are in place.

"We have got top ranking in EoDB in the country for the past three years and the format seeks feedback from the industries for the grading, which shows how conducive the atmosphere is for industrialisation besides achieving 11.34 percent growth rate in 2021-22. Recently, we started a Rs 1,000-crore unit of Grasim industries, where 1,150 jobs

were created and in the Apache Group at Chittoor and Pulivendula. Rs 700-crore investments had come in giving jobs to 10,000 people. Investments worth Rs 1,700 crore have also come in through TCL Panels providing 3,100 jobs, and Rs 2,200 crore through ATC Tires in Vizag creating 2,000 jobs. We have also started four ports and nine fishing harbours, which will help the exports to double from Rs 1.70 lakh crore to Rs 3.4 lakh crore in five years. The three industrial corridors, mega industrial hub and EMC at Koppurthi and one more in Chittoor would be coming up and the youth would be getting jobs," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister Amzad Basha, Ministers P Ramachandra Reddy, B Rajendranath Reddy, G Amarnath, MPs, MLAs, officials and others were present.

## Centre committed on Vizag Railway Zone: Sai Reddy

Continued from Page 1

When the AP government raised an objection to it, Union Home Ministry official Ajay Bhalla said it was not proper to take a decision at the official level and a note had to be sent to the Union cabinet to take a call. Since it was mentioned in the AP Reorganisation Act, it is for the cabinet to take a decision after prolonged discussion, the Union Home Secretary told the Railway Board officials.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹194
Without Skin	₹221
Broiler at Farm	₹112

EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	411
HYDERABAD	412
VISAKHAPATNAM	413
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.11
(IN VIJAYAWADA)	

## Advances in medical...

Continued from Page 1

Today, advanced medical devices, including Apple Watch and Samsung Galaxy Watch, have an electrical heart rate sensor, which enables them to take a single lead ECG. This makes remote diagnosis of dangerous heart rhythm abnormalities very easy.

Further, Covid-19 pandemic has paved the way for significant uptake of telemedicine in the form of online consultations and e-ICU set-ups. Availability of biosensor patches has made the idea of remote e-ICU a

reality, since a wide variety of vital signs and continuous ECG can be monitored remotely by a physician.

On remote cardiac monitoring, Dr Varsha said the process empowered patients in managing their health and resulted in significant reduction in the need for emergency hospitalization by 65 per cent. TIM-HF2 trial showed the importance of daily wireless transmission of body weight, BP, heart rhythm, and oxygen saturation in prevention of unplanned heart failure hospitalizations.

Instead, the YSRCP leaders were adopting a negligent attitude and resorting to cheap politics which became a bane for the State, he observed.

The TDP MP believes that the Centre was not taking any initiative to resolve the disputes between the two Telugu States arising out of the State Reorganisation Act. There was

no positive outcome even after the Union Home Ministry's meeting with representatives of the two Telugu States and the officers who attended the meeting did not open their mouth whether they have given any clarity on the issues haunting the State, Kanakamedala maintained.

"As a TDP member, I have raised several questions on the floor of the Rajya Sabha on implementing the promises

made to the State in the Reorganisation Act. I even demanded the Centre to come out with the details on what is done to Andhra Pradesh for its development," he said, and maintained that the Centre, in reply to his questions, only made it clear that the State had not paid its share for the combined projects. Thus, there was no progress in the Centrally-sponsored projects, he observed.

## If you don't change, I will change...

Continued from Page 1

Jagan Reddy warned that if the MLAs did not spend qualitative time in a village and send the proposal for a work, then it would not be accepted and money would not be released. In such cases, the MLAs have to visit the same villages again, he made it clear.

Denying the dynasty politics, he instructed the party leaders not to allow their family members to visit the villages on behalf of them, for the Gadapa Gadapaku programme. He said that, if anybody sent their family members for the programme, then it would not be considered as the MLA worked. The MLAs are mandated to spend at least 16

days in a month in the villages.

The Chief Minister revealed the survey reports presented by the I-PAC and others. He also suggested that the regional coordinators improve their performances and be in touch with the MLAs for their requirements.

How survey reports are being prepared and analysed YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has been getting altogether five survey reports on a daily basis and analysing them. The I-PAC has been providing the primary and first hand survey report on each Assembly constituency and on the performance of each MLA. Since the Gadapa Gadapaku is the government's programme, the Chief Minister has been getting

the reports from village and ward secretariats. In addition to that, both Sakshi and YSRCP have been preparing the reports on the performance and day-to-day activities of the MLAs, party in-charges and ministers. Above four reports, the YSRCP has been getting one more survey report by an expert agency on a random basis. The team of experts, sitting at the headquarters, have been analysing all these five reports and based on the comparative analysis, they have been giving rankings to the party leaders. The party has been doing this exercise to eliminate the possibility of getting wrong information, according to the sources in the party.

## YSRCP colours replace...

Continued from Page 1

Chandrababu Naidu tweeted: "Shocked to see images of Hindu Gods & Goddesses in the temple town of #Tirupati being replaced with party colours of ruling YSR Congress Party. Devotees are seething with anger over these targeted acts of insulting Hinduism."

The TDP supremo observed that the colours were changed on the occasion of the arrival of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to the TTD to offer silk clothes.

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## Scuffle between cops and priests at Kanaka Durga Temple

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Trouble broke out on the premises of the Durga temple as the police tried to take charge of the entire supervision of the Dasara Sarannavaratri celebrations atop Indrakeeladri. The on-duty police prevented the Durga temple priests from entering the temple premises on Wednesday, leading to a scuffle between the cops and the priests. Though the priests had valid passes for free movement, the police stopped them many times. Kanaka Durga Temple Upa Pradhana Archaka Kota Ravi and Sthanacharya Vishnu Prasad Sarma requested the police not to obstruct their movement, but the cops stuck to their stand. The police claimed that they locked the gates following



instructions from Temple Executive Officer D Bhramaramba. However, the police officers, who were present, did not intervene and solve the problem. The priests were made to wait until NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao intervened in the issue. He said that the police apologised to the priests and the problem was solved. However, the

Collector told reporters that they checked the CC Camera footage and the priests failed to identify the particular police constable. "If anyone identifies the constable, action can be taken against him," he added. He appealed to all department staff to work in coordination for the smooth conduct of the Dasara celebrations. Due to the scorching

heat and rush of the devotees, the police constable might have been irritated and he stopped the priest, he added. Upa Pradhana Archaka Kota Ravi said the police were reluctant to open the gates even though the problem was reported to EO Bhramaramba. "I rang Additional DCP Lakshmi, who asked me to put the phone on speaker. However, the police were reluctant to speak to the ADCP," he said. The temple priests complained that it had become really difficult to discharge their duties during the Dasara celebrations. This was not the first time the priests were mistreated, they said. The passes issued to the priests and staff were not taken into consideration, they said.

## Overwhelming response to Amaravati farmers' padayatra

PNS ■ ELURU

The 'Amaravati to Arasavalli padayatra', being taken out by the farmers of the Capital region opposing three capital cities concept, received overwhelming response here on Wednesday. The padayatra entered 17 th day today.

The padayatra began at Kotturu near here this morning after performing pooja to the chariot. TDP Eluru constituency in-charge Badeti Chanti welcomed the padayatra at Venkayapalem. The participants garlanded the statue of Ambedkar. The padayatra went via merchant chamber kalyana mandapam, YMC hall, Vijaya watch company, Vasavi silks, first station centre, GV mall and powerpet railway gate.

After lunch halt at Malkapuram, the padayatra went forward for 15 KM and halted for the day at Kovvali village. TDP,



Janasena, CPI and CPM leaders extended solidarity to the padayatra. Slogans raised by the participants

resonated with the area. A huge response was received when the padayatra entered Denduluru

constituency. The local people welcome the padayatra by offering harathi and throwing flowers.



## 'Mala fide campaign on wall colours derogatory'

PNS ■ AMARAVATHI

Reacting to the criticism launched by the TDP and its president N Chandrababu Naidu over change of the colours to walls in Tirupati, the Fact Check team of the State Andhra Pradesh stated that it was a mala fide

campaign. "The mala fide campaign about the Tirupati city wall paintings is derogatory in nature. The beautification work is being carried out across the city where faded wall paintings are being painted over with new artwork featuring national heroes in prominent areas of the city," the team said.

## Vets to be appointed to take care of police dogs

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Taneti Vanitha was the chief guest at the passing-out parade of the 20th batch of canines held at the Canine Training Centre, sixth APSP battalion, on Wednesday. On the occasion, the Home Minister presented awards to the trained dogs that excelled during the training programme. Harish Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary to Home, was the guest of honour, while P.S.R. Anjaneyulu, DGP, Intelligence; Alla Ramakrishna, M.L.A., Mangalagiri, and senior officials were present.

The Home Minister said that at present, there were 177 dogs in the dog squad of the Andhra Pradesh Intelligence Security Wing and another 35 would be added. She announced that



the State government had issued orders to appoint veterinary specialists to take care of the health of the dogs.

She said that the AP Police Department was working efficiently and rendering the best services to the public. The AP police were on top in using modern technology and making good use of canines.

The officials said that eight-month-long basic training of 35 canines and 52 handlers, which commenced

on February 2, successfully concluded on Wednesday. They were trained in detection of explosives, tracking and assault categories.

The canine breeds, which have undergone training, include Labrador (21), Belgian Malinois (10), Golden Retriever (2) and Cocker Spaniel (2). They have been specially chosen as per their traits and breed pedigree vis-a-vis the requirements.

These 35 canines will go to various districts/Commissionerates in the State, ISW, Greyhounds, OCTOPUS and TTD to perform the respective duties. The canine temporary training institute started functioning at Mangalagiri in 2017. So far, four batches consisting of 124 canines and 175 handlers have been trained there.

## YSRCP leaders looting AP: Kalva Srinivasulu

PNS ■ AMARAVATHI

TDP politburo member Kalva Srinivasulu came down heavily on YSRCP saying that they had been looting the natural resources in the State for the past three years, at a press conference on Wednesday.

Srinivasulu said that costly minerals like granite were being illegally grabbed in Rayalaseema region under the directions of Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy, Minister for Forests and Minerals. Even qualified businessmen in mining were not allowed to enter this business by the YSRCP leaders, he added.

The former minister said that the iron ore mines in 25 hectares near H Siddapuram Tanda on the border of Obulapuram village, closer to Bellary on the border district of Anantapur are allotted to Andhra Pradesh

Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC) through a gazette notification. Later, a private contractor from Telangana was allotted these mines through the APMDC, he said.

"Had the iron ore mines been allocated to Kadapa Steel Plant they would have been diverted to captive mining in the name of the same steel plant," he said. But through APMDC, a major contractor from AMR Company grabbed this and an agreement has already been entered into, Kalva Srinivasulu stated.

The YSRCP leaders are almost ruling the roost in the mining sector, including sand, the TDP politburo member remarked and expressed serious concern that there was no one to stop this looting as a minister's hand is suspected in this. The former minister termed this as the part-II of the Obulapuram mining scam.

## Welfare schemes being implemented for uplift of women: Sucharita



PNS ■ GUNTUR

YSRCP MLA and former Home Minister Mekathoti Sucharita has reiterated that the Jagan Mohan Reddy headed government is implementing various schemes for the uplift of women.

Sucharita participated in a programme held in ZP high school in Vatticherukuru village. Speaking on the occasion she said that 2,272

women beneficiaries in Vatticherukuru mandal were disbursed Rs 4.26 crore and the amount was credited into their bank accounts under the YSR Cheyutha scheme, she said.

Through the YSR Cheyutha scheme, women aged 45 to 60 years would be disbursed a financial assistance of Rs.75, 000 in four years at the rate of Rs.18,750 per year.

"The government has taken all steps to extend loans to the eligible women through banks to make enthusiastic women entrepreneurs. The government has signed MoUs with reputed companies to extend the required help and technology to the women", she said. MPDO, DWACRA women and YSRCP leaders were among those who attended the programme.



## Cube Highway disburses Rs 1500 pension to road expansion oustees

PNS ■ NARASARAOPET

Collector L Shiva Shankar has appreciated the Cube Highway company for giving Rs 1500 pension to those who have lost their livelihood in the expansion of national highway.

A programme was held in Piduguralla in which the representatives of Singapore based Cube Highway Company handed over pensions to those who lost livelihood during the construction of Addanki-Narketpally-Medarametla express highway.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that he was seeing for the first time the contract company itself extending help to those who lost livelihood due to the construction of the highway.

He expressed happiness that Cube Routes Highway has provided education, employment and adequate skill training through many social programs to the victims whose livelihoods had been damaged due to the expansion of the highway and provided pension facilities for three years.

The Collector said that they would provide their support for such social programs. The representatives of the company were advised to provide the necessary skill training, education, employment opportunities and better livelihood opportunities to the affected families by taking the cooperation of mandal and district level officials. Cubes Advisory CEO Hari Kishan Reddy, Cubes President Dr. HM Karna, advisors Dr. Ashok Sharma, Chief E&S Officer Damodar Reddy explained the activities of the organization, expansion of national highways and social services.

The representatives of the Cubes Company said that their social services had come to halt due to the Coronavirus pandemic for two years. They informed that the 230 victims who lost their livelihood in the expansion of the national highway would be given a pension of Rs.1500 per month for three years. Piduguralla Tahasilar and municipal commissioner were among those who were present.

## Temple officials fail to implement protocol for VVIPs

Deputy CM Budi Mutyala Naidu stopped by security staff at gate

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanams officials have failed to implement a protocol for the VVIPs during the Dasara festivities atop Indrakeeladri. On Wednesday, the temple security staff prevented Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Budi Mutyala Naidu at the main entrance of the temple. Learning of this incident, Durga Temple Executive Officer (EO) D Bhramaramba reached the gate and took the minister inside the temple.

During the ongoing Dasara festivities atop Indrakeeladri, the district administration, police, and the Durga temple authorities have failed to implement protocol even for the people's representatives and judges. On Tuesday, the security officials prevented a judge from entering the temple for taking darshan.

The police officials took Deputy Chief Minister Budi Mutyala Naidu to the main entrance gate and went back. However, the temple's security staff locked the gate and refused to open it. He waited for a while and later, he went into the temple through another gate instead of the VIP entrance. Hearing about this, EO Bhramaramba took the Deputy CM inside the temple for a dar-



shan. Minister Mutyala Naidu had Durga Devi darshan and performed pujas at the temple. Later, the Vedic scholars gave blessings to the minister and Bhramaramba offered Sheshavastalu and Laddu Prasadam.

Unfortunately, this was not the first instance of violation of protocol for the VVIPs at the Durga temple. Even Minister for Endowment Kottu Satyanarayana was ignored by the temple officials, police and the district administration. The minister inspected

the entire arrangements and observed the facilities that were provided for the devotees, but no one implemented a protocol for him. Another Deputy CM Budi Mutyala Naidu has received the same treatment.

It is learnt that the departments failed to coordinate with one another and the police department took charge of security. The police officials are having darshans as per their wish and neglecting the remaining departments. Even the people's representatives were neglected, they alleged.

## 570 quintal PDS rice seized

PNS ■ GUNTUR

The Vigilance and Enforcement officials conducted a raid on an old spinning

mill, located opposite to the market yard in Chilakaluripet, and seized 570 ration rice on Wednesday.

The officials said that on a

tip off the enforcement official conducted a raid on an old rice mill and found 570 quintal of PDS rice. The PDS rice was illegally hoarded to export to foreign countries through the Kakinada port.

The officials found 4 lorries in the rice mill through

which the PDS was being transported. The officials found 1140 bags of PDS rice weighing 570 quintal. Criminal cases under section 6-A were registered on the lorry owners, drivers and Aluru Chinnabaiiah who indulged in exporting PDS rice illegally.

## Heavy rains likely in AP: Met

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Heavy rains are likely at isolated places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema during the next four days.

Heavy rains occurred at one or two places over Krishna and Kurnool districts during the last 24 hours.

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Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema during the next four days.

Heavy rains occurred at one or two places over Krishna and Kurnool districts during the last 24 hours.

## Gurram Jashuva's statue unveiled



PNS ■ NARASARAOPET

The statue of renowned Telugu poet Gurram Jashuva was unveiled at railway station road in Sattenapalli on Wednesday on the occasion of his 127 th birth anniversary. Minister Ambati Rambabu and MLC Dokka Manikya Varaprasad participated in the programme.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Minister for Water Resources Ambati

Rambabu said that Gurram Jashuva was proud of Telugus. The literature of Jashuva influenced many people. He was born in Dalit family and he fought against socio disparity, he recalled.

MLC Dokka said that said that the culture revolution should come in the Dalit social groups and they should compete with the member society with the ideology of consciousness and move forward.





## Sri Annapurna Devi alankaram today

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Goddess Sri Annapurna Devi is worshipped as the goddess of the fourth day, Aswijyuja Suddha Chavithi, and one of the manifestations of Durga during Dasara celebrations.

In this attire, goddess Kanaka Durga is decorated as Sri Annapurna Devi with a feeding bowl and spatula or ladle in her hands to serve food; and, Lord

Shiva stands at her doorstep urging her for food. Sri Annapurna Devi, who is the presiding deity of 'anna' (food), in this attire, blesses her devotees with enough food. This alankaram conveys to the devotees that Lord Shiva himself begged her for some food. One should seek her blessings and give him or her 'anna'. The only mother who feeds all the creatures is Sri Annapurna Devi, say temple priests.

## Ministers visit Durga Devi Temple

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Deputy Chief Minister Budi Mutyala Naidu, Minister for Education Botsa Satyanarayana, and Minister for Civil Supplies Karumuri Nageswara Rao visited the Durga Devi temple during the 10-day Dasara celebrations. Durga temple Executive Officer (EO) D Bramaramba and priests welcomed them as per the temple rituals and provided a darshan.

Also, MP Thota Trimurthulu, Kapu Corporation Chairman Adapa Sheshagiri and other VIPs took a dar-

shan. After taking darshan, the temple Vedic scholars gave blessings to the ministers and other VIPs and they offered Shesha Vastralu and Durga Devi Laddu Prasadam.

Meanwhile, on the third day, NTR district collector S Dilli Rao, Police Commissioner Kanti Rana Tata along with their staff visited the temple and interacted with the devotees. They went through queue lines and enquired about the facilities provided by the temple authorities.



## Snapana Tirumanjanam held at Tirumala

PNS ■ TIRUMALA

It's not just the Desi cereals, fruits, flowers and spices that sanctify their lives in the divine service, but also the apples from Japan, grapes from Muscat, pears from Korea, mangoes from Thailand and cherries from America that sailed all their way from their homelands to bliss their lives in the service of Sri Venkateswara.

On Wednesday, Snapana Tirumanjanam was held in Ranganayakula Mandapam. The processional deities of Sri Malayappa flanked by Sridevi and Bhudevi were seated on a special platform and were offered the sacred bath with aromatic ingredients.

The special arrangements by the garden wing of TTD to match the occasion stood as a special attraction. Apart from decorating the stage with one tonne colourful flowers, orchids, fruits, creepers, the

garlands that were offered to Malayappa remained unique. For the first time, the garlands made of finger millet (Ragi Mala) remained a cynosure besides green Pavitras and coral malas, which have also made their maiden way in Snapana Tirumanjanam in addition to cardomom, cuscus, grapes and tulsi garlands. According to Garden Deputy Director Sri Srinivasulu, this year, lichis from Thailand, Australian pink and black grapes and other fruits from various countries have been offered to the deities as Naivedyam. The decorations were specially made by florists from Chennai, who worked on the magical set up for four days, he added. HH Pedda Jeeyar Swamy, HH Chinna Jeeyar Swamy of Tirumala, TTD EO AV Dharma Reddy, Temple DyEO Ramesh Babu and other dignitaries, temple officials were present in the holy event that took place amidst the chanting of Vedic mantras.

## Fire crackers seized, two arrested

PNS ■ ELURU

Fire crackers worth over Rs 1 lakh were seized by the police at RK Puram village in Buttayagudem mandal on Wednesday and arrested two persons.

Police said that on a tip off that a huge quantity of fire crackers

were hoarded in a house at the village conducted a raid and found 645 KGs fire crackers. The fire crackers were illegally stocked in the house to sell during Deepavali festival.

The police arrested two persons in this connection.



## Tank adjacent to Shilparamam will be developed: Civic chief

PNS ■ GUNTUR

The irrigation tank which is located adjacent to the Shilparamam, will be developed by the ITC under the Corporates Social Responsibility.

Guntur municipal corporation Commissioner Keerthi Chekuri inspected the Shilparamam and the irrigation tank along with the ITC representatives here on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, she said that the ITC had come forward to develop the tank located adjacent to Shilparamam under the CSR programme. "If the Shilparamam is set up here, the entire area will be developed. The movement of people will increase in the area if the Shilparamam is established and the Shilparamam will become one of the most attractive places in the district", she said. The Commissioner directed the city planner to conduct a comprehensive survey of the tank and submit a report. She also asked the ITC representatives to start the development works of the tank by removing bushes, weeds and creepers.

Commissioner Keerthi said that a team would be formed comprising DEE, AE and ADH of the municipal corporation to extend all needed help to the ITC in developing the tank. She said that boating would come up in the tank and a walking track around the tank would also be constructed.

Later the municipal commissioner



inspected the multi-storeyed buildings which had applied for the NOC. She made it clear that the NOC would be issued to those who construct buildings as per the plan. The NOC would not be issued if constructions were made in the setback portion and in the road widening portion. If the height of the structure is exceeded to the permission given the NOC would not

be issued, she clarified. Every structure must have rainwater pits and the secretariat secretaries would inspect the same, she directed them. SE Bhaskar, City planner Murthy, ITC managers Gowry Naidu, Pawan Kumar, Deekshit and Corporation EE Sundararami Reddy were among those who accompanied the Commissioner.

## AP to be AIDS-free state: Minister Rajini

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Health, Family Welfare and Medical Education Vidadala Rajini has said that Andhra Pradesh will soon become an AID-free State and the AP AIDS Control Society (APSACS) stands first in creating awareness and sensitising people. The minister said that during the present way of life, there is nothing better than good health.

The minister was the chief guest at the inaugural programme of 'Safe Life Club' and 'Red Ribbon Club' established by the Students Activity Centre of KL University under the auspices of the APSACS.

On the occasion, the minister said that Covid pandemic had taught us a lot. Precautionary measures were necessary. Yoga and



nutritious food were very important for a healthy life. She said that a student's role was very important in the Safe Life campaign. Later, the minister unveiled a website, wall poster, fellowship and badges.

State Health Special Secretary, APSACS PD GS Naveen Kumar said that this campaign was to begin

a new start to bring a new life. He said that they were trying to make a change in the society through their hard work.

Everyone is expected to participate in this campaign for the better future of the country.

Meital Rusdia, Chief Field Office for Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana at

UNICEF said that UNICEF was campaigning on the good health of the people and there was a need to campaign against AIDS right from mothers to children. She said TB patients were especially more prone to AIDS and we should unite and work to ensure they don't fall prey to AIDS. She said it was the responsibility of everyone to take this campaign to the people through social media. She further said that people should be made aware about child marriages and pregnancy at a young age along with the health of the people.

KL University Vice Chancellor Dr G Parthasaradhi Verma expressed happiness over starting Safe Life Club under the auspices of the Student Activity Centre in the University.

## BCV demands inquiry by HC Judge into misuse of funds in APBCCS

PNS ■ ONGOLE

Brahmana Chaitanya Vedika (BCV) state president Siripurapu Sridhar Sharma demanded that an inquiry would be conducted by a High Court judge on the misuse of funds of Andhra Pradesh Brahmin Co-operative Credit Society (APBCCS).

Talking to the media here on Wednesday, Sridhar Sharma alleged that the funds of APBCCS were misused and he demanded an inquiry by a High Court Judge.

Sridhar Sharma said that Naga Sai is working as the CEO of the APBCCS. Elections were not conducted by the APBCCS as per the society law. The government tried to conduct elections in an unlawful manner which was nullified by the high



court. Naga Sai had misappropriated the APBCCS

funds, he lashed out. The government should take

action against him as per the society law, he demanded.

Sridhar Sharma questioned the government why the audit of accounts of APBCCS was being done by a private agency. Why is the government silent when the funds of the APBCCS were being misused, he asked. Moreover, the audit was not conducted in the 14 APBCCS branches located across the state, he pointed out. "The previous TDP led government had allocated Rs 60 crore funds to the APBCCS during the period of 2015-19. From 2019 to till now, the Jagannathan Reddy headed government has not sanctioned a single rupee to the APBCCS", he claimed. Sharma demanded the government to release a 'White Paper' on the utilization of funds and the financial activities of the APBCCS from 2015 to 2019.

## Devotees from across State throng Durga temple

Kanaka Durga gave darshan in Sri Gayatri Devi alankaram

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A moderate rush of devotees was registered at goddess Kanaka Durga temple on the third day of Dasara celebrations at the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri shrine. Goddess Kanaka Durga was worshipped as Sri Gayathri Devi on the third day Wednesday. A huge number of students were seen waiting in queue lines for the darshan. Goddess Gayathri Devi is considered the goddess of knowledge

and worshipping her is believed to give wisdom. Thousands of devotees across the state have been coming here to have the presiding deity Goddess Kanaka Durga darshan. Pilgrims are availing hassle-free darshan of goddess so far, except day1 due the technical issues. Every year goddess Gayatri Alankarm falls on the third day of the celebrations; this year also it has come on the third day of Ashwayuja Shuddha Thadiya.

Goddess Gayatri appeared with five faces to devotees. Goddess Gayatri is one of the

incarnations of Goddess Shakti. Gayatri is the source of all mantras and is described as the Mother of Vedas. These five faces of the Goddess symbolize Pancha pranas - Prana, Apana, Vyana, Udana, and Samana. They also represent the five principle elements (Panchabhootas) of the universe-earth, water, air, fire, and sky.

"It is believed that whoever has the darshan of goddess Gayatri Devi, will be blessed with good health. And whoever Chants the Gayatri Maha mantra gets relief, emancipation, money, food, worldly

pleasures, and good offspring", said a temple priest. Meanwhile, the Vedic scholars performed Kumkuma Puja at the Maha Mandapam.

On the other hand, due to untimely and incessant rains in the Vijayawada and Krishna Districts, the number of visiting devotees has slightly dropped in the morning. Whereas, after the ease of the rain the crowd movement automatically increased in the evening.

Rs.67 lakh income in first two days The Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam received Rs.67 lakh in the first two days of the Dasara festivities.

## AP people disappointed with Delhi meeting: CPM

Party stages a protest on Besant Road



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

CPM State secretariat member Ch Babu Rao has said that once again there is disappointment from the Ministry of Home Affairs for the people of Andhra Pradesh. The Central government cheated the State by not giving the Railway Zone to the state, he alleged. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a promise of sanctioning the Railway Zone, he reminded. CPM organised a

protest at the Besant Road in Vijayawada on Wednesday, against the unfruitful meeting on the issues of bifurcation between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana held in New Delhi. CPM leaders and activists raised slogans against the central government. Speaking on the occasion, Babu Rao said the people of the state expected a positive resolution from the Ministry of Home Affairs meeting, but it was in vain. The central government has made it clear that the Railway Zone was not

possible, he said. The BJP-led central government played a drama in both capital Amaravati and Railway Zone, he alleged.

He further said that BJP acting in a dual role, while it said that would be protection for the Rajadhani Rythula Padayatra, it could not take steps for releasing funds for the capital Amaravati. The Home Ministry meeting has clarified the stand of the BJP, he commented.

Meanwhile, he said that the state government did not

disclose the details of Delhi's meeting.

The ruling YSRCP has failed to put pressure on the central government to get Special Category Status and funds for Amaravati, he said. Also, TDP is maintaining mum and the opposition party is trying to alliance with BJP and Jana Sena, he said. CPM leaders Donepudi Kasinath, B Ramana Rao, K Durga Rao, K Saroja, Koti, Ch Srinivas, Y Subba Rao, P Krishna Murthy, and Guru Murthy were present.



INDIA CORNER

## Kolkata gaming app: ED freezes Rs 12.83 cr worth crypto assets

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday said it has frozen bitcoins worth Rs 12.83 crore as part of an ongoing money laundering probe against the promoter of a Kolkata-based mobile gaming app firm that is alleged to have duped a number of people. Crypto currency worth 77.62710139 bitcoins is kept in the Binance crypto exchange and it belongs to a person named Aamir Khan who owns a mobile gaming application called E-Nuggets, the federal probe agency said in a statement. The ED had raided the premises of the company and that of Khan and his father Nesar Ahmed Khan in Kolkata early this month and seized Rs 17.32 crore cash from there. Aamir Khan was arrested by the detective department of the Kolkata Police from Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh last week.



## SC acquits death row convict due to faulty investigation

Court cannot make someone a victim of injustice to compensate for the injustice to the victim of a crime, the Supreme Court Wednesday said while acquitting a death row convict for the rape and murder of a six-year-old. The top court, which pulled up the Uttar Pradesh police for faulty investigation, also said by not conducting the investigation properly, the prosecution has done injustice to the family of the victim. It said that when the offence is heinous, the Court is required to put the material evidence under higher scrutiny but the erroneous approach on the part of the Sessions Court and the High Court has led to the "poor man" being ordained to be dispatched to the gallows. A bench of Justices S Abdul Nazeer, AS Bopanna, and V Ramasubramanian said that it cannot shy away from the fact that it is a ghastly case of rape and murder of a six-year-old child.



## UP: 10 killed, 41 hurt in head-on collision between bus and mini-truck

Ten people were killed and 41 others injured in a head-on collision between a private bus and a mini-truck here on Wednesday. The Lakhimpur Kheri chief medical officer (CMO) said 12 of the injured are critical and have been sent to a trauma centre in Lucknow while 29 are undergoing treatment at the district hospital. The accident took place on the Aira bridge on the National Highway 730, DSP Pritam Pal Singh said. The bus was on its way to Lucknow from Dhaurahra and collided with the mini-truck coming from the opposite direction. Eight of the dead were identified as Saraswati Prasad Verma (94) of Lucknow, Kaushal Kishore (58), Azimun (55), Sagir (45), Surendra Kumar Chaurasiya (35), Jitendra (25), Munnu Mishra (16) and Arya Nigam (8), all residents of Dhaurahra tehsil. The identity of the remaining two is yet to be disclosed by officials.



# Spike in oil price breaking India's back

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

India is deeply concerned over the spike in the price of oil due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict and it is "breaking our back," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said.

Addressing a joint press conference with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken after holding bilateral talks at the Department of State, Jaishankar on Tuesday said there is a very deep concern among developing countries about how their energy needs are addressed.

Speaking about the Ukraine war, he said: "We have taken the position privately, publicly, confidentially and consistently that this conflict is not in anybody's interest." The best way forward is to return to dialogue and diplomacy, he said. "Look, we have concerns

about the price of oil but we are a USD 2,000 per capita economy. When the price of oil is breaking our back and it's our big concern," he said while responding to a question on a price cap on Russian oil initiated by the G7 countries.

"On the price cap, we had a brief discussion on it this morning. More technical people are engaged between the two systems on this particular subject," Jaishankar said, acknowledging that the price cap issue came up during his talks with Blinken.

He pointed out that in the last few months, the energy markets are already under very great stress.

Countries in the Global South have found it difficult to compete for limited energy, not just in terms of pricing, escalating pricing, but often in terms of availability. There are



tenders countries have had tenders for which they don't even get a reply from suppliers, Jaishankar said.

"Our concern right now is that energy markets already under stress must soften up. We would judge any situation frankly by how it affects us and other countries in the global south. There is a very deep concern among developing countries about how their energy security needs are addressed or not," Jaishankar said.

India's crude oil imports

from Russia have jumped over 50 times since April and now it makes up for 10 per cent of all crude bought from overseas.

Russian oil made up for just 0.2 per cent of all oil imported by India prior to the Ukraine war.

The Western countries are gradually bringing down their energy purchases from Russia following its attack on Ukraine.

With sanctions imposed by Western nations making a scant impact on Russia, the G-7 countries and the European Union have mooted an oil

price cap on Russian crude and refined products to limit Kremlin's revenues.

Earlier this month, a statement issued by G-7 Finance Ministers said the price cap was specifically designed to reduce Russian revenues and its ability to fund the Ukraine war.

The US has asked India to join the coalition to cap the prices of Russian oil, but New Delhi has said it would "carefully examine" the proposal before taking any decision.

Blinken said the US was working day in, day out both on a short-term basis and a long-term basis to address energy security for Europe and around the world.

"We are working on implementing the oil price cap to keep Russian oil flowing, but at a steep discount. That of course will deny Russia excess revenues that it would use to

prosecute its aggression against Ukraine and, at the same time, as I said, keep oil flowing on world markets," he said.

"We're working to continue to surge Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) supplies to Europe in cooperation with global partners, including in the Indo-Pacific," Blinken said.

On another question about India buying military equipment from Russia, Jaishankar said: "Where we get our military equipment and platforms from, that is not an issue, which is a new issue or an issue which has particularly changed due to geo-political situations."

"We look at possibility across the world. We look at the quality of technology, the quality of capabilities and the terms at which particular equipment is offered. We exercise a choice which we believe in our national interest," he added.



## ‘Facilitate more central deputation of IAS officers’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday asked the states to spare more IAS, IPS, and IFOs officers for central deputation besides seeking their cooperation in weeding out the inefficient and corrupt employees.

The request came during the annual conference of Principal Secretaries of states/Union Territories (UTs), held to deliberate on personnel, general administration, and administrative reforms related work here.

Addressing the conference, Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said an all India service officer is an important interface of the government, both within the state as well as the Centre.

He said there is already a structure laid down for cadre management of all India services and it needs to be followed in letter and spirit.

A particular aspect in this regard is the deployment of the all-India service officers at the Centre, the minister added.

## Apologise to people for 'PayCM' campaign: BJP to Congress

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Hitting out at the Congress for the 'PayCM' campaign, BJP nation General Secretary in-charge of Karnataka Arun Singh on Wednesday said it was an insult to Basavaraj Bommai, who is a "common man CM" and demanded that the opposition party apologise to the people of the state.

Addressing reporters here, Singh said, "This is the small mind of Congress. Our CM Bommai is working for farmers, putting money into their accounts, has given scholarships to their children, and has given special packages to SC/ST. He is a common man and is working for the common people."

He was responding to a question on PayCM campaign. He further said the



Congress, by levelling such a false allegation of commission against the CM is stooping to a new low and it is in a way an insult to the common man and Karnataka.

"People of Karnataka, the common man of Karnataka, will never forgive an insult to its common man Chief Minister...definitely people of the state will give them a right response," he said, as he demanded that the grand old party and its leaders apologise to the people of the state.

## Only SP can defeat BJP in UP: Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday said though recent poll results have not been favourable for them, it has been proved that only his party can defeat the ruling BJP in Uttar Pradesh.

After inaugurating the ninth state-level convention of the party here, Yadav said the SP worked hard to win the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls held earlier in the year, but "those in power used every trick, misused the official machinery and we did not succeed".

At the convention, Naresh Uttam Patel was elected as the state president of the SP for the second time in a row.

## Cabinet okays Rs 10k cr for redeveloping New Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved Rs 10,000 crore for the redevelopment of the New Delhi, Ahmedabad and Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus railway stations, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said Wednesday.

Briefing the media, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said all redevelopment of stations will be done in the engineering-procurement-construction (EPC) model and not on PPP mode to ensure that there is no additional burden on passengers.

"Railways caters to middle class and lower middle class so any extra burden on passengers is not good. So, it has been decided to invest budget

money in the Railways and take it up with investment from government. It is a conscious decision to redevelop all these stations in the EPC mode," he said.

He said the design of these stations will be in tune with the cityscape so that it becomes an integral part of the city.

As many as 199 stations with a footfall of 50 lakh per day are planned to be redeveloped in the first phase, he said.

While the tender for 47 stations are out, work is underway at 32 stations, Vaishnav, adding that the target is to complete the redevelopment of New Delhi station in three-and-a-half years.

The other two railway stations will be redeveloped in two-and-half years, he said.

## SC to consider on Oct 12 pleas against demonetisation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court said on Wednesday it will examine if the challenge to the Centre's 2016 demonetisation decision has become a mere "academic exercise", and posted it for consideration on October 12.

As the hearing commenced, a constitution bench headed by Justice S A Nazeer wondered if the matter survives for consideration at this stage.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, submitted that for all practical purposes the matter does not survive for consideration. However, the case can be examined as an academic exercise, he said.

A five-judge bench for academic exercise when we are already burdened with such a



large amount of pendency? the court wondered.

We will fix it for hearing on October 12. We will examine if it has become academic and if it can be heard at all, the bench, also comprising Justices B R Gavai, A S Bopanna, V Ramasubramanian, and B V Nagarathna said.

The top court was hearing a batch of 58 petitions challenging the Centre's November 8, 2016 decision to demonetise currency notes of denomination of Rs 500 and Rs 1000.

On December 16, 2016, a bench headed by then Chief Justice TS Thakur had referred the question of the validity of the decision and other issues to a larger bench of five judges for authoritative pronouncement.

It had framed various questions in the reference order to be adjudicated by the five-judge bench which included whether the notification dated November 8, 2016 is ultra vires provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and does the notification contravene the provisions of Article 300 (A) of the Constitution.

The three-judge bench had then said assuming the 2016 notification was validly issued under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, whether it is ultra vires Articles 14 and 19 of the Constitution.

## ‘Goa could have been liberated before 1961’

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Hitting out at the Congress, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Wednesday said the state could have been freed from Portuguese rule much before 1961 had the government of the day paid attention to the popular sentiment.

Sawant said this while addressing a press conference here after he flew down to visit Ambala in Haryana to meet Charanjeet Kaur (84), whose husband Karnail Singh Benipal was killed at Patradevi in 1955 while fighting for Goa's liberation.

The chief minister said Goa would not have had to wait for



14 more years for its liberation after India achieved freedom in 1947 and some of the "satyagrahis", who were part of a large group that had assembled under the banner of Goa Vimochan Sahayak Samiti, would not have been killed by the Portuguese had the Centre paid attention to the popular mood.

## Delhi CM calls on people to donate blood twice a year

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday launched a mega blood donation drive on the birth anniversary of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh.

During the event, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader called upon everyone to pledge to donate blood twice a year and said there was a need to inculcate the culture of blood donation in a campaign mode as there were few voluntary donors.

Kejriwal said he wished to donate blood but could not do



so for being a diabetic. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia donated blood on the occasion at Maulana Azad Medical College.

The AAP chief said camps had been set up at 70 places across the city and people were enthusiastically turning up to donate blood. He added

that more camps would be set up next year.

Kejriwal also said it was Bhagat Singh's dream that everyone in the country was provided good education and health care and that the farmers and workers got their due.

The country will achieve unparalleled progress within five years if education and health services are improved for the 130 crore people, he said.

Kejriwal said the Delhi government would conduct campaigns throughout the year to motivate people to donate blood.

## Developed countries failed in mobilising \$100 tr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav on Wednesday said though the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero estimates a requirement of USD 100 trillion for transition to a net-zero global economy by 2050, developed countries have failed even in mobilising USD 100 billion per annum by 2020.

Launched in April 2021 by UN Special Envoy on Climate Action and Finance Mark Carney and the COP26 presidency, the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ) is a global coalition of leading financial institutions coordinating efforts



to accelerate the transition to a net-zero global economy.

At the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Copenhagen in 2009, developed countries committed to jointly mobilize USD 100 billion per year by 2020 to help developing countries tackle the effects of climate change.

## Pradhan seeks Gadkari's help

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan has urged Road Transport and Highway Minister Nitin Gadkari to take steps for widening a bridge on the Paradip-Chandikhol NH-5A in Odisha.

The Union Education minister, who hails from the coastal state, made the request to Gadkari in a letter and also met him in New Delhi requesting him to initiate necessary steps.

Widening of the bridge at Olasuni Chowk National would benefit nearly two lakh villagers of 30 gram panchayats, Pradhan said in the letter which was released to the media on Wednesday.

## Taj Mahal most-visited ticketed ASI site for domestic tourists

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Taj Mahal, a UNESCO world heritage site, was the most popular centrally-protected ticketed monument for domestic visitors in 2021-22, according to a new report released by the Union Ministry of Tourism.

While the Mughal-era mausoleum ranked first, the Red Fort and the Qutub Minar -- both UNESCO-recognised sites in Delhi -- were the second and third most visited sites, respectively, for the period.

The over 280-page report titled 'India Tourism Statistics 2022' was released on Tuesday by Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on World Tourism Day at an event here.

The report said due to

restrictions related to COVID-19, "the number of foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in India during 2021 decreased to 1.52 million as compared to 2.74 million in 2020, registering a negative growth of 44.5 per cent".

Sharing data about the footfall at various sites under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the report said the Taj Mahal ranked first among 10 most popular centrally-protected ticketed monument for domestic visitors in 2021-22. The Group of Monuments at Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu was the most visited among the top 10 centrally-protected ticketed monument for foreign visitors during the same period.

According to data shared by the report, the Taj Mahal wit-



nessed 3.29 million visitors or 12.65 per cent of the total footfall in 2021-22 for domestic visitors, followed by Red Fort (1.32 million) and Qutub Minar (1.15 million).

As per foreign visitors, the Group of Monuments in Mamallapuram saw 0.14 million, followed by the Taj Mahal (0.038 million) and the Tiger -

headed Rock cut and two other monuments, Saluvankuppam, (0.025 million), the report said, quoting ASI data.

In 2021-22, the total number of domestic visitors stood at 2,60,46,891, while the corresponding figure in 2020-21 was 1,31,53,076, marking a 98 per cent on-year growth.

The total number of foreign

visitors for 2021-22 was 3,18,673, declining 23.4 per cent on year from 4,15,859 in 2020-21, according to the data.

There are 3,693 heritage sites in India protected by the ASI. Many of these are UNESCO world heritage sites such as the Taj Mahal, the Red Fort, Qutub Minar and the Humayun's Tomb in Delhi and the ruins of the ancient Nalanda university in Bihar.

In 2020, ASI sites were shut for over four months due to COVID-19 and reopened in July with safety protocols in place.

In his address, the Vice-President said the last two years were "very tough" due to the pandemic and the tourism sector was heavily impacted. But, in retrospect, one can say that India knows the way and the

country is "out of the difficult period", he said.

He also presented the National Tourism Awards 2018-19 during the event at Vigyan Bhawan. The annual award ceremony took place after a two-year gap due to the Covid outbreak in India in early 2020.

India's ranking in the global Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) was 54th in 2021, the 'India Tourism Statistics 2022' report said.

It also said while FTAs experienced a "negative growth rate" in 2021, non-resident Indians (NRIs) and international tourist arrivals (ITAs) experienced "positive growth". Arrivals of NRIs increased 52.6 per cent from 2020 to 2021.

## Critics will find fault in everything: Mamata

PNS ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said that the state, despite relentless criticisms by detractors, achieved several feats such as the Unesco distinction for Durga puja, and her government would continue to work for more such laurels.

Virtually inaugurating 300 durga puja pandals in different parts of Bengal from Alipore Bodyguard Lines, Banerjee also said critics will find fault in everything but that should not come in the way of the strides being made by her government.

"I am happy to iterate that many feathers have been



added to Bengal's crown. The UNESCO accorded 'Intangible cultural heritage' distinction to Durga Puja, a global forum adjudged Bengal as the best tourist destination. NCRB described Kolkata as the safest city.

"Some detractors, critics will try to find fault in everything. That doesn't matter. We must carry on our work," she said.







FIRST COLUMN

FREE WILL IS THE ABILITY TO CHOOSE

We want to be independent, but we are bound by the constraints of the world



AJIT BISHNOI

Right and wrong, fair and unfair, ethical and unethical are no longer subjects that have standard definitions. Logic, convenience, personal interests, hedonism are the determining features that influence the judgment or opinion about an action or conduct. Universal benchmarks are missing.

We possess free will, which is defined as the power of desiring and deciding without the restraint of necessity or fate. It is the ability to desire unlimitedly and decide as we choose. But we are not so independent, because being independent will mean that we can achieve what we desire, but we are bound by the constraints of the world. For example, we can desire to be very rich. But can we manage it without following the rules of becoming rich like having the necessary abilities, opportunities, support of the system, etc? No, we are not really independent.

However, our free will does give this false impression that we are independent. Rather there is another serious drawback in doing so, if we get attached with what we desire. Lord Krishna has repeatedly warned against such attachments in the Bhagavad-Geeta. In verse # 2.62, the Lord states, "From attachment lust manifests and from lust anger results." Lord Krishna goes on in the next verse, "From anger foolishness results; from foolishness bewilderment results; from bewilderment, loss of intelligence occurs. And by the loss of intelligence a person is doomed." (2.63)



Yes, it is that serious. Don't we know that desiring is easy but to fulfill is something else. Attachments cause suffering. That is why one is strongly advised to be detached, because absence of attachment delivers one from suffering. (6.23) But if we do desire as we are likely to do, we should take shelter of God, who can fulfill all our legitimate desires. Sanjay of the Mahabharata fame goes to the extent of stating that linked with God, there will be opulence, victory, wealth and morality. (18.78)

As mentioned earlier, we can desire but fulfilling them is not that simple. Because, as stated by Lord Krishna, "We have a right only in action, not ever in predetermining its fruits." (2.47) The Lord warns that we should not try to do so, because those who try are pitiable. (2.49) It makes sense; does it not? If we were given the right to decide the fruits of action, there will be no limits on what we will all desire.

This right of deciding the fruit of action is with God only, as it must be. Imagine a world in which everyone is desiring unlimitedly and surely there will be conflicting desires. For example, there is one prime minister and multiple numbers desire to become one. What happens then?

Similar is the phenomenon of fate or luck as we call it. This is the fruit of our 'karmas' (deeds), and is strictly as per the 'karmaphala principle', which is: "What we sow we reap." This is administered by divine authorities under the superintendence of God. (9.10)

They do so completely in a fair fashion. Are we then stuck if we have done some wrong? The answer is yes, because we can do an act but cannot erase it. Otherwise, all of us will be busy erasing what bad acts we have done in the past. But fortunately, there is a way out, which is to take shelter from God. He can help us in crossing all impediments by His grace. (18.58) But to achieve this privilege, we must develop God consciousness, which can be done by doing spiritual acts, which are simple and easy to do.

In verse #18.65, Lord Krishna guides, "Develop My consciousness; become My devotee; make sacrifices for Me, and offer obeisance to Me."

(The author is a spiritual teacher)

Simple GST structure can check tax evasion



SUBHASH CHANDRA AGRAWAL

The existing GST structures, along with the prevailing income tax slabs and exemptions, need urgent revision to rid our nation's tax system of anomalies

The complicated tax system in India with six-decades-old Income Tax Act, 1961, with too many amendments in the form of a lot of confusing patchworks is in force. Likewise, ever since a reformative step of introducing the Goods & Service Tax (GST) Act has been taken with effect from July 1, 2017, there has been a regular practice of changing tax-structure in an ever-confusing GST regime with too many confusing and complicated provisions incorporated in the system. An altogether new tax-regime should be introduced without patches of useless and largely misused exemptions. Implementation of Raja Chelliah Committee recommendations to fix the highest tax-slab at 30 per cent to be in tune with most countries in the world had largely abolished the practice of converting black money into white money. Gradually increasing this highest slab also through imposing cess and surcharges has undone the good achieved.

Highest tax slab of 30 per cent should be restored so that people may find it advantageous to bring complete income to books. Rather a permanent Voluntary Disclosure Scheme should be introduced whereby provision may be there in tax-return to declare at highest suggested tax-rate of 30 per cent, any income without disclosing source of income. This will make cash transactions in property deals accounted for if registration fees on them are also reduced to just three per cent. Names of all those disclosing incomes under the suggested highest 30 per cent slab should be on the website according to income disclosed so that status conscious persons may race to disclose more incomes.

Basic tax exemption should be fixed at rupees five lakhs paving way for abolishing most tax exemptions, including on charity, donation, contribution to political parties and even agricultural income, which are largely misused. For instance, an ordinary farmer does not earn more than Rs five lakhs, and the provision is grossly misused by ultra-rich persons, including known celebrities, to declare their unaccounted income as agricultural income through some village land purchased only for the purpose without practically having any agricultural produce.

Income Tax slabs should be 10 and 20 per cent for incomes between 5-10 lakhs and 10-15 lakhs respectively and thereafter 30 per cent for rest. LK Jha committee recommendations to make calendar-year as financial-year should be implemented in line with most countries of the world, thus abolishing another British legacy of following April-March presently as Fiscal Year.

It is ridiculous to have different Depreciation-Rules for Tax and Corporate audits. Rather there should be a single and unified Tax and Corporate Audit.

Rather than concentrating more on small cash-transactions like through BhimApp, etc., which results in fraud for



THE 18 PER CENT GST IN THE SERVICE SECTOR IS EXCESSIVELY HIGHER WHERE, FOR EXAMPLE, THOSE TAKING PART IN TV PANELS HAVE TO PRACTICALLY PAY ROUGHLY HALF OF THE HONORARIUM IN TAX, INCLUDING GST AND INCOME TAX

(The author is Guinness World Record Holder for writing most letters and RTI Consultant)



illiterate persons, all sale-purchases above Rs 10000 may be compulsorily through bank transactions. For this, transaction-charges on credit-cards should be slashed down to just half a per cent (GST-exempted) that too to be borne by central government with all incentives on purchases made through credit-cards abolished.

Presently, high 2 per cent transaction charges on credit cards make traders charge it separately from customers specially where trade margins are low. Such a system will fetch higher tax-revenue for the government, than through half-percent transaction charges to be borne by Government.

Banks issuing credit cards will get much more earning even with half per cent transaction charge because of manifold use of credit cards. Two sets of credit card swiping machines should be compulsory for every GST-registered dealer dealing also in cash so as to avoid payment receipt through credit cards with the usual excuse that swapping-machine is out of order.

The input tax credit system in GST-regime in manufacturing-sector is biggest corrupt practice of tax-evasion where left-out GST-invoices by ordinary customers are sold by traders to consuming manufacturers or producers to avail false Input-Tax-Credit where cash is paid back by traders to those purchasing left-out GST-invoices of actual consumers bringing more currency in circulation. This is the reason for the basic motive of currency-demonetisation being failed where currency in circulation rapidly increased rather than projected decrease.

Annual forensic audit may be made compulsory on claims made for Input-Tax-Credit by manufacturers/producers to avoid false

claims of excessive Input-Tax-Credit in these sectors. Rather study should be made if with abolition of an excessively high 18-per cent GST slab, Input-Tax-Credit can be altogether abolished from manufacturing/producing sectors, retaining it only on tradable commodities.

But such reform in Input-Tax-Credit system can be practically possible with drastic reform in GST tax-structure wherein initially only three tax slabs of 6, 12 and 30 per cent may be there abolishing all presently existing GST-rates. India is the only country which has so many GST-rates. Gradually even slabs of 6 and 12 per cent may also be replaced by a new 10-per cent tax structure.

Zero per cent GST may only be retained on totally unbranded raw materials which cannot be consumed without giving a finishing touch like agricultural-products, fish, meat, cotton-yarn, etc. All items of long term use like cars, air-conditioners, TV sets, refrigerators, etc., may attract 30 per cent GST, while their parts may uniformly attract 12 per cent GST.

Unmindful policy framers brought clutch plate and clutch bearing under different GST slabs of 18 and 28 per cent. Likewise similar items sold by confectioners like sweets, biscuits, napkins, etc., attract different GST-slabs with luxury sweets causing diabetes attracts just 5 per cent GST.

To remove confusion and abnormality, invoices for items like gold-jewellery can be drawn in two parts, one for metal and embodied items and the other for making-charges so that suggested 12 per cent GST may be payable only on making-charges. Cess on extra-luxurious items should be replaced by additional GST slabs in multiples of 60 per cent, also bringing

petroleum products under GST regime to ensure uniform pricing of petrol and diesel in all states.

Clubbing lower slabs of three and five per cent into single six per cent slabs will be more than compensated by abolishing slabs of 18 per cent. Input-Tax-Credit (ITC) system should not be applicable on non-tradable commodities and services like has been done, and rightly too, in case of car expenses for non-commercial use.

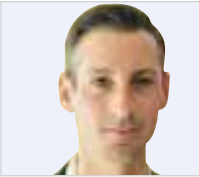
With GST slab of 18 per cent abolished and service sector attracting just 12 per cent GST, those with income of rupees ten lakhs or more (instead of present rupees 20 lakhs) can be brought under GST-regime like was the system before GST-regime. It is totally illogical to keep lawyers out of purview of the GST-regime.

The 18 per cent GST in the service sector is excessively higher where for example those participating in TV panels have to practically pay roughly half of honorarium in tax, including GST and income tax. Useless system of Tax-Deducted-At-Source for GST, which is hardly used in practice, should be altogether abolished. Or otherwise, any such deducted tax should be auto-reflected in GST-accounts of affected ones, abolishing cumbersome and additional practice of filing a new monthly return to get credit for deducted tax. Complete GST structure should be so simplified that small traders/manufacturers/professionals may be able to file their tax-returns by themselves without any need of GST-consultants.

All government payments can be considered to be exempted from GST to avoid unnecessary government-accounting by putting tax from one government pocket to another.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

IT'S A RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS NEITHER ENDED UP SERVING PAKISTAN WELL NOR SERVING THE AMERICAN INTERESTS. —EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER S JAISHANKAR



WE DON'T VIEW OUR TIES WITH PAKISTAN, AND OUR TIES WITH INDIA, IN RELATION TO ONE ANOTHER. THESE ARE BOTH OUR PARTNERS. —US STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON NED PRICE

PM SHRI schools reimagine education in India

The Cabinet's approval to PM SHRI schools presents a rare opportunity for the country to take a quantum leap in education

The National Education Policy 2020 recognises schools as places for intellectual development and character building. Preparing students to become responsible citizens and active participants in community development is the original mandate of the policy. The policy envisages a focus on more than academics, fostering whole-child development.

Para 4.43 of the policy elaborates that fostering student agency must begin with self-regulated learning, self-assessment, peer-tutoring, and peer-to-peer assessment. It will help students care more about communicating with each other and the teacher to reflect on their learning and pursue collabora-



ASHOK PANDEY

(The author is a Delhi-based educationist)

oration goals.

Early internship possibilities, job shadowing, building cultural competencies, the spirit of volunteering, micro-credentials in life skills and school-college partnership will take the students on a lifelong learning trajectory.

A policy of the scale of NEP 2020 requires enabling legislation, curriculum framework, inter-ministerial dialogue, and preparing the ground for implementation at multiple levels. The policy is riding its course with the Prime Minister leading from the front, initiating discussions, addressing the nation, theme-based task allocation, and participative implementation strategy. The nation's response is

affirmative, and the academia is euphoric —signalling two significant indicators that the buy-in for the change is working.

Once the policy is in place, visualised outcomes recognised, and infrastructural requirements identified, we need strong institutions to foster learning and culture. In the budget speech 2021-22, the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced more than 15000 schools will be qualitatively strengthened to include all components of the National Education Policy.

These schools, she added, will emerge as PM SHRI schools in their regions, hand-holding and monitoring other schools to achieve the ideals of the Policy. Consequently, the Union

Cabinet has recently approved the launch of a new centrally sponsored scheme for setting up PM SHRI schools (PM schools for Rising India). These schools will influence, inspire, and impact other schools, receive performance-based budgetary allocation and adhere to standard benchmarks.

Of the total project cost of ₹27360 Cr spread over five years, the significant contribution of ₹18128 Cr will come from the centre, and the States and UTs will raise the remaining ₹9232 Cr. UDISE+ code having schools managed by the Centre/State/UT Governments/Local self-governments would be considered for selection under the scheme. Selection of PM SHRI schools will be made

through Challenge Mode, where schools compete to become exemplary schools succeeding through a rigorous three-stage process.

The selected schools will undergo intervention, support, and quality assessment from 2022-23 to 2026-27. The entire process will be driven by an Online Challenge Portal, open once every quarter for the first two years. The policy stipulates that a maximum of two schools, one elementary and one secondary/senior secondary, would be selected per block.

The Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG-N) will service the scheme in geo-tagging and other related tasks. The big question is how

PM schools for rising India will differentiate themselves from the rest. The government has an ambitious target for whole-Child education through motivation to learn and succeed, while promoting the relevance of the learning experience for future lives and careers, and instilling a sense of belonging in the school environment, besides adopting a broader approach to knowledge and skill acquisition.

Furthermore, embedding technology must enable personalised and mastery-based learning. Tracking of data, educational outcomes and timely interventions can be done more frequently with the intervention of EdTech, resulting in course correction, remediation, and prompt

guidance to each student.

PM SHRI schools will manage teacher talent through a structured approach, involving teachers in decision-making and policy implementation. Treating teachers as valuable assets, intentional investment in their capacity building, career management and promotion will be hallmarks of these schools.

PM SHRI schools will endeavour to invite parents as partners in learning. Their resources, energy and local network can be leveraged to benefit learners. There is also the need for shifts in interactive, participative, experiential pedagogy and empowering learners to change their behaviour and act for sustainable development goals.



# RBI's rate setting panel starts deliberations; decision tomorrow

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel on Wednesday started deliberations on the keenly awaited monetary policy amidst expectation of 50 basis points hike in interest rate to check inflation and improve foreign capital inflow to arrest declining value of rupee against the US dollar.

The decision of RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will be announced on September 30.

The government has tasked the central bank to ensure the consumer price index (CPI) remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side, but retail inflation has stubbornly stayed above the RBI's comfort zone since January.

As per the latest data, the inflation was at 7 per cent in August.

While inflation remains high, the Indian rupee is slid-



ing sharply, the US dollar and was currently trading near 82 against the greenback. The rupee depreciation has hastened following the US Fed raising their interest rate thrice by 75 basis point each in the recent past. Other major central banks too have become aggressive in raising rates.

The RBI, which has since May raised the repo rate by 140 basis points (bps), may yet again go for a 50-bps increase, which will take the key rate to a three-year high of 5.9 per cent, say experts. The present rate is 5.4 per cent.

Industry body ASSOCHAM said hike in policy interest rates by the RBI in the range of 35-50 basis points seems unavoidable, given the tightening of rates by most of the central banks including the US Federal Reserve.

"While the industry would like to see lower interest rates, the main challenge and the priority is to tackle inflation head-on so that we have a sustainable growth," said chamber's Secretary General Deepak Sood.

He said the accommodative stance by the RBI supported by

several fiscal measures by the government had certainly helped the economy in a multi-pronged manner.

Ramesh Nair, CEO, India and Managing Director, Market Development, Asia, Colliers expects the repo rates to see a further rise, as the government is trying to curb inflation levels.

"The current repo rates stand at 5.4 per cent with the rate hovering above pre-pandemic levels. Banks have begun raising loan interest levels as a result of higher repo rate," he said.

However, the upcoming festive season will spur sales as the developers are expected to offer attractive deals to home-buyers and this could neutralise the impact of rising home loan rates to some extent, he added.

Besides inflation, the RBI is also likely to come out with steps to shore up foreign capital inflows to check the declining value of the rupee against the US dollar.

## Govt to decriminalise certain offences under GST, lower compounding charges

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government is working on decriminalisation of certain offences under GST by raising the threshold limit for launching prosecution and also lowering charges for compounding of offence, an official said on Wednesday.

Currently, the law provides for launching prosecution against offenders in cases where the amount of Goods and Services Tax (GST) evasion or misuse of input tax credit is more than Rs 5 crore.

"We are working on making the provision under GST Act for prosecution more simpler and friendly for taxpayers. We have Section 132 under CGST Act which criminalises illegal credit for GST evasion. The threshold level (for launching prosecution) are being reconsidered," finance ministry additional secretary (revenue) Vivek Aggarwal said at an ASSOCHAM event here. Launching of prosecution by taxmen means commencement of legal proceedings against the offender.

The compounding charges

for offences under GST would also be lowered so that taxpayers are encouraged to compound their offences instead of going into litigation.

Under GST Act, the amount payable for compounding of offences shall be 50 per cent of the tax amount involved subject to a minimum Rs 10,000. Maximum amount for compounding is 150 per cent of the tax or Rs 30,000, whichever is higher. The compounding provision in GST is prohibitive. It requires 50 per cent to 150 per cent as compounding fees which is impossible to pay. That's why there is zero compounding for all cases under GST. That is being relooked at so that it becomes affordable and compounding becomes a first or better choice for taxpayer," Aggarwal said.

The revenue department official further said that the robust growth in tax collection both in direct and indirect tax collections has paved the way for bringing in more taxpayer friendly reform to ensure ease of doing business and decriminalisation of tax laws.

# India needs to invest US\$ 10 bn for EV Li-ion batteries by 2030

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India needs to invest about USD 10 billion to boost cell manufacturing and raw material refining to meet domestic demand for lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles by 2030, according to a report.

India's lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery demand is currently 3 GWh and is set to grow to 20 GWh by 2026 and 70 GWh by 2030, as per the report by management consulting firm Arthur D Little.

At present, India imports almost 70 per cent of its Li-ion cell requirement from China and Hong Kong, it added citing reports by Ministry of Mines. "By 2030, just to serve the local demand of Li-ion batteries, India would need upwards of an estimated USD 10 billion investments in cell manufac-



turing capacity, with additional investments in raw material refining capacities," it said.

As a consequence, the report further said this would create one million or more jobs in the battery manufacturing and related ancillary businesses and services.

It said India can learn a lot from China which has aggressively expanded in the EV battery space over the last 10

years, conquering each part of the supply chain to emerge as the dominant player in e-mobility.

China now leads in next-generation EVs through large investments in R&D, favourable government policies, foreign direct investment inflows, and aggressive acquisition of raw material resources across geographies, the report added.

## Essar Oil UK inks offtake agreement with Vertex Hydrogen

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Essar Oil UK, which operates the Stanlow refiner in the UK, on Wednesday announced the signing of an agreement for the supply of 280 MW of hydrogen to Vertex Hydrogen.

"The hydrogen will then be used to help decarbonise Essar's existing production facilities," the firm said in a statement. Vertex Hydrogen - a joint venture between Essar and Progressive Energy - is developing the first large-scale low-carbon hydrogen production hub in the UK. Essar signed a 'heads of terms' offtake agreement with Vertex for the supply of 280 MW+ of Hydrogen, it said.



Vertex will produce (in its initial phases) 1GW of hydrogen (the equivalent energy use of a large UK city like Liverpool) and capture some 1.8 million tonnes of carbon per annum. By 2030, Vertex expects to deliver nearly 4GW of low carbon hydrogen, equivalent to 40 per cent of the UK Government's national target, the statement said.

"Essar achieved a new milestone in its ongoing transition to low carbon operations, following the UK Government's decision in August this year to shortlist the construction of the hydrogen production plants and a separate carbon capture project at its site in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire," it said.

## Gold falls by Rs 435; silver tumbles Rs 1,600

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price declined by Rs 435 to Rs 49,282 per 10 gram in the national capital on Wednesday in tandem with fall in rates of the precious metal in international market, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had settled at Rs 49,717 per 10 gram.

Silver also tumbled by Rs 1,600 to Rs 54,765 per kg.

"Spot gold prices for 24-carat gold in Delhi fell by Rs 435 per 10-gram following risk-averse sentiment and the Exchange Traded Funds (ETF) cut holding in gold," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities. In the international market, gold was quoting lower at USD 1,615.7 per ounce while silver was trading down at USD 18 per ounce.

# Users willing to shell out up to 45 pc premium for 5G plans

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Over 100 million users in India with 5G-ready smartphones want to upgrade to 5G network in 2023 and many of them are willing to pay up to 45 per cent premium, a study by Ericsson said on Wednesday.

The survey assumes significance as the countdown for 5G services availability has begun in India, the world's second-biggest smartphone market after China. The study by Ericsson has indicated a lucrative monetisation and "extremely good" ARPU (average revenue per user) uplift potential for telcos in the country.

That said, 5G network performance will be a driver for loyalty, and among those who plan to upgrade to 5G, about 36 per cent plan to churn to the best provider of the 5G network when it is available.

About 60 per cent of early adopters who already have a 5G-capable phone expect new innovative applications, which are considered more appealing than better coverage.

"These users are even will-



ing to pay a 45 per cent premium for plan bundled with novel experiences provided their expectations are met," the report revealed.

The report 'Promise of 5G' in India by Ericsson ConsumerLab, was carried out in the second quarter this year and reflects the views of 300 million daily smartphone users in urban India.

The report highlights key insights that will drive the uptake of 5G in India.

5G adoption is expected to start with consumers and then move to enterprises. The consumer 5G readiness is high in India, the report noted.

Notably, the intention to upgrade to 5G in urban India is two times higher than their counterparts in markets like the UK and US where 5G has already been launched.

"Over the past two years, India has witnessed three times increase in smartphone users who own a 5G handset. The study reveals that 100 million-plus users with 5G-ready smartphones wish to upgrade to a 5G subscription in 2023 while more than half of them are open to upgrading to a higher data tier plan in the next 12 months," the report by the Swedish telecom gear maker said.

## Rupee plunges 37 paise to close at all-time low of 81.90 against US dollar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee plunged 37 paise to close at an all-time low of 81.90 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday as the strengthening of the American currency overseas and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit. In the intra-day trade, the rupee slipped below the 82-level for the first time against the American currency, as a negative trend in domestic equities and significant foreign fund outflows sapped investor appetite. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 81.90, then fell further to close at an all-time low of 81.90 against the American currency, registering a decline of 37 paise over its previous close. On Tuesday, the rupee settled 14 paise higher at 81.53 against the dollar. The rupee has nose-dived to a fresh record low amid the risk-averse mood in the markets, said Sugandha Sachdeva, Vice President - Commodity and Currency Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

## Sensex skids for 6th day to below 57k; metal, weighed by banking stocks

PNS ■ MUMBAI

BSE benchmark Sensex spiralled lower for the sixth consecutive session on Wednesday to finish below the 57,000-level, weighed by heavy selling in metal, banking and finance stocks amid a sell-off in global equities.

A depreciating rupee and continued foreign capital outflows also affected the market sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex

fell 509.24 points or 0.89 per cent to settle at 56,598.28. During the day, it tanked 621.85 points or 1.08 per cent to 56,485.67.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty declined 148.80 points or 0.87 per cent to end at 16,858.60.

ITC was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding 2.97 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, Reliance Industries, Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank, State Bank of India, and HDFC twins.

# Tea exports rise in first seven months of 2022

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Tea exports during the period January to July in the calendar year 2022 have touched 116.36 million kg as compared to 103.38 million kg in the same period of 2021. According to Tea Board data, exports to the largest importing block, the CIS countries, remained almost stagnant at 25.20 million kg as against 24.98 million kg in the first seven months of 2021. Tea industry sources said that exports were around same level



because of the armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine which had caused serious shipment problems for sending the

beverage. Russia had been the largest importer among the CIS block with the country lifting 18.55 million kg in the cur-

rent seven months as against 19.11 million kg in the previous similar period. Tea Board sources said the container crisis and high ocean freight had affected exports to Russia. UAE emerged as a large importer at 19.14 million kg during January to July 2022, up from 8.07 million kg in the similar previous period of 2021. Exports to Iran were also almost stagnant at 13.99 million kg in the first seven months, as compared to 13.04 million kg in the same period of 2021.

## MONEY MATTERS

### Odisha CM on a visit to Bengaluru to woo potential investors



Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is on a visit to Bengaluru to woo potential investors as the State gears up for the 'Make in Odisha Conclave '22' in Bhubaneswar from November 30 to December 4. Multiple one-to-one meetings with potential investors

across sectors like food-processing, aerospace and defence, and healthcare were held on Tuesday to discuss possibilities of investing in Odisha, officials said. Indian information technology industry czar and founder-chairman of Wipro, Azim Premji, was among those who met Patnaik, who was accompanied by a senior government of Odisha delegation which had one-to-one meetings with several potential investors here, it was stated. The government of Odisha, in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, is organising 'Odisha Investors' Meet' here on Wednesday evening. "The idea behind organising this is to showcase the diverse business-friendly ecosystem of Odisha to the potential investors and help them to form an informed decision to invest in Odisha to meet the ever-growing demands in Eastern and North-Eastern India as well as the ASEAN Markets," officials said.

## Meta introduces new parental supervision tools on Instagram



Meta, the parent company of social media platform Facebook, has rolled out parental supervision tools feature and a 'family centre' programme on its photo and video sharing application 'Instagram,' to ensure the safety of

young users and allow parents to manage the time spent by their children on the site. Meta has been working closely with parents, guardians and stressed the need to educate them about digital services, a company official said on Wednesday. "Over the years, we have introduced many age-appropriate features and resources that help in enhancing young people's experience on Instagram." Facebook India (Meta) Instagram, Head-Public Policy, Natasha Jog said here. According to her, with the latest supervision tools, parents would be able to keep track of the time their wards spend on Instagram and also access the accounts they follow. Parents and guardians would also be notified when youngsters raise a complaint on Instagram. "With the launch of these supervision tools, we are trying to strike a balance between young people's desire for some autonomy while using Instagram, and also allow supervision in a way that supports conversations..." Jog said.

## India doesn't need so many public sector banks, says former SBI chief



India needs 'fewer' but stronger Public Sector Banks (PSBs), and the smaller ones could be privatised or merged, former SBI chief Arundhati Bhattacharya has said. Bhattacharya further said much of the goals that are expected to be achieved through privatisation of PSBs

can also actually be achieved by enabling the state-owned banks and by levelling the playing field. "The thing is, privatisation has never been the answer to all the ills," she told PTI while responding to a question on former RBI governor D Subbarao's suggestion that the government should come up with a 10-year road map for privatisation of all PSBs. Subbarao had recently suggested that the government should come up with a 10-year road map for privatisation of all PSBs as it would provide much needed predictability to stakeholders. "I don't really believe that we need so many public sector banks either, the number of PSBs could be decreased. "Some of them could be privatised. And maybe you know, the stronger ones could still remain public sector banks," said Bhattacharya, who is currently the chairperson and CEO of Salesforce India. In 2020, the government merged 10 nationalised banks into four large lenders, thereby bringing down the number of PSBs to 12. While observing that even at this point of time PSBs are not enabled enough, she asserted that wholesale privatisation of state-owned banks is not the answer.

# Aggressive rate hikes by central banks may be counterproductive

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Aggressive rate hikes by central banks globally to tame soaring inflation may prove counterproductive in the short run, Emkay Wealth Management said on Wednesday.

Underlining that geopolitical tensions, soaring crude oil prices and worries around recession in the developed countries are some of the major risks threatening the markets, Emkay Wealth Management however said India fears no major risks.

However, there are risks related to slowing of exports and currency depreciation, the

company said during a webinar.

The Indian rupee plunged to an all-time low of Rs 81.93 per dollar on Wednesday.

"Inflation has become a concern for most major economies, and central banks are resorting to aggressive rate hikes. This move could push up inflationary pressures, proving counterproductive in the short run. The dollar index and crude are the two key indicators to watch out for in the next few quarters," Joseph K Thomas, Head of Research, Emkay Wealth Management said.



Central banks across the globe including in the US and Europe and other countries

have raised interest rates sharply in the recent past to rein in high inflation, mainly

triggered by geopolitical tensions impacting the supplies.

On asset allocation, it said prudent diversification of asset allocation can help create long-term wealth for investors.

Vishal Amarnani, Head of Fixed Income, Emkay Wealth Management said: "We are witnessing fund flows to fixed income and debt due to the rising rates, also a wider belief that rate will scale higher from here." The company said the system liquidity is in a deficit of over Rs 21,800 crore. This along with the delay of inclusion of Indian bonds in the global bond index has also led to a rise in the government

securities yields.

The benchmark yield is back to 7.40-7.50 levels as expected. "However, yields for long fixed-income instruments have increased and seem attractive in the near to mid-term," Amarnani said. Recognising the importance of diversification across asset classes and equity markets, it said investors should look at Indian manufacturing as a key theme for investment as "we witness the China+1 strategy unfolding post the pandemic".

With regards to market and fund flows, the road ahead will be a lot different than the previous two years, it said.

## Airtel Payments Bank to install 1.5 lakh micro ATMs this fiscal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Airtel Payments Bank has started rolling out 1.5 lakh micro ATMs in a phased manner across tier 2 cities and semi-urban regions to facilitate cash withdrawal for its customers, the company said on Wednesday. The bank will gradually expand its service to cover more banking points in a phased manner.

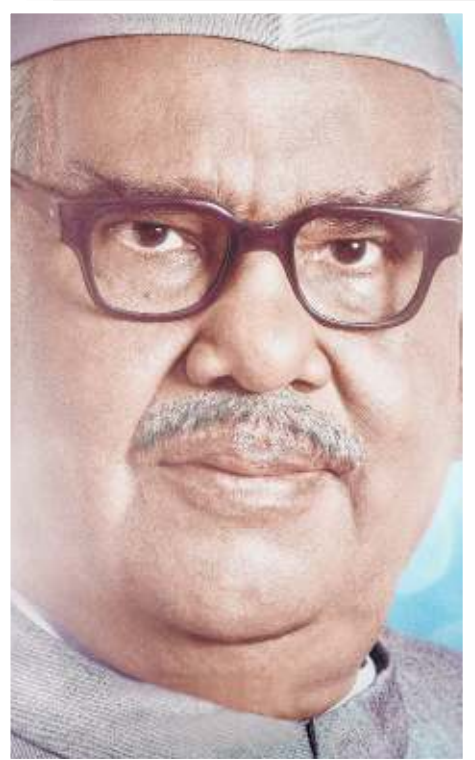
"Micro ATMs will be rolled out in a phased manner. Initially, the bank will place 1,50,000 units in Tier II cities and semi-urban regions. These regions typically have a high

demand for cash withdrawal services but limited access to ATMs," the company said in a statement. The bank will leverage its strong network of over 5 lakh banking points across India to give users access to easy cash withdrawals through this initiative, it added.

The company has plans to finish the rollout of 1.5 lakh micro ATMs by the end of the current fiscal. Airtel Payments Bank is now integrated with the National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) - National Financial Switch (NFS) to facilitate micro ATM transactions.



# what's brewing?



## Kangana Ranaut's directorial *Emergency* to star actor Satish Kaushik as Jagjivan Ram

Kangana Ranaut starrer, *Emergency* is one of the most anticipated films of next year. The first look which was released a while back had the actress bearing an uncanny resemblance to Mrs. Gandhi whom she portrays in the film and her acting chops were also showcased in it which garnered high praise.

Directed by the actress, the film's array of actors are a force to reckon with. Anupam Kher will be seen as the revolutionary leader J P Narayan, Shreyas Talpade essays the role of late politician Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Mahima Chaudhry will be seen playing the role of author Pupul Jayakar, Milind Soman will essay Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, Vishak Nair will be seen as Sanjay Gandhi and now the

makers have revealed that Satish Kaushik will be playing activist and politician Jagjivan Ram.

Talking about Satish Kaushik joining the film's cast, Kangana Ranaut says, "Jagjivan Ram was a very popular leader. One of the most loved and revered leaders of his times. When Mrs Gandhi refused his request of relaxing Emergency, he quit the Congress and there were grave consequences for her. That was his relevance. I needed somebody for this role who has his strength, his wit and his sarcasm. Satishji was an obvious choice for this role. I am looking forward to my scenes with him as an actor. They are some of the most engaging, entertaining and strong scenes in the film." Actor Satish Kaushik adds, "When you are playing the

role of a historic or political personality then you have to really study and research a lot about the person whom you are playing. It is a great feeling to play the former Defence Minister of India, Babu Jagjivan Ram ji in Emergency. It would not have been possible without the help of my director, Kangana Ranaut, who is very calm, composed and in full command as the captain of the ship. I love the way she pampers and helps her actors to give the right performance and ensures that even the minutest detail is not missed out."

Manikarnika Films presents *Emergency* which is written and directed by Kangana Ranaut. The film is produced by Renu Pitti and Kangana Ranaut. The screenplay and dialogues are by Ritesh Shah.

## Tom Hanks says he has made only four 'pretty good' movies

Hollywood star Tom Hanks has acted in nearly 100 movies but thinks only four of them are "pretty good".

"No one knows how a movie is made though everyone thinks they do," Hanks said in a new interview with 'People', reports 'Variety'.

"I've made a tonne of movies, and I'm still amazed at how films come together. From a flicker of an idea to the flickering image onscreen, the whole process is a miracle."

Hanks has led some of cinema's most celebrated films over his four-

decade career, including 'Forest Gump' and 'Philadelphia', both of which earned him the Academy Award for best actor.

Hanks was also Oscar-nominated for *Cast Away*, *Big, Saving Private Ryan* and 2020's *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*.

But it's unclear which titles in Hanks' filmography he considers to be the best.

"Movie-making is very hard work over a very long period of time that consists of so many moments of joy slapped up against an equal number of



feelings of self-loathing," he said. "It is the greatest job in the world and the most confounding of labours that I know of."

Hanks, who starred in box office smash *Elvis* and

Disney's live-action *Pinocchio* remake this year, is gearing up to release his first novel, titled *The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece*, out May 9, 2023.



## Maisie Williams says she had a 'traumatic' relationship with her father: 'really consumed my childhood'

Maisie Williams has emotionally spoken out about her fractured relationship with her father.

The *Game of Thrones* star, 25, served as the guest for the latest installment of *The Diary of a CEO* podcast with host Steven Bartlett and spoke on her childhood.

"Well, I, as a young child before the age of 8, had quite a traumatic relationship with my dad," she shared. "I don't really want to go into it too much because it affects my siblings and my whole family."

The actress said the relationship with her father "really consumed a lot of my childhood. Ever since I can remember, I've really struggled sleeping. And I think a lot of the traumatic things that were happening, I didn't realize that they were wrong."

She said she began to notice that other kids didn't understand the "pain or dread or fear" that she suffered. "Where does the joy, when does that come for me?"

Williams revealed that once that period of her life was over, she believed that she was "free" from the past. However, as she grew up and had other experiences, she realized "there's never an end destination for that freedom. And it comes from within. When are you going to let yourself be free from the pain?"

She said she wanted to be respectful of other members of her family and their experiences, so did not go into specifics.

Her mother was able to "escape" when she was 4 months old, Williams said, revealing that this is the first time she's opened up about her father.

## Salman dismisses rumours on charging Rs 1000 crore for *BB 16*



*Bigg Boss 16* is all set to return to television now. Recently, the host Salman Khan, interacted with the media where he talked about the upcoming season of the TV reality show. *BB 16* will have a circus theme. As per the promos of the reality show, this year, *Bigg Boss* will 'play the game' with the contestants. During the press conference, Salman Khan addressed the rumours, if he charged Rs 1000 crore for the show. Reacting to the

rumours of his high fees, Salman Khan said, "All those reports about my fees are untrue. If I ever get paid Rs 1000 crore I would never work in my life. But there will be a day when I will be paid this amount. If I get paid this amount I have so many other expenses like lawyers that I actually need them. My lawyers are no less than Salman Khan. My earning is not even one fourth of it. These reports are read by income tax and ED department too."

### FUN

#### ARCHIE



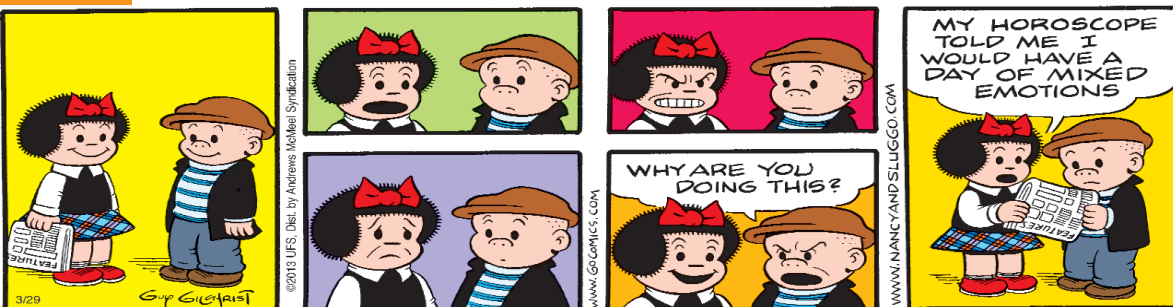
#### CALVIN AND HOBBS



#### GARFIELD



#### NANCY



#### GINGER MEGGS



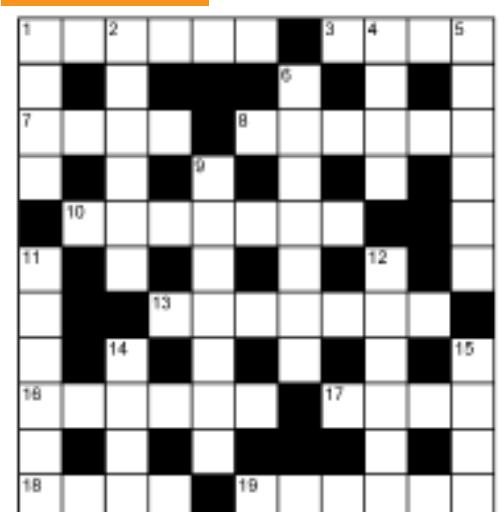
#### REALITY CHECK



#### SPEED BUMP



#### CROSSWORD



#### SUDOKU



#### ACROSS

- Noon
- Costing nothing
- Contact by telephone
- Purchasing
- Rich
- Very sore
- A floor covering
- Large boat
- A red gemstone
- Selected
- Going very quickly
- Less dirty
- Cup and
- Small trees
- A ripping sea creature
- Twirl around

#### DOWN

- One of the planets
- A meal
- Water from the sky
- Ninety less ten





## PILLAR OF SISTERHOOD & EMPOWERMENT

This week for *The Pioneer's* weekly edition of the Community Wise, we bring to you about the City Ambassador Program, which aims at uniting various groups of women across the city in support of a common objective of community creation.

K. RAMYA SREE



a trustworthy, transparent, and decentralised world where women hold the power to make a difference. A significant step towards this is Coto's 'City Ambassador Program.'

In an increasingly digital world, online safety has always been a pain point for women. The toxic levels of harassment have disempowered women, driving them out of online spaces and silencing them. For some women on the internet, this has adversely impacted their ability to be seen and heard.

According to a survey by Plan International, an NGO working for children's rights and equality for girls in India, over 58% of women have faced online abuse. The harassment has also resulted in one in five girls (19%) leaving a social media platform and one in ten girls (12%) changing the way they express themselves online.

Coto is a Web3-based social community platform, designed for women that envisions changing this equation through



while keeping sisterhood at its core. The program's action-oriented approach will empower women to assist one another, while also inspiring and boosting their confidence to build their own identities. City and State Ambassadors have already kick-started their journeys in their respective regions, namely Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Jammu, Lucknow, Patna, Srinagar, Bhopal, Delhi, Jalandhar, to name a few. The phase-wise programme will eventually include zonal and area-wise local ambassadors. Through a localised 'phygital' approach, Coto's 'City Ambassador' programme will empower women and female communities while rewarding them.

When it comes to the creation and consumption of content on social media, which is based on the current Web2 internet, a few tech giants have been controlling the playground. The safety, privacy, and freedom of its users on their platform, especially women, have suffered because of its growth. The trolls, unwanted messages, and threats outnumbered the safety and security features on current social media networks for women. "In such a scenario, we wanted a tech-enabler platform where many women publishers, content creators, and community builders from each city could essentially come together to form their own community. It should be based on a medium that

upholds and promotes the freedom to express themselves, to create, and to responsibly share without any fear or threat of being judged, trolled, or abused," shares Aparna on what made them start this venture.

Aparna feels there should be a platform for women to discuss issues of their physical and mental health, hygiene, premarital sex, workplace harassment, and domestic violence, which cannot be done on the current social media platforms based on a centralised web, called Web 2. Hence, they intend to create a panel of women moderators on a decentralised web platform of Web 3, which will prioritise women's growth and empowerment.

Meanwhile, we also spoke to Jyothi Srinivas, founder, Be the Change, content creator, and lead in OTT, radio, and TV, who is also the City Ambassador for Hyderabad, and has over 15 years of experience both in the television and radio space as well as digital content planning. Asked the kind of changes she would like to bring with her campaigns as a city ambassador, Jyothi responds, "I have always believed in COTO's vision of inclusivity and uplifting women from the get-go. This is a place where women across all ages and backgrounds can join without discrimination. Through the City Ambassador Program, I'll be able to onboard these women onto a platform, where they can proudly showcase their work to a wide audience. The monetising opportunities that this Web3 platform provides will help women become more self-reliant. They will no longer be 'someone's mother' or 'someone's wife', but strong individuals in their own right. As the City Ambassador of Hyderabad, my responsibility is towards the women of Hyderabad. I want to motivate them to believe in themselves and not be too hindered by societal expectations."

Jyothi concludes this conversation by saying that she is very confident about this programme, and that it will surely bring about a change among the Hyderabad women.

### NIIT UNIVERSITY (NU) OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS BASIS CUET SCORES

Established with a vision to bring about innovation in higher education and learning in emerging areas of the knowledge society, the University of the future, NIIT University (NU), recognizes CUET scores and offers scholarships basis the CUET score. Students can upload their CUET score-card to apply for the stream of their interest in and avail scholarships based on the eligibility. The eligibility criteria to avail scholarship for BTech in CSE (Computer Science & Engineering), ECE (Electronics & Communication Engineering), DS (Data Science), CS (Computer Science), BT

(Biotechnology), Integrated MSc(Computer Science) is based on the average of best two from PCMB (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics & Biology). For BBA and iMBA, it will be based on the best two from English, General Test, and Math. NU believes in providing financial aid to students based on their academic merit by offering fee waiver ranging from 50,000 - 2,00,000 INR on the tuition fee. For more information on admissions and placements please log on to: <https://admission2022.niituniversity.in/brand/#apply-now>.

LISTINGS

### LIVE CONCERT BY GHAZAL MAESTRO PANKAJ UDHAS

JAZBAA – Dilon ko dilon se jojne ka, A live in concert by Ghazal Maestro Pankaj Udhas will be held on Friday, September 30 at 7 pm at Shilpakala Vedika Auditorium, Hyderabad. Tickets available on: [www.book-myshow.com](http://www.book-myshow.com) For Tickets Call: 981882 3231, 9355334828

Grace your Dussehra & Diwali festivities with the most and delicious and authentic sweets from the house of Dadu's. Dadu's has introduced the very special "Festival Gifting Collection" this season which comprises beautiful gift packs and hampers that are thoughtfully curated to bring smiles and happiness to your loved ones. Made with quality ingredients and traditional recipes, the collection offers a range of sweets, savouries, dry fruits, baked confections, and much more. One can enjoy sensory and devotional happiness with mouth-watering Mithai for Every Moment from the house of Dadu's. For Order Call/Mail: 9959334007 / [info@dadus.co.in](mailto:info@dadus.co.in)

DADU'S SPECIAL GIFTING COLLECTION

### PRATEEK KUHAD TO TOUR HYD

Critically acclaimed singer-songwriter Prateek Kuhad has announced the India leg of his highly anticipated 'The Way That Lovers Do' World Tour.

The mammoth run, kicking off on October 29 in Mumbai, will see the pop music titan performing a two-hour long set in

Hyderabad on November 6.

BookMyShow will produce and present the India leg of 'The Way That Lovers Do' India Tour in association with talent management agency, Big Bad Wolf along with TribeVibe, the one-stop solution for college festival entertainment.

Fans can now get their hands on tickets exclusively on BookMyShow. Tickets for the show are live now and are priced INR 499/- upwards.

ucts and amplifying brand reputation by stressing on the characteristics of the company. This mindset has not been able to lend a human touch to marketing.

### Adapt to customers' needs

Brands must investigate their current customer service processes to check the words and tone used with their end customers. Many are also keeping a check on

how well their front-facing employees handle customers. For instance, smartphone brands are designing robust CRM systems with a tighter turnaround time (TAT) – with devices being serviced in less than an hour, or a single day, or a single visit. Shorter (30 days) replacement duration, customer support in regional languages and EMI on repair – are some CRM measures that such brands are developing to gain affinity among their target customers.

### Capture the essence of daily life

One of the key components in marketing is capturing the essence of everyday life. Businesses must incorporate the little life moments into their content strategies. Brands can display empathy by creating content around scenarios like a simple video call with a loved one or baking a sweet surprise.

### Make it visually appealing

Brands must audit their existing content to find such pieces that can be relevant to their audiences. By finding the sweet spot between a business' expertise and what its customers are seeking, one can create educational and informative content that is interactive as well.

### Identify audience's pain points

Understanding the reality consumers are living is critical. By analysing traffic and conversions, brands can identify the biggest movers. This is a great way to find out which aspects of the brand are the most attractive to its customers. Social listening helps shape an understanding of the sentiment around the brand.

## Marketing made more empathetic



tomers which are then tapped into for creating a brand resonance.

Successful content is more empathetic, purposeful, and customer centric. In the years to come, marketers are going to start churning out more content that's created with the mindset of putting themselves in the shoes of others, be it their customers, prospects, partners, or someone else within their audiences. Till now, brand marketing has been all about selling prod-

culture. Very recently, Kanye West came out and said that he believes paparazzi should share the profits they make from photos with the artists being photographed. Whereas Rajiv has a very practical approach, "The taps here in the country have been really reverent to me. On the contrary, I am saddened to see them waiting for hours for a single photograph of the celebrity! I don't like the celebs making them wait; it's so unfair on their part. They have a livelihood too. My thing has always been to give them an exact time so that I don't waste their time at all. They do their duty round the clock. They have a huge hand in making all of us some really well-known celebrities of the current lot.

## 'My body isn't going to measure my success'



The super talented actor, Rajiv Adatia, who makes everything funny around him, gets candid during an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, about reality shows, body image, his notorious nature, close association with the late Bobby actor, and much more.

SHIKHA DUGGAL

There was a person wandering in London, finding humour in small things, and then bringing this entertainment to the television fraternity back in India. We are talking about popular reality television star and artiste Rajiv Adatia, who is the most loved man on television and otherwise right now.

Having some really close associations with the Kapoors and Shettys of the film fraternity, this young lad makes everything funny around him. In an exclusive conversation with *The Pioneer*, Rajiv shares, "Reality television shows are meant to be real. I went in with my most non-fictional personality and became an overnight sensation. This country has some real hold on such shows. They have an inexplicable quality to them that makes them utterly addicting to watch. The pull of voyeurism enamours millions of viewers to tune in."

While a few pessimists were unhappy with his body image, he never gave a damn what others thought. He never went into extreme measures in an attempt to change his body, and he has a message to give, "It's not my fault that I have this voluptuous body and weight has never been the key factor in my life. As graceful as it may sound, neither does the *Khatron Ke Khiladi* team. My body weight isn't going to measure my success; it was my inner personality that brought me here. There is nothing wrong with my body size and that really doesn't determine my self-worth. It's hogwash when people say if you don't have six-pack abs, you won't succeed. What about Oprah Winfrey, then? Only fit celebrities aren't taken to be a part of *Khatron Ke Khiladi* every year. Comedian Bharti Singh debunked so many myths about plump people like us in the earlier season. Being the best-looking among the slots is not the criterion for being there because they sometimes lack disposition. So, don't ever feel

worthless." What accounts for his notorious nature, then? He laughs out loud and says, "I have always led a religious life. I miss my father a lot. My comedic appreciation is how I perceive things around me. My father always asked me, 'Can you laugh at yourself?' and that's when it struck me that if I can do that, then I can always lead a pragmatic life. I have high levels of psychotic personality traits (he bursts into laughter)."

He shares his close association with the late Rishi Kapoor. He reveals, "It's like walking into the stars literally, Rishiji had a big heart. He inspired national consciousness with the way he used to tweet. People assumed Rishi Kapoor was a snob, but no, he instead had a demure personality. He was like a coconut, as the famous saying goes, immensely soft-hearted. Yes, he was rigid, but his influence was far-reaching in the industry. I had never seen him miss out on his religious practices early in the morning — he was that sort of devout. We spent so much time together in London, and he never threw a tantrum on anyone. I am pretty sure he would have been happy to see me be successful in the television fraternity. And yes, like any other boy, I was also initially scared of him because he was "The Rishi Kapoor." The balancing factor in the Kapoor family is Neetu, for sure. She, in fact, called me up and told me that this success coming my way was meant to happen to you, and I felt so humbled and loved by her. Be it Neetu aunty, Ranbir or Riddhima, all of them are extremely modest and unpretentious people. Both the parents have brought up both the kids so well that we can see how they create an enigma of their own. Especially Riddhima, who's not even from the fraternity and yet has an individuality of her own, which is so charming."

Since then, Rajiv has had the best of both worlds. He had a comment on the paparazzi









## Mani Ratnam's *PS-1* unit releases sneak peek into film

The unit of director Mani Ratnam's upcoming magnum opus, *Ponniyin Selvan 1*, has now released a sneak peek into the movie, much to the delight of fans who are waiting with bated breath for the film to release on September 30. The one minute 32 second long video clip, released by the unit shows the Pandyas swearing an oath to wipe out the royal lineage of the Cholas in the presence of Goddess Kotravai. A dialogue that a character utters indicates that the Pandyas have been defeated in battle and have retreated to the jungles. "The brave Pandyas will wash your feet with Chola blood. The Pandyan kingdom is where the Pandyan Emperor lives. This forest is Madurai to us," he says and adds, "Behold Amarabujanga Pandyan, son of Veera Pandiyan. He graces the Pandyan throne."

The warriors then pledge their lives to Goddess Kali and to the Pandya flag and its emperor. "For killing our beloved king Veera Pandyan, we will sever the head of Chola prince Aditha Varman. Death to his brother Arunmozhi Varman. Death to the chola Emperor Sundara Chozhar. We'll offer their blood to Kottravai," they swear. The film is based on the classic Tamil novel *Ponniyin Selvan* by eminent writer Kalki. The film, called by Mani Ratnam as his dream project, is among the most expensive projects ever undertaken in the country. It has the best in business handling each of its departments. A R Rahman has scored the music for this epic historical and cinematography is by Ravi Varman. National Award winning art director Thotta Tharani was in charge of production design while Mani Ratnam's trusted editor Sreekar Prasad has handled its editing.

# Tollywood mourns the demise of Mahesh Babu's mother

It was definitely a heart-rending morning on Wednesday, as superstar Mahesh Babu's mother, Ghattamaneni Indira Devi left for heavenly abode in Hyderabad. Indira Devi, aged 70, had been suffering from various health-related ailments, and breathed her last at her residence in Hyderabad.

Sharing the sad news, the family shared a statement that read, "Shri Ghattamaneni Indira Devi, the wife of Superstar Krishna and mother of Superstar Mahesh Babu passed away this morning. Today from 9.00AM, her body will be kept at the Padmalaya studio for people to visit & later the last rites will be performed at Mahaprasthan. #IndiraDevi." The near and dear ones of the family, including many from the film fraternity, rushed to console the family, at their residence.

Indira Devi, was the first wife of superstar Ghattamaneni Siva Rama Krishna Murthy, who has acted in hundreds of films as a hero, made his debut with the 1965 film *Thene Manasulu* and went on to star in films such as *Saakshi*, which won critical acclaim at the Tashkent film festival in 1968. However, due to some personal disputes, both Krishna and Indira Devi had to part ways. Later, the



superstar got married to actress, director, and producer Late. Vijaya Nirmala, who passed away in 2019. The *Sarkaru Vaari Paata* actor shared a very close bond with his mother, and always used to wish her on social media on her birthday. Mother's Day and Women's Day. During the success meet of *Maharshi*, the actor had opened up about his bonding with his mother. At the event, he said, "My mother is like a god to me. Ahead of every film's release, I visit her and drink coffee made by her. For me, that coffee is like a prasad in a temple. Her blessings are very important to me. Maybe because of that, this film became such a huge success. Thus, I dedicate all

epic blockbusters to the mothers out there." The actor had further shared an old image of his mother, along with hearts on his social media. The comments on his posts have been filled with his fans and friends pouring their condolences. In fact, the hashtag of 'Stay Strong Anna', has been trending ever since the news of his mothers unfortunate demise was out. Film industry bigwigs have been making a beeline to the Ghattamaneni family home to pay their respects to the deceased matriarch. Several videos of Mahesh Babu, consoling his daughter Ghattamaneni Sitara, seen in uncontrollable tears have gone viral all over on social media.



Meanwhile, several celebs paid their tributes on social media:

Tollywood Megastar Chiranjeevi was among the first to condole Mahesh Babu and Krishna. "Extremely sad to hear about the demise of Indira Devi garu. I convey my deepest condolences to Superstar Krishna garu, brother Mahesh Babu, and the family" he tweeted in Telugu.

RRR star, Jr. NTR tweeted, "Deeply saddened by the passing away of Indira Devi Garu. Deepest condolences to Krishna garu, Mahesh anna and family in this time of grief."

Nagarjuna Akkineni tweeted, "Deepest condolences to #krishna garu @urstrulyMahesh and his family #ripindiradevigaru"

Former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu tweeted, "The news of the death of Indira Devi, the wife of famous actor Krishna and mother of Mahesh Babu has caused a shock. Praying to God to rest her soul and give the family members the

mental strength to recover quickly from this ordeal. My deepest condolences to the family."

Janasena Chief Pawan Kalyan issued a statement regarding the demise of Indira Devi. "It is sad that Sri Krishna's wife and Mahesh Babu's mother Shrimati Indira Devi breathed her last. I pray that the soul of Indira Devi rests in peace. My deepest condolences to their family. I am praying that God will grant Sri Krishna and Mahesh Babu the courage to recover quickly from this pain," his statement read.

Kajal Aggarwal, "Heartfelt condolences for the sudden demise of Indira Garu Om Shanti @urstrulyMahesh."

Actress Keerthy Suresh, "#RIP Indira Devi garu. Heartfelt condolences to @urstrulyMahesh garu, @urstrulynamrata ma'am, #Krishna garu, @ManjulaOfficial akka and family. May god give more strength to you all to bear the loss."

## Karthikeya 2 to premiere on Zee 5

*Karthikeya 2*, written and directed by Chandoo Mondeti, this mystery action-adventure saga boasts of an ensemble cast with Nikhil Siddharth and Anupama Parameswaran in lead roles. The movie will also see Harsha Chemudu, Adithya Menon, Srinivasa Reddy in

prominent roles and legendary actor Anupam Kher in a cameo. *Karthikeya 2* will premiere on the platform on October 5 in Telugu, Tamil & Hindi languages.

After receiving a great response in the first instalment, the makers intro-



duced its sequel which also garnered a phenomenal response from the audience. The movie received an epic response at the Box-office and became a blockbuster with a collection of 120+ Crs. Highlighting the Hindu mythology, the mystery thriller exhibits the hills of Govardhan, lanes of Dwaraka, the desert of Bundelkhand and

rivers of Himachal Pradesh reflecting India's splendid diversity. Produced by Abhishek Agarwal Arts and People Media Factory, *Karthikeya 2* navigates through protagonist Karthikeya's pursuit for the truth. It leads him to find out the power of the ancient Indian belief system and Tatva of Lord Sri Krishna.

With Karthik Ghattamneni's top-notch cinematography and Kaala Bhairava's music, *Karthikeya 2*'s mystical universe successfully narrates the story. Premiering on the platform in 3 languages, the film will cater to the audience across 190+ countries and territories. So, brace yourselves for the premiere of this spectacular mystic thriller on October 05, 2022.



## Shruti Haasan takes time to explore Turkey on off day

Actress Shruti Haasan, who is shooting in Turkey for Nandamuri Balakrishna-starrer *NBK107*, made the most of an off day and chose to go for sightseeing along with her staff and co-star, master Satvik. The actress and singer, along with her staff, explored the beauty of the city of Istanbul. Shruti's staff have always been like family to her and they share a lovely rapport with the *Salaar* actress. Shruti visited a theme park and an arcade along with her co-star, child actor Satvik. The talented young boy is the son of director Gopichand Malineni and has worked with Shruti in *Krack* previously.

The two went on roller-coaster rides and gaming zones and made the most of their day off. The actress also posted videos of their joy rides together on her Instagram account. On the work front, Shruti is shooting for a number of films. Apart from Nandamuri Balakrishna starrer *NBK107*, she has a film opposite superstar Chiranjeevi tentatively titled *Chiru 154* and *Salaar* opposite Prabhas. The actress also released her independent track *She is a Hero* recently which throws light on the struggles and triumphs of women and the track has been receiving rave revolve for its music and messaging.

## Vikram has fun with Kapil Sharma, says coming on his show is his 'destiny'



Tamil star Chiyaan Vikram engaged in a hilarious conversation with Kapil Sharma and said that coming on the latter's comedy-based reality show was written in his "destiny". The actor, who is quite occupied in promoting Mani Ratnam's dream project *Ponniyin Selvan: I*, appeared on *The Kapil Sharma Show* along with Jayam Ravi, Karthi, Trisha Krishnan and Sobhita Dhulipala. Vikram also said

that "when I entered the industry, my first thought was not only to become a big star but also to be on *The Kapil Sharma Show*". Vikram revealed his wish to be on the show once during his school days. He added jokingly, "In my 8th standard, that was around 1976, when even Kapil was not born it was written in my destiny to be on this show at least once in my lifetime." *The Kapil Sharma Show* airs on Sony Entertainment Television.

## Ahimsa teaser to be out on October 05

Suresh Babu's son Abhiram is making his debut with an intense mass action romantic entertainer *Ahimsa*. The film directed by Teja is generating immense interest among movie lovers with the first look glimpse. According to the latest, the makers revealed that the film's teaser will be released on October 5. The film stars Geetika Tiwary as the female lead. While Abhiram is playing the role of Raghu, Geethika is playing the

role of Ahalya. Talented actor Samuthirakhani is playing an important role in the film for which music is tuned by RP.Patnaik. Sameer Reddy is the cinematographer and Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao is the editor for the film bankrolled by P.Kiran on the Aanandi Arts banner. Abhiram is pinning all his hopes on this film as Teja introduced many young actors who went on to become superstars in the industry.

