



# the pioneer

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Chittoor Dairy, when it was functioning in full swing, gave tough competition to the milk giant AMUL.. However, it was shut down due to Previous Government's blatant carelessness and self-serving motives. Fulfilling the promise given in Padayatra, Jagananna Government is standing by the Dairy Farmers by..



## Reviving Chittoor Dairy..

.. a revolutionary step under "Jagananna Paala Velluva"

Chittoor Dairy which remained closed for last 20 years as a result of the neglect of the Previous Government, is now restored back to life by totally paying off the debts of Rs. 182 Crores and signing a MoU with AMUL..

Sri. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Hon'ble Chief Minister to lay foundation stones for various development initiatives of the dairy with an investment of Rs. 385 Crores by AMUL in Chittoor, Today..

Steps towards commencement of production in 10 months after the foundation ceremony..



The largest ice cream manufacturing facility in the Nation would be built as part of Revitalization of Chittoor Dairy, at a cost of Rs. 150 Crores. Along with that, manufacturing units of butter, milk powder, UHT, Cheese, paneer, yogurt and sweets would be established in phased manner. 5,000 individuals to get

direct employment while 2 lakh people will get indirect employment which includes employment through AMUL outlets and distribution mechanism.. 25 lakh Dairy Producers to be benefitted.



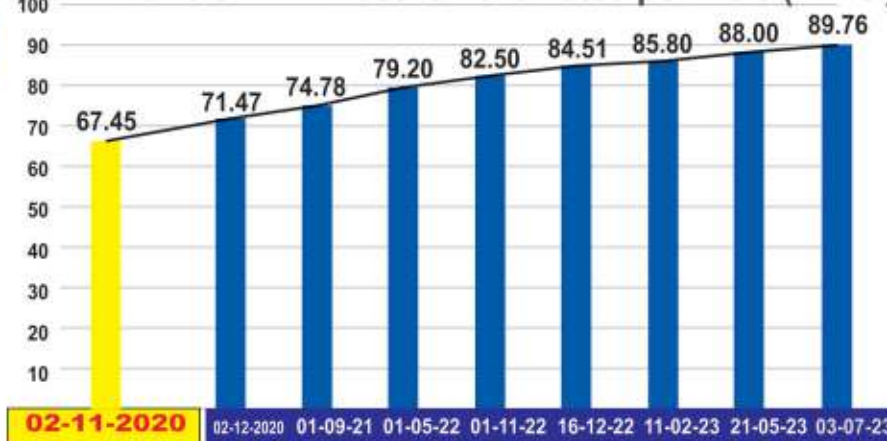
**Sri. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister  
Government of Andhra Pradesh

1

Jagananna Government inks a MoU with AMUL, the largest dairy cooperative in the Nation, to revitalize and strengthen cooperative dairies and to benefit Women Dairy Farmers. The MoU intends to give Dairy Farmers remunerative prices and make high-quality milk and other dairy products available for the consumers at affordable prices.

This is the Benefit accruing to Dairy Farmers after signing of MoU with AMUL under "Jagananna Paala Velluva"

Buffelo Milk Procurement Rates per Litre (in Rs.)



**After MoU with AMUL**  
..as AMUL prices keep increasing

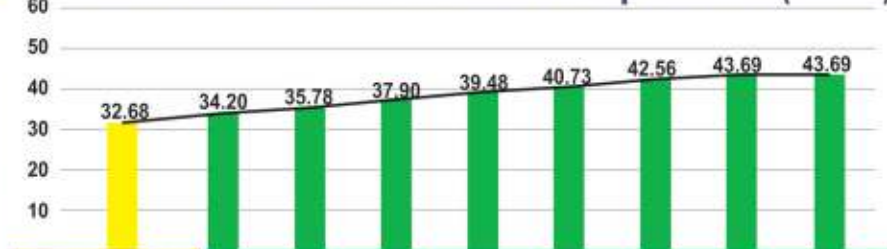
2

Women's Dairy Cooperative Societies set up in the State to collect milk from Dairy Farmers. So far, 3,06,692 Women Dairy Farmers have been identified in 17 districts and 3,551 societies were established.. The members will be trained in managing societies and the profits of the society will be shared among the members of the same society..

3

More than what was promised!! With "Jagananna Paala Velluva", the Women Dairy Farmers are earning an extra income up to Rs. 20 per litre. Milk procurement without any involvement of middlemen or commission agents. Payment is being automatically credited to the accounts of Women Dairy Farmers, once in every 10 days..

Cow Milk Procurement Rates per Litre (in Rs.)



**After MoU with AMUL**  
..as AMUL prices keep increasing

4

AMUL procured 8,78,56,917 litres of milk in the last two years. Due to increased competition in market because of MoU with AMUL, even private dairies were forced to hike their prices. As a result, Jagananna Government helped the Women Dairy Farmers earn an extra income of Rs. 4,243 Crores.



The present pathetic condition



Amul Chittoor Dairy After Revival

Steps are being taken to construct 4,796 Automated Milk Collection Centres (AMC) and Bulk Milk Cooling Centres (BMC) in villages in conjunction with RBKs, at a cost of Rs. 2,452 Crores which will be handed over to Women Dairy Cooperatives. For the first time ever, Dairy Producers are receiving receipt for the quality of the milk they supply, then and there at the time of milk collection itself.

With an avowed aim of empowering women, assistance provided under "YSR Aasara", "YSR Cheyutha" and bank loans through District Co-operative Banks without any guarantee to purchase milch cattle.. Women have final say in purchase of milch cattle..

Jagananna Government has so far distributed milch cattle to 3.37 lakh Women, Goats and Sheep to 1.32 lakh Women, belonging to SC/ST/BC/Minority communities under YSR Cheyutha scheme, at a cost of Rs. 3,517.43 Crores, in three phases..

For any suggestions or complaints call toll free number **1902** Jaganannaku Chebudham



Dr. Seediri Appalaraju  
Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairy Development



# Who is practising vote bank politics?

Nowadays we find political outfits provoking people without understanding the need for the Uniform Civil Code under consideration by the Centre. It is not proper to have one law for one group and another one for another group. How can a house be run if one member of the family is bound by one law and another member by another law? Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while addressing booth-level BJP workers in Bhopal, passed the foregoing comments, which have historic significance. Modi has clarified the party's stance on the Uniform Civil Code. The BJP has been advocating Uniform Civil Code (UCC) for decades. It included UCC in its poll manifestoes for 1998 and 2019. Besides scrapping Article 370 relating to J and K and initiating the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the BJP has been advocating implementing

UCC across the nation for long. Upon being voted to power in 2014, Modi focussed on these three aspects. Consequently, initiation of Ram temple construction has been a success in Ayodhya and Article 370 has been scrapped in Kashmir. Now, the item on the agenda that is yet to be accomplished is UCC. Dr BR Ambedkar too had argued clearly that the citizens of the country should be bound by UCC. Other leaders like KM Munshi and Alladi Krishna Swamy Iyer also argued in favour of it. As per the Directive Principles of the State Policy, under Article 44, it is mentioned that UCC should be implemented across the nation. The Congress never bothered to pay attention to it. Adopting the British rule of divide and rule of Hindus and Muslims, the Congress indulged in vote bank politics.

**When people of a certain faith are prohibited by law to practise bigamy, how can people of other faiths be allowed to practise it? Why should not people of all faiths follow the rule that sons and daughters enjoy equal rights to inherit the property from parents? Even in Sarala Mudgal case of 1995, the SC prohibited males to convert to Islam to take more than one wife. If UCC is in force, such undesirable developments could be checked, the apex court said.**



Y SATYA KUMAR  
BJP National Secretary

take more than one wife. If UCC is in force, such undesirable developments could be checked, the apex court said. The freedom to practice religion should be in tune with the honouring the Fundamental Rights of the people, gender equality and the right to dignified life, ruled the SC in 2018 while deciding a case pertained to the Indian Young Lawyers' Association. The apex court made it clear that the fundamental rights would prevail over religious traditions when the fundamental rights and religious traditions clash. Moreover, it said that people of no faith would have any right to conduct themselves according to their whims and fancies. The SC questioned the government as to why people should not have equal rights on issues like divorce, inheritance, adoption, and guardianship.

The Constitution advocated implementing UCC for all. The Union government offered to refer the issue to the 22nd Law Commission. The SC has been questioning the Union government for the past three years on the religious freedom of the people and personal laws. The Sabarimala case brought to the fore several aspects of the religious freedom of the people. At last, the 22nd Law Commission, issued notice to the people inviting their opinions on the enforcement of the UCC. It is atrocious to note that the Congress party kept the Muslims backward to use them for its vote bank politics and adopted an appeasement policy offering quota for Muslims, releasing funds to finance the Haj pilgrimage of Muslims, giving precedence to Muslim personal laws, not

prohibiting cow slaughter, ignored Hindus' clamour against growing Muslim population, and ignored the Ram Janmabhumi movement. Whereas the Narendra Modi government is firm to ensure that people enjoy their rights equally, irrespective of their religious background. As part of the exercise, the Centre freed Muslim women from triple talaq, using which Muslim men get rid of their wives. Like the Congress, the Trinamool Congress, the Samajwadi Party, MIM, YCP, and BRS also have been practising Muslim appeasement policies. These parties are not voicing their views before the Law Commission. The Congress found fault with the Law Commission going into the issue. Then, who is practising vote bank politics in this country? Who is driving a wedge between people of various faiths?



## Build Venkateswara temple in Lanka, envoy urges CM



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A Sri Lankan delegation comprising its Eastern Province Governor Senthil Thondaman and the island nation's Deputy High Commissioner in India Dr. D. Venkateswaran called on Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at the Camp Office here on Monday. They requested the Chief Minister to construct Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple in Sri Lanka who responded favourably. "Nearly 50 per cent of Sri Lankan tourists coming to India visit Tirumala and through them, we have learnt about the welfare pro-

grammes being implemented in AP," they said. The visit was as per the instructions of their President who heard about the welfare programmes and the development taking place in the State, they said. Sri Lanka is ready to work with AP in the sectors of agriculture, industries and tourism. They sought the cooperation of AP in the development of aqua fields in Sri Lanka. The visiting delegation told him that Sri Lanka is gradually recovering after facing hurdles due to Covid 19 and imports. They invited investments in areas of minerals and tourism.

## Biz opportunities in Lanka explained

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Governor of the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka, Senthil Thondaman, and the Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in Southern India, Dr. Venkateswaran, on Monday visited the office of the Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation (AP Chambers) in Vijayawada. During their visit, Senthil Thondaman and Dr. Venkateswaran engaged in discussions with the office-bearers and members of AP Chambers. They shed light on the numerous business opportunities available in Sri Lanka for entrepreneurs from Andhra Pradesh. Recognizing the economic crisis in Sri Lanka, they emphasized the government's focus on reducing imports and promoting exports from the country. Entrepreneurs from AP were encouraged to establish their operations in Sri Lanka, par-

ticularly in the food processing, aqua, tourism, and other sectors. The Sri Lankan government assured full support, including the provision of leased land and expedited clearances, to facilitate businesses interested in establishing themselves in Sri Lanka. They also highlighted several key commodities that could be produced in Sri Lanka and exported to countries such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, and Singapore without incurring any duties. The office-bearers and members of AP Chambers had the opportunity to interact with the Governor of the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka and the Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in Southern India. They gained valuable insights into the range of business opportunities available in Sri Lanka.

## TDP LEADER JOINS YSRCP



TDP leader from Nellore A Jayakumar Reddy joined YSRCP in the presence of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at the Camp Office in Tadepalli on Monday. Party State secretary A Vijaykumar Reddy and party functionary Koti Reddy were also present.

## 'Govt betrayed dairy farmers'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Surrendering Chittoor Dairy to Amul company is nothing but hitting the Telugu pride, said TDP AP president K Atchennaidu, on Monday. In an open letter to Chief Secretary, KS Jawahar Reddy, released to the media Atchennaidu expressed concern over surrendering thousands of acres worth public properties and cooperative dairies to Amul. He said that "Chief Minister, Jagan Mohan Reddy, who had promised to the people to revive the cooperative dairies, including the Chittoor Dairy, soon after coming to power, has changed tack after assum-



ing power terming as barbaric the 'surrendering' of the Chittoor Dairy to Amul in the name of reviving it." He said that the State Government is betraying the dairy farmers with its decisions, and pointed out that already public property worth Rs 6,000 crores have been conceded to the Amul. Jagan

has handed over the Chittoor Dairy to Amul for Rs 1 crore annual lease for 99 years and even its assets worth Rs 650 crore. Pointing out that the neighbouring States like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have deliberately kept aside the Amul learning about its deceptive attitude, Atchennaidu said that Jagan Mohan Reddy, however, is acting as a brand ambassador of Amul. Atchennaidu felt that the State Government should stand by the cooperative dairies and should not hand over the Chittoor Dairy to Amul to save the public property from handing over to companies of other States.

## 'Paala Velluva'...

Continued from Page 1  
With "Jagananna Paala Velluva", the women dairy farmers are earning an extra income up to Rs 20 per litre, which is more than the promised amount. Milk collected without the involvement of middlemen or commission agents. Payment being automatically credited to the accounts of Women dairy farmers, once every ten days. Through AMUL, 8,78,56,917 litres of milk was procured in the last two years. Due to greater competition in the market due to agreement with AMUL, even private dairies were forced to increase their prices. As a result, the Jagan Government helped the Women dairy farmers earn an extra profit of Rs. 3,754 crores.

## Tadipatra Cl...

Continued from Page 1  
According to family members, the police officer was under severe work stress for the last three months. He was transferred from Kadapa to Tadipatri in September last year. He originally hailed from Chandragiri in Chittoor district. Police registered a case of suicide and took up further investigation. On the other hand, Tadipatri Municipal chairman JC Prabhakar Reddy alleged that for the last five months local MLA Kethireddy Peddareddy has been bringing pressure on Inspector Ananda Rao.

## Take part in AP's development

Continued from Page 1

Village secretariats, employing 10 young individuals each, are transparently delivering over 600 civic services to the people. Volunteers are providing doorstep delivery of pensions and ration," he informed, adding that Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs) are guiding farmers from seed procurement to selling their agricultural produce. The Chief Minister high-

lighted the unprecedented extension of preventive healthcare through village clinics and family doctors across the state. He further mentioned that the government has filled 48,000 vacant positions in the medical and health department, established 17 new medical colleges, and strengthened Primary Health Centres (PHCs), area, district, and teaching hospitals with improved infrastructure and medicines.

"To ensure future food security, we are bolstering the agricultural sector and rural economy. Additionally, we are constructing 4 new ports, 10 fishing harbors, and developing 3 industrial corridors," he shared in his message to the NRIs. Andhra Pradesh has consistently secured the top position in the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) rankings for the past three years and is among the top four or five states in sustainable development goals,

the Chief Minister proudly stated. He extended his special wishes to NATA office bearers Sridhar, Anil, Prem Sagar, and others. "I still cherish the love and affection you showed me during the convention four years ago," he expressed, emphasizing the inspiration they provide to the people in Andhra Pradesh. The video containing his message was played at the convention.

## Arrest murderers of SC youth demanded

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

District president of 57 SC sub-castes Hakkula Porata Samiti president Penninti Das has expressed concern over justice not being ensured to Dalits even though a Dalit was being done to death. Addressing the media at the Press Club here on Monday, he referred to the incident of a group

of assailants lynching a man Juvakindi Vamsi, who belonged to Scheduled Castes sub-caste, at Birpur mandal in broad daylight. But the police failed to arrest the assailants. Moreover, the police are threatening the victims' family members with dire consequences. He demanded immediate arrest of assailants in the murder case of the Juvakindi Vamsi and punish them sternly.

## Ensure quality ration...

Continued from Page 1

the devices of Anganwadi teachers to enable the kids learn proper pronunciation. Distribution of kits containing 19 items to all 3 to 6 year old kids in Anganwadis would be completed by this month's end, officials said. Reviewing the progress of 'Nadu-Nedu' in Anganwadis, the Chief Minister directed the officials to develop anganwadis with all basic facilities like safe drinking water, furniture, toilets and class rooms and necessary repair works should be taken up by August 12 and completed along with other works of schools as part of Nadu-Nedu second phase. He told the officials to create awareness among the public about the role played by the 'Kalyanamastu-Shaddi Tohfa', 'Amma Vodi', 'Vidya Deevena' and 'Vasathi Deevena' pro-

grammes in preventing child marriages. He has also directed the officials to run the children's homes efficiently by appointing necessary staff and giving them proper training to run them properly while developing a good curriculum for the inmates. Officials informed him that, as per his instructions, they are taking steps to establish junior colleges for girls in every mandal. Women and Child Welfare Minister KV Ushasri Charan, Chief Secretary Dr KS Jawahar Reddy, Special CS MT Krishna Babu, Principal Secretary G Jaya Lakshmi and Director M Vijaya Sunita (Medical and Health), School Education Commissioner (Infrastructure) K Bhaskar, AP Civil Supplies Corporation MD & VC G Veerapandyan and other officials were present.

## Stocks on a...

Continued from Page 1

The Nifty climbed 133.50 points or 0.70 per cent to end at a record high of 19,322.55. In intra-day trade, the benchmark zoomed 156.05 points or 0.81 per cent to hit its all-time intra-day peak of 19,345.10. "The market's record-breaking momentum continued as the robust June GST collections, and the monsoon covering most parts of the country in the last few days brought cheers to investors. The rally has been mostly due to strong foreign fund inflows and India performing well on most of the economic parameters could further strengthen the fund flows in the near term," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said. Market benchmarks settled at record highs for the third straight session on Monday. Reliance Industries was the top gainer in the Sensex chart, rising 2.53 per

cent, followed by ITC, Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India, HDFC, UltraTech Cement, NTPC, HDFC Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finserv and ICICI Bank. In contrast, Power Grid, Maruti, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Nestle and Tata Motors were among the laggards, skidding up to 1.86 per cent. As many as 1,972 stocks advanced while 1,721 declined and 147 remained unchanged on BSE. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.56 per cent and the midcap index advanced 0.30 per cent. Among the indices, oil & gas jumped 2.28 per cent, energy rallied 2.08 per cent, metal (1.11 per cent), FMCG (1.09 per cent), financial services (1.02 per cent), realty (0.85 per cent), commodities (0.81 per cent) and bankex (0.78 per cent).

## Stand on UCC may...

Continued from Page 1

All these days AIMIM which depends on Muslims have been friendly with the BRS. Recently the MIM changed its tone regarding the BRS and is likely to get close to the Congress. In Telangana, the main adversary of the BRS is the Congress which is strongly opposing the UCC. If the BRS supports UCC Muslim voters will dump it in the coming Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. If the BRS opposes the UCC the BJP will play the Hindutva card against the BRS. Keeping in mind the sensitivity of the issue the BRS has reportedly taken a decision to remain neutral and to take a decision when the Bill comes for voting in Parliament. The decision of the Congress on the UCC has become a big problem for the BRS.

In Andhra Pradesh, for Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy the UCC is a lesser problem compared to his Telangana counterpart. In Andhra Pradesh, the Muslims are not as hostile to Hindus compared to Telangana. However, the UCC is a religious issue in AP also and Muslims will oppose it. As an indirect supporter of the Centre the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister may support the UCC. The support of Jagan is crucial for the BJP in the Rajya Sabha to pass the Bill. Across the nation, political parties have decided their stand on the UCC. The AIMIM continuing its support for the BRS depends on the latter's decision on the UCC. There are already differences between the AIMIM and the BRS. If the BRS decides to support the UCC the AIMIM may dump the BRS.

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**  
RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT  
**E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
NIT No. 35-84/TO/e-procurement/2023-24 Date: 24-06-2023  
Online tenders are being invited to fix taps to all houses under Jal-Jeevan Mission at a total 50 works cost of Rs. 1050.07 lakh in villages under the purview of the Guntur office. Tender documents can be downloaded from www.aeprocurement.gov.in from 05-07-2023.  
Sd/- Executive Engineer, RWS & S Division, Guntur  
R.O.No: 19013CLAD/VT/11/2021-22 Dt: 03.07.2023


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**ED questions Anil Ambani in fresh FEMA case**




**FOSTERING THE ART OF DANCE AND CONNECTING HEARTS THROUGH IT**



**New actress in town reaching for the stars INT'WOOD**



**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
 Nothing wrong in calling Rahul as Pappu. Rahul read the script written by Congress veterans and left. He is acting like Remote Gandhi not Rahul Gandhi. Elections were held in Karnataka..Are you giving 4000 pension there?



- Vemula Prashanth Reddy P4

**DON'T MISS...**  
**Strengthen services in govt...**  
 Chief Secretary, Dr KS Jawahar Reddy, instructed the officials to strengthen the medical services in the government and area hospitals across the state. He held a review on the Health, Medical and Family Welfare department on Monday. On the occasion, the CS said that the government has concentrated on the Health sector and spent more funds for the development of infrastructure after the impact of Covid pandemic. He instructed the officials to strengthen...  
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**Will Satya Kumar replace Veeraju...**  
 There are widespread speculations regarding the potential replacement of Somu Veeraju, the current BJP Andhra Pradesh state unit president, with K. Satya Kumar, a prominent central BJP leader from Andhra Pradesh. The issue has been generating significant discussion on various social media platforms, and it remains to be seen what decision the BJP High Command will make regarding this matter. Sources indicate that the BJP often...  
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**White-collar hiring in India sees 3%...**  
 White-collar hiring in India witnessed 3 per cent decline in June as sectors such as IT, Retail, BPO, Education, FMCG and Insurance also showed cautious hiring sentiments, a report said on Monday. According to the Naukri JobSpeak Index, on a year-on-year basis, June witnessed a 3 per cent decline with 2,795 job postings compared to 2,878 in June 2022. On a month-on-month basis, the job postings fell by 2 per cent. The Naukri JobSpeak is a monthly index representing the state...  
 -PAGE: 8

**'I want to compete with Surya...**  
 The legendary South African wicketkeeper-batter AB de Villiers, who made his international debut in 2004, is one of the best players in the world. ABD was a part of Royal Challengers Bangalore. In total, he has smashed 5162 runs in 184 matches with an average of 39.71. The 39-year-old finished as the leading run-getter for RCB for three seasons and was a constant name in the top-three run-scorers for the team ever since joining in 2011. ABD announced his retirement from international cricket...  
 -SPORTS

**Courtrooms paperless, free Wi-Fi facility for lawyers**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
 The first five courtrooms of the Supreme Court have become Wi-Fi-enabled, Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud announced on Monday, in a significant step towards the digitisation of the top court. The court has made facility available to all lawyers, litigants, media-persons, and other stakeholders visiting the premises. The step was taken as part of the e-initiatives and the facility can be availed by logging in to "SCI Wi-Fi". "We have made courts 1 to 5 Wi-Fi-enabled. The bar rooms are Wi-Fi-enabled as well. All courtrooms will now be like that -- no books and papers -- which is not to say that we will not rely on books and papers at all," the CJI said at the outset of the day's proceedings in the refurbished courtroom. "Please give me the feedback

**CJI announces digitisation of the top court**



"We have made courts 1 to 5 Wi-Fi-enabled. The Bar rooms are Wi-Fi-enabled as well. All courtrooms will now be like that -- no books and papers -- which is not to say that we will not rely on books and papers at all," the CJI said at the outset of the day's proceedings in the refurbished courtroom.

whether everything is working well," Justice Chandrachud said. The top court reopened on Monday after the six-week summer vacation. For using the wi-fi facility, one has to enter his mobile number, get a one-time password (OTP) and use it for authentication, an apex court official said. In a circular, the court said, "As part of the e-initiatives in the Supreme Court of India, the facility of free Wi-Fi is made available for advocates, litigants, media persons and other stakeholders visiting the Supreme Court of India. "For the present, this facility will be available at the Chief Justice's Court, Court Nos. 2 to 5, including corridor and Plaza in front, both waiting areas in front of plaza canteen and Press Lounge-I and II, with effect from 03.07.2023." Later, the top court, in a press statement, said that it has undertaken "futuristic upgrades" as part of green initiatives for optimum use of technology in justice delivery systems. "A series of futuristic upgrades have been implemented in Court No. 1 to 3 at the Supreme Court of India under the dynamic vision of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Dr Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud to enhance the use of technology in Judicial Systems," it said. The enhancements in the courtrooms include installation of "a state-of-the-art Digital Video Conferencing (VC) system" to facilitate efficient communication and collaboration, it said. "This system enables remote participation and virtual meetings, enhancing the accessibility and connectivity of the courtrooms. Cable cubbies have been integrated into these courtrooms to fulfil the diverse connectivity needs of modern technology."


**CM's APPEAL TO TELUGU DIASPORA**

**Take part in AP's development**

**Jagan wishes NATA meet well, reels out reforms in State**

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**  
 Expressing happiness over the NRIs diligently preserving Telugu culture and traditions while holding influential positions abroad, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy called upon them to actively participate in the development of Andhra Pradesh by extending financial support and sharing their invaluable exposure and experience. In a special congratulatory video message sent to the ongoing NATA convention 2023 in Dallas, USA, the Chief Minister conveyed his heartfelt congratulations to the delegates and wished them great success in their convention. With a strong focus on transforming the education sector, the government has been wholeheartedly implementing programmes like 'Amma Vodi', 'Goru Muddha', 'Vidya Kanuka', and 'Vasahi Devena' to facilitate hassle-free education, stated the Chief Minister. He emphasised that the government firmly believes education to be the most potent weapon for bringing about positive change in society. The Chief Minister highlighted the revolutionary changes brought about in the education sector over the past four years in the state, empowering

- The Chief Minister highlighted the revolutionary changes brought about in the education sector over the past four years in the state, empowering students to achieve great heights and become global citizens.
- Starting from the next academic year, TOEFL training will be provided to intermediate students, he added, emphasising that the introduction of English medium education has enabled students to compete at the national and international levels for corporate jobs.
- The Chief Minister highlighted the unprecedented extension of preventive healthcare through village clinics and family doctors across the State.



students to achieve great heights and become global citizens. Addressing the Telugu diaspora, the Chief Minister shared that through the 'Nadu-Nedu' programme, the government has been enhancing the basic infrastructure of government schools, providing tablets to students and teachers from 8th grade onwards, introducing the subject-teacher concept from 3rd class, distributing bilingual textbooks, initiating digital teaching through Interactive Flat Panels (IFPs)

university professors, NASA scientists, doctors, and successful business magnates. We take immense pride in your remarkable achievements driven by unwavering dedication and commitment," he remarked. The Chief Minister also acknowledged witnessing similar determination and focus among the Telugu children within the state. "Our State is undergoing a revolutionary transformation in the fields of education, healthcare, agriculture, and housing for the betterment of future generations. We are also ensuring transparent implementation of welfare programs. To further these changes, Andhra Pradesh needs your support," he appealed to them, encouraging them to contribute in any way possible for the state's growth. While financial support plays a vital role in the state's development, the Chief Minister emphasised the importance of their exposure, experience, and expertise for overall progress. He noted that the tangible changes can be observed across various sectors as well. "Since many of you hail from our villages, you can witness these changes firsthand."

**'Paala Velluva': Stone for Chittoor Dairy today**

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**  
 Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will lay foundation stones to various development initiatives with an investment of Rs 385 crore by AMUL in Chittoor, on Tuesday and steps would be taken towards starting production within 10 months soon after the foundation stone was laid. Chittoor Dairy had been shut down for 20 years as a result of the neglect of the previous governments. The unit has now been restored back to life by totally paying off the debts of Rs 182 crore and signing a MoU with AMUL under a revolutionary step "Jagananna Paala Velluva". The officials stated that the largest ice cream manufacturing facility in the nation would be built as part of revitalisation of Chittoor Dairy in the first phase, at a cost of Rs 150 crore. Along with it, manufacturing units of butter, milk powder, ultra high temperature, cheese, paneer, yoghurt and sweets would be established in a phased manner. As a result 5,000 individuals would be given direct employment while 2 lakh people will get indirect employment which includes employment through AMUL outlets and distribution mechanism, 25 lakh dairy producers to be benefitted. The Jagan Mohan Reddy government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with AMUL, the largest dairy cooperative in the Nation, in order to revitalise and strengthen cooperative dairies and to benefit Women dairy farmers. The largest ice cream manufacturing facility in the nation would be built as part of revitalisation of Chittoor Dairy in the first phase, at a cost of Rs 150 crore. Along with it, manufacturing units of butter, milk powder, ultra high temperature, cheese, paneer, yoghurt and sweets would be established in a phased manner. The MoU intends to give dairy farmers remunerative prices and make high-quality milk and other dairy products available for the consumers at affordable rates. Women's dairy cooperative societies are set up to collect milk from dairy farmers. So far, 3,06,692 women dairy farmers have been identified in 17 districts and 3,551 societies were established. The societies will be trained in managing their livestock and guided in ensuring that the profits are shared among the members of the society.



**Tadipatri CI commits suicide**

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**  
 A police inspector died by suicide in Anantapur district on Monday. Tadipatri Two Town Circle Inspector Ananda Rao (52) hanged himself at his residence in the early hours of Monday. He had been serving as Tadipatri CI for the last nine months. According to police, the CI killed himself at his rented house at CPI Colony in Tadipatri town. Preliminary investigations by the police show that the police officer resorted to the extreme step due to marital discord. Ananda Rao and his wife Anuradha were having frequent fights for the last few days. There was a heated argument between them on Sunday night. After his wife and both sons went to sleep, the CI hanged himself.

**Stand on UCC may create problems for Telugu CMs**

**SNCN ACHARYULU ■ HYDERABAD**  
 Ahead of the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections will the proposal of the BJP-led Centre to introduce a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) create problems for Telugu Chief Ministers? The stand that the Telugu Chief Ministers are going to take is creating interest in political circles. The decision on UCC is going to affect Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao more than Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS



Jagan Mohan Reddy, according to political observers as the Muslims of Telangana are more sensitive than AP's Muslims. The BJP which banks on

Hindutva is serious about introducing the UCC before the Lok Sabha elections. The recent speech of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Bhopal at a meeting of BJP workers indicates this. The Muslim vote bank has more clout in Telangana than in Andhra Pradesh. There are around 25 Assembly constituencies in Telangana where the prospects of political parties depend on Muslims.

**Stocks on a roll**

**Sensex scales 65k peak for first time**  
**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
 Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty soared to fresh closing record highs for the third successive session on Monday, with the 30-share index crossing the historic 65,000 mark on strong foreign fund flows and a rally in global equities. Hectic buying in index majors Reliance Industries, ITC and HDFC twins also added to the momentum, traders said. Rallying for the fourth straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 486.49 points or 0.75



**Sharad Pawar strikes back**

**Sacks Praful Patel, Tatkare**  
**PNS ■ MUMBAI**  
 NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Monday sacked party's working president Praful Patel and Lok Sabha MP Sunil Tatkare, who have sided with Maharashtra deputy CM Ajit Pawar in his rebellion, for engaging in "anti-party" activities. The action comes a day after Ajit Pawar joined the Eknath Shinde-BJP government as deputy chief minister along with eight other NCP MLAs who were inducted as ministers.

**Bapatla man drowns while rescuing his kids in US beach**

**PNS ■ BAPATLA**  
 A 42-year-old US-based software engineer from Andhra Pradesh drowned while rescuing his children at a beach in Florida, his family said on Monday. Potti Venkata Rajesh Kumar died around 4.30 am Indian Standard Time on Sunday, his younger brother P Vijay Kumar said. Rajesh Kumar was a native of Addanki mandal in Bapatla district of the State and was employed with a startup in the US. The United States celebrates a long holiday coming in tandem with July 4th, which is the American Independence Day, and Rajesh decided to go out with family, his brother Vijay said, narrating the chain of events leading to his death. Rajesh and his family went to Jacksonville beach in Florida. When he noticed that the children went further into the sea, he ran behind them and managed to rescue his son. Yet, a big wave followed and pulled Rajesh in as well, his brother said. By the time Rajesh was brought back to the shore, Vijay said his brother was unconscious and immediately taken to a hospital in a helicopter, including his family members. Besides the father, his son also fell unconscious as water entered his lungs, said Vijay. At the hospital, Rajesh's son responded to shock treatment and is currently recovering in ICU but the software engineer died. The boy is conscious and able to talk, Vijay said. According to Vijay, the Telugu Association of North America (TANA) in the US is chipping in to ensure the mortal remains of his brother return home while the Andhra Pradesh Non-Resident Telugu Society (APNRTS) has also been contacted locally for help and support.



# YSRCP, TDP warned against continuing relations with BJP

They will face same fate as Shiv Sena and NCP, says CPM AP secretary

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

CPM State secretary V Srinivasa Rao has warned the ruling YSRCP and Opposition TDP that if they continue their friendship with the BJP, they will face the same fate as the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party in Maharashtra.

The Polavaram Maha Padayatra led by the CPM State secretary covered Gannavaram, Purushottapatnam and Mustabada in Krishna district and Nunna, Payakapuram and Ajith Singh Nagar in NTR district on Monday.

Srinivasa Rao made serious allegations against the BJP, YSRCP and the TDP at a public meeting that was held at Mustabada. These three parties neglected the Polavaram project-displaced people and rehabilitation colonies, he alleged. The BJP-led Central government betrayed Andhra Pradesh by not releasing funds for the displaced people and R&R colonies, he added.

The Left leader underlined the attitude of the BJP and warned both the ruling and Opposition parties about the saffron party. If these parties blindly follow the BJP, they will



split like Shiv Sena and NCP. The BJP aims to rule the country as well as the States and for that, the saffron party will focus on snatching power from the ruling parties by creating splits, he alleged.

He warned that the YSRCP and the TDP in the State should be wary of the BJP and maintain a distance from that party. In view of the coming elections in the country, the BJP-led Central government is

trying to bring the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill in the next Parliament sessions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is trying to get back in power by splitting people in the name of religion, he added.

Coming to the Polavaram project, the previous TDP government also neglected the displaced people and R&R colonies, he said. Now, the YSRCP is following the previous government and not allo-

cating a single paisa for providing infrastructure facilities in the R&R colonies. Both the parties are eyeing to get votes from the tribals, but don't give priority to their welfare and development, he pointed out.

CPM State secretariat members Mantene Sitaram, V Venkateswarlu, tribal leader Nagamani, CPM Krishna district secretary Y Narasimha Rao and others were present.

## PM to open Sai Hira Global Convention Centre today

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Sai Hira Global Convention Centre in

Puttaparthi virtually at 10.30 am on Tuesday. The inaugural ceremony will be attended by prominent dignitaries and devotees from around the world.

The Sathya Sai Central Trust has constructed a new facility, Sai Hira Global Convention Centre, at Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi. Prasanthi Nilayam is the main ashram of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The Convention Centre, donated by philanthropist Ryuko Hira, is a testament to the vision of promoting cultural exchange, spirituality, and global harmony. It provides a nurturing environment for people of diverse backgrounds to come together, connect, and explore the teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Its world-class amenities and infrastructure will facilitate conferences, seminars, and cultural events, fostering dialogue and understanding among individuals from all walks of life.

The sprawling complex also features meditation halls, serene gardens and facilities for accommodation.

## 61% increase in PLF: APERC

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC) conducted a meeting at its office in Hyderabad on Monday to review the compliance of directives issued to DISCOMs and APTRANSCO. The meeting was attended by K Vijayanand, Special Chief Secretary Energy, and KVN Chakradhar Babu, Managing Director of APGENCO, along with APERC Chairman Justice C V Nagarajuna Reddy.

During the meeting, the performance of the power sector, including standards of performance, was critically assessed. The ongoing capital works aimed at meeting future load growth and ensuring uninterrupted 24x7 power supply were also reviewed across all utilities.

APERC Chairman Justice CV Nagarajuna Reddy commended APGENCO for achieving a significant increase in the Plant Load Factor (PLF) compared to the previous year. Andhra Pradesh Power Development Corporation Limited (APPDCL) registered a 61% PLF, compared to 41% during the same period last year. The APERC Chairman, along with members PVR Reddy and Thakur Rama Singh, advised APGENCO to take necessary steps to further increase the PLF and achieve industry-best standards.

The Commission directed the completion of all essential network-related works covering all voltages by December 2023. Additionally, efforts were



The commission emphasized the need for comprehensive safety measures to eliminate accidents and mishaps. DISCOMs were instructed to appoint a Regulatory Compliance Officer who would be accountable for implementing all Commission directives.

urged to enhance the PLF of Krishnapatnam Stage 1 plant from the current 61% to its normative level of 85%, reducing dependence on costly market purchases. APGENCO officials were specifically asked to address coal conveying constraints to ensure a high availability of coal for optimal power generation.

In terms of accidents and compensation, APERC recommended that utilities demonstrate compassion and generosity while granting ex gratia payments. The commission emphasized the need for comprehensive safety mea-

asures to eliminate accidents and mishaps. DISCOMs were instructed to appoint a Regulatory Compliance Officer who would be accountable for implementing all Commission directives.

Special Chief Secretary Energy and MD APGENCO assured their commitment to providing uninterrupted 24x7 power supply and delivering the best services to consumers. The meeting was attended by CMDs of DISCOMs, J Padmajanardhana Reddy and K Santhosha Rao, Director Grid AVK Bhaskar, and other senior officials.

## Week-long 160<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary celebrations of Gidugu in Aug

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

AP Telugu Official Language Commission and the Telugu Language Development Authority chairman P Vijay Babu said that week-long celebrations are being planned on the 160th birth anniversary of Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy in August. Ramamurthy was the father of the Telugu spoken language movement and founder of pragmatic linguistics.

The chairman spoke to the media persons on Monday and said that measures are being taken by the Commission in implementing Telugu as the Official Language in the state and also on the plan of action. He said the government will celebrate the birth anniversary of Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy, which



is on August 29 on a grand note by conducting various programmes across all the districts. He said that the literary legends in those districts will be honoured on the occasion.

He further said that they will organise Telugu Language Literary programmes in all the Universities and Education institutions with the support of NGOs. He emphasized that they will take the support of organisations of Tamil Nadu to

conduct the programmes in the state and also planned to organise Language Brahmothsavam with the support of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). The Uttarandhra Literary meetings will be conducted soon with the support of Andhra University in Visakhapatnam. He said those who do not follow the guidelines of the authority will be fined to the tune of Rs 10,000 to Rs 60,000 but will take the reports from all the collectors and officials about the problems faced during the implementation of the Telugu Language at the ground level.

He said that they also suggested to all the municipal commissioners to assure all the signboards of the business sector should be in the Telugu language.

## Jagan doing nothing for R'seema: Byreddy

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Royalaseema Steering Committee Chairman Byreddy Rajasekhara Reddy has come down heavily on Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for 'doing nothing' for the development of the Royalaseema region during the past four years. He also alleged that injustice was meted out to Royalaseema after Jagan was voted to power.

Byreddy Rajasekhara Reddy conducted a press conference at a private hotel in Vijayawada on Monday. He said that at present, the Royalaseema region had been destroyed and the people were in debt trap. He also said that the youth and the people were migrating to other States seeking employment. Byreddy further opined that Jagan, who hailed from Royalaseema, was an utter failure as Chief Minister, and added that even though Jagan was the youngest

CM, he was not doing anything for Royalaseema's development.

Further, he said that they were going to organise 'Chalo Delhi' on July 28 for demanding an equal share in water, funds and appointments (jobs). He said they had already booked special trains for this programme and urged the Chief Minister to participate in the event.

"The Royalaseema region still faces drinking water scarcity despite having rivers and water sources. We are still depending on the reservoirs built by the British. If the Sangamitra project had been completed, 24 lakh acres would have been provided to get water. Hospet Dam and Krishna projects have gone to Ballari district. Leaders of Royalaseema have done great injustice to this region, he alleged.

"Due to the construction of the Upper Bhadra (Karnataka



Royalaseema leader Byreddy Rajasekhara Reddy addressing a press conference in Vijayawada on Monday.

Pic by CH. VIJAYA BHASKAR

project which is being built at a cost of Rs.26,000, eight districts are affected in three States. Royalaseema districts will be destroyed by this project. I am asking CM Jagan why he didn't convey this

matter to the Centre government. Jagan Mohan Reddy, who got votes by entreating to give one chance, did nothing for Royalaseema," Byreddy stated.

Meanwhile, he alleged that Jagan's flag and agenda were different and added that his focus was only on getting out of CBI cases. He alleged that CM Jagan was in depression. He was not even in the mood for thinking about the State. Byreddy also alleged that at present, the entire State was talking about the Vivekananda Reddy murder case.

Referring to the Amma Vodi scheme, he pointed out that the amount had not been credited so far and that CM Jagan was cheating the public. He also stated that due to the merger of the elementary schools, many children's education was affected. He said that CM Jagan had screwed up the education system in the State.

## VMC issues notification for selection of 173 Ward volunteers

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Commissioner of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC), Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar said that the 18th phase 173 wards volunteers selection process will be held at Assistant Commissioner's Office, Patamata Vijayawada from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on July 4.

He instructed the candidates to attend with original certificates for the Oral exam to be conducted and also informed that for further details to contact the Special Officer (Ward Secretariats) or Ward Secretariat special cell in the Municipal Corporation on Phone number 8185933187.

## BJP leaders inspect Tapovan Trust

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The lands of Avadhuta, Tapovan and Arogya Sadan Trust were inspected under the leadership of BJP State president Somu Veerajulu here on Monday. He said that four decades ago, under the leadership of the chairman of Avadhuta Trust, the Nature Cure Hospital used to provide treatment. He warned that the BJP would not keep quiet if the Endowments Department took any action. Alienation of Trust lands will not be tolerated.

He further said that the State government was occupying lands belonging to Hindus and leasing them out, and said that the BJP opposed the anti-



Hindu trend of the State government. He said that during British rule, a nature cure hos-

pital was providing treatment. But at present that land is under the Endowments

Department and the department was trying to lease out the land.

Veerajulu pointed out that there was no Ayurvedic or Unani college in AP. He said that the Central government had decided to set up Central Siddha Hospital in Tirupati, Ayurvedic Hospital in Visakhapatnam, and a 100-bed hospital in Gannavaram. He demanded that the State government should set up a nature cure hospital on the trust land.

Somu Veerajulu spoke to the Endowments Department Commissioner and said that the Department should set up a nature cure hospital here in accordance with the ideas of the Trust.

## Strengthen services in govt hospitals: CS

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Secretary, Dr KS Jawahar Reddy, instructed the officials to strengthen the medical services in the government and area hospitals across the state. He held a review on the Health, Medical and Family Welfare department on Monday.

On the occasion, the CS said that the government has concentrated on the Health sector and spent more funds for the development of infrastructure after the impact of Covid pandemic. He instructed the officials to strengthen the services to the public from Primary Health Centres to State level hospitals. He also stressed the expansion of Arogyasri services in the state to provide better medical services to the people of Andhra Pradesh. He instructed the officials to take measures to control anaemia in 10 to 19 years girls by identifying the



anaemic girls in government and private institutions and supplying Iron-Folic tablets.

The chief secretary further instructed the officials to speed up the construction works of all 5 medical colleges for inauguration and further reviewed several issues in the Health, Medical and Family Welfare Department.

Special Chief Secretary Medical and Health MT Krishna Babu briefed several initiatives being taken by the health department over a PowerPoint Presentation. Chief Secretary, Women Development and Child Welfare Jayalakshmi, Commissioner, Health and Family Welfare J Nivas, Special Secretary to CMRF Dr HariKrishna, Arogyasri CEO Harindra Prasad and others were present.

## Congress will come to power after next polls: APCC chief

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president and former MLC Gidugu Rudra Raju has claimed that the Congress party will be voted to power in the upcoming elections and Rahul Gandhi will become Prime Minister of India. He further said that the people of the country abhorred the BJP-led Central government.

Gidugu Rudra Raju, along with Leader of the Telangana Assembly Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, addressed the media at Andhra Ratna Bhavan in Vijayawada on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, Gidugu Rudra Raju said that the BJP government had been cheating the public

for the past nine years. The Modi government was selling out all the government assets to private persons; due to this, the unemployment percentage has increased phenomenally, he alleged. He also defined that BJP means Babu, Jagan and Pawan.

Telangana Opposition Leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said that the KCR government would be crumpled in the ensuing elections and added that the Congress would come to power in Telangana.

Working presidents Mastan Vali, Sunkara Padma Sri, AICC member Meda Suresh, national secretary Raksha Ramayya, Mamatha Nagireddy and others were present.

## 'OPEX plays crucial role in industries'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Operational Excellence (OPEX) is all about ensuring flexibility in the most efficient way of harmonising people, processes, and products through standardisation, continuous improvements through Kaizen, and creating a culture of teamwork, creativity, and innovation, said TR Parasuraman, Executive Advisor, Toyota Group, Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd.

Addressing the gathering on Operational Excellence in Pharma Industry: Global MNCs - Indian Stories, organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)-Visakhapatnam here on Monday, Parasuraman said the road to success was under construction and the sky was



not the limit when it came to operational excellence and continuous benchmarking to level up together with accelerated horizontal deployment was the key. Operational excellence must start from the top and nurture continuously through a good environment, systems, and people.

CII Visakhapatnam Chairman Dr PP Lal Krishna said OPEX played a crucial role

in the industries and underscored the need for adopting best practices, embracing technology, and fostering a culture of excellence so that companies could enhance their competitive advantage, deliver innovative products, and positively impact outcomes.

Explaining the objective of the conclave, the former chairman of CII Visakhapatnam and Managing Director of

Ajinomoto Bio-Pharma Services, KVV Raju, said: "It's a platform where we brought together eminent people from the global MNCs in the pharma industry to share their valuable insights on best practices, challenges and how to improve operational agility, reduce costs, eradicating human errors and enhance workforce effectiveness, optimisation of strategy and their journey towards OPEX in the Indian context."

During the panel discussion on OPEX of Global MNCs in the Indian Context, Anant Barbadikar, Managing Director, PharmaZell (I) Pvt. Ltd., said OPEX dealt with multiple measurement tools like Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and lean Six Sigma which eliminated waste

thereby leading to profitability and customer satisfaction.

While Vijaya Waman Ghogare, Cluster Head- API Operations, Biocoon Ltd., said that to achieve long-term operational resiliency, the need was to implement the right digital tools in the pharma industry to achieve cross-functional collaboration for their sites and supply chains to drive efficiencies and enhance revenue.

Other speakers shared how to optimise the strategies and capabilities in OPEX and highlighted the challenges faced by the pharma companies on how to be faster, cheaper, more compliant, and more sustainable. They stressed the need to automate elements of the manufacturing process to enhance speed and efficiency and to eliminate human error.

## Surveyor in ACB net

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A mandal surveyor was caught red-handed by the officials of Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday. On the instructions of AP DGP KV Rajendranath Reddy, a complaint was received by ACB 14400 Call Center and ACB App, Vizianagaram District, Rajam Mandal Surveyor V Chandra Rao was caught red-handed while taking a bribe.

A person from Kondampet village, Rajam Mandal, Vizianagaram District, applied for survey of his land and the Surveyor V Chandra Rao, demanded Rs 30,000 from the complainant to conduct a survey. As the applicant requested the surveyor to reduce the amount of bribe he did not accept.



# Will Satya Kumar replace Veerraju as AP BJP chief?

BJP-TDP alliance may become a reality in case of change of guard

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

There are widespread speculations regarding the potential replacement of Somu Veerraju, the current BJP Andhra Pradesh state unit president, with K. Satya Kumar, a prominent central BJP leader from Andhra Pradesh. The issue has been generating significant discussion on various social media platforms, and it remains to be seen what decision the BJP High Command will make regarding this matter.



**TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu recently held meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, which could indicate a potential replacement for Somu Veerraju. It is worth noting that Veerraju's relationship with the TDP has been somewhat strained. If a TDP-friendly figure like Satya Kumar assumes the position of BJP AP state president, it could further solidify the prospects of an alliance between the two parties ahead of the elections.**

Sources indicate that the BJP often replaces state unit presidents before elections, leading to strong indications that Somu Veerraju may indeed be replaced by Satya Kumar. Additionally, in Telangana, there are similar talks about the likely replacement of the present state unit BJP president, Bandi Sanjay, with Union Minister Kishan Reddy.

been closely associated with Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, serving as his personal assistant for an extensive period.

If Satya Kumar assumes the role of BJP AP state unit president, there is a possibility of BJP and the Telugu Desam Party forming an alliance for the upcoming 2024 elections. TDP chief Chandrababu

Naidu recently held meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, which could indicate a potential replacement for Somu Veerraju. It is worth noting that Veerraju's relationship with the TDP has been somewhat strained. If a TDP-friendly figure like Satya Kumar assumes the position of BJP AP state

president, it could further solidify the prospects of an alliance between the two parties ahead of the elections. Political analysts also point out that there is pressure from BJP MP Sujana Chowdary and other leaders who joined the BJP after the 2019 elections from the TDP to establish an alliance with the TDP before the upcoming elections.

# 3-day Shakambari festivities conclude

2.5 lakh devotees visit Durga Temple



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Shakambari festivities concluded at Sri Kanaka Durga Temple atop Indrakeeladri on Monday. The Shakambari Utsavalu, which commenced on Saturday, was completed on the auspicious day of Guru Purnima after Santhi Poustika Homama, Mantapa Puja, Poornahoothi and Kushmandal Bali Marjana. During these three days, thousands of devotees across the two Telugu States visited the temple and performed special pujas for the goddess. As part of the celebrations, Durga was adorned and worshipped as Sri Shakambari Devi.

According to the temple authorities, around 2.50 lakh devotees visited the temple during these three days. In view of the Shakambari festi-



ties, the temple was embellished with vegetables, leafy vegetables and fruits. On Saturday and Sunday, the temple and its premises including the sanctum sanctorum were decorated with vegetables. On Sunday, the temple was mostly decorated with colourful fruits. People offered around 45 tonnes of vegetables and fruits for the purpose. Meanwhile, on the auspicious occasion of Ashada Purnima, Sri Gnana Prasunambika Devi Sametha Sri Kalahastiswara Temple (Sri Kalahasti) Chairman Anjuri Srivivasulu, Temple EO KV Sagar and Trust Board members presented saare to goddess Sri Kanaka Durga. Besides, Sri Tirupatamma

Talli Devasthanam Penuganchiprotu Chairman E Chinna Kesava Rao and EO, Deputy Collector K Ramesh Naidu visited the Durga temple and offered sacred saare to the presiding deity. Durga Temple EO D Bramarambha and Trust Board Chairman Karnati Rambabu welcomed them as per traditions. On the occasion of Guru Purnima, Durga temple authorities performed Guru Puja and Guru Vandanam for vedic scholar Gunturi Sri Rama Chandra Somayajulu and his wife. Meanwhile, to mark the occasion, Giri Pradhikana was conducted on Monday morning by the temple authorities. A large number of devotees participated in it.

## Sri Lanka's Provincial Governor visits temple

Sri Lanka's Eastern Province Governor Senthil Thondaman and Deputy High Commissioner Dr D Venkateswara have visited Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam. They both had darshan of the presiding deity and performed special pujas. Earlier, the Temple EO D Bramarambha and the Trust Board Chairman received them. Later, they were offered Vedasirvachanam along with prasadam by the priests. Durga Temple JEO P Guruprasad and Trust Board members were present.

# 'Jagananna Suraksha' aimed at providing welfare schemes to all eligible: Collector

PNS ■ ELURU

District Collector V Prasanna Venkatesh reiterated that the Jagananna Suraksha programme is being implemented with an objective of providing welfare schemes to all the eligible poor.

The Jagananna Suraksha programme was organised at Somavarappadu village in Denduluru mandal in which MLA K Abbaya Chowdary and ZP chairperson Ghanta Padmasri participated.



Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that it is aimed to provide welfare schemes to all the eligible poor irrespective of caste, creed and religion. District Collector Prasanna Venkatesh said that the Jagananna Suraksha programme would be organised in 605 secretariats of Eluru for a month with the aim of providing welfare schemes to everyone who is deserving regardless

of caste, religion, region and party, considering welfare and development as two eyes.

He said that it was surprising that 90 percent of the government welfare schemes were provided under Somavarappadu village panchayat. He said that participation in the first day of Jagananna Suraksha programme at Somavarappadu of Denduluru constituency of

Eluru district gave me great joy. The collector said that in the past, people used to go around the offices for certificates, but now there is no such situation.

The Collector said that every application received would be examined by the Collector, Joint Collector and senior officials themselves. For the Jagananna Suraksha programme, from June 24 to 30, volunteers, secretariat staff and

public representatives went door to door and conducted a survey and identified 168 problems among those who were still eligible and had technical problems. The Collector called upon people to utilize the Jagananna Suraksha programme and get the benefits of welfare schemes. MLA K Abbaya Chowdary and ZP chairperson Ghanta Padmasri also spoke.

## Merugu all praise for Ambedkar statue

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



AP Welfare Minister Nagarjuna who visited the 125ft Ambedkar statue said that it is very beautiful to visit. Chief Minister K Chandrababu Naidu installed the statue of BR Ambedkar with great thought. He said, "I worked as SC, ST Commissioner in the erstwhile state of Andhra Pradesh and there is a big difference between then and now. A lot of development took place here with the installation of Ambedkar statue."

He thanked Chief Minister KCR for setting up such a big statue. "Ambedkar's ambitions are being governed here. Here we have studied how the Ambedkar statue was set up and how it was developed."

# Opposition jealous of govt's welfare agenda: Malladi

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

AP Planning Board Vice Chairman and Central MLA Malladi Vishnu said that the welfare programmes introduced by the state government led by chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for poverty eradication are giving good results. Financial experts are also praising the reforms brought by the YSRCP government including cash transfer. It has been revealed that this government has deposited Rs 2.16 lakh crore cash in the accounts of beneficiaries in four years.

As part of the Gadapa Gadapa programme, MLA Vishnu visited 24th division under the 36th secretariat in the central constituency on Monday. Malladi Vishnu criticized that Chandrababu is in a sorry state of not being able to say how many promises of the TDP manifesto have been implemented during their five



years rule. The opposition was angry that every poor family in the state was getting benefitted by the state government welfare schemes, and could not digest the overwhelming response from the people, the good that was being brought to them in the form of some scheme. He called upon everyone to voluntarily understand the conspira-

torial politics of the opposition and teach them a lesson in the coming elections. He along with local corporator Kukkala Anitha AMOH Ramakoteswara Rao, CDO Jagadeeswari, party leaders Kukkala Ramesh, Kommu Chanti, Bellappu Satyanarayana, Kambhampati Moses and others were present.

# Nothing wrong in calling Rahul 'Pappu': BRS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister Vemula Prashant Reddy's said that there is nothing wrong in calling Rahul Gandhi as 'Pappu'.

"Earlier, I used to feel a little sad when Rahul was called Pappu. But looking at the way Rahul spoke at the Khammam Sabha, it seems that there is nothing wrong in calling him Pappu," he said.

"Here, Rahul read the script written by Congress veterans and left. Rahul has no understanding and no knowledge of anything. It is not understood what status Rahul actually has in the Congress. Will Rahul lead everything in the Congress even if he doesn't hold any post? He is acting like a 'Remote' Gandhi and not Rahul Gandhi. People in the state know everything about Congress and do not need to learn anything new," he said.

He said that instead of saying what the Congress is doing in its states, Rahul is saying that we will do this here.

"Elections were held in Karnataka. Are you giving Rs 4,000 pension there? In Congress-ruled states, the maximum pension given is Rs 1,000. The old age pension in Chhattisgarh is Rs 500, Widow Pension is Rs 300-Rs 350," he said.

"Does the Congress have the guts to say that it will give Rs

4,000 as pension across the country? Will Karnataka, where the Congress came to power, start implementing it? Do you think that the people of Telangana are fools to believe anything? The people of Telangana do not believe the Congress at all," Vemula said.

"Rahul talking about corruption is funny. The Congress is synonymous with corruption and is the fountainhead of all corruption. Rahul's father, Rajiv Gandhi, was defeated due to the Bofors scam and Rahul faced corruption charges as an MP. KCR is not a monarch. He won 88 seats and became CM a second time. Rahul lost his MP post," he added.

"Does Rahul want to be the king of Congress? Is your royal family team in the Congress? The cost of the Kaleshwaram Project was not even Rs 80,000 crore. Then why does Rahul say that lakhs of rupees were embezzled using Kaleshwaram?" Vemula asked.

"Rahul made objectionable comments in Telangana. We opposed the Farm Bill in Parliament. We boycotted it to protest against the government. The Centre withdrew the farm Bill because of the BRS. But it is ridiculous for a national leader to say that we supported it," BRS MP K. Keshav Rao said.

## BJP will never ally with BRS, says Kishan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Union Minister for Tourism G Kishan Reddy on Monday alleged that the Congress and BRS are "family parties" and their DNA is one. Everybody knows who the B-Team is for whom, Kishan Reddy said.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, who met opposition leaders recently, met Chief Minister K Chandrababu Naidu on Monday at Hyderabad and the Chief Minister and Akhilesh Yadav's meeting clarifies "who is B-Team to whom," Kishan Reddy said. He gave a counter to Rahul Gandhi's allegations made at the Khammam meeting, while speaking to the media in Delhi on Monday, along with Dubbak MLA M Raghunandan Rao, Kishan Reddy said that the Congress and BRS have a history of entering into an alliance. However, the BJP never contested elections in alliance with the BRS party, he said.

Rahul Gandhi abandoned the responsibility of leading the party, the Union Minister said. Rahul Gandhi has no moral right to criticise the BJP. The BJP maintains the same distance from the BRS and the Congress party, Kishan Reddy asserted. "We did not join hands with the BRS in the past and will not do so even in future.

# Organise special camps of 'Suraksha' efficiently: Collector

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

Collector P Prashanthi directed the officials to organise special camps for Jagananna Suraksha programme and strive hard to make the programme a big success in the district.

The Collector held a video conference with the officials and reviewed the implementation of Jagananna Suraksha, Houses construction, Mana Badi Nadu, Jaganannaku Chebudam, NREGA works and Jalakala works.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector inquired how many tokens were issued in the Jagananna Suraksha special camps, according to which various certificates were issued to the people and whether they were registered online. The



District Collector reviewed mandal and municipality wise the help desk, medical camps and the Aadhaar enrollment centers.

Collector Prashanthi inquired the officials how many children have been registered at the Aadhaar registration center per day. She directed them to take steps to give those certificates quickly and also register how

many have been given online.

Every problem that came to Jaganannu chebudam should be dealt with very responsibly and resolved. The Collector wanted to assess the shortcomings of the last month and ensure that no mistakes are made this month and provide quality solutions to the people.

Collector Prashanthi reviewed the progress of the works of Mandals, Municipal Corporations, each village and each ward on housing construction, national employment guarantee works, waterworks, Manabadi Nadu-Nedu works. District Revenue Officer K Krishna Veni, Sub Collector Y Surya Teja, DDO K CH Appa Rao and officials of various departments of the district and others participated.

# New portal of Technical Edu Dept launched

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chadalavada Naga Rani, the Commissioner of Technical Education, unveiled a new website for the Department of Technical Education on Monday. During the launch, Naga Rani expressed her excitement about the student-friendly features of the website, emphasising that it provides comprehensive information on Government, Private, and Aided Polytechnics. She also highlighted the inclusion of a feedback form on the website, allowing citizens, students, and visitors to share their ideas, suggestions, grievances, and satisfaction levels, there-

by contributing valuable inputs for future website improvements.

Naga Rani further announced that the new website ensures accessibility for visually challenged individuals through the use of screen readers. Additionally, it offers convenient links to other important websites such as the State Board of Technical Education, POLYCET admissions, Engineering Admissions, and student transfers, thereby providing students with easy access to vital resources.

The Commissioner of Technical Education commended the efforts of the

National Informatics Centre, Vijayawada, as well as Dr. B. Kalyan, Deputy Director (Technical), and Dr. K. Ratna Babu, ITCO, for their contributions to the design and deployment of the new website. Several distinguished guests attended the event, including V. Padma Rao, Joint Director, KV Ramana Babu, Secretary, SBTET, Dr. MA Ramakrishna, Deputy Director (T&P), B. Janaki Ramayya, Joint Secretary (COE), SBTET, GVV Satyanarayana Murthy, Joint Secretary (A), SBTET, Dr. B. Nageswara Rao, OSD, Dr. K. Ratna Babu, ITCO, and the staff of CTE office and SBTET office.







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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Pawar politics

### Ajit Pawar's entry into the State Cabinet exposes fissures in the NCP

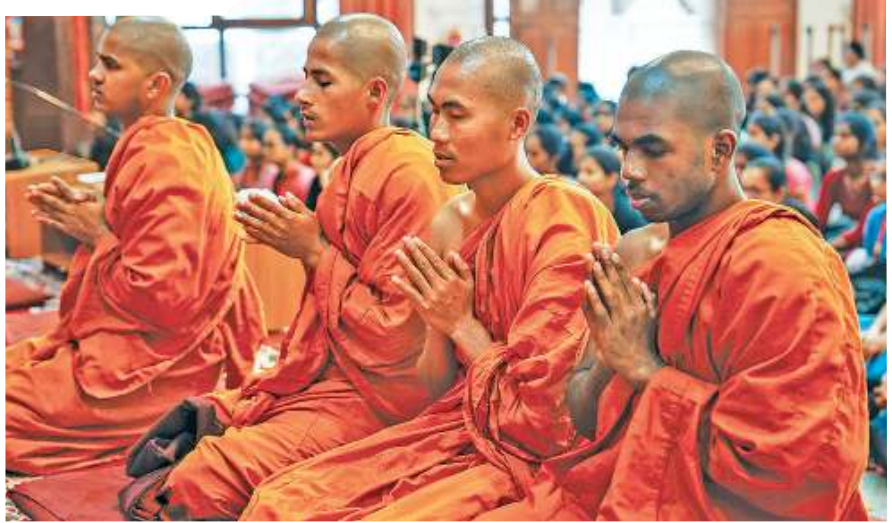
The recent inclusion of Ajit Pawar, a prominent leader of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), in the cabinet as Deputy CM has sent shockwaves through Maharashtra's political landscape. Ajit's return to the fold after his brief and controversial alliance with the BJP last year has highlighted the deep-rooted divisions within the NCP. This unexpected move has raised concerns about the party's internal dynamics and the impact it may have on its future trajectory. Though after Sharad Pawar elevated Supriya Sule and Praful Patel, giving them more responsibilities and sidelining Ajit and his sympathisers, it was a foregone conclusion. Sharad Pawar's resignation episode a few weeks ago showed that Ajit did not have the sway over the party members demanding, as they did, Pawar's comeback in one voice. Ajit's association with the NCP has been marked by both achievements and controversies. He is known for his astute political strategies and administrative acumen, which



earned him the reputation of being a key troubleshooter for the party. However, his decision to join hands with the BJP and form a short-lived government in Maharashtra in 2019 did not work and lowered his stature as a leader who was not on the same page as stalwart Sharad Pawar. The NCP, founded by the senior Pawar, has been grappling with internal disagreements and power struggles for some time now. The party has historically witnessed factionalism, with various leaders vying for dominance. Ajit's controversial move last year exacerbated these divisions and led to a bitter feud within the party.

A section of the NCP leadership, loyal to Sharad Pawar, was deeply hurt by Ajit's decision to align with the BJP, considering it betrayal of the party's ideology and principles. The sudden shift had also caused considerable embarrassment to the NCP, forcing it to form an alliance with the Shiv Sena and the Congress to reclaim power in Maharashtra. The move has not only divided opinions within the NCP but has also raised concerns among its alliance partners. The Sena and the Congress, both wary of Ajit's past actions, have expressed apprehension about the implications of his re-entry into the government. This has further strained the already delicate relationship among the parties. With Ajit's return, the NCP faces significant challenges in restoring trust and unity within its ranks. The party must reconcile the differing factions and present a united front to effectively address the issues facing Maharashtra. The credibility and reputation of the NCP, as well as its alliance partners, are at stake, and it is crucial for them to act prudently. Ajit's entry into the cabinet has exposed deep-seated divisions within the NCP, casting a shadow over its unity and long-term prospects. The party's leadership must demonstrate strong resolve and commitment to its core principles to emerge from this episode with renewed strength and a clear vision for the future.

### PICTALK



Buddhist monks pray on the occasion of 'Guru Purnima', at Mahabodhi Society in Bengaluru, Monday PTI

## Address employee burnout on priority

### Employee burnout has become a pervasive issue for many individuals who experience chronic stress at their workplace

The pressure to address burnout in workplaces became so intense in 2019 that the WHO had to announce it as an occupational phenomenon. According to a recent survey conducted by MPower, an initiative by The Aditya Birla Education Trust, it was found that approximately 48% of corporate employees are grappling with mental health concerns due to work-related stress.



micromanaging executives are additional factors that make employees feel extreme stress and insecurity. Modern workplaces have introduced digital and virtual work models that have added productivity paranoia in employees. Post-pandemic work modules do provide freedom while working but also cause digital fatigue. Microsoft Work Trends report in the year 2022 highlighted the number of weekly online meetings had increased by 153%.

Overwork, strict deadlines, and undue expectations cause physical and mental burnout. Lack of work-life balance has resulted in unengaged, unproductive, and demotivated employees.

**Tech-Based HR Solutions:** Though, modern workplace challenges require modern solutions. By leveraging tech-

based HR strategies, HR departments can play a pivotal role in fostering a culture of well-being, cultivating employee engagement and promoting work-life balance. **Technology for Flexibility:** Flexibility is the key to unlocking the potential of employees. Offering employees flexible timings and locations of work gives them a sense of autonomy to be productive on their terms and manage commitments better. Installing HRM solutions that may include mobile apps or platforms that allow employees to set their availability, request time off, or even swap shifts with colleagues seamlessly. By enabling flexible work arrangements, organisations can help employees achieve a better work-life balance, reducing the risk of burnout. **Assess Their Engagement:** Organisations can regularly assess the performance, satisfaction and engagement of employees to counter the issue of burnout. HR tech platforms can enable the deployment of employee surveys and pulse check-ins to gather real-time feedback on employee experiences. By

analysing the collected data, HR departments can identify patterns and implement targeted interventions to mitigate burnout factors. **Employee Well-being:** A vital aspect of employee well-being is feeling recognised and valued for their contributions. HR tech tools that facilitate regular performance evaluations and constructive feedback can help employees understand their strengths and areas for improvement and align their goals with organisational objectives. **Well-Being As Work Culture:** Employee well-being should be non-negotiable as they are the base of every organisational growth and success in the market. To foster collective resilience, organisations have a responsibility to support employees in transitioning from fear to a more empowered mindset. By implementing HR tech solutions that prioritise well-being, and offer long-term strategies to address employee burnout, organisations can reap significant benefits and ensure the well-being and success of their workforce.

(The writer is founder HROne)



KARAN JAIN

Since the Vedas are transmitted orally and are perceptible to the auditory sense, it is termed Sruti. It means 'learning by hear-

# Tradition of sruti, smriti and Sengol

## Perception and inference are valid sources of knowledge in the Indian traditions and so must be respected

Recently, India witnessed the establishment of the historic 'Sengol' in her new building of the parliament. The ceremony verily is the demonstration of our civilisational journey and re-discovering the ancient tradition once practised. The 'Sengol' is not a symbol of power, or lustre that is passed on from one generation to another rather it envelops a much wider connotation with deep philosophic meanings. The 'Sengol' as a concept is deeply rooted in the idea of 'Aram' - the Tamil equivalent of 'Dharma'. Saint Tiruvalluvar, in his timeless 'Thirukkural', sings the glorification of 'Sengonmai' as 'rule with justice', which is one of the most precious achievements of the Indic civilisation.

The 'Sengol', or the Staff or the Sceptre, is the foundation or support of all virtues and ethics essential for the state. The establishment was a moment of joy, pleasure, and pride for most of us. But some people doubted its grandeur and importance and also questioned its historicity. Being ignorant of our rich Indic tradition of 'Sruti and Smriti', such people sought the justification of this entire ceremony. To understand the significance of Sengol, it is necessary to sweep over the tradition of Sruti and Smriti.

One of the distinctive features of India is her preservation and dissemination of knowledge for almost five thousand years at least. India bestows utmost importance on knowledge, and that is why India is known as a 'knowledge culture'. This knowledge tradition is beyond the boundaries of any spatiotemporal relationship (desatita and kalatita) as well as continuous (nirantara). The entire outlook of Indian knowledge tradition is an interplay of Sruti and Smriti. There is a very intricate relationship between Sruti and the Smriti. The Brihaspati Smriti perceives these two as the two eyes for the men of wisdom and deprived of these two, one may lose their path and fall.

Since the Vedas are transmitted orally and are perceptible to the auditory sense, it is termed Sruti. It means 'learning by hear-



ing' which is the primary revelation at the beginning of creation.' This revelation was 'seen' by the primaeva seers; on the other hand, Smriti means 'recollection' and is the collective term for all other sacred literature which is considered to be secondary to Sruti (Van Buitenen, 1974). Revelation is the inner visualisation of the true nature of various entities and their attributes. Vedic seers acquired this revelation through a progressive self-culture (atma-sanskara). Sruti statements are considered infallible and hence are authoritative.

In his book 'Freedom at Midnight', Dominique Lapierre and Larry Collins remind us of the above-mentioned ritual that happened at sundown on 14th August 1947 in Delhi. This pious ritual ended with chanting 11 verses of Kolaru Pathigam - a Tamil text - to instil good thoughts in mind.

Indian philosophical tradition accepts Sruti as the only means of Dharma. Sruti as well as Smriti are regarded as valid means of knowledge. Sruti provides a firm foundation for all knowledge traditions, and practices. Regarding the validity of Smritis, the Mimamsa School of philosophy presents



INDIC TRADITION ACCEPTS SMRITI AS RELIABLE BASED ON INFERENCE (ANUMANA) WHICH IS A VALID SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE

an enriching argument by saying that "if the Smriti writers knew a certain action that should not be done, how could they declare it to be one that should be done, and thus mislead the contemporary society? One may argue that some sort of memory of the Sruti provides the necessary foundation for Smriti writers to codify some acts. But such memory is also not possible in the absence of some previous perception. The Smritis cannot be solely based on memory because memory demands previous cognition or experience. Continual of some sort of cultural memory also does not authenticate them. On the other side, the memory of the Vedas is not authenticated merely by its unbroken tradition but by the fact that the Vedas are perceptible to us during its recitation. In the case of Smriti, no such prior cognition is available to support their theories and practices.

Indian tradition accepts Smriti as reliable based on inference (anumana) which is a valid source of knowledge. The reason behind such inference is the fact that 'the agent is the same', i.e., the author of the concerned Smriti and the performer of the acts prescribed by the Sruti are the

same individual. It is also quite reasonable to accept that knowledge of Sruti texts is remembered, while certain Sruti texts and their wordings may be now lost. Different philosophical schools answer this question differently. The Mimamsa School assumes that Smritis are derived from Vedic texts now forgotten or inaccessible to us currently. In this way, Smriti, through inference, becomes the source of valid knowledge.

Perception and Inference, thus, are valid sources of knowledge in the Indian culture. Amidst the looming controversies surrounding the tradition of 'Sengol', its cultural validity can be significantly proven through the institutional memory that rests with the Adheenams of Tamil Nadu. In the present context, the tradition of handing over Sengol as a symbolic transfer of power is an inalienable cultural embodiment of the Sruti-Smriti tradition of ancient India. Its reiteration in modern India and symbolic placement in the new Indian parliament signifies the cultural awakening and echoes the civilisational idioms in the 21st century.

(The author is member Secretary IGNC)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POLICE INDULGING IN VIOLENCE

Sir - The pension reform and killing of 17 years old young boy in France had boiled the country once again. People are protesting in France for a week now, leading to which Mr Macron having to cancel his official state visit. Routers and Police Officers clash in the French City of Marseille, leading the entire nation into the garb of unrest and chaos.

Although the shot down of Nahel M, a young 17-year-old boy, clamp the nation as police arrested 1300 protestors so far. Like America, gun attacks by police on locals had been reported frequently. No doubt, arms are the instrument of Policing, but police must remember that it is for public safety not for taking public life. Mr Marcon, must immediately abide by the strict measures with respect to arms laws and regulations, and ensure that such people unrest will settle down as soon as possible. France which is burning for a week of chaos must settle peace and tranquillity on an urgent basis. We hope that the French Republic will soon return to normalcy with peace all around.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

### RESISTANCE AGAINST UCC

Sir - Why Uniform Civil Code is facing resistance among tribals in Chhattisgarh. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent speech in Madhya Pradesh advocating for the UCC has sparked a heated debate nationwide, it is crucial to consider the unique cultural and traditional practices of the tribal people in Chhattisgarh. Chief Minister Baghel rightfully questions the predominantly Hindu-Muslim perspective often associated with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and raises concerns about the implications for the tribal communities.

Any attempt to implement the UCC should be guided by the principles of preserving the cultural heritage, customs, and traditions of the tribal communities. It is crucial to ensure that the code respects their distinct identities and does not compromise their way of life. This could be achieved by

### Extreme nationalism



Some international affairs experts believe that after the first half of the 20th century, in the 23rd year of the 21st century, the whole of Europe, once again, is finding itself in the grip of extreme nationalism or far-right ideology. While I believe that not only Europe but also South and North America are not able to separate themselves from these conservative thoughts. The former Trump gov-

ernment in the United States and the earlier Bolsonaro governments in Brazil were also ruling on the strength of this radical ideology. India, which is called Asia's largest democracy, is also under the control of nationalists. Yes, it is definitely true that Europe is promoting and spreading the most conservative. In the political corridors of countries like France, Britain, Italy, Sweden, Poland and Germany, the movement of hatred and divisive people has increased more than ever. The biggest danger of nationalism is that it does not accept globalization and immigration. Religious minorities, blacks, and the poor are viewed with hatred by these conservatives. Due to this, the situation of conflict is continuously being created in the societies there.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

allowing for specific provisions or exemptions within the UCC framework that take into account the unique needs and beliefs of the tribal communities.

In conclusion, the concerns r, inclusivity, and a commitment to preserving cultural diversity, we can strive towards a Uniform Civil Code that respects and upholds the rights and traditions of all communities in our great nation.

Md Maimul Islam Safui | Howrah

### REPORTING ON LOSS MUST BE ACCURATE

Sir - Free travel to women is one of the five guarantees promised and implemented in Karnataka. Reports on loss due to free travel facility allowed must be accurate or at least must be nearer to accuracy. The conductor of the state-owned bus issues tickets to women with zero value.

There is also a purpose in issuing zero-value ticket to ascertain the loss caused to the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC). For the purpose of calculation of loss, the ticket value for both senior citizens and non-senior citizens cannot be the same because the bus fare was 25 per cent less for the senior woman citi-

zens also. There are also girl children whose ticket value is 50 per cent of the fare up to a certain age. If the ticket value of girl children who were supposed to pay 50 per cent of the fare and if the ticket value of senior woman citizens who were supposed to pay 75 per cent of the bus fare is calculated at the value applicable to all, the loss is shown at an inflated value. This is wrong. The data showing the loss on account of free-travel concession to women will be flawed and the public are fooled by the fudged data related to loss reporting.

The ruling party wants to show the inflated figure to create an impression that it has helped the people more than it has actually helped. It is a different issue that the cost of goods and services in other government sectors has been hiked to offset the losses on account of the freebies given to the people. The government is making more profits from the freebies given. It is business. Freebies are the "investments" by the government to earn profits.

KV Seetharamiah | Bengaluru

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com





## FIRST COLUMN

### SWARA YOGA: A FORGOTTEN PANACEA

Swara Yoga is a tradition of the yoga, which uses breath for well-being



SWARA YOGI SWAMI CHARANASHRIT

Ever since man has come into existence he has been attempting to understand the realm of the occult. He has tried his level best to accomplish this great task in various ways. Some talk about karma yoga, others about bhakti yoga, raja yoga, jnana yoga, kundalini yoga, etc. But there is hardly anyone who talks about Swara Yoga. Swara Vigyan refers to the science of breath or the study of the rhythmic patterns of breath and its influence on human physiology, psychology, and spiritual well-being.

The main source of recorded knowledge on swara yoga comes from the Shiva Swarodaya. Shiva is the supreme consciousness. This text extols the significance of the different types of breath or pranik rhythms as told by Lord Shiva. Lord Shiva, first expounded the knowledge of swara to Devi Parvati. The Shiva Swarodaya was the outcome of this dialogue. The very opening of the Shiva Swarodaya emphasizes the importance of Swara yoga.

Shiva implores Devi to make sure that science is kept very secret and sacred, and remains the highest of all the vidyas or forms of knowledge. Lord Shiva further states that in all the seven lokas he knows no greater wisdom or treasure than the swara yoga. Is the ancient science bestowed to Devi Parvati by the lord Shiva?

According to Swar Vigyan, the breath is considered a powerful tool that can be used to regulate and balance various aspects of our lives. It recognizes that the flow of breath through the nostrils is not constant but alternates between the left and right nostrils. This alternating pattern is believed to be linked to the activation of different energy channels in the body.



Swara Vigyan practitioners observe and analyze the subtle changes in the flow of breath, such as the dominance of breath through one nostril over the other, the duration of inhales and exhales, and the specific qualities associated with each nostril's breath flow. These observations are believed to provide insights into the state of one's physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

By understanding and working with the natural rhythm of breath, Swara Vigyan practitioners aim to harmonize the flow of energy in the body, enhance physical health, balance emotions, improve mental focus, and achieve spiritual growth regarding the finer aspects of the theory and practice. The physical act of breathing is said to have a very subtle influence on the level of consciousness and therefore the effects of swara yoga are also very subtle. It aims at directly awakening the highest human potential. In other systems, a similar understanding of the Swara of the breath is also expressed.

Swara yoga not only helps those who believe in a supreme reality but also those who do not have faith and who will also be surprised to discover many truths about this reality. Swara yoga is a path that leads to total experience and awakening of the entire being.

The alignment of the swara or breath is done according to the day and Hindi calendar. It is not very difficult to learn it. Just one has to be aware all the time of one's breath. It changes whether it is running from the right nostril or left nostril. If it is running from the right nostril at that time we should perform hard work like eating, doing exercise and even evacuating and logical, analytical mathematics can also be done.

*(The writer is an exponent of Swara Yoga. The views expressed are personal)*

# India to become largest toymaker in the world



SHIVAJI SARKAR

India makes toys worth USD 1.5 billion and is soon would be the world's largest toy maker but there are many challenges on the way, including of quality and pricing



India is poised to replace Chinese toys with indigenous manufacturing touching \$ 1.5 billion. It is likely to double to \$ 3.3 billion by 2028, according to International Market Analysis Research and Consulting Group (IMARC Group). India's toy imports, according to official figures, have declined by more than 70 per cent in the past 3.5 years, while exports have jumped by 61.3 per cent. It is expected to grow at a 12 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR). The world's leading toymaker Mattel recalled over 21 million Chinese-made toys worldwide in 2007 due to excessive levels of lead paint and other unsafe components.

India first banned toy imports from China mainly for its toxicity on 23 Jan 2009 but again eased it on 6 March 2009. The Narendra Modi government has put restrictions again on September 1, 2017.

Despite all this as per WTO norms a complete ban on toy imports is unlikely.

A new government initiative promises to help Indian toymakers scale up production capacity to compete internationally, further shrinking China's share in the domestic market. The government is considering a special scheme for the toy industry, according to Ajay Aggarwal, president of the Toy Association of India. It is likely to be a production-linked incentive. It will spur the activities of the toy industry.

India is home to 25 per cent of the world's children aged between 0 and 12 years. Domestic demand is huge. It also has a rich history and culture when it comes to toy making. India's toy industry has been a rare bright spot in the country's drive to cut import reliance on China in recent years. Various policies to reduce dependence on Chinese goods and boost local manufacturing have been initiated while taking advan-



THE INDIAN TOYS, DESPITE BEING LESS EXPENSIVE, ARE SUPPOSEDLY OF BETTER QUALITY AND HAVE YET TO CARVE OUT A NICHE IN THE MARKET

*(The author is a senior journalist)*

tage of Western efforts to diversify from the world's No 2 economy, says an International Labour Organisation study.

India's share in the global toy market, estimated at \$90 billion, is 0.5 per cent (\$500 million). The toy manufacturers are mostly located in NCR, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and clusters in some other states.

Chitrakoot in Uttar Pradesh, Kondapalli in Andhra Pradesh, Tanjore dolls, Ghurni clay dolls, Rajasthani puppets and Chennai-patna on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway have an age-old tradition of toy making but are unable to keep up with modern scale and trends. The traditional craft is protected as a geographical indication (GI) under the World Trade Organization. These are in demand in the West as exquisite pieces of art. India's domestic toy industry comprises 4,000 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and is primarily in the unorganized sector.

The increasing population catalyses the demand for toys. In addition, inflating income levels and the rising awareness among individuals about the benefits of toys in improving the cognitive capabilities of children are positively influencing the market in the country. Apart from this, a shifting preference from conventional toys towards modern and hi-tech electronic toys is strengthening the market growth. In line with this, the escalating demand for sensory toys for kids with special needs is driving the market in India, the ILO notes

Advanced technology and machinery encourage manufacturers to produce innovative toys and boost the market outlook. The rising sales of smartphones, laptops, and personal computers (PCs), along with the increasing influence of social media, are propelling market growth.

Amazon sold \$ 6292 million worth of toys, Walmart \$ 4645 million and Target \$ 1621 million through e-commerce. India's import of toys in the financial year 2018-2019 stood at \$1.4 billion (Rs10,000 crore). Almost 85 per cent of the toys 2020 sold in India are imported, with China being the top source, followed by Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Germany, Hong Kong and the US.

A large variety of toys are available within the Indian market, they can be broadly classified into two very distinct categories based on their application & purpose - educational and recreational toys. Amongst these two categories, under educational toys various toys and games made out of plastics and cardboard materials are prominent, while recreational toys, including electronic toys - remote controls, video games, battery operated toys, cars, plastic toys, dolls, soft toys and mechanical pull back toys are not popular amongst modern parents. However, out of all of these toys, electronic toys & games as well as battery-operated toys are being manufactured less in India.

The markets still sell Chinese products as still these are considered to have beheld the buyer. The Indian toys, despite being less expensive, are supposedly of better quality and have yet to carve out a

niche in the market. There is a perception that the imported are technologically better. Manufacturers say that at initial stages the reactions are normal but as the indigenous products proliferate the perception would change.

Manufacturers find that while they have started mainly plastic toys as it is easier, they face different kinds of problems. It is just not the kind of metals and plastics but many toys need different kinds of textiles and other accessories. The ancillaries are yet to come up. Some require particular kinds of durable, light and special fabric. That too is not locally available. China has also advanced the low-cost electronics industry.

However, they are expecting more government support for banning imports to sustain production. A KPMG-FICCI report is hopeful that the country's market size would be doubling to \$ 2 billion shortly. Electronic toys comprise about ten per cent of the toy segment, it is hoped that even without them the rest of the segment would grow and gradually critical areas would also be covered.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is trying to understand the dynamics and shortcomings. It is also looking at the experience of other countries. It is working with the Toy Association of India.

Overall a good import substitution move has been made and the government expects the sector to leap by 2028. The Ministry of Commerce thinks that in the next few years Indian toy industry would compete with China and have a niche in the world market.

# Basic Structure Doctrine: Its genesis and Indian Parliament

The Basic Structure Doctrine should balance its ambit concerning the powers of Parliament, as it is the biggest forum of representative democracy

This year in April, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Basic Structure Doctrine. Basic Structure doctrine is used by constitutional courts in our country to interpret provisions of our constitution and other laws which further drive us to the conclusion about the amendments of constitution or new laws, whether they are constitutional or unconstitutional.



KISHLAYA MISHRA

Though few jurists attribute this doctrine to J. Mudholkar wherein his lordship in Sajjan Singh's case used the word "basic feature". He cited a case from Pakistan, where it was held that essential features of the constitution cannot be amended (Fazlul Quader Chaudhary v. Mohd. Abdul Haque). Another branch of jurists

*(The writer is a Delhi based Advocate)*

advocates that Basic Structure is attributed to the lecture delivered by Sir Dieter Conrad, a German jurist at Banaras Hindu University. The lecture was used by the great jurist M K Nambiar in Golaknath's case wherein he watered the seeds of Basic Structure, which already existed in our constitution, which will be explained later in this article by drawing an analogy from German's Basic Law. Shri M K Nambiar holds the distinction of arguing this doctrine for the first time in India.

Basic Structure doctrine cannot be analyzed without taking into account the Constitution of Germany which is called Basic Law. Article 19 of the Basic Law restricts certain rights as and when any situation arises. It is



pertinent to note that sub-clause (2) of Article 19, acting as a proviso to sub-clause (1) explicitly mentions that "In no case the essence of Basic Rights be affected". From here we can derive that to much extent, though unknowingly our Basic Structure doctrine is inspired

by Basic Law. Adding further to it, Article 19(4) of basic law guarantees, what we call in India the right to Legal Remedies. Article 10(2) of Basic Law puts some restrictions in furtherance of law when there is a need to protect the basic democratic order of

the country. Article 19(4) mentions that Article 10(2) cannot curtail the right of legal remedy.

There is a whole maze of events in this. In the Indian Constitution, we have a provision under Article 32(4) that mentions that rights under Article 32 (legal remedy) cannot be suspended except and otherwise provided by this constitution. Article 32 is termed as "Heart and Soul" of our constitution by Dr Ambedkar. This is because it is upon this right, our part III of the constitution gets enforced if violated by the state or its functionaries. It means, without using the words like "essential feature" or "Basic Structure" our constitution too has taken up the need to protect certain rights essential

for a civilized country. Basic Structure was there since inception, it is another issue that was first argued explicitly in Golaknath's case.

Therefore, delving into a debate about the fact that who introduced this doctrine in India is a futile debate. Rather we should understand that there are certain rights essential for humankind irrespective of borders. It is not to credit or discredit someone's effort as to who used it first but to thank every advocate and judge who used it at any point in time, which resulted in an honest effort to protect the rights of individuals or society.

As Indian polity is not that smooth, the rift between government and judiciary led to various litigations where the ambit of Basic Structure was

widened. A recent interview given by Shri K K Venugopal rightly raises the caution that frequent usage of this doctrine has left parliament groping in the dark. Elaborating on the same, he added, the manner this doctrine was used in the NJAC case, undermined the intention of our Constituent Assembly members concerning the appointment of judges in constitutional courts.

Therefore, it is required that the Basic Structure Doctrine should balance its ambit concerning the powers of parliament, as it is the biggest forum of representative democracy. This doctrine has protected the rights of society and individuals but a caution to its usage is required to protect the interest of representative democracy as well.



MONEY MATTERS

## SpiceJet repays Rs 100 cr loan to City Union Bank

Embattled airline SpiceJet on Monday said it has repaid the Rs 100 crore loan taken from the City Union Bank and the payment of the last tranche of Rs 25 crore was done in June. "The repayment of the loan amount releases all securities that had been pledged with the bank," the no-frills airline said in a statement. In recent times, the airline has been facing multiple headwinds, including petitions for insolvency proceedings against it and in some cases, lessors taking back leased aircraft. According to the carrier, it has successfully completed the settlement of payment of Rs 100 crore to City Union Bank. The last tranche of Rs 25 crore was paid on June 30, "successfully closing the entire loan account which was taken in the year 2012", it added. Earlier, the airline had reached a settlement agreement with Nordic Aviation Capital (NAC), a major lessor for its Q400 aircraft. The agreement with NAC settles all past liabilities for the Q400s leased by NAC to SpiceJet.



## Senco IPO price band at Rs 301-317 per share

Jewellery retail major Senco Gold Ltd has fixed a price band of Rs 301 to Rs 317 for its Rs 405 crore initial public offering (IPO), which will open for public subscription on July 4, the company said on Monday. The initial share sale will conclude on July 6 and the bidding for anchor investors will open on July 3, according to the Red Herring Prospectus. The bids have to be made for a minimum of 47 shares of Rs 10 each and multiples thereof. The Senco IPO comprises a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 270 crore and an offer-for-sale of equity shares to the tune of Rs 135 crore by selling shareholder SAIF Partners India IV Ltd, the RHP said. At present, SAIF Partners has 19.23 per cent stake in the jewellery retail chain. It will be offloading its stake by 8-9 per cent in this issue, Senco managing director and CEO Suvankar Sen said.



## Investcorp makes addl Rs 500 cr investment in NDR Warehousing

Investcorp, a global investment manager specialising in alternative investments, has pumped in Rs 500 crore more into NDR Warehousing. This is the second investment that the fund has made into the warehouse development and operating platform. It had invested USD 55 million last year, the fund said in a statement Monday. Investcorp's India real estate team invests in real estate projects located in top tier cities and so far, it has deployed over USD 350 million across the warehousing, residential and education related sectors broadly with a social infrastructure focus. NDR has a diversified asset portfolio comprising warehouses across 10 cities including Chennai, Mumbai, Coimbatore and Kolkata, offering over 14 million square feet area with an aggregate occupancy rate of over 95 per cent. It also has around 5 million square feet under construction. NDR is considering listing part of its warehousing portfolio as an Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) later this year.



# 76% of Rs 2,000 notes valued at Rs 2.72L cr returned to banks:RBI

PNS ■ MUMBAI

As much as 76 per cent of the Rs 2,000 currency notes in circulation have either been deposited or exchanged at banks, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Monday and asked the public to turn in the remaining notes before September 30.



RBI said 87% of the notes returned have been deposited in bank accounts by public while the remaining 13 per cent were exchanged by them in other denominations.

In value terms, Rs 2,000 notes in circulation has come down to Rs 84,000 crore as on June 30 from Rs 3.56 lakh crore on the day of announcement of withdrawal on May 19.

In a statement, RBI said 87 per cent of the notes returned have been deposited in bank accounts by public while the remaining 13 per cent were exchanged by them in other denominations.

The central bank, in a surprise move, on May 19 announced withdrawal of Rs 2,000 notes from circulation but gave public time till September 30 to either deposit such notes in accounts or exchange them at banks.

Unlike the November 2016 shock demonetisation when

old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes were invalidated overnight, the Rs 2,000 notes will continue to be a legal tender till September 30.

The total value of Rs 2,000 banknotes in circulation, which amounted to Rs 3.62 lakh crore as on March 31, 2023, had declined to Rs 3.56 lakh crore as at the close of business on May 19, 2023.

"According to the data received from the banks, the total value of Rs 2,000 bank notes received back from circulation after the announcement on May 19 is Rs 2.72 lakh crore up to June 30, 2023.

"Consequently, Rs 2,000 bank notes in circulation as at the close of business on June 30 stood at Rs 0.84 lakh crore. Thus, 76 per cent of the Rs 2,000 bank notes in circulation as on May 19, 2023 have since been returned," the central bank said in a statement.

Further, RBI said that data collected from major banks indicates that out of the total bank notes in Rs 2,000 denomination received back from circulation, about 87 per cent is in the form of deposits and the remaining around 13 per cent has been exchanged into other denomination bank

notes. "Members of the public are requested to utilise the next three months to deposit and/or exchange the Rs 2,000 bank notes held with them to avoid any rush in the last few days before September 30, 2023," it added. It may be noted that RBI has not yet clarified what would be the status of Rs 2,000 notes in private hands after September 30. After announcing demonetisation in 2016, the government had made it an offence to hold the withdrawn Rs 500 and 1,000 notes (beyond a specified limit) after expiry of the deposit deadlines.

## ED questions Anil Ambani in fresh FEMA case

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Reliance ADA Group Chairman Anil Ambani on Monday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) here and recorded his statement in connection with an investigation linked to the alleged contravention of the foreign exchange law, official sources said. Ambani, 64, deposited at the office of the federal agency in south Mumbai. Ambani's statement was recorded as part of a fresh case filed under various sections of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), the sources said without elaborating. The industrialist had appeared before the ED in 2020 in a money laundering case against Yes Bank promoter Rana Kapoor and others.

In August last year, the income-tax department issued a notice to Ambani under the anti-black money law for allegedly evading Rs 420 crore in taxes on undisclosed funds of more than Rs 814 crore held in two Swiss bank accounts.

## E-commerce operators face problem in GST drive to check fake registration

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The pan-India drive against fake GST registration has created problems for e-commerce companies which maintain virtual offices in various states with minimal staff and no books of accounts.

Talking to PTI, MakeMyTrip Group Vice President -Taxation Tajinder Singh said that the GST officials should enquire with the head offices with regard to virtual offices before categorising the state registration as a fake entity for non-production of books of accounts.

"We maintain virtual offices in states...in this fake registration drive the field offices have mistook these offices as fake registration, however we were only using these offices for tax payment, there was no ITC flow or fraud being committed using those registration. Because of this, lot of registration were blocked for compliance purpose and that created problems for us," Singh said.

Centre and state GST authorities have on May 16 launched a two-month drive to check fake registration under



Goods and Services Tax (GST). The fake registrations are mainly taken to defraud the exchequer by wrongfully claiming Input Tax Credit (ITC).

In this drive, 45,000 fake registrations have been identified and evasion worth Rs 13,000 crore detected. Also, wrongful availing of ITC worth Rs 1,430 crore has been blocked.

Singh said that the field offices should take into account the fact that virtual offices are maintained with a few staff and often they do not attend office everyday. The virtual office with a place of address is created only to comply with state GST laws and are not meant to claim wrongful

ITC. "When field officers come to this virtual offices, they will not find physical presence of employees and in that sense they would say nothing is there. After going back they will send us emails and we provide them the information. All the information is available, all the records are available. It may not be readily available when they approach the office," Singh added.

The e-commerce companies have been representing to the GST authorities that they should be allowed to keep the headoffice address for registration in states to help them do away with the requirement of having a physical presence or maintaining a physical office.



## Co-living startup Settl FY23 revenue jumps two-fold

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Co-living operator Settl has clocked over two-fold jump in its revenue last fiscal to nearly Rs 17 crore and plans to expand its capacity by 2.5 times to 5,000 beds by March next year.

The company, which focuses on providing quality rental accommodations to working professionals, currently has around 2,000 beds at 40 centres across Bengaluru, Gurugram and Hyderabad.

It is now looking to enter the Noida, Pune and Chennai markets, Settl said in a statement on Monday.

The Bengaluru-based startup charges between Rs 12,000 and Rs 18,000 per bed.

"We are currently present in three cities dominated by IT firms. We are now actively looking at entering Noida, Pune and Chennai where a lot of professionals are working in IT and other sectors. We antic-

ipate strong demand for quality co-living centre in these cities," Settl co-founder Abhishek Tripathi said.

The company is in an advanced stage of discussion with a few property owners in three cities where it has a presence as well as three new markets. The agreements are likely to be signed by September.

Settl said it has adopted an asset-light model and partners with property owners, instead of taking facilities on pure rental basis. This helps it to expand at a fast pace.

"The co-living segment was one of the worst affected sectors because of the closure of offices and educational institutions. But, it has bounced back sharply with employees returning to office fully or in hybrid mode," Tripathi said.

Employees will need rental accommodations in cities even if they have to go to the office for 2 days a week, he said.

## Oil companies to turn profitable on fuel marketing in FY24: Fitch

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned oil marketers are likely to turn profitable on fuel marketing in the current fiscal ending on March 31, 2024, following large losses in the previous year, Fitch Ratings said on Monday.

The rating agency expects India's petroleum product demand to grow by mid-single digit percentage in the medium term, supported by forecast that the GDP will grow by 6-7 per cent in the next few years, the government's increasing

spending on infrastructure and a pick-up in industrial activity.

"We expect the Indian oil marketing companies' marketing segment to turn profitable from the financial year ending March 2024 (FY24) as crude oil prices fall to Fitch's assumption of USD 78.8 per barrel, following large losses in FY23 due to high crude prices and unchanged retail fuel prices," it said.

This should enable the oil marketing companies (OMCs) to partly recoup the FY23



(April 2022 to March 2023) losses in first half of FY24, before the fall in crude prices in recent months is reflected in retail prices.

The government previously

allowed the recovery of such losses in subsequent periods, before reversing the suspension of daily price resets.

State-owned retailers Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat

Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) did not raise petrol and diesel prices last year despite rise in crude oil prices. With oil prices now receding, they are now recouping the losses.

Fitch Ratings expected India's petroleum product demand in the financial year ending March 2024 (FY24) to grow by a mid-single digit percentage after a 10 per cent rise in FY23, which was aided by the post-pandemic pent-up demand.

## India's coal output grows 8.40%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's total coal production rose 8.40 per cent to 222.93 million tonne (MT) in April-June 2023-24, an official statement said on Monday.

The country's overall coal output was 205.65 MT in the year-ago quarter, the Ministry of Coal said.

Captive mines/others registered a growth of 4.74 per cent to 30.48 MT in Q1 FY24, from 29.10 MT in Q1 FY23.

The cumulative coal dispatch grew 6.97 per cent to 239.69 MT in Q1 this fiscal compared to 224.08 MT in Q1 of FY23.

The total coal stock, as of June 30, 2023, surged 37.62 per cent to 107.15 MT (provisional) from 77.86 MT a year ago.

"This growth indicates the continued efforts to meet the rising demand for coal," the ministry said.

State-owned Coal India Limited (CIL) has recorded 9.85 per cent growth, with production reaching 175.35 MT in Q1 FY24 compared to 159.63 MT a year ago.

India will not face any coal shortage this year, even during the monsoon, Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi said last month.

## Govt calls off strategic sale of Pawan Hans as winning bidder disqualified

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Monday decided to call off the strategic disinvestment of Pawan Hans as the successful bidding consortium Star9 Mobility Pvt Ltd was disqualified in view of pending legal cases.

Pawan Hans is a 51:49 joint venture of the government and ONGC. The government had in April last year decided to sell the helicopter service provider for Rs 211.14 crore to Star9 Mobility Pvt Ltd -- a consortium of Big Charter Private Ltd, Maharaja Aviation Private Ltd and Almas Global Opportunity Fund SPC.

However, in May the sale



process was put on hold after it came to light that the lead member of the winning bidder consortium -- Almas Global Opportunity Fund SPC -- has a case pending against it at the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

In a statement, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) on Monday said the government has examined the adverse orders of

NCLT and NCLAT.

"After careful consideration of the response of the successful bidder to the show cause notice, with the approval of alternative mechanism...the government has decided that successful bidding consortium M/s Star 9 Mobility Pvt Ltd is disqualified from the process of strategic disinvestment of Pawan Hans Ltd... Further, the current EoI process for strategic disinvestment stands annulled," the DIPAM said.

Alternative Mechanism comprises Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Minister of Finance and Minister of Civil Aviation.

## BSE-listed firms' market valuation touches record high of Rs 298.21L cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms reached a record high of Rs 298.21 lakh crore on Monday as the benchmark Sensex ended above the 65,000-mark for the first time ever amid bullish investor sentiments.

The benchmark index jumped 486.49 points or 0.75 per cent to settle at its all-time closing high of 65,205.05 points. During the day, the benchmark rallied 581.79 points or 0.89 per cent to scale its record intra-day peak of 65,300.35 points.

Sensex rallied for the fourth straight trading session on

Monday. Thanks to the ongoing record-breaking rally in equities, the market capitalisation (mcap) of BSE-listed companies jumped to Rs 2,98,21,576.81 crore.

Investors' wealth have gone up by Rs 7.54 lakh crore in four days of market rally.

On Friday, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms touched an all-time high of Rs 296.48 lakh crore. From the Sensex pack, Reliance Industries was the biggest gainer, climbing 2.53 per cent, followed by ITC, Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India, HDFC, UltraTech Cement, NTPC, HDFC Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finserv and ICICI Bank.

# White-collar hiring in India sees 3% decline

PNS ■ MUMBAI

White-collar hiring in India witnessed 3 per cent decline in June as sectors such as IT, Retail, BPO, Education, FMCG and Insurance also showed cautious hiring sentiments, a report said on Monday.

According to the Naukri JobSpeak Index, on a year-on-year basis, June witnessed a 3 per cent decline with 2,795 job postings compared to 2,878 in June 2022. On a month-on-month basis, the job postings fell by 2 per cent.

The Naukri JobSpeak is a monthly Index representing the state of the Indian job market & hiring activity based on new job listings and job-

related searches by recruiters on the resume database of Naukri.com.

"The white collar job market of India is witnessing a structural shift. For a long time, jobs in the tech sector and in top metros were the key drivers of white collar job growth.

"Of late, jobs in the emerging sectors such as real estate, oil and gas, pharma and BFSI have emerged as significant contributors to job growth," Naukri.com Chief Business Officer Pawan Goyal added.

As per the report, the IT industry hiring continued to remain an area of concern, with a 31 per cent decline in new jobs created compared to June last year.



The decline in hiring was prominent across all types of IT companies, including global tech giants, large IT services companies, tech-focused startups and unicorns, the report

noted. While traditional roles such as Software Developers and System Analysts continued to witness a downturn, niche roles such as Cybersecurity Analysts and AI Specialists

showed positive hiring trends, bucking the negative trend across most other tech roles, said the report.

Besides IT, sectors such as Retail, BPO, Education, FMCG and Insurance also showed cautious hiring sentiments.

However, the report revealed that the Oil and Gas sector continued its bull run with 40 per cent growth in new jobs compared to June last year in line with the rapid refinery expansion and supporting roles to meet the increased domestic and export demand.

Similarly, the Pharma sector surged with a 14 per cent growth in new jobs compared to June last year.

Automobile, Hospitality, and

Banking were some of the other sectors witnessing positive hiring sentiments.

The Naukri JobSpeak Index also found that diversification of white-collar jobs to non-metro cities continued apace.

Ahmedabad topped the list with an unprecedented 23 per cent growth in employment compared to June last year, followed by Vadodara with 14 per cent growth, while Jaipur continued to hold steady.

On the other hand, it said, hiring activity continued to dip across large IT-driven metros, except Mumbai, which held steady compared to June 2022, primarily driven by the Oil and Gas and Hospitality sector.

## IIFL Finance raises US\$ 175 mn via ECB route

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Non-banking finance company IIFL Finance has raised USD 175 million through external commercial borrowing (ECB) route.

IIFL Finance said it has raised USD 75 million from HSBC and USD 50 million each from Union Bank's Sydney branch and Bank of Baroda's IFSC unit.

With this debt raising, IIFL Finance has raised USD 275 million in ECB since March this year when it had mopped up 100 million from the Export Development Canada and Deutsche Bank Singapore. These funds are long-term

in nature and will help the company further strengthen its asset liability position and support growth, besides helping diversify its borrowing sources and lower the company's overall borrowing costs, Kapish Jain, the group CFO said.

The money has been priced at SOFR (secured overnight financing rate) plus 200 bps, IIFL Finance said in a statement.

The main difference between SOFR and Libor is how the rates are arrived at. While Libor is based on a panel bank input, SOFR is a broad measure of the cost of borrowing overnight collateralized by US treasury securities in the repo market.



# Nana Patekar to lend his voice to *Gadar 2*



Veteran actor Nana Patekar, who is known for films such as *Welcome*, *Natsamrat*, *Parinda*, *Taxi No. 9211*, will be heard in the upcoming film *Gadar 2*, which stars Sunny Deol and Ameesha Patel in the lead. He will be giving the introduction of *Gadar 2* to the moviegoers at the very start of the film. The anticipation for *Gadar 2* increases as the release date draws closer. The film is a sequel to the 2001 blockbuster which clashed in theatres with the Aamir Khan-starrer *Lagaan*. Both the films had a deep impact on Hindi cinema as both of them went on to become cult films with *Lagaan* also making it to the Academy nominations where it lost to the Bosnian film *No Man's Land*. Earlier, the makers of *Gadar 2* released the reprised version of the hit track *Udd Jaa Kaale Kaava*, which took social media by storm and intrigued the fans. Produced by Zee Studios and helmed by Anil Sharma, *Gadar 2* also stars Utkarsh Sharma. The movie is slated to release in cinemas on August 11, 2023 and will clash with Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar's *OMG 2*.



## SRK's *Jawan* trailer to be attached with Tom Cruise's *MI 7* in theatres

Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan, who continues to bask in the success of his film *Pathaan*, is all set to take the silver screen by storm once again.

The highly anticipated trailer of upcoming film, *Jawan*, will be unveiled alongside the release of *Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One* in theatres.

The attachment of SRK's film's trailer to Tom Cruise's film is quite interesting as both the megastars command a similar fan following across the globe and are known for their charm.

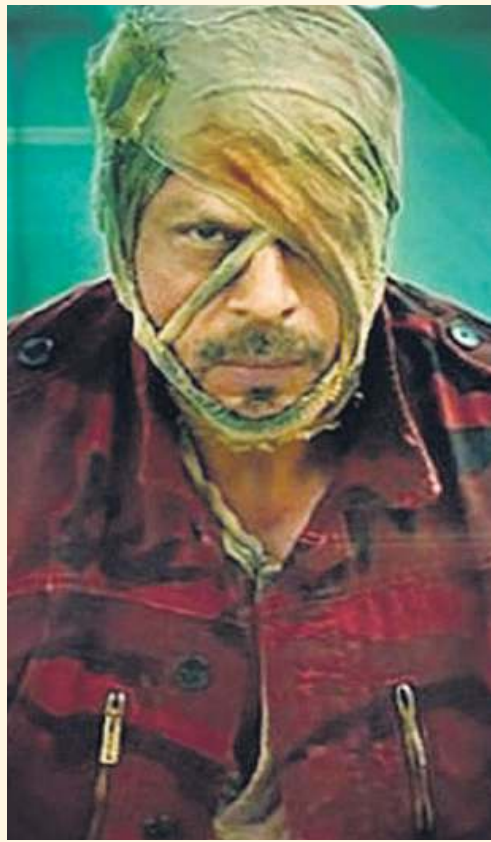
The film has set its release date for September 7, this year.

*Jawan* directed by Atlee, promises to be an exhilarating rollercoaster ride of emotions, captivating audiences with its adrenaline-pumping action sequences that will push the audience to the edge of their seats.

SRK has undergone a drastic change in looks, leaving fans in awe and anticipation. Earlier, its teaser too generated a massive buzz owing to SRK's look.

The film also features Tamil star Vijay Sethupathi and the superstar Nayanthara.

*Jawan* has been produced by Shah Rukh's home production Red Chillies Entertainment and Gauri Khan.



## Vicky Kaushal, Triptii Dimri complete filming for *Mere Mehboob Mere Sanam*

Actors Vicky Kaushal and Triptii Dimri have finished shooting for Anand Tiwari's *Mere Mehboob Mere Sanam*.

Actor Neha Dhupia, who also stars in the Dharma Productions project, shared the update on her official Instagram page on Monday.

"It's a wrap!!!!!! See you at movies #meremehboobmeresanam @anandtiwari @bindraamritpal @vickykaushal09 @triptii\_dimri

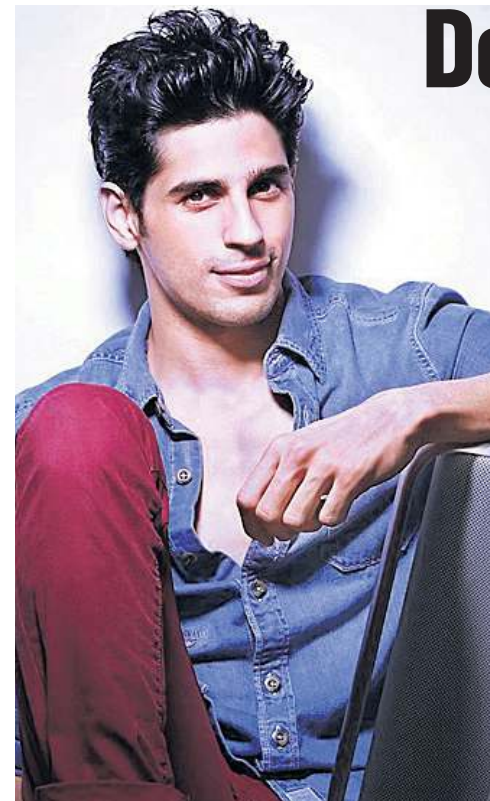
@ammyvirk @karanjohar @apoorva1972 @angadbedi @angira @sunsunnykhez," Dhupia captioned the picture from the wrap party.

*Mere Mehboob Mere Sanam* also stars Ammy Virk.

Details about the upcoming film's plot are currently under wraps.

It marks the second collaboration for Kaushal and Tiwari, who previously worked together on the latter's directorial debut *Love per Square Foot* (2018).

## Sidharth Malhotra's *Yodha* to release on December 15



Dharma Productions is set to release its Sidharth Malhotra-led action film *Yodha* in theatres on December 15, 2023.

The movie is directed by debutant duo Pushkar Ojha and Sagar Ambre. Filmmaker Karan Johar's Dharma Productions and Shashank Khaitan's Mentor Disciple Films have produced the project.

The film was earlier scheduled to come out in July.

"*YODHA* - the first action film of the franchise headlined by Sidharth Malhotra and directed by debutant duo Sagar Ambre & Pushkar Ojha - lands in cinemas on 15th DECEMBER, 2023," the makers said in a press note. The movie, produced by Hiroo Johar, Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta and Khaitan, also features Raashii Khanna and Disha Patani.

In the past, Malhotra and Dharma have collaborated on numerous films, including his debut *Student of the Year*, *Hasee Toh Phasee*, *Kapoor & Sons* and *SherShaah*.

### FUN

#### ARCHIE



#### CALVIN AND HOBBS



#### GARFIELD



#### REALITY CHECK



#### SPEED BUMP



#### CROSSWORD



#### NANCY



#### SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution

1	7	8	6	5	4	3	2	9
4	3	2	1	9	8	7	5	6
5	6	9	3	2	7	8	4	1
3	2	1	4	7	9	6	8	5
7	8	5	2	1	6	9	3	4
6	9	4	8	3	5	1	7	2
9	4	6	5	8	3	2	1	7
2	5	3	7	6	1	4	9	8
8	1	7	9	4	2	5	6	3

Rules

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

#### ACROSS

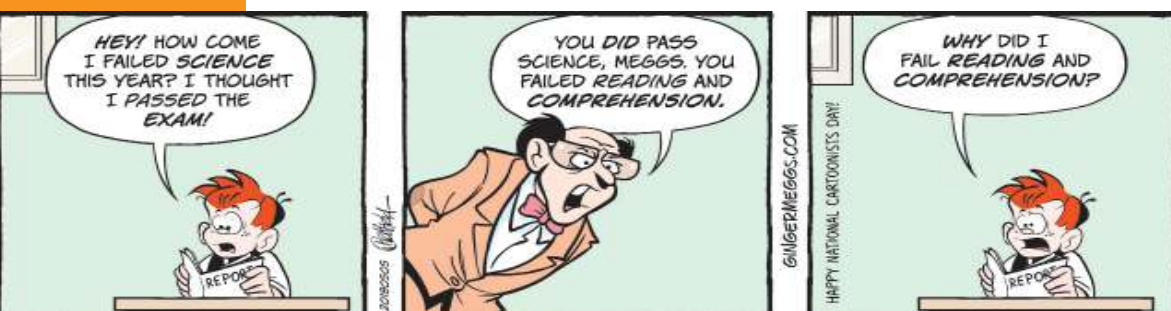
- Dirty and unhealthy air or water
- More than is needed
- Water covering land that is usually dry
- A female relation
- A symbol on playing cards
- A passenger needs this
- Famous singer or actor
- Run after trying to catch
- Sooner than expected
- Squashed
- Stretchy stuff in clothes
- Wreck completely
- Choose
- Move along on hands and knees
- The number in a trio
- At this place

#### DOWN

- Frequently
- Jump over
- A chewed sweet
- Bad smell



#### GINGER MEGGS





FROM BOLLYWOOD TO HOLLYWOOD:

# Fostering the art of dance and connecting hearts through it

International Award-winning multi-hyphenated artist Joya Nandy Kazy wears multiple hats, from being a choreographer and actress to an educator. Joya, who recently made it to the news once again for her choreography in *Never Have I Ever* season 4, takes *The Pioneer* on an exclusive journey of her formative years and achievements.



TEJAL SINHA

No matter where they go, Indians are always Indians at heart! We've heard this a lot of times, didn't we? But today, we bring to you our interaction with Joya Nandy Kazi, who is currently based in Los Angeles.

However, her inclination towards Indian art and culture has made her one of the most sought-after choreographers in Hollywood.

Well, let's take you to the flashback of her journey! Growing up, Joya had always had an affinity for music, rhythm, and dance. How could she not? There wasn't a single day in her house when her parents didn't play the music of Kishore Kumar, Lata Mangeshkar, R.D. Burman, Michael Jackson, Madonna, and Elvis, out of the many. The moment that she really got captivated by Indian classical music was when, for the first time, she saw an Odissi dancer performing in Michael Jackson's *Black-and-White* music video on MTV. It's surely going to be safe to say that the majority of us have been smitten with Michael Jackson every time we've seen him perform. Humorously, she recalled, "I thought if I could dance like the Odissi dancer

whom I saw in the video, I could marry Michael Jackson and travel the world with him (she laughs out loud.) I immediately told my mom about the dancer and my desire to dance like her. Within a few days, my mom found a very amazing Odissi dance teacher."

You'd not believe it when we say that she was just three years old when this happened. And as she turned four, her dance journey began. Odissi being the first dance form that she learned, she went on to learn Kathak, Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, Manipuri, and Kathakali as well. Apart from studying Indian classical dances, Joya has also studied Hindustani classical music singing and instruments, including Guitar, Tabla, Flute, Violin, and Piano. She was also a member of the school band. So, this surely sums up that music, art, and dance have always been huge parts of her life.

Later, as she turned 12, she knew that she'd want to become a choreographer. And so she requested that her gurus let her assist them so she could hone her skills. At the age of 16, she started her own studio, and she said, "Dance was always my one and only plan. I didn't have a plan or a plan B because I thought if I had a Plan B, I wouldn't be able to put 100 percent into either of the plans. I was very focused on joining the entertainment industry here."

However, while she was in her dance programme in college, she understood there was no positive representation of South Asians, Indians, or Indian culture, especially in dance. "Our Indian culture is so rich and beautiful, and I wanted to showcase it. That's when I changed my passion into having a very specific purpose, which was to elevate Indian dance culture in the West. That's how I kind of started to make the shift towards figuring out how to bridge the Indian classi-

cal forms of the East with the Western commercial forms in Hollywood. I relaunched my company as Joya Kazi Entertainment in Los Angeles," added the charming dancer, who is taking Indianness to global platforms.

With no opportunities initially, Joya faced her own challenges. Doing something no one ever thought of, she was creating all of the opportunities on her own and, in fact, pitching them to the directors of films and music videos to create opportunities for not only herself but also the dancers of her company. She shared, "The opportunities were always very few and far between. I wanted to show that Indian dance and art can be as commercial as Western art styles and can also create great work here in the West."

It was around 2017, when she came back to India for the first time and participated in *Star Plus's Dance+ Season 3*, under the mentorship of renowned choreographer Punit Pathak. Her love and passion for the arts gave her the opportunity to work with Allu Arjun in *Naa Peru Surya, Naa Illu India*. She further performed for the IIFA Awards with Madhuri Dixit, Hrithik Roshan, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Siddharth Malhotra, Ranveer Singh, Amrita Rao, and many more from the industry. She has also worked on screen as well as in studio training with actors like Jacqueline Fernandez and Avantika Vandanapu, and has choreographed and done a lot of artist training for singers such as Rajakumari, Benny Dayal, AR Rahman, Gippy Grewal, Nick Cannon, Antonio Brown, and many more. The dancer is happy to be able to exercise so many different skills, perform, and put on so many hats.

If you've been a fan of Netflix's series *Never Have I Ever*, you surely would have seen Joya dancing so gracefully in season one. In episode four of season one, Joya not only choreographed the *Nagada Sang Dhol*

performance but also made her on-screen presence as Preeti in gorgeous, authentic Indian formalwear. And surely one cannot forget about the way the *mudras* were executed. One word: "BANG ON!"

"After over a decade of going from directors to production houses and pitching ideas, it was then that I got a call about whether I was interested in making it to the show. I did go in initially just as a try and to help with casting and virtual processes. But I got an email saying that the writer would love to have you on screen as well. I felt like I was juggling way too many responsibilities, but you know, I believe that when the universe offers you incredible opportunities, it's because it's time for you to level up, and it's a challenge that you definitely can't take on. I am really glad that I stepped up to the plate and was able to be a part of such an iconic and historical scene," shared Joya, who is also exploring and looking forward to what she can do as an actress and trying to push and challenge herself.

She has been the talk of the town for quite a while for her choreography in the iconic song *Saami Saami* from *Pushpa: The Rise*. Well, so much so that Rasmika Mandanna herself appreciated the performance.

"The amount of love that we've been receiving has been incredible. It was a no-brainer to come back for season four, of course. The producer sent me a message saying, 'It just makes sense to bring you back for the very last season. We wanted to include a song that was Tamil considering Devi's family is Tamil, and it just makes sense that *Saami Saami* was a part of a long list of options. We had to find something that had a female lead vocalist in it and that was popular and people enjoyed. Both Maitreyi and Richa had worked so hard in the amount of rehearsal time that was given. As creators of *Behind the Show*, we were for the very first time able to bring a Tollywood song to American television. We wanted to also pay tribute to the Global appeal of *Saami Saami* as India has so many different film industries and languages, and especially here in the West, we wanted to make sure that we showcased as many of these as possible in an American television show. So it's a great accomplishment for all of us to be able to have both Hindi and Tamil songs in this TV show," concluded the dancer.

## Hospitality is all about people, but are employees included in that?

It's so incredible to witness the remarkable resurgence of the Hospitality Industry in the aftermath of the pandemic. With more people travelling and increasing occupancy, the hotel industry has been a true beacon of innovation, expansion, and an unwavering dedication to crafting bespoke experiences. However, amid all this, attracting and retaining a workforce has always been a challenge. According to a survey by *The Job Plus*, 25%-30% of skilled and experienced hospitality workers have permanently left the industry, showing no intention of returning. What is causing such a significant withdrawal? As an HR head with over two decades of experience, I have gained a fresh perspective on talent management in the hospitality industry. Traditionally, the hospitality industry has always kept people at the heart of its service, but have we unintentionally overlooked the well-being and inclusion of the very individuals who breathe life into the industry? A recent report by *Gartner* reveals that a staggering 82% of employees believe it is crucial for organisations to see them as unique individuals, not just as employees. This revelation compels us to ponder: Are we truly fostering an inclusive environment for our employees to serve the guests in the most authentic manner possible?



In the spirit of pride month, it is worth noting that achieving diversity, inclusion, and equity (DEI) in any industry is not a one-time event or a quick fix. It demands ongoing effort and unwavering commitment. We must recognize that the workforce is the heartbeat of any organization, driving performance, fostering innovation, and propelling unparalleled achievements. So, how do we ensure that people feel included and valued? I remember, at Hilton India, how the idea of promoting a flexible work environment in the hospitality sector was a journey filled with countless discussions and deep reflections. We had to navigate the challenges of shifts, round-the-clock work, and managing guest expectations. Amidst these complexities, one realisation struck me deeply: How can we genuinely prioritise our people if we keep them as an afterthought? This realisation led to the inception of our game-changing "It's okay to be flexible" campaign. We aimed to create a tailored approach to address our team members' unique needs, providing support when they needed it most. We understood that life can throw unexpected challenges, and we wanted our team members to have the flexibility to navigate them. Though it wasn't an easy path, we remained committed to putting our people

first. We firmly believed that by embracing flexibility, we could build an environment where they felt valued, knowing their well-being and personal circumstances mattered. When we truly care about our employees' time and space, a sense of belonging flourishes within the workforce. True belonging goes beyond simply having a diverse workforce; it involves cultivating a culture that celebrates and respects everyone's unique experiences, perspectives, and identities. It means creating spaces where individuals can be their authentic selves without fear of judgment or discrimination. When individuals experience this sense of belonging, they are empowered to contribute their best work, unleash their creativity, and engage in meaningful collaboration. Building a culture of true belonging requires deliberate efforts, and it can start with personalization. In the post-Covid/Gen Z era, employees have higher expectations beyond just a cheque and benefits. They want a human face of the brand they work for and with. By customising experiences for employees, organisations not only attract and keep top talent but also enhance productivity and overall business performance. This approach starts from the hiring process, conveying the message that

the company culture values and invests in its employees. To meet these personalised needs, brands should focus on a few key areas. Offering clear career paths with visual representations of growth and development opportunities promotes employee retention and satisfaction. Regular reviews and updates ensure alignment with evolving skills and experiences, fostering a culture of growth and development. Robust learning and development programs tailored to employees' specific needs and goals boost productivity, engagement, and adaptability to the changing demands of the modern workplace. At Hilton India, these principles are not just ideals, but a reality. Recently, Hilton India was recognized among India's No 1 company to work for in 2023 by the 'Great Place to Work'. Our initiatives like the "It's ok to be flexible" campaign, the Team Appreciation Week, which is dedicated to celebrating and recognising our teams or our Care for All leave policy that gives an additional 10 days leave to take care of the closed ones have proved to bring in a purpose-led culture that values its workforce at the core. Having said that, I would like to draw attention to a crucial aspect that is often underestimated. When an individual leaves our organisation,

everything I've said so far loses its impact. Far too often, employees feel irrelevant, forgotten and unappreciated. Shouldn't they deserve the same value and recognition at the time of their departure? It is essential to prioritise graceful exits for our employees. Even as they leave, we must make them feel valued until the very end. In fact, striving to convert every ex-employee into alumni to maintain a positive relationship with them even after they leave, should be a policy that should be mandated. Keeping them connected to the organisation demonstrates appreciation for their contribution. As I said, it's never a quick fix, especially in this modern era where the world is becoming increasingly more connected by the second. Hospitality, at its core, is all about people. It's time to shift our focus to individuals who make it all possible. Let us take the lead in redefining the workforce relationship in the hospitality industry and witness the transformative power of putting employees at the heart of hospitality. Remember, only happy employees can truly make happy guests.

(The writer, Sabu Raghavan, is the Vice President, Human Resources, Hilton India)

## Climbing up the musical ladder

K. RAMYA SREE

If you are a fan of *Indian Idol*, then you will surely know about this singer, who stole many hearts with his melodious voice on the show. He is none other than Rishi Singh, who later went on to bag the *Indian Idol* trophy. After releasing his independent single *Nazar Lag Gayi*, which has over 416,458 views at the time of writing this story, he is back with another soulful song, *Farebi*, in collaboration with Indie Music Label.

The song has already crossed 4,70,000 views, with netizens heaping praise on the youngster.

Singer Rishi Singh has gone a long way from performing religious songs at temples and gurudwaras in his native Ayodhya to winning *Indian Idol 13*.

The aspiring singer plans to "slowly and steadily" establish himself as a musician. *The Pioneer* got in touch with the singer to find out more about his songs, *Farebi* and *Nazar Lag Gayi*.

### Excerpts from the interview:

Can you tell us what *Nazar Lag Gayi (NLG)* is all about and what inspired you to make the song?

According to my opinion, *Nazar Lag Gayi (NLG)* is a very unique composition. The title of the song especially attracted me.

Can you take us through the BTS of *NLG*?

During the whole shoot and the BTS of *NLG*, we tried to show the process and the memories we made. For example, when we were singing the song, we could understand a lot of things according to the feel of the song, and we could relate to it, and I think that is what is important for a song.

What do you hope listeners will take away from the song?

As a first song, I hope it impacts the audience and, obviously, the title.

What was the most challenging part of creating this song?

The challenging part of this song was figuring out how to make it fit into my genre. My thought was that if people remember the song and title, which means the song is flourishing.

*Farebi* has tough lyrics; how did you manage to make them into a melody?

*Farebi* HAD tough lyrics. For any singer, it is very important to understand the lyrics and the meaning behind them. It was a challenging task, but with the help of music directors, it became comfortable to make that song.

Please tell us about your upcoming projects.

There are surely going to be a lot of projects coming from my end.



Indian Idol season 13 winner Rishi Singh spoke to *The Pioneer* about his latest singles, musical journey, BTS, and more.

Both the singles were released by Indie Music Label; can you share your association with them?

I loved the bonding between us. It was very comfortable. Hats off to music directors and composers for making these compositions.

How has your life changed after winning the *Indian Idol* title?

A lot of things changed after winning the title. Winning the *Indian Idol* title is every artist's dream, and winning that is a proud moment for me.

During the start of your career, did you ever have the feeling of stage fright?

Stage fright is, of course, there when you start something big, but at last you only have two options: give up or prove yourself. I go by the motto that there is no tomorrow; you have to prove yourself today.

What were the initial challenges you faced in order to get a commercial platform for singing?

Singing on a commercial platform is a very big deal, and it took a lot of effort and hard work to reach here. Hard work always pays off.



# Sir Geoffrey Boycott demands public apology from Australia

IAN S ■ LONDON

Legendary England opener Sir Geoffrey Boycott has demanded a public apology from the Australian team over the controversial stumping dismissal of Jonny Bairstow during their 43-run win in the second Ashes Test at Lord's.

On day five's play in the second Ashes Test at Lord's, Bairstow was on 10 in the 52nd over when he ducked under a bouncer from Cameron Green and inadvertently walked out of his crease.

On seeing that, Australia wicketkeeper Alex Carey immediately directed an underarm throw after catching the delivery,



That way it will redress the situation and everyone can then move on. 'These teams have played brilliant cricket in great spirit and it is a shame when something like that happens to spoil it all'.

"Australia have now had time to think about what happened. We all make mistakes in the heat of the moment. People will think better of the Australians if they put their hands up and say 'we got it wrong'. That is the way to go. Let's see over the next few days if they are man enough to do that."

"If you want to win at all costs then cricket should not be for you. We want people to play hard and fair but surely there are standards to uphold. When batsmen are not trying to take an advantage then you should not follow the letter of the law. Apply some common sense," wrote Boycott in his column for The Telegraph on Monday.

Aside from the Bairstow dismissal controversy, Australia are now leading the Ashes 2-0, and Boycott has urged England to not become the reason for their own downfall in the series, pointing out how they crumbled like a heap in the first innings at Lord's, giving away a 91-run lead. "Until this series, the England batting has been refreshing, exciting and injected new life into Test cricket. Even when scoring quickly the batsmen have looked in control with mainly proper cricket strokes. Suddenly in these last two Tests, they have lost their focus and their brains."



## MCC issues apology to Australia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Australia defeated England and won the second Ashes Test at Lord's by 43 runs on Sunday to take a 2-0 lead in the five-Test series. The Ashes is one of the most iconic series that fans will witness, especially when matches are at Lord's, but recently the venue witnessed ugly scenes when a few MCC members abused two Australia players.

It was alleged by Australian players that a few MCC members abused the players when the team was on the way back to the dressing room after the first session of the final day. Right after the incident, The Aussies called for an investigation, to which MCC responded.

An Australian cricket spokesperson confirmed that the players and staff from the Australian team were verbally abused whereas some were physically contacted. He also revealed that Australian management has requested MCC to investigate the matter.

"Australian management has requested the Marylebone Cricket Club [MCC] investigate several incidents involving spectators in the members area during lunch on day five of the Lord's Test. It is alleged players and staff from the Australian team were verbally abused, with some being physically contacted, as they made their way to lunch through the members area", said a cricket Australia spokesperson.

**MCC APOLOGISES TO THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM**  
After the match ended MCC issued an apologetic statement to the Australian team where they revealed that the three members are suspended till further investigation and that they will not enter the venue till the end of the inquiry. "They will not be permitted back to Lord's whilst the investigation takes place and were informed of this by MCC

Chief Executive, Guy Lavender, this evening," the statement said.

"We maintain that the behaviour of a small number of members was completely unacceptable and whilst there was no suggestion by Pat Cummins in the post-match press conference that there was any physical altercation, it remains wholly unacceptable to behave in such a way which goes against the values of the club", he added.

The club further apologised to the Australian team for the incident.

"MCC condemns the behaviour witnessed and once again we reiterate our apology to Cricket Australia. We are thoroughly disappointed to be talking about poor behaviour when the Long Room as stated by Pat Cummins himself, is otherwise renowned for being 'really welcoming'. It has been a thrilling day to finish off a wonderful five days of Test cricket."

## Spirit of cricket went out the window: Ian Smith

IAN S ■ LONDON

Former New Zealand wicketkeeper-batter Ian Smith believes Australia's dismissal of Jonny Bairstow in the second Test was probably not in the spirit of cricket, but added that the spirit of cricket element has been absent from the game for a "long, long time". On day five's play in the second Ashes Test at Lord's, Bairstow was on 10 and England were at 193/5 in the 52nd over when he ducked under a bouncer from Cameron Green and inadver-



tently walked out of his crease. On seeing that, Australia wicketkeeper Alex Carey immediately directed an underarm throw after catching the delivery, and jumped in joy after firing an accurate throw towards the stumps. "I don't think he looked, Jonny Bairstow, I don't think he

looked at Alex Carey at any stage there, he didn't turn round to see if he gloved it cleanly. It was just a weird course of events and Australia took advantage of it," said Smith on SENZ Radio.

It led to chaos in the middle as Bairstow believed the ball was dead, with Australia immediately going for an appeal. On-field umpires Ahsan Raza and Chris Gaffaney sent the decision upstairs, where TV umpire Marais Erasmus confirmed Bairstow's dismissal.

and jumped in joy after firing an accurate throw towards the stumps. On-field umpires Ahsan Raza and Chris Gaffaney sent the decision upstairs, where TV umpire Marais Erasmus confirmed Bairstow's dismissal. The dismissal drew a furious reaction from the fans, who started to chant "same old Aussies, always cheating", and booed the visitors for the rest of the day.

Apart from this, angry exchanges with Australian players by MCC members were also reported in the Long Room during lunch break. Australia captain Pat Cummins defended the dismissal but England skipper Ben Stokes said after the game ended that he would not want to win in 'that manner'.

"Australia need to have thought about what they did and make a fulsome public apology.

## Khawaja Breaks Silence On Lord's Long Room Incident

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The red-ball Ashes battle between England and Australia is taking place in England these days where for the first time since 2016-17, the hosts are aiming to reclaim the Ashes. But their bid to get the urn back has suffered a big blow after they suffered close defeats in the opening two Tests which took place at Edgbaston and Lord's respectively.

After getting the better of England by 2 wickets in the first Test, reigning World Test Championship winners Australia beat England by 43 in the second Test which was played at the Lord's on Sunday (July 2) to take a 2-0 lead in five match series.

The second Test had fair share of controversies as well and during the final day play a bizarre incident took place at the iconic Lord's when a few MCC members abused two Australian players.

Few MCC members abused the players when the team was on the way back to the dressing room after the first session of the final day. Australian star Usman Khawaja who was one of the abused players finally opened up about the incident, was seen getting into a heated discussion



with a MCC member, who had made his nasty remark on Jonny Bairstow's dismissal.

He finally opened up about the incident and expressed his disappointment. He said there is always respect shown at Lord's, but that was not the case today.

"It was really disappointing. Lord's is one of my favourite places to come. There's always respect shown at Lord's, particularly in the Members Pavilion in the Long Room, but there wasn't today. It was very disappointing," Khawaja said.

"If anyone asked me where the best place is to play I always say Lord's. The crowd is great, particularly the members are great, and some of the stuff that was coming out of the members' mouths is really disappointing and I wasn't just going stand by and cop it. So I just talked to a few of them. A few of them

throwing out some pretty big allegations and I just called them up on it and they kept going, and I was like, well, this is your membership here. So I'm just pointing them out. But it's pretty disrespectful, to be honest. I just expect a lot better from the members", Khawaja added.

### MCC APOLOGISES TO THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM

After Australia requested MCC to investigate the matter, MCC issued an apologetic statement to the Australian team where they revealed that the three members are suspended till further investigation and that they will not enter the venue till the end of the inquiry.

"They will not be permitted back to Lord's whilst the investigation takes place and were informed of this by MCC Chief Executive, Guy Lavender, this evening," the statement said.

"We maintain that the behaviour of a small number of members was completely unacceptable and whilst there was no suggestion by Pat Cummins in the post-match press conference that there was any physical altercation, it remains wholly unacceptable to behave in such a way which goes against the values of the club", he added.

## SL creates history, beats NZ in WODI series

IAN S ■ GALLE

Captain Chamari Athapaththu slammed an unbeaten 140 to lead Sri Lanka to their first-ever ODI series victory over New Zealand. By winning the third ODI by eight wickets via the DLS method at the Galle International Cricket Stadium on Monday, Sri Lanka have won the series 2-1.

In the match, rain arrived yet again, leaving New Zealand's total at 127/2 in 31 overs. Electing to bat first, New Zealand lost Bernadine Bezuidenhout early and Amelia Kerr for 19. But Suzie Bates (63 not out off 87 balls) and captain Sophie Devine (38 not out off 48 balls) joined forces for rebuilding the innings.

The veteran pair added an unbroken 74 for the third wicket partnership, hitting five boundaries between themselves before a long interruption caused by rain brought their innings to an end.

When the rain finally stopped, Sri Lanka were handed a revised target of 196 in 29 overs. The hosts didn't have the best of starts to the chase as Vishmi Gunaratne (0) and Harshitha Samarawickrama (3) fell in quick succession.



But Chamari Athapaththu, who scored a century at this venue against the White Ferns last week, launched a stunning counterattack, reaching her eighth ODI century in just 60 deliveries, which is also the fourth fastest hundred in women's ODIs.

Overall, she slammed 13 fours and nine sixes at a strike rate of 175 in her aggressive knock of 140 not out to seal a historic win with eight wickets in hand and 13 balls to spare. Her nine sixes are joint most maximums hit in a women's ODI innings. Interestingly, all women's ODI hundreds from Sri Lanka have been hit by Athapaththu.

## England name 15-member squad for third Test

IAN S ■ LONDON

England has resisted making sweeping changes by sticking with many of their regulars as they named a 15-man squad for the third Ashes Test in Headingley, starting from July 6, with Rehan Ahmed and Matty Potts dropping out.

The fitness of a pair of key players will be monitored in the lead-up to the third Ashes Test, with top-order batter Ollie Pope set to undergo scans on his troublesome shoulder and experienced spinner Moeen Ali still in some doubt with his finger problem. Ahmed was added to England's squad for the Lord's Test as cover for Moeen, but the teenager drops out of the reckoning for the Headingley Test in what appears a good sign for Moeen's fitness.

Pope hurt his right shoulder during England's 43-run loss to Australia in the second Test at Lord's and selectors will be hoping the 25-year-old is fit to take on the tourists in the crucial third Test.

If Pope is ruled out then it is likely Dan Lawrence will earn a place in England's XI, with the right-hander the only spare batter in the squad that selectors named on Sunday.

The dropping of Potts sug-



gests Mark Wood or Chris Woakes will come into the XI at Headingley. England are almost certain to rotate their attack to manage Jimmy Anderson's, Stuart Broad's and Ollie Robinson's workload, who have played in the first two Tests.

Australia have won the opening two matches of the five-Test series and England need to triumph in the remaining three

contests to regain the urn and become just the second team to come from 2-0 down to claim an Ashes series victory.

**England squad for third Test:** Ben Stokes (c), Moeen Ali, James Anderson, Jonny Bairstow, Stuart Broad, Harry Brook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Dan Lawrence, Ollie Pope, Ollie Robinson, Joe Root, Josh Tongue, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.

## Lyon ruled out of remainder of the series

IAN S ■ LONDON

Premier spin bowler Nathan Lyon has been ruled out of the remainder of the Ashes series after suffering a significant calf tear, with Australia confirming two squad changes ahead of the third Test, starting on July 6 at Headingley.

Lyon suffered the injury while fielding on the second day of the Lord's Test. He didn't bowl in the match thereafter but hobbled from the field at Lord's on Thursday evening with what was later diagnosed as a significant calf strain.

The diagnosis was confirmed on Monday when Australia trimmed their squad from 18 to 16 for the upcoming third Test. This brought to an end his remarkable streak of 100 consecutive Tests. Lord's was his 100th Test in a row and his 122nd overall. He is just the sixth man in Test history to play 100 Tests in a row and the only bowler to do it.

The 35-year-old has also never missed a Test through injury until now. The Headingley Test will be the first one Lyon will miss since Lord's in 2013, when he was omitted for the first two Tests.



Reserve batter Matthew Renshaw has also been released from the Australian squad but will remain in England and be available should injury strike the touring party again.

No replacements have been included in the revised 16-player squad.

Lyon's absence opens the door for young spinner Todd Murphy, who won a place in the Ashes squad on the back of an impressive debut Test series in India earlier this year.

Australia coach Andrew McDonald has said Murphy was well placed to come straight into the XI for the third Test beginning on Thursday at Headingley after Lyon backed his young prodigy to hold his own in the Ashes cauldron.

"His stock ball is good enough in international cricket. We have seen that in India in arguably the hardest place to bowl spin," Lyon was quoted by cricket.com.au

"It will be a different challenge with the England batters. If they do come at him, it provides Todd with a decent challenge. But a chance to leave his footmarks here in England. It is a big Ashes series, he is excited by the opportunity," he said.

## 'I want to compete with Surya & Kohli': ABD talks about his comeback



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The legendary South African wicketkeeper-batter AB de Villiers, who made his international debut in 2004, is one of the best players in the world. ABD was a part of Royal Challenger Bangalore. In total, he has smashed 5162 runs in 184 matches with an

average of 39.71. The 39-year-old finished as the leading run-getter for RCB for three seasons and was a constant name in the top-three run-scorers for the team ever since joining in 2011. ABD announced his retirement from international cricket in 2018 whereas he retired from IPL in the year 2021. In a recent interview with Jio Cinema,

ABD was asked if he ever sits back and thinks about how few years he has left. To which he replied, that there is a possibility that he could still play but even if he does then he wants to compete with players like Suryakumar Yadav and Virat Kohli.

"Definitely, I could still play. But the drive is not there anymore. Robbie, from a young age. It's always just about being the best. I want to be the best if I come back and I'll want to compete with Surya and Kohli and I just felt the last four years of my career not playing international cricket. I definitely didn't play enough cricket towards the back end of my career. I think that was the main thing. With this Impact Player I know a lot of people are celebrating it, it's going to lengthen the careers of players," ABD said.

"To me, I could never do that. I could never just play two or three months of the year because I want to be the best in the world, and you can't do that if you play for three months of the years. Absolutely no chance. Yes. You can practice for nine months. But nothing, nothing compares with middle practice with being out there and competition. So, with the minute that fire went off being the best in the world, I felt like, what? What am I doing? So, what exactly is going on now? So was tough the last few years in that regard as well. I felt like, you know what, I can still have my super knock here and there, but I don't want to do that. I want to be the best", he added.



## New actress in town reaching for the stars in T'wood

K. RAMYA SREE

Actor Naga Shaurya, who was recently seen in *Phalana Ammayi Phalana Abbayi*, is gearing up for the release of his next film, *Rangabali*, a complete entertainer directed by debutante Pawan Basamshetty. Produced by Sudhakar Cherukuri under the SLV Cinemas banner, the film will see Yukti Tareja make her debut in Tollywood as the female lead. All ready to open in theatres on July 7, the actress is super excited about how the Telugu audience is going to accept her.

Speaking to the media here on Monday, the actress shared that it was only through auditions that she bagged this role in *Rangabali*. "Director Pawan auditioned me for the role in this film. First, the look test was done. Then they gave me two scenes and told me to act. They selected me only after they were convinced that I would be suitable for this role. This is my first Telugu movie. I feel lucky to have worked with Naga Shaurya and a good production company for my first film. I learned a lot from this movie."

Since this is her first Telugu film and the actress hails from Haryana, it was not all that easy for Yukti to make her character, Sahaja, look at her natural best. She plays the role of a medical student, and as the name suggests, her character is said to be very simple and natural. "My mother tongue is Hindi. Telugu definitely has a linguistic challenge. Learning and speaking large paragraph dialogues seemed like a bit of a challenge. Many thanks to the direction team in this regard, who helped me a lot. Also, director Pawan used to give the script beforehand. It gave me an understanding of the scene," shared the Haryana-born, adding, "I completed my graduation from Delhi University. I joined a dance school while still in college. I participated in many dance competitions. I also won the Delhi Fresh Face Competition. Then I started modelling. Later, I gave acting auditions. The song *Lut Gaye* brought me a good name, and that's how this journey started."

Moreover, it is Allu Arjun whom she loves the most in Tollywood because of his dancing skills. "His dancing is hard to match. But we want to dance together. Also, I like Anushka Shetty as a heroine," said the youngster, while also heaping praise on his co-star Naga Shaurya: "I know about the movies done by Nagashaurya. I heard songs in his movies. It was a great experience working with him. Nagashaurya is a great co-star. A good-hearted person who is very sportive and is an excellent actor."

On the acting front, Yukti says she is listening to a few scripts in Telugu, which she will sign after the release of *Rangabali*.

Actress Yukti Tareja, who is making her Tollywood debut with *Rangabali* alongside Naga Shaurya, spoke about the project, acting in Telugu, and others.



## Allu Arjun, Trivikram join forces for a global-level film



ICON Star Allu Arjun and director Trivikram Srinivas' combination is known to give some superhit films like *Julayi*, *S/O Satyamurthy* and *Ala Vaikuntapurramuloo*.

On the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima on Monday, the duo announced their fourth collaboration. This time, the combination promises to entertain world cinema audiences along with Telugu audiences.

Now, the superlative combination is coming together to bring a 'Never before seen Visual Spectacle' on Indian screens.

The combination is promising to bring an entertainer and give a new experience to audiences on a large scale around the globe. The story-telling prowess of

Trivikram Srinivas has made each movie from this combination, most memorable. Allu Arjun has lived in roles like "Ravindra Narayan", "Viraj Anand" and "Bantu". Each role and performance has etched a special place in the hearts of cinema lovers across the globe.

Haarika & Haasine Creations are teaming up once again with ICON Star Allu Arjun and their darling director, Trivikram Srinivas for their 8th production. All the three films from this exceptionally special and distinguished combination have been produced by Haarika & Haasine Creations on a huge scale. Now, they are taking the stakes even higher and aiming at global level production to satisfy every film-lover around the world.

Geetha Arts banner is joining in production with Haarika & Haasine Creations just like they did for *Ala Vaikuntapurramuloo*.

## Ranbir Kapoor, Sandeep Reddy Vanga's *Animal* release date postponed

Ranbir Kapoor and Sandeep Reddy Vanga's upcoming action-thriller *Animal* pre-teaser was unveiled a few days ago to a thumping response and it increased prospects for the movie. Movie buffs are waiting eagerly to watch *Animal* in theatres. However, the film's release stands postponed. *Animal*, which was initially scheduled for release on August 11 is pushed to December 1.

Director Sandeep Reddy Vanga released a video where he explained the reason for the postponement. He said the extensive post-production is the prime reason for the delay. He revealed that the movie has 7 songs and recording each song with perfect lyrics in five different languages is a big task. He also made it clear that the sequence in the pre-teaser is there in the movie.

This action saga in a combination of dynamic power-

houses of the Indian film industry is produced by visionary Bhushan Kumar, alongside Pranay Reddy Vanga on T Series and Bhadrakali Pictures. National crush Rashmika Mandanna is playing the leading lady opposite Ranbir, while Anil Kapoor will be seen in an important role. Top-notch technicians handle different crafts of the movie which will release in cinemas in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam languages.



## Maya Bazaar For Sale streaming from July 14 on ZEE5

OTT platform ZEE5 is cruising ahead by providing unique and appealing content leaving an imprint on the audience. Now, ZEE5 is getting ready to bring a brand new multistarrer Telugu web original, *Maya Bazaar For Sale* to its esteemed viewers. With a unique narrative style made as a satirical drama, *Maya Bazaar For Sale* depicts the interesting aspects of various families in a gated community. Along with ZEE5, Rana Daggubati's Spirit Media banner has made *Maya Bazaar For Sale* a sensitive and heartwarming joyful drama. This series revolves around families in a gated community. Gautami Chillagulla has directed this web series which starts streaming in ZEE5 on July 14. Makers released the trailer of *Maya Bazaar For Sale* on Sunday.



## Miss Shetty Mr Polishetty locks its release date

Naveen Polishetty and Anushka Shetty's *Miss Shetty Mr Polishetty* is undoubtedly one of the most-awaited films of the year. The film directed by Mahesh Babu P generated solid buzz with the teaser and songs. The coming together of two of most talented actors - Anushka Shetty and Naveen Polishetty has built a lot of anticipation. On Monday, the makers announced the film's release date. The film's release date has been announced as August 4, 2023 with a cool poster featuring Naveen Polishetty and Anushka Shetty. The film will be releasing in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada. Already the hype and buzz for the movie, *Miss Shetty Mr Polishetty* are at their peak and this date announcement has made fans look forward to

it with eagerness. The poster looks cute. *Miss Shetty Mr Polishetty* will be a romantic comedy, focusing on the humorous situations that bring the characters of Anushka and Naveen together. The teaser unveiled recently introduced Anushka as a pragmatic and rational woman who works as a chef and doesn't believe in magic or fairy tales. On the other hand, Naveen Polishetty, portrayed as Siddhu Polishetty, is a lively and young stand-up comedian. *Miss Shetty Mr Polishetty* is being produced by Pramod Uppalapati and Vamsi Krishna Reddy under the banner of UV Creations. Radhan is music director of the film. It has Naveen and Anushka in the lead roles and is promoted as a full blown comedy entertainer.



## #BoyapatiRAPO titled *Skanda-The Attacker*

Blockbuster maker Boyapati Sreenu and Ustaad Ram Pothineni's highly anticipated mass action entertainer *#BoyapatiRAPO* gets a powerful title. The makers locked the title- *Skanda* which is the other name of Lord Kartikeya or Subrahmanya Swamy. *The Attacker* is the tagline which indicates the ferocious nature of the protagonist. The title logo has Lord Kartikeya's weapon Vel incorporated in it.

Coming to the title glimpse, Ram appears in a mass and rugged avatar. He is seen in an attacking mode, taking on a gang of goons in a pond of the temple. Ram mouths a power-packed dialogue: "Meeru Digithe Oodedundadu... Nenu Digithe Migiledundadu... (Your entry will be futile, but my entry will be devastating)."

Stunt Shiva choreographed this high-octane fight sequence that has some stunning blocks. SS Thaman's thumping background score pumps more energy to the visuals. The title glimpse creates a storm in no time.

Sreeleela is the female lead opposite Ram. Santosh Detake cranks the camera for the film produced prestigiously by Srinivasaa Chitturi on a massive budget under Srinivasaa Silver Screen banner. It is presented by Zee Studios South and Pavan Kumar. Editing is handled by Tammiraju. *Skanda* is getting ready for release worldwide on September 15 in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi languages.

Meanwhile, on Monday, the makers of *Ustaad* announced that *Ustaad* will be released on August 12.



One of the highly-anticipated Indian films of the year, Prashant Neel directorial *Salaar*, starring the biggest superstar Prabhas has been in talks ever since its announcement. While the audience is eagerly waiting to hear some updates about this mega project, the makers dropped a big announcement, revealing the teaser date and time i.e. July 6, 5:12 Am.

*Salaar* is the biggest Indian film of the year, coming from the biggest action director Prashant Neel who also directed *KGF* and the biggest action superstar Prabhas whose *Bahubali* franchise is considered to be one of the biggest ever made in this era, will be coming together for the first time. After a long wait, the teas-

er of Prashant Neel's directorial from the house of Homble Films- *Salaar* is all set to release on July 6 that is going to be one teaser for all the languages. After ruling the year 2022 with blockbusters like *KGF 2* and *Kantara*, Prabhas starrer *Salaar* is the next big project from the house of Homble Films that is surely going to set new records at the box office. As the teaser of Prashant Neel's upcoming is all set for its release, the excitement to witness a glimpse of this mega-action-packed film is even at peak.

Homble Films' *Salaar* stars Prabhas along with Prithviraj Sukumaran, Shruti Haasan, and Jagapathi Babu. Made under the direction of Prashant Neel, the film will be released in theaters on September 28, 2023.