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Vande Mataram boosts nation's... self-confidence

New Delhi, Nov., 7 (PIB): Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the year-long commemoration of 150 Years of the National Song “Vande Mataram” in New Delhi today. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Shri Modi remarked that Vande Mataram is not merely a word—it is a mantra, an energy, a dream, and a solemn resolve. He highlighted that Vande Mataram embodies the devotion and spiritual dedication to Maa

Bharati. The Prime Minister stated that this one word connects us to our history, fills our present with confidence, and inspires our future with the courage to believe that no resolve is beyond fulfillment, and no goal is beyond our reach. Describing the collective singing of Vande Mataram as a truly sublime experience, beyond the bounds of expression, Shri Modi noted that amidst so many voices, there emerged a singular

rhythm, a unified tone, a shared thrill, and a seamless flow. He spoke of the resonance and waves of harmony that stirred the heart with energy. The Prime Minister stated that 7th November is a historic day as the nation celebrates 150 years of Vande Mataram. He affirmed that this sacred occasion will offer new inspiration and infuse fresh energy to our citizens. To mark this day in the pages of history, a special commemorative coin and

postage stamp dedicated to Vande Mataram were released. Paying tributes to all the bravehearts and luminaries of India who dedicated their lives for Maa Bharati, Shri Modi extended congratulations to all present and conveyed his best wishes to every citizen on the completion of 150 years of Vande Mataram. Noting that every song and every poem carries a core emotion and a central message, the Prime Minister posed the question—what is

the essence of Vande Mataram? He affirmed that its essence is Bharat—Maa Bharati—the eternal idea of India. He elaborated that this idea began shaping itself from the dawn of human civilization, reading each era as a chapter, witnessing the rise of different nations, the emergence of various powers, the evolution of new civilizations, their journey from nothingness to greatness, and their eventual dissolution back into the void.

PM Modi inaugurates year-long celebration of national song



‘Vande Mataram’ inspired revolutionaries with struggle, sacrifice, and dedication: Amit Shah

Patna (PIB): Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah addressed a celebration in Patna, Bihar, marking 150 years of the national song ‘Vande Mataram. Amit Shah also led the collective recitation of the Swadeshi pledge. The event was attended by Union Education Minister Dhamendra Pradhan and several other dignitaries. In his address on the occasion, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah said that today is a day of awakening Indian consciousness because 150 years ago, on this very day, great freedom fighter and renowned literary figure Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay penned ‘Vande Mataram.’ He said that Bankim Chandra, through this song, gave the nation a great mantra of national consciousness, which later became the proclamation and guiding principle of India’s freedom struggle and, after independence, a reason to unite the country.



Vande Mataram - a timeless symbol of unity: Prez Murmu

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu on Friday commemorated the 150th anniversary of India's national song, Vande Mataram, describing it as a timeless symbol of national unity and patriotism. In a post on the social media platform 'X', the President said, "In the nineteenth century, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay composed the immortal song Vande Mataram against the backdrop of the Sannyasi Rebellion against British rule, which, since the time of the 1905 Swadeshi Movement, has become a source of inspiration for one and all. Since then, this song of reverence to Mother India has remained a proclamation of the emotional consciousness and unity of our countrymen, and will continue to be so." "After Independence, the country reverently adopted it as the national song. On this glorious occasion of the completion of 150 years of this song, let all of us countrymen take this firm resolve that we will keep Mother India endowed with fine water, fine flowers, and bestow happiness, in accordance with the spirit of this song, Vande Mataram!" she added. President Murmu highlighted that Vande Mataram not only inspired Indians during the freedom struggle but continues to serve as a source of pride, dedication, and patriotic spirit



All India Services officers visit Kurnool GGH

Kurnool: A team comprising 15 All India Services officers visited the Kumool Government General Hospital as part of their study tour. The delegation included officers from various elite services such as the IAS, IPS, IFS, ICAS, and ISS, currently undergoing training at the Dr MCR Human Resource Development Institute of Telangana, Hyderabad. During the visit, the officers inspected various sections of the hospital, including the Outpatient (OP) and Inpatient (IP) departments, to review the healthcare facilities and services being extended to patients. They interacted with hospital officials to gain insights into the infrastructure, availability of medical equipment, and the support provided under Central and State Government health schemes. Hospital Superintendent Dr K Venkateswarlu briefed the delegation about the hospital’s functioning, range of medical services, and the initiatives being implemented to strengthen public healthcare. He stressed that serving the public should be the foremost objective of all officers and healthcare professionals, calling for a positive and committed approach to enhance service delivery for the benefit of the community. The officers later toured key departments, including the Emergency Wing, the newly established Diagnostic Block, and the Super Specialty Department.

CM said onion farmers will get Rs 50000 per hectare based on e crop

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Nov., 7: The AP government has decided to support onion farmers. For this, it is going to provide financial assistance of Rs. 50 thousand per hectare. As a result, 20,913 farmers in Kurnool and Kadapa districts will benefit Rs. 104.57 crore. This assistance will be provided on the basis of e-crop. This will benefit farmers who grow onion in 45 thousand acres. The Marketing Department and Markfed have already played a key role in the purchase of onions. They have purchased onions at a rate of Rs. 1,200 per quintal, spending a total of Rs. 18 crore. Of this, Rs. 10 crore

has already been paid to the farmers. Minister Atchannaaidu revealed yesterday that the remaining Rs. 8 crore will also be paid soon. Due to various circumstances, this time the price of a quintal of onion did not exceed Rs. 600. As a result, the government purchased about 1.39 lakh quintals of onion at a rate of Rs. 1,200 per quintal. It collected almost all the onions that arrived at the Kurnool market yard. Some of the onions were taken to farmers' markets and some to traders and sold. However, some farmers still have onions left. The government, recognizing that farmers are losing money



due to lack of remunerative prices, has decided to provide Rs. 50,000 per hectare to farmers who

cultivate onions. This will be provided to the beneficiaries as per the relevant rules and regulations.

Minister Parthasarathy slams Jagan over development works in andhra pradesh

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Nov., 7: Minister Kolu Parthasarathy has severely criticized YS Jagan. He alleged that he has done nothing but credit theft during the Jagan government. He said that his entire rule has been aimed at robbery and destruction. Speaking to the media on Friday, Minister Parthasarathy made sensational comments targeting Jagan. The minister said that the Chandrababu Naidu government responded faster than the speed of a cyclone and directed the machinery at the field level. But, Jagan, who did not see any of this, said that he only made it his job to spread lies. He criticized that everything Jagan has done in the last five years is credit theft. Minister Parthasarathy severely criticized Jagan for coming to the government late. He



said that he indulged in rampant looting and created havoc in the state. He said that the reason for the fall from 151 seats to 11 seats was the fraud and destruction committed by Jagan. He said that during the Jagan government, they cheated by promising to educate every child through Amma Vodi. But, after the TDP government came to power, the minister said that all the promises made were being fulfilled. He explained that Rs. 10,090

crores are being spent on 67 lakh students up to intermediate. He said that the Jagan government was caught in a corruption of Rs. 200 crores in the distribution of chicken eggs, and they should be ashamed of this. Jagan, who said that he would give farmer assurance of Rs. 14 thousand, was criticized for giving only Rs. 7,500. But, after his government came to power, Minister Parthasarathy said that Rs. 20 thousand is being given to farmers in two

installments under the Annadata Sukhibhav scheme. The minister said that the coalition government is doing a great job in attracting investments. He said that investments worth Rs. 7.68 lakh crore have already been grounded. He said that 7.20 lakh jobs will be created by 2027-28. Minister Parthasarathy said that investments did not come under Jagan's rule. 'We do not want your credit. You should be careful. But, stop lying,' he advised.

Women cricketer Sricharani receives grand welcome at Gannavaram Airport

From Our Staff Reporter Gannavaram, Nov., 7 : Indian cricketer Sricharani was greeted with a grand reception at Gannavaram Airport upon her return home. The celebration was attended by state ministers Anitha, Sandhyarani, and Savita, as well as Vijayawada MP Keshineni Shivnath (Chinni), SHAP officials, and representatives from the Andhra Cricket Association. Sricharani played a vital



role in representing India during the Women's ODI World Cup victory, and her achievement has been met with immense pride and admiration from her home state Andhra Pradesh.

Kurnool bus tragedy: Travel bus owner arrested and released on bail

From Our Staff Reporter Kurnool, Nov., 7 : In a tragic incident in Kurnool district, Vemuri Vinod Kumar, the owner of V. Kaveri Travels, was arrested following a horrific bus accident that resulted in the deaths of 19 passengers. However, he was later released on bail after being produced before the Kurnool Special Mobile Court, where Magistrate Anusha granted him temporary release on a surety of Rs. 10,000. The accident occurred in the early hours of October 24 near Kedal Mallapuram in Kallur mandal, when a Kaveri Trav-



els bus, travelling from Hyderabad to Bangalore, collided with a motorbike. The collision led to numerous injuries and a devastating loss of life. In connection with the case, the police have already arrested the bus driver, Lakshmaiah,

who is designated as Accused 1 (A1). Authorities are currently conducting a thorough investigation to determine the causes of the accident, examining aspects such as bus permits, driver negligence, and adherence to safety regulations.

Veligonda project to be completed by 2026: Minister Nimmala

From Our Staff Reporter Prakasam, Nov., 7: Irrigation Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu has made it clear that the construction of the Veligonda project will be completed by 2026. He reminded that CM Chandrababu performed the Bhoomi Puja for the construction of the Veligonda project in 1996.

He said that Chandrababu has been expressing his concern over the continuation of the construction of the Veligonda project for 30 years. He stated that Chandrababu is reviewing the construction of the project every 15 days. He revealed that work is being done day and night to complete the Veligonda project.

Minister Ramanaidu alleged that former CM Jagan started the project in the previous government before the construction of Veligonda was completed. He alleged that Jagan, who cheated his mother and sister, does not mind cheating the people of Prakasam district. He called Jagan's actions ridiculous.

EDITORIAL

Will 'SIR' go smoothly?

The revelation by the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi that 25 lakh fake voters have been included in the list in Haryana ahead of the 2024 assembly elections is creating a stir. He alleged that all the voter lists in the country are full of duplicate, fake and dead voters. He also revealed how fake voters can be included in the list. On September 18, Rahul also exposed the loopholes in how 6000 eligible voters were removed from the list in Aland constituency in Karnataka. If someone registers as a voter, then someone else can change that registered mobile number using their number and using Form 8 without the knowledge of the original person. Five days after all this was revealed by the Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on September 18, the Election Commission dismissed all of Rahul's allegations. The Aadhaar-linked mobile number was secretly changed from being used. Although this is a welcome move, it was done without any press release or discussion. It means that the Election Commission has clearly and implicitly admitted the huge flaws in the maintenance of voter lists. These flaws are the ones that are creating opportunities for manipulation of election results. The absence of unique voter identification numbers allows anyone to change the details of the voter. Such basic systemic flaws cannot be made by teenage engineers who do not have the slightest knowledge of the database. This clearly shows that the Election Commission is in a state of gross incompetence in database management. The fact that the voter lists that should be part of an important database are in this state is a matter of grave concern. It is clear that the voter lists in the country need to be cleaned and maintained by highly competent experts and processes. In this context, the readiness to undertake a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in the states of the country to completely clean and make the voter lists error-free is to be welcomed. But can these huge responsibilities be entrusted to the same officials who caused the confusion in the first place, under the same process? The biased attitude is being exposed in the press conferences organized by the Election Commission under the leadership of the Chief Election Commissioner. In these circumstances, the Election Commission, which lacks trust and efficiency, is coming forward to conduct a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) across the country with its own processes and rules. In this regard, the alternative for the Election Commission is to involve all political parties in every aspect of the cleansing of these lists. Moreover, issuing orders and orders is not right. First, a special comprehensive revision process of voter lists should not be undertaken in other states like Bihar. There, genuine voters were removed from the lists with malicious intent by giving false reasons that they are removing illegal immigrants. The second important point is that Aadhaar card is fundamental and fundamental to ensure that the voter list is clean without any error. But the Election Commission has created confusion over the use of Aadhaar card. It has dismissed Aadhaar card without any basis, arguing that it is not a proof of citizenship. This is true. Not everyone with an Aadhaar card needs to be a voter. But it is a fact that every voter must have an Aadhaar card. Duplicates, fakes, and dead people can be effectively removed from the Aadhaar-linked voter list. Duplicates, fakes, and other errors can be corrected using artificial intelligence. With this process, every voter can be given a voter identity card. No one can change it. But without doing any of this process, the Election Commission has deleted the names of several lakhs of genuine voters in Bihar. In this matter, the Election Commission has not only proven itself to be technically incompetent, but has also acted maliciously at will. Third point.. It is not right to download applications online and submit them themselves or to receive them at the centers. They should go door to door and check the real voters and register them based on the certificates. The Election Commission should not make voters come to them. The election officials should go to the voters and register the details. But this did not happen in Bihar. The Telangana government should be taken as an example in this regard. In Telangana, the census officials went to every house and collected the details of 3.5 crore people within two months and were able to collect the details of the population completely. The only way is for the Election Commission to follow such an ideal method. The Election Commission will be confident that it is doing it slowly and systematically, unlike what was done in Bihar in a hurry within a month or two months.

Modi Govt's Latest Revision In GST Camouflages Squeeze On State Finances

The Narendra Modi government has made much of the revision in rates of the Goods and Services Tax that it has announced. Its propaganda machine has worked overtime to tom-tom the benevolence of the government, how it has lightened the load on the common man precisely when the common man needed it the most, that is, during the festive season. Every coach in the Delhi metro has multiple government advertisements, with pictures of Modi and of the Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, claiming that 390-plus goods have become cheaper because of the GST revision. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has been repeatedly claiming a sizeable increase in Diwali sales. And newspapers are full of accounts of an uptick in automobile sales because of the fall in auto prices made possible by the revision in GST rates.

All this however relates at best to only one-half of the picture. The other half which is kept carefully hidden relates to the consequences of the fall in government revenue because of the GST revision. Many government economists are sanguine enough to suggest that there would not be much loss at all; they claim that the increase in sales of goods and services because of the fall in their prices where the rates have been cut, will entail virtually the same revenue despite the rate cut. But this is an impossibility as the following example will show.

Consider a good where the pre-GST price was Rs. 100 and on which there was 28 percent GST earlier but 18 percent now, and let us assume for simplicity that its pre-GST price remains unchanged (we can for instance take the production of the good to be vertically integrated). Its price then which must have been 128 before the rate cut, falls from 128 to 118 because of the rate cut, that is by about 8 percent. For the revenue from it to remain unchanged, that is, to remain at 28 where it was earlier, instead of 18 to which it has fallen now at the old level of sales, its sales must now become 28/18 times what they were earlier; that is, they must increase by 56 percent. For an 8 percent fall in price to bring about a 56 percent increase in demand, the price elasticity of demand for this good must be as much as 7, which is an absurdity. Hence the undeniable fact remains that there would be a significant loss of revenue because of the cut in GST rates.

Of course, in the case of durable consumer goods where consumers buy such goods at discrete intervals, it is not implausible that there may be a bunching of purchases by several individuals immediately after the announcement of a price-fall, so that there might not be an immediate fall in the revenue from such goods (and there may even be a rise) following the GST rate cut. But this only means that the effect of the rate cut in such goods may not be visible in one period; it will only become visible over time when the effects of a possible bunching of purchases have worn off. The bunching effect in other words must be separated from the question of price elasticity of demand. To conclude from the immediate rise in automobile sales and the boost to government revenue from this source that the GST rate cut will have no effect on government revenues at all is utterly erroneous. A loss in revenue in short is inevitable.

This loss would have to be shared between the central and state governments, but this is an issue we will come to later. This loss could in principle be offset by additional tax revenue mobilisation through some other means by the central government. But in such a case, given the fact that the central government would not be levy-

ing such additional taxes on the rich whom it pampers on the grounds that they promote “development”, the additional tax revenue would have to be mobilised at the expense of the working people, in which case the government's claim of putting additional purchasing power in the hands of the common people, would have been blatantly falsified; the government would seek to avoid such blatant falsification of its claim and hence eschew such additional revenue mobilisation. And in any case there is no such proposal being mooted.

Likewise, there is no possibility of enlarging the fiscal deficit: the states would not be allowed to do so anyway, and the centre is currently engaged in the task of bringing down its fiscal deficit as a proportion of GDP, a task it certainly would not abandon. It follows therefore that the GST rate revision will necessarily be accompanied by a reduction in government expenditure.

This reduction will typically affect whatever remaining government spending still occurs on healthcare, education and other such government services. Already there has been extensive privatisation of such services; this process will now be carried further as a consequence of the GST rate cut. Since such services provided by the private sector are much more expensive than similar services provided by the government, the people will have to expend much larger purchasing power in buying these services now. The purchasing power that the government has made available to the people through the GST rate cut will thus be offset by the purchasing power they would be losing because of the government's cutting down its



expenditure on such essential services. What the government has given with its right hand in other words will be taken away with its left hand.

But that is not all. Among the beneficiaries of the GST rate cut, there would not only be ordinary people but also the affluent, as is evident from the reported increase in automobile sales following the cut; but the victims of the cut in government expenditure that would be necessitated by the rate cut, would be predominantly ordinary people, since the affluent scarcely access government services in healthcare, education and such like. Even if the expenditure cuts occur not in these sectors but in other sectors, such as through delays in pension payments, or delays in wage payments under MGNREGS, the same conclusion holds, namely that the victims would be the non-affluent ordinary people. The net effect of the entire exercise therefore would have been a redistribution of income from the ordinary people to the relatively

more affluent, that is, an accentuation of real income inequalities in our society.

But the trick of the government consists in the following. The GST rate cut is direct and immediately visible, while the cuts in government expenditure necessitated by such a rate cut are not immediately visible, and, when they do occur, are likely to appear unrelated to the GST rate cut. The government therefore can derive much propaganda mileage from the GST rate cut, without attracting the opprobrium that should be its due because of the expenditure cuts that are essentially a consequence of this GST rate cut. Even a measure that actually increases real income inequality in society is presented as, and also appears as, being beneficial to the poor and implemented in their interest.

The point here is not to criticise the GST rate cut as such; but to underscore the fact that any such rate cut, must be accompanied by an equivalent increase in resource mobilization at the expense of the rich, a

matter that is squarely within the domain of the central government. Since this is not going to happen, and hence no question of any proceeds of such additional resource mobilisation being shared with the states, the GST rate cut will also make state government finances even more precarious. They would suffer from a loss of revenue because of the rate cut, but will obviously not be cutting down on expenditure on services meant for the ordinary people, since, unlike the centre, they are much closer to the ordinary people. They do not have the capacity to raise additional tax revenue and they cannot increase their fiscal deficit. The net result therefore will be an acute worsening of state government finances. The Modi government in short, while claiming credit for the GST rate cut, carefully camouflages the fact that when we look at the totality of the picture that would emerge from this tax cut, we would find a rise in real income inequality, and a further squeeze on state government finances.

Vande Mataram Inspires India's Freedom Struggle : District SP V. Harshavardhan Raju

Ongole, Pen Power | November 7: Marking the 150th anniversary of the patriotic song Vande Mataram, a grand celebration was held at Ongole Police Grounds. District SP V. Harshavardhan Raju, along with police officers, staff, and students, collectively sang the song. Speaking on the occasion, the SP said Vande Mataram means “Mother, I bow to thee,” symbolizing devotion to the motherland. Written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in the 1870s in Sanskritized Bengali and published in Anandamath (1882), the song became a source of inspiration for India's freedom struggle.

He noted that Rabindranath Tagore first sang it at the 1896

Indian National Congress session, and by 1905, it had become a rallying cry for freedom fighters. In 1937, the Congress officially adopted the first two verses as the national song. Although banned by the British for its revolutionary impact, the ban was lifted after Independence in 1947. In 1950, the Constituent Assembly accorded Vande Mataram equal status with the National Anthem Jana Gana Mana. SP Harshavardhan Raju described the song as a timeless symbol of India's unity, pride, and independence. He said it is a matter of national pride that the slogan which united the nation from Kashmir to Kanyakumari completes 150 years. Police



personnel and students participated enthusiastically in the event, after which the SP distributed chocolates to students. Similar programs were held across all police stations

in the district. Officials present: DSPs Rayapati Srinivasa Rao, K. Srinivasa Rao, CIs Y. Nagaraju, M. Srinivasa Rao, T. Vijay Krishna, N. Srikanth Babu, and others.

District Development Possible Only Through Comprehensive Planning – Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy

Ongole, Pen Power, November 7: District In-Charge Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy emphasized that coordinated efforts between public representatives and officials are crucial for the holistic development of Prakasam district. He presided over the District Review Committee meeting held at the Collectorate, where detailed reviews were conducted on departments including RWS, Public Health, Municipal, Panchayat Raj, Agriculture, Horticulture, Micro Irrigation, Animal Husbandry, Marketing, Forest, and National Highways. The minister directed officials to resolve issues related to drinking water supply, especially in areas affected by recent cyclones, and to expedite hospital maintenance works, road restoration, and temple infrastructure development within forest areas. Social Welfare Minister Dr. Dola Bala Veeranjanya Swamy, MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy, District Collector P. Rajababu, SP Harshavardhan Raju, MLAs, and corporation chairpersons participated. Collector Rajababu assured that all issues discussed will be addressed



promptly through departmental coordination. SP Harshavardhan Raju detailed ongoing measures for maintaining law and order and curbing the ganja menace. Minister Anam concluded that the meeting provided an opportunity for joint action planning, paving the way for better services and balanced district progress.

Environmental Protection is Everyone's Responsibility – Minister Anam

Ongole, Pen Power | November 7: District In-charge and State Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy emphasized that protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility. As part of the “Swamandhra – Swachh Andhra” initiative, Ongole Municipal officials launched a massive tree plantation drive, planting 5,000 saplings across the city on Friday. The program was attended by Social Welfare Minister Dr. Dola Bala Veeranjanya Swamy, MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy, MLAs Damacharla Janardhan Rao, Muthumala Ashok Reddy, B.N. Vijay Kumar, and other public representatives. Minister Anam, along with Collector P. Rajababu, SP Harshavardhan Raju, and Joint Collector R. Gopalakrishna, planted saplings near Anjayya Road. MLA Janardhan Rao stated that students from ten colleges were involved in planting along eight major city roads, with geo-tagging and maintenance responsibilities assigned to them.



Velugonda Project to Be Completed by 2026: Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu



Ongole, Nov 7 (Pen Power): Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu said the Pula Subbaiah Velugonda project will be completed by 2026 to provide irrigation water to farmers. He inspected the dam-

aged sections of the Velugonda feeder canal near Kotturu, which was affected by the recent Montha cyclone. The minister directed officials to expedite the removal of water from the twin tunnels and strengthen canal works by

constructing CC wall lining with approved designs. He chaired a review meeting with officials and project agency representatives to assess the pending works. Ramanaidu said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had

laid the foundation stone for the project 30 years ago and is now keen on ensuring its completion. He criticized former CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for misleading people by claiming the project was completed, even though key works such as 4.2 km of tunnel lining and removal of the TBM machine remain. Tenders worth ₹456 crore have been issued for feeder canal lining and retaining wall works, which will begin this month. A technical committee has also been appointed to handle the TBM removal. The minister added that ₹900 crore in compensation for displaced families remains unpaid from the previous government's term. The current administration is committed to completing the project and resolving all resettlement issues by the end of 2026. Local leaders, officials, and TDP representatives participated in the inspection.

People Must Face Cancer with Awareness — DM&HO Dr. Venkateswara Rao

Rajamahendravaram, Pen Power, November 7:

On the occasion of National Cancer Awareness Day, the District Medical and Health Department organized a massive awareness rally on Friday. DM&HO Dr. K. Venkateswara Rao flagged off the rally, which started from the DM&HO office and moved through the main streets, spreading awareness about cancer prevention, early detection, and healthy lifestyles. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Venkateswara Rao emphasized the importance of public awareness about cancer, stating that early detection greatly increases the success of treatment. He urged people to avoid



tobacco and alcohol, which are major causes of cancer. Awareness programs are also being conducted through Mobile Medical Units, Primary Health Cen-

ters, Urban PHCs, and Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, he added. Officials from the Health Department, doctors, paramedical staff,

nursing students, ASHA workers, Women and Child Welfare staff, and public representatives participated in the rally.

21.7 kg of Ganja Seized, Three Arrested



Kakinada, Pen Power, November 7:

Police seized 21.7 kilograms of ganja and arrested three persons, said Jaggaipeta Circle Inspector

Y.R.K. Srinivas. Speaking to the media on Friday at the Jaggaipeta Circle Office, he stated that during vehicle checks near Gandepalli village outskirts on the N.T.

Rajapuram road, the police found ganja being transported in a Maruti Swift car. The arrested individuals were identified as Taku Narasimha Singh, Punmana

Teja, and Mahinder Singh. The police seized 11 packets of ganja worth ₹1,08,500, along with three smartphones, ₹2,000 in cash, and the Swift car used for transportation. The total value of the seized property is estimated to be ₹3,73,500, the CI said. Preliminary investigation revealed that 13 people were involved in the ganja procurement network. The police are conducting a detailed inquiry and will take legal action against all those involved. The three arrested accused were produced before the court, which remanded them to 14 days in judicial custody, Srinivas added.

East Godavari Ready for Kharif 2025-26 Paddy Procurement – JC Megha Swaroop

Rajamahendravaram, Pen Power, November 7:

East Godavari district is fully prepared for the Kharif 2025-26 paddy procurement season, said Joint Collector Y. Megha Swaroop. The district has set a target of 4 lakh metric tonnes for procurement. As of November 5, 102 coupons were issued, and 15.64 metric tonnes of

paddy were procured from three farmers. Farmers are advised to dry their paddy to a 17% moisture level. Around 212 RBKs have been equipped with necessary gunny bags. The government will pay the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of ₹2,389 per quintal for Common variety and ₹2,369 for Grade-A

variety. Additionally, the government will cover ₹4.74 per gunny bag and ₹22 per quintal as hamali (loading/unloading) charges. All required facilities have been arranged at the procurement centers. A control room has been set up at the Collector's office to address farmers' queries and complaints, operational from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM.



Vande Mataram Inspired India's Freedom Struggle – District Collector Shan Mohan

Kakinada, Pen Power, November 7:

District Collector Shan Mohan said that the song Vande Mataram ignited the spirit of freedom among Indians and inspired many great leaders to join the independence movement. He participated as the chief guest at a special program held at RRBHR High School, Pithapuram, marking the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram. The Collector, along with public representatives, paid floral tributes to freedom fighters and joined students in singing the patriotic song. Later, as part of International Children's Rights Week 2025, he flagged off a field awareness bus under the Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao initiative organized by the



District Women and Child Welfare Department. The Collector said Vande Mataram was written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee on November 7, 1875, in his novel Anandamath, and it soon became a source of inspiration for India's free-

dom struggle. He urged today's youth to draw inspiration from the song. As part of the children's rights campaign, students are being taken to various government offices to learn about administration and career guidance. DCCB

Chairman Tummala Ramaswamy, former MLAs S.V.S.N. Varma and Pendem Dorababu, Kakinada RDO S. Malli Babu, PADA APD Vasantha Madhavi, and other officials attended the event.

Quick disposal of petitions stressed

- Officials urged to take initiative in resolving grievances
- 146 applications received under PGRS : District Collector A.S. Dinesh Kumar

Our Correspondent D.V.R.G.V. Ratnam A.S.R. District In-charge. Paderu, Pen Power, November 7:

A total of 146 petitions were received during the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) program held at the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) office on Friday. District Collector A.S. Dinesh Kumar, Assistant Collector K. Sahith, DRO K. Padmalatha, and in-charge RDO S.V.S. Lokeshwar Rao jointly received applications from citizens across various mandals. The Collector directed officials to resolve the grievances promptly and informed the public that they



can track their petitions or register new ones through the 1100 call center or the Meekosam portal (meekosam.ap.gov.in). He

urged applicants to make full use of these services for faster resolution of their issues. Officials from several departments, including

Tribal Welfare, Agriculture, DRDA, Health, Industries, R&B, and Women & Child Welfare, participated in the program.

YCP's Era of False Politics Is Over: MLA Bandaru Satyanand Rao



Amalapuram, Pen Power, November 7:

Kothapeta MLA Bandaru Satyanand Rao stated that the people of Andhra Pradesh no longer believe the YSRCP leaders' lies and that it's time for them to change their ways. Speaking at a meeting with TDP leaders at

Ravulapalem, he criticized YSRCP leaders for being busy with political shows instead of supporting farmers affected by the recent cyclone. He said while farmers are suffering heavy losses, CM Jagan Mohan Reddy is engaging in political drama instead of providing relief. In contrast, CM

Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Lokesh are working tirelessly for the state's reconstruction, he noted. "The time for politics based on lies is over. People are now standing by honest governance," he declared. He also slammed the YSRCP government for fail-

ing to help farmers during nine previous cyclones and not sending even a single water packet during the current one. If YSRCP leaders don't stop their fake campaigns like the 'one crore signatures' and 'liquor drama', he warned, people will teach them a fitting lesson.

Former Araku MP Demands Coffee Processing Unit in Alluri District



Visakhapatnam, Pen Power, November 7:

Former Araku MP Goddeti Madhavi urged the state government to set up the proposed coffee processing unit in the tribal region of Alluri district instead of Maakavaram, Narsipatnam constituency. She said that during the YSRCP regime, land was acquired and foundation laid for the unit at Daunuru in Chintapalli mandal to benefit local tribal

farmers. Madhavi criticized the current coalition government for shifting the project location to the plains, stating that it defeats the purpose of empowering tribal communities. She demanded the government reconsider the decision and establish the processing unit in the tribal belt as originally planned. She also said she would write to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu seeking intervention on the issue.

N Mukesh Kumar recalls hockey journey ahead of centenary celebrations



Hyderabad: India celebrates the centenary of hockey in grand style starting from Friday, and Hyderabad can proudly boast of two of the sport's biggest names – triple Olympian N Mukesh Kumar and 1996 Atlanta Olympics goalkeeper Edwards Alloysius. When the 50-year-old Mukesh, who holds the record for scoring the fastest goal in Olympic history in just 32 seconds at the 2000 Sydney Games, looks back, he surely has some fond memories. The famed right-winger of yesteryears, whose wife Nidhi was also an Asian Games gold medallist in hockey, credits his success to coach Abharanam at the Sports Hostel of the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh. "Yes, having grown up mastering the basics the hard way, thanks to Abharanam Sir, who taught us all how to approach the goal while steering clear of the defence on gravel at Nizam College and Gymkhana Grounds, it was difficult to adjust to astro-turf later on when I played

for India. I had to make some technical changes in my game," Mukesh said in an exclusive chat with Telangana Today ahead of the centenary celebrations. One of the high points of Mukesh's illustrious career is being named 'Player of the Tournament' in the Poznan Inter-Continental Cup in 1993. "The best moments were scoring the goal against Pakistan in the 1988 Junior World Cup and then the Poznan Cup win," the former India captain recalled. "However, the biggest disappointment was not winning an Olympic medal. I think we had the best chance in the 2000 Sydney Games, but Belgium snatched a last-minute draw after we were leading 2-1 until the dying minutes of the match," Mukesh said. "The other big regret is not allowing my wife Nidhi to continue playing after our marriage when she was at her peak. That's one thing that really hurts me now when I look back," he added. On the state of hockey in

Hyderabad, Mukesh said it was sad that not many parents were willing to send their children to play the sport. "Like in many other sports, parents often ask, 'Where is the job guarantee?'" Mukesh, who also served as Secretary of the State Hockey Association for eight years, said. "It is a pity that the magnificent Gachibowli astro-turf complex, with two grounds, has been almost unused for a long time," he added. "However, thanks to Hockey India and the Government of India for extending complete support, the Indian team is now doing well in the Olympics and World Cups, with foreign coaches ensuring the desired results and more emphasis on power-play now," said the Asian Games gold medallist. "All we need is to ensure we have the right kind of bench strength by identifying players for each position, with Hockey India organizing many junior tournaments, just like the BCCI does with the India-A teams," he signed off.

Mohammed Shami Snubbed Again: BCCI, Ajit Agarkar Receive Stern Accusation



Mohammed Shami's India career is at threat of being over for good. Despite taking 15 wickets in his first three Ranji Trophy 2025/26 games, Shami was snubbed by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) selection committee for the India squads that will play South Africa. On this matter, Shami's personal coach, Mohammed Badruddin, made his frustration clear, alleging that the BCCI have made up their mind to ignore Shami for selection. Badruddin labelled the BCCI's rationale regarding Shami's fitness as excuses. "They are ignoring him (Shami), that's clear. There's no other reason that makes sense to me," said Badruddin, in an interview with India Today. "He's not unfit - when a player is playing Test matches, taking 15 wickets in two games, then he doesn't look unfit from anywhere. The selectors

are just overlooking him, that's it. Why they are doing that, only they can say," Badruddin added. Badruddin stated that the decision of the Ajit Agarkar-led BCCI selection committee to leave Shami out of the Indian squad for the Test series against South Africa was "pre-decided". Shami, 35, was initially not picked for the India A squad for the unofficial Tests or ODIs against South Africa A, and later also omitted from the senior squads. "I think they've made up their minds that they won't pick him for now, and in my view, that's completely wrong. When you select a Test team, it should be based on Ranji Trophy performances. If you're selecting for Tests using T20 metrics, that's not right. But here, it looks like the decisions are pre-decided. "All this talk about performance or fitness is just an excuse. Saying 'he's unfit' or

'needs match practice' - that's not true. They already have a plan about who they want to play and who they don't," Badruddin said. Shami last played for India on March 9, 2025, in the Champions Trophy 2025 final against New Zealand. Shami was the joint second-highest wicket-taker of the tournament, with nine wickets from five games. Badruddin did not hesitate to admit that Shami has been left frustrated by the selection snub, but also expressed confidence in the 35-year-old eventually making an India comeback. "I've never had such a conversation with him, because honestly, I don't like talking to him about this topic. Obviously, he's disturbed. Anyone would be. When you're performing and still not getting picked, it's frustrating," Badruddin said. Badruddin backed Shami to "silence everyone" in due course. "Of course, he can return. In fact, I'm fully confident he will. And when he does, he'll make such a comeback that will silence everyone. One day or the other, they'll have to play him. If you're not picking him now despite his form, then stop saying things like "we select based on performance" - because that's clearly not true. In my view, he deserves 100 percent to be back, and I'm sure he'll get that chance. The whole country is behind him and watching his performances. You can't ignore a guy who's done so much for India, especially in the World Cup," Badruddin further added. Shami could well be part of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 mini-auction after an underwhelming IPL 2025 season with Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH).

The Girlfriend - Rashmika Mandanna gives strong performance

The Girlfriend – What's it about?

Bhuma (Rashmika Mandanna) is an M.A. English Literature student at a Hyderabad college. Her father lives alone in Vijayawada, as her mother died giving birth to her. One night, Vikky (Deekshith Shetty), an engineering student from her college, gets into a quarrel after witnessing her involved in an accident. This incident sparks a friendship that soon turns into romance. When Vikky impulsively kisses her, and tells everyone in the college about it, they assume she is his girlfriend. And she goes along with it. Soon, Bhuma begins to see Vikky's true nature. He becomes controlling, makes decisions for her, and she realizes she is trapped in a toxic relationship. What happens when she tries to end it? Will he seek revenge? With even her father failing to show her the love and care she needs, what choices will she make next?

Analysis

"The Girlfriend" is not a love story. It is not a fairy-tale romance either. Director Rahul Ravindran explores the darker side of relationships, showing how women, often unknowingly, fall into toxic bonds and how difficult it is to break free from them. While the older generation of women silently endured such emotional imprisonment, Rahul's message is clear: the new generation must find the strength to break that chain. The film builds this theme through the lives of Bhuma Devi (Rashmika Mandanna) and Deekshith's mother (Rohini). Rohini's character becomes a reminder of women who lived their lives in submission and emotional pain. Rashmika's Bhuma Devi is a small-town girl who moves to Hyderabad for her higher studies. She is not fluent in English, struggles to express herself, and has grown up with a strict single father. It is understandable that such a vulnerable girl



might fall for Deekshith Shetty's character, even after he boasts about their first kiss to the entire campus.

Where the film falters is in its logic. The story is set in a large university campus where post-graduate humanities students and engineering students study together. Yet, male students freely walk into women's hostel rooms, and women enter men's hostels without objection. Even Bhuma's father casually walks into the girls' hostel. Such liberties are completely implausible in any Indian college setting. One could overlook this as cinematic liberty, but the director weakens his own central idea by crowding the narrative with unnecessary subplots. The film works best when it focuses on the suffocating relationship between Rashmika and Deekshith. He is possessive, controlling, and makes every decision for her, from their first kiss to the idea of marriage, without ever seeking her consent. There is a beautiful se-

quence where Rashmika sees her future reflected in the life of Deekshith's mother. The mirror scene and the following bathroom sequence, where Rashmika feels trapped, are filmed with sensitivity and visual depth. These moments, along with the interval block, make the first half engaging.

The problem begins with the subplot involving Rao Ramesh as Rashmika's father. On one hand, he is shown as a devoted single father who raised her alone, and on the other, he is portrayed as verbally abusive and emotionally cruel. His sudden transformation into a toxic figure feels inconsistent and overdrawn, as if the film wants to paint every male character in a negative shade. Rahul Ravindran appears as an English professor who guides Rashmika and helps her see her own worth. His character speaks sensibly but also feels incomplete. If he is so perceptive, why does he remain unaware of the abuse unfolding in the campus? Despite these lapses, "The Girl-

friend" has some moments like "The breakup" scene, where Rashmika finally stands up for herself, that are satisfying. On the technical side, Hesham Abdul Wahab's songs are melodious. The camerawork is neat. The editing is not at all sharp. The film belongs entirely to Rashmika Mandanna. She delivers one of her most mature performances, portraying a young woman's transformation from fear to strength with conviction. Her acting in the farewell sequence is especially top class. Deekshith Shetty suits his part as the aggressive and insecure boyfriend, while Rohini leaves an impression in her brief role.

Bottom-line: "The Girlfriend" is sensitive and meaningful in parts, driven by a clear sense of sincerity. However, its illogical setting and exaggerated characterizations make it less convincing than it aims to be. Rashmika Mandanna's performance remains the film's strongest pillar. This is a niche film that works for the significance of its theme or story rather than its narration.

Peddi's first single 'Chikiri Chikiri': Catchy and appealing

The first single "Chikiri Chikiri" from Ram Charan's sports drama 'Peddi' is out. Composed by A.R. Rahman and sung by Mohit Chauhan, the song video is appealing visually. The music is also quite catchy. The song is sure to become chartbuster. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, the film stars Ram Charan and Janhvi Kapoor as the lead pair. It is set for a March 27, 2026, global release. Peddi, who lives in the mountains, is left spellbound when he sees the girl for the first time in the village. Lyricist Balaji perfectly captures these tender emotions with simple yet poetic words. A.R. Rahman delivers a refreshing composition that blends earthy folk energy with modern beats. Mohit Chauhan's lively vocals lift the song, while Jani Master's choreography adds a vibrant edge. Ram Charan dazzles with effortless grace and infectious energy.

Janhvi Kapoor's entry is a visual treat. The film also features Kannada superstar Shiva Rajkumar, Jagapathi Babu, Divyendu Sharma, and Boman Irani in key roles. Backed by top technicians like cinematographer R. Rathnavelu and editor Navin Nooli, Peddi promises rich visuals and grand cinematic appeal.



GlobeTrotter: Prithviraj Sukumaran's look as Kumbha unveiled



SS Rajamouli has set the stage for the biggest cinematic event of the year. The first look of Malayalam superstar Prithviraj Sukumaran from "GlobeTrotter" (tentative title) starring Mahesh Babu in the lead, has been unveiled. Prithviraj appears as Kumbha, a fierce, commanding antagonist seated in a high-tech wheelchair, exuding menace and mystery in every frame. The poster gives a glimpse of Rajamouli's massive new world-building adventure. He is now teaming up with Mahesh Babu for what is touted as his most ambitious project yet. Priyanka Chopra joins the cast as the leading lady, while Prithviraj's intense transformation hints at a layered and formidable villain. Rajamouli shared the poster on X, revealing that the team is currently shooting the film's climax featuring all three lead actors. He also teased grand plans for the upcoming GlobeTrotter event, which is being described as the biggest launch ever in Indian cinema. The event will take place on November 15 at Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad. The director's statement and the new poster have taken social media by storm, with fans praising Prithviraj's striking look and Rajamouli's knack for creating larger-than-life cinematic moments.