

Well-being of senior citizens essential for guiding families, society: Murmu

New Delhi, May 2 (The Capital News): Emphasising the role of senior citizens as pillars of wisdom and tradition, President Droupadi Murmu on Friday called for collective responsibility to ensure the dignity, happiness, and well-being of India's elderly population. Speaking at the 'Ageing with Dignity' programme hosted at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here, Murmu underscored the invaluable contribution of senior citizens in shaping society and guiding future generations. "Senior citizens are a vital link

to our past and guides to our future," she said, urging all citizens to remain committed to their welfare and learn from their vast experiences. "Our senior citizens represent wisdom, prudence, and tradition. We must ensure that their dignity and health are a shared duty," she said. She appealed to citizens to "honour their presence, value their guidance, and cherish their companionship." Lauding the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) for initiating several measures aimed at ensuring dig-



nity in the lives of the elderly, she appreciated the launch of a dedicated portal for senior citizens, describing it as a "one-stop digital platform" to support their needs. The presi-

dent pointed to cultural values that uphold respect for elders, saying, "Respect for parents and elders is embedded in our traditions. In many households, children are

happiest with their grandparents. Often, what children won't accept from their parents, they gladly accept when told by a grandparent."She also acknowledged the emotional and psychological support that elderly family members offer."When elders see their families thriving, their physical and mental well-being also improves. They are emotional pillars for their families," she said. However, Murmu expressed concern over the evolving challenges faced by the elderly."With economic growth and mod-

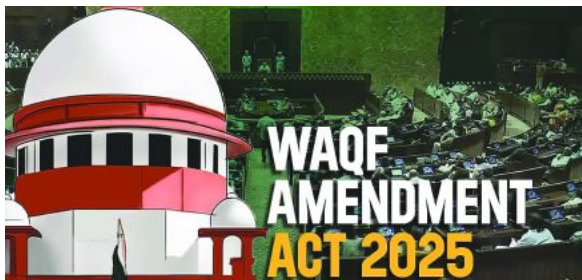
ernisation, young people often migrate for jobs, leaving behind elders who crave love and respect. Sometimes, even when parents live with their children, they don't receive the affection and dignity they deserve. Sadly, some people even consider the elderly a burden," she said. Calling them a "storehouse of knowledge," she highlighted their potential to guide the youth and strengthen the nation's progress. "Our senior citizens can lead society and the country towards greater prosperity," she said.

Vaishnaw pitches for shared standards, clear rules for ethical use of AI

Mumbai, May 2 (The Capital News) Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Friday made a strong pitch for joint funds for new technologies, shared standards and clear rules for ethical use of artificial intelligence. Addressing the Global Media Dialogue at the World Audio, Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) here, he said tie-ups between government, industry and creators had become indispensable as there was greater focus on local stories. The I&B Minister said the global media dialogue was anchored in creativity, culture and collaboration. "As a government, we must provide a fair chance for everyone to showcase their story to the world. We must incentivise local content promotion and enforce IP framework among other things," Vaishnaw said, addressing the Dialogue, attended by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Minister of State for I&B L Murugan, and representatives for several countries. Vaishnaw also said that governments must support policies that preserve and promote all cultural forms as they connect people across borders. "Focus is shifting towards local stories. We aim to build people-to-people and country-to-country exchanges," he said. "Tie-ups with government, industry and creators have, therefore, become indispensable. Practical steps include co-production treaties to ease licences and talent movement. We need joint funds for new tech, shared standards, and clear rules for ethical AI," Vaishnaw said.

SC refuses to entertain fresh plea challenging Waqf (Amendment) Act

New Delhi, May 2 (The Capital News) The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a fresh plea challenging constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025. A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and K V Viswanathan is scheduled to hear petitions on the issue on May 5. The bench, which had earlier made it clear it will hear only five of the over 70 litigants, today again said that no more fresh pleas will be entertained on the issue. "If you have some additional grounds, you can file an intervention application," the CJI told the counsel for petitioner



M o h a m m a d Sultan. On April 29, the bench refused to entertain 13 petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Act. "We are not going to increase the number of petitions now... This will keep on piling and would become difficult to handle," it said. On April 17, the bench decided to hear only five of the pleas before it and titled the case: "In Re: Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025". The Centre then assured the

bench it will neither denotify waqf properties, including "waqf by user", nor make any appointments to the central waqf council and boards till May 5. About 72 petitions were filed against the law. They included those by AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi, All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIM-PLB), Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and Congress MPs Imran Pratapgarhi and Mohammad

Jawed. While appointing three lawyers as nodal counsel, the bench asked the advocates to decide among themselves who was going to argue. "We clarify that the next hearing (May 5) will be for the preliminary objections and for an interim order," the bench said. The Centre recently notified the Act, which got President Droupadi Murmu's assent on April 5, after its passage in Parliament following heated debates in both houses. The bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha with 128 members voting in favour and 95 opposing it. It was cleared by the Lok Sabha with 288 members supporting it and 232 against it.

Delhi CM carries out inspection of water-logged roads in Delhi after heavy rains

New Delhi, May 2 (The Capital News) Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday visited the Majnu Ka Tila area following heavy rainfall in the city and directed officials to begin repair work on potholes and sewers to help prevent waterlogging during the upcoming monsoon season. "Waterlogging remains a concern in several parts of Delhi due to clogged drains and damaged roads," Gupta said. "Officials have been instructed to promptly identify all vulnerable spots and begin necessary work, such as desilting drains and repairing or constructing roads, to avoid such issues during the monsoon," she told PTI Video. She also



said all BJP MLAs are inspecting their respective constituencies to assess and address waterlogging problems. Delhi PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh also inspected the Minto Bridge area and shared a video of the

site. "Due to unseasonal, record rainfall, water accumulated at several locations. All four pumps at Minto Bridge were operational. A burst pipe was also found and will be repaired," he said. He added that drain cleaning work

is being carried out by various civic agencies, including the PWD, MCD, DJB, NDMC, and IFC. Heavy rain, accompanied by a dust storm and strong winds, swept through Delhi early Friday morning. The downpour led to waterlogging in many areas, uprooted trees, delayed flights, and caused traffic disruptions across the city. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had issued a red alert for the city as the city saw intense rainfall, strong winds and dust storm. Three flights were diverted and over 200 flights were delayed at the Delhi airport as thunderstorms and gusty winds disrupted operations.

Six Lane Krishna River..(From P1)

Godavari districts and coastal Andhra can bypass Vijayawada by joining the route near Chinna Avutapalli, reaching Amaravati in under 30 minutes. Designed for efficiency and safety, the bridge features separate lanes, dividers, signage, and lighting systems. It also facilitates the movement of heavy vehicles and construction materials vital to Amaravati's ongoing development. Locals and commuters have welcomed the infrastructure upgrade, citing its importance for daily travel and government access. For those heading to the Secretariat, High Court, and other key offices, the new bridge is expected to be a game-changer.

Will PM deliver on promise of...(From P1)

jibe came ahead of Prime Minister Modi's programme in Amravati to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for projects worth Rs 58,000 crore, including resuming the construction of the greenfield capital city. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh asked that since he has started implementing the vision of the Congress' Nyay Patra with the announcement of the caste census, will he also deliver on the long-awaited promise of Special Category Status for Andhra Pradesh. "He had promised the same in the holy city of Tirupati in March 2014," Ramesh said. "Additionally, several other commitments made in the AP Reorganisation Act remain unfulfilled - including the Kadapa Steel Plant, Duggirajupatnam Port, the Kakinada Petro complex, and an Agricultural University for the state," the Congress leader said in a post on X. "He has dragged his feet on these for ten years - will he finally deliver on them?" Ramesh said. The Centre on Wednesday announced that caste enumeration will be part of the next population census, with the inclusion of caste details for the first time since Independence. The Congress has said that the pressure it put on the government for the caste census has worked.

India's first quantum tech park...(From P1)

processor, in Amaravati, a first-of-its-kind deployment in India. Calling it a "historic day not only for Andhra Pradesh but for the entire nation," the Chief Minister said the initiative will place the State at the forefront of the emerging quantum revolution. "Just as we led India's IT revolution in the 1990s, we now aim to lead the quantum revolution. Amaravati will be our Quantum Valley," Naidu declared. He emphasized that future innovations in artificial intelligence, biology, material sciences, and cryptography will be rooted in quantum computing and called on IBM and TCS to model Amaravati after Silicon Valley in the U.S. The government has already allocated land to L&T, and two special committees will be formed, one to oversee infrastructure progress and the other to guide system development. Naidu also stated that the project details would soon be presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. TCS CTO Dr. Harik Vin described the MoU as a landmark moment for hybrid computing, with quantum-classical integration poised to deliver breakthroughs in diverse fields ranging from pharmaceuticals to encryption.

TTD launches WhatsApp-based.. (From Page 1)

others."TTD has introduced a new WhatsApp system to streamline and enhance the process of collecting feedback from pilgrims visiting Tirumala and Tirupati. This initiative aims to improve transparency, service quality, and devotee satisfaction," said the temple body in a release. Pilgrims can share their feedback by scanning QR codes placed at various locations across Tirumala and Tirupati. Upon scanning, they will be directed to a WhatsApp interface where they can submit their feedback in a few simple steps. Feedback can be shared in text format or video uploads, offering ratings such as good, average or not good, along with the opportunity to post additional comments and videos."TTD management will thoroughly review all feedback received and take necessary actions to address concerns and improve services," the release said. This digital initiative is part of TTD's continued commitment to providing a spiritually enriching and comfortable experience to all devotees, the temple body added.

HC denies interim protection to...(From Page 1)

had filed anticipatory bail petitions fearing arrest after their names reportedly surfaced during the interrogation of other accused already in custody. However, the prosecution sought more time to present detailed records before the court. Considering the prosecution's request, the High Court made it clear that no interim orders, including protection from arrest, could be passed at this stage. The bench adjourned the matter to next Wednesday (May 7) for further hearing. The court also noted that anticipatory bail could not be considered prematurely and advised the petitioners to wait until the prosecution places its submissions on record. Government counsel informed the court that legal instructions were awaited from the State administration. The developments come amid intensified investigation by the SIT, which recently arrested Raj Kesireddy, a key accused in the case, along with his personal assistant, Dileep. Both are believed to be central to the alleged network involving illicit commissions in the liquor trade.

Delhi court issues notice to.... (From Page 1)

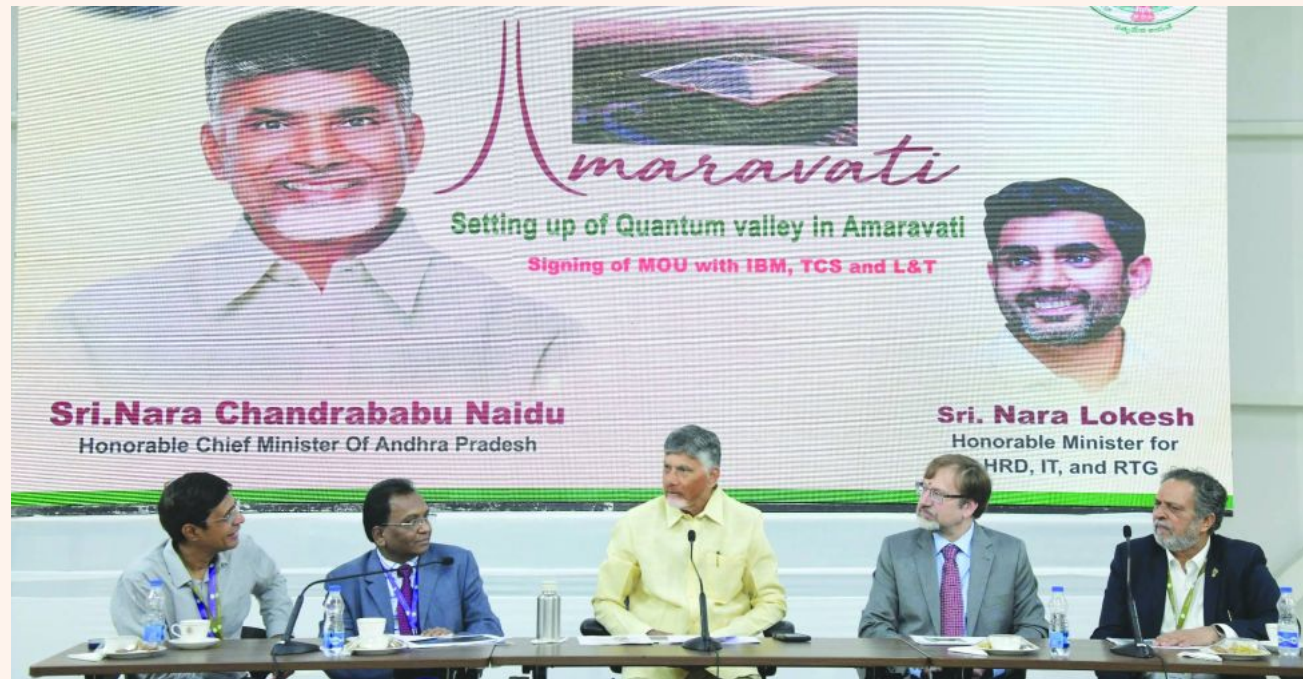
of the chargesheet. "Right to be heard at any stage breathes life into fair trial," the judge said, posting the matter on May 8. The ED, which filed its chargesheet recently, began its probe in 2021 after a magistrate court took cognisance of a private complaint filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy on June 26, 2014. The complaint, the ED said, highlighted a "criminal conspiracy" by several prominent political figures, including the first family of the Congress party led by Sonia, her MP son Rahul, late Congress leaders Motilal Vora and Oscar Fernandes aside from Dubey, Pitroda and a private company Young Indian for their alleged involvement in money laundering in relation to the fraudulent takeover of properties valued over Rs 2,000 crore belonging to the Associated Journals Limited (AJL). Congress leaders Sonia and Rahul are majority shareholders of Young Indian with 38 per cent shares held by each one of them. They were questioned for hours by the ED in this case a few years ago.

3,60,119 applications received ...
(From Page 1)

applied till now. While for engineering stream 2,78,896 applications received, for agriculture and pharmacy stream 80,313 had applied and for both the streams 910 students applied. Those yet to apply, they can apply online with Rs2,000 penalty up to May 7, with Rs.4,000 penalty up to May 12 and finally with Rs.10,000 penalty up to May 16' he added. EAP CET convenor Prof VV Subbarao said that the EAP CET online exam would be conducted in 46 centers in Andhra Pradesh and in two regional centers in Hyderabad—thus in a total of 48 centers. He advised the students if by mistake any wrong information was given in the application, they could get it corrected by contacting the EAP CET help line center. He made it clear that those opted Urdu medium, they would be allowed to write the exam only in Kurnool regional center. Prof Subbarao further advised the students to download their hall tickets from May 12 through the APEAP CET website or through the 'Mana Mithra' whatsapp governance introduced by state government. If the students have any doubts they could contact either by dialing 0884-2359599, 0884-2342499 landline numbers or e-mail id 'helpdeskapeapcet@apsche.org', he added. EOM



The scenes at Amaravati capital works relaunch venue



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu inks an MoU with IBM, TCS, L&T as part of quantum valley at AP Secretariat on Friday

Photos : Y. Daya Anand, Sr. Photo Journalist

PHOTO FEATURE

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Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, governor Abdul Nazeer and several ministers, MLAs leaders welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Gannavaram Airport and also Helipad at Velagapudi in Amaravati on Friday



The scenes at Amaravati capital works relaunch venue. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Nara Lokesh and several officials discussing at the venue



The farmers of Amaravati celebrating Amaravati capital construction works relaunch with rally in advance to PM Modi's visit

Photos : Y. Daya Anand, Sr. Photo Journalist

Rough start for Rayhan Thomas at Tulum Golf Championship

Tulum (Mexico), May 2 (The Capital News) It was another rough start for India's Rayhan Thomas, who carded a five-over 77 and was in danger of missing the cut at the Tulum Championship at the PGA Riviera Maya here. He was lying tied 124th after the opening round on Thursday. In nine starts prior to this week, Thomas has made four cuts with a best of tied seventh in Bahamas Great Abaco Classic. Mitchell Meissner opened with a six-under 66 to lead the field



by one. He had seven birdies and one bogey. He has three top-10 finishes in nine starts this season, including a tied seventh at last week's Veritex

Bank Champi onship. Zach Bauch ou is second at five-under, while rookie Kensei Hirata, a six-time winner on Japan Tour, carded a four-under to be third. Runcha

napong Yourp ayong (three-under), a winner on the All Thailand Golf Tour, recorded a three - under 69 and was tied fourth in a group of nine players.

Solid start for Aditi Ashok in Utah Tourney



Ivins (Utah, USA), May 2 (The Capital News) Indian golfer Aditi Ashok overcame an early bogey to make a strong start that placed her tied 29th on the opening day of the Black Desert Championship, presented by

Greater Zion, here. Aditi shot three-under 69 on Thursday. Having begun her round on the back nine, Aditi dropped a shot on the 11th hole before picking up birdies on the 13th and 14th. She closed the first nine

with an even-par 36 after dropping a shot on the 16th. On the second nine, Aditi made birdies on the fourth, and seventh to conclude the day with a total of three-under par. This year, Aditi has made cuts at

three of the four events she has played and stands 102nd in the season's rankings. After the first round, Haeran Ryu of Korea led the field with a score of nine-under par for the day. Haeran played a bogey-free round that was dotted with nine birdies. Starting from the back nine, Haeran made five birdies and added four more on the front-nine. Haeran has so far made the cut in five of the six events she has played this season and stands 25th in the rankings. In the Chevron Championship last week in Texas, she posted her best finish of the season so far, ending tied sixth.

RCB Chase Playoff Edge, CSK Seek Win in Emotional Kohli-Dhoni Clash

Bengaluru, May 2 (The Capital News) Royal Challengers Bengaluru have a provisional playoff berth in sight and Chennai Super Kings need a morale-lifting win. But beyond the team goals, the IPL match here on Saturday offers the opportunity to see icons Virat Kohli and MS Dhoni battling against each other, perhaps, one final time in the league. Before delving into that possibility, a glance of the situation will reveal that RCB can swell their tally to 16 with a win, a position from where they potentially cannot falter in the race to the Qualifiers with three matches still remaining. A victory will instil some belief into an already ousted CSK unit that it can gain some late momentum and finish somewhere mid-table, and avoid the ignominy of being the wooden-spoon holders. And each of that objective is closely linked with the form of Kohli and Dhoni, the protagonists of one of the brightest bromance stories in Indian cricket. But at the Chinnaswamy



Stadium, they will be going at full tilt against each other. Kohli has constructed a mini hot streak, making four fifties in his last five innings and pushing for Orange Cap with 443 runs. The champion batter will be eager to produce another little masterclass to help RCB get closer to the play-off berth. He will be glad to see Devdutt Padikkal giving him solid support at No. 3, making two fifties in his last two innings. But Kohli will certainly like to see more contribution from his opening partner Phil Salt, so that he does not have to do the heavy-lifting alone. Similarly, RCB will also be keen to see skipper Rajat Patidar regaining his smooth-hitting



form of the earlier part of the IPL, as his last substantial innings came seven matches ago. However, he can look to cash in on the underfiring CSK bowling unit, except pacer Khaleel Ahmed and spinner Noor Ahmad. But the Super Kings batters, who have suffered a collective dip in form this season, will have no such respite as they will be up against Josh Hazlewood, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Krunal Pandya and Suyash Sharma. They have worked well within their limitations, and CSK will hope that their batters such as Ayush Mhatre, Sam Curran, Dewald Brevis and Shivam Dube will fire to give Dhoni the cushion to do his

things at the business end of the innings. In the past, Dhoni's quick 30s had transformed CSK's middling totals into competitive ones, but the top-order malfunction has robbed the skipper's cameos of their usual effect this year. But for their legion of fans, the presence of Kohli and Dhoni, who had said his participation in IPL 2022 depends on his body's ability to withstand the demands of the league, will be an endearing reminder to the days when they orchestrated many Indian wins together. Now, they are standing at the opposite spectrum, but the aficionados will dream of them turning back the wheels of time once more to produce a signature classic.



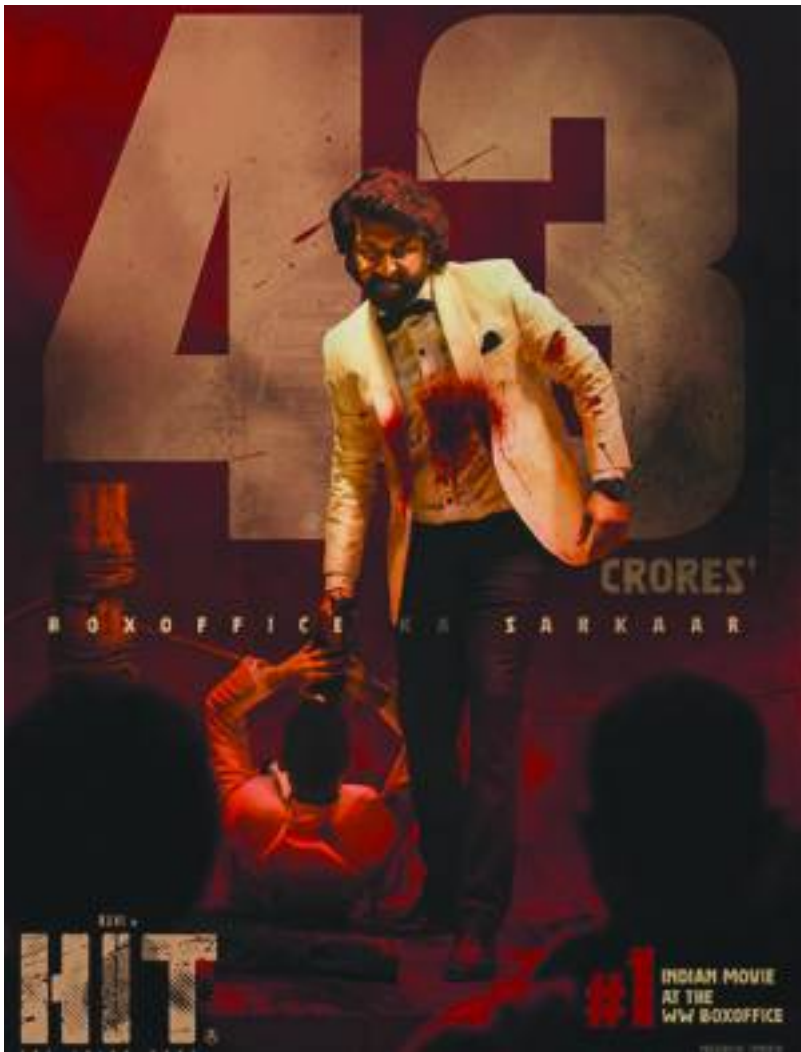
Pragya Jaiswal Beats Heat in Red Dress

When the sun turns up the heat, Pragya Jaiswal knows how to keep it cool. On a sunny terrace, the actress was seen enjoying her summer break with a refreshing drink in hand, flashing that warm smile she's loved for.

Dressed in a stunning red outfit that perfectly matched the bright mood of the season, Pragya posed gracefully for the camera. Her effortless vibe and glowing look made the shoot feel more like a breezy vacation moment than a photoshoot. Hydration, style, and sunshine—she balanced all three just right.

While her summer moments are a visual treat, fans are now waiting to see her light up the screen again. Up next, she is yet to appear in Nandamuri Balakrishna's much-loved film Akhanda 2.

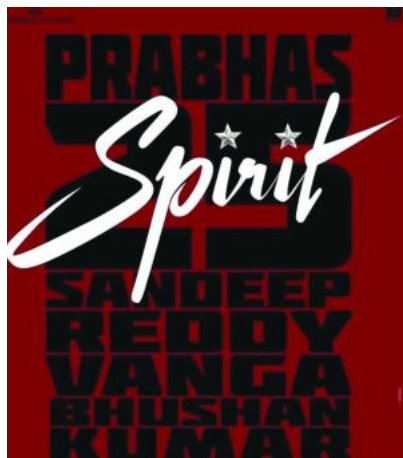
HIT 3 WW Day 1 Gross – 43+ Crores!



Nani's latest release, Hit 3: The Third Case, stormed the box office yesterday. The makers promoted the film so well and brought all the attention to the movie. The film reportedly grossed 43 crores of rupees worldwide on the first day. The team officially confirmed the same on social media. As per the trade reports, this is a new personal best for Nani in terms of day-one collections. Compared to the earlier prequels, the third part performed exceptionally well at the box office. Nani's star power has contributed to the success, and he has also set new records overseas. Hit 3 entered the prestigious \$1.2 million club on its first day abroad, making it the highest-grossing overseas opening for the actor. Interestingly, online ticketing platform Book My Show is selling an impressive 2.7 lakh tickets in just 24 hours. Directed by Sailesh Kolanu and produced under the Wall Poster Cinema and Nani Unanimous Productions banners by Prashanthi Tipirneni, the film will have a fourth part.

No Change In Spirit Plan For Prabhas

Young Rebel Star Prabhas is currently occupied with multiple projects. He is currently filming for Fauzi and is also waiting to kick-start the promotional activities of Raja Saab, directed by Maruthi. On the other hand, there are speculations that Spirit has been sent through the back door. However, the film's producer has officially dropped an update on the movie. Speaking in a recent interview, producer Bhushan Kumar said, "We will be starting Spirit in 2-3 months, and then, we will be moving to the next. It will be dropping in 2027." There have been speculations that Prabhas will work on Prashanth Varma's film first and then collaborate with Sandeep Reddy Vanga. But, there seems to be no change in the plan. Despite Prabhas



having Kalki 2, Salaar 2, and Prashanth Varma's film, he will be focusing on Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit first. Prabhas will be seen as a powerful police officer in the movie and Sandeep has designed an intense yet powerful role. Already, Nag Ashwin revealed that he is still unsure of

when Kalki 2 will begin. Meanwhile, Prashanth Neel recently started working on Dragon with NTR and he will not be starting Salaar 2 anytime soon. With Fauzi under the production, Prabhas will have to immediately jump on to Spirit and there won't be any change of plan in the same.