

'Green Day' celebrated at Toddlers' World



Glimpses of 'Green Day' celebrations at Toddlers' World- a unit of JK Public School Kunjwani.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Green colour is associated with prosperity, fertility, renewal nature, energy, freshness and environment.

To cherish the Greenery we are blessed with, 'Green

Day' was celebrated at Toddlers' World- a unit of JK Public School Kunjwani in an instructive way.

The main motto behind the celebration was to teach the children about the importance that should be

given to our environment.

Children were taught about the importance of the colour and the positive effects it has on our lives. Bubbling with enthusiasm in their astonishing green costumes the little ones ere-

ated a pleasant, harmonious and refreshing aura and filled the air with freshness and bliss.

School was beautifully decorated in an Eco-friendly way depicting the importance of living in a clean

and green environment. There was a series of activities like vibrant speeches, colouring, poem recitation etc. Kids stepped forward with zeal and confidence to deliver different amazing rhymes on the significance

of green colour and related to environment.

School's Coordinator, Shivangani Pandotra motivated and encouraged children with her kind words. According to her, the motive of celebrating green

day was to make the students aware of how colour makes our world a better place.

Students participation in explaining the importance of any topic develops their communication skills and

helps them to overcome the stage fear.

It was indeed a fun-filled learning day for our little ones. All the students enjoyed this activity and performed with confidence enthusiastically.

Indie films take a hit post-pandemic, need time for word-of-mouth promotion: Motwane

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KOLKATA: Independent Hindi films are not earning as much revenue as they did even four-five years back and such small-budget movies should be run for at least a week in theatres for word-of-mouth promotion, director Vikramaditya Motwane has said.

An independent film or indie film is a movie that is brought out mainly by people outside the mainstream industry, generally without the involvement of major studios.

"What is happening is unfortunate. Filmmakers and writers are experimental. They are coming up with new ideas, but the audiences are fewer. Hindi indie films are

struggling now to get an audience when compared to the response received by films like Court or Masaan a few years back," Motwane said.

Court' (2014), Chaitanya Tamhane's directorial debut, is a courtroom drama involving a teacher cum protest singer who was accused of abetting the suicide of a sewer worker. The film won several awards.

Another indie film Masaan' (2015) tells the tale of four persons who confront personal tragedies. This movie won a national award.

"These good content small budget films had got support from the audiences. But the situation has changed post-pandemic," Motwane told

PTI on the sidelines of an event.

Independent films need theatres to be screened so that people can watch them, said the director of 'Bhavesh Joshi Superhero' (2018).

"If an independent small-budget film cannot run for a week, how can there be word of mouth (publicity) after two-three days? People need to watch it and know its contents," he said.

In the USA with a population of 33 crores, there are 30,000 theatres and, in the case of India, only 10,000 halls serve 130 crores of its people, Motwane said.

If there are more theatres, more people will be able to watch indie films, he said.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BENGALURU: Two "banned-entry" candidates Vinay Kulkarni and G Janardhana Reddy present a picture of a peculiar case in the run-up to the May 10 Karnataka Assembly elections.

While the Congress candidate Kulkarni can't go to Dharwad, the constituency he is contesting from, following a court-imposed ban, Reddy fielded his wife in Ballari city as he is barred from entry there.

Kulkarni's wife Shivala filed the nomination on his behalf.

"Our supporters are backing us with a firm belief that 'Saheb' will come here. In his absence I am seeking the blessings of the voters asking them treat me as 'Saheb'," she told reporters.

Since video and phone calls are the only means to reach out to his voters, Kulkarni in a video message said, "I will immerse myself for you and my constituency. You are my strength who backed me today."

Former Minister Kulkarni was arrested and remanded to judicial custody in November 2020 in connection with the murder of BJP leader and Zilla Panchayat member Yogeshgouda Goudar in June 2016.

He was granted bail by the Supreme Court on the condition that he would not be allowed to enter Dharwad, the district known as cultural capital of Karnataka as it produced acclaimed literateurs and music maestros, without the permission of the jurisdictional court.

The jurisdictional Special Court in Bengaluru had rejected his request requesting entry, after which he had approached the High Court where his petition was dismissed by Justice K Natarajan on Friday.

Kulkarni's advocate had argued that he needs to be in the constituency to campaign.

The HC observed that the party, which gave him ticket to contest, should have known that he was forbidden by the court from entering Dharwad.

The case of former mining baron Janardhana Reddy of the famed 'Reddy brothers of Ballari' is not much different compared to Kulkarni.

A former BJP minister, Reddy has been barred by the apex court from entering Ballari in Karnataka and

Anantapur and YSR Kadapa districts in Andhra Pradesh in connection with illegal mining case.

Reddy had severed ties with the BJP and floated a new party Kalyana Rajya Pragathi Paksha (KRPP). His brothers G Karunakara Reddy and G Somashekhara Reddy are with the BJP and are contesting from Ballari City and Harapanahalli, respectively, on the party ticket.

Since he is not allowed to enter Ballari, Reddy chose to contest from neighbouring Gangavathi in Koppal district.

The KRPP leader has fielded his wife Lakshmi Aruna G from Ballari City constituency against his brother Somashekhara Reddy.

Lakshmi Aruna was in tears

on the day of filing her nomination papers as she missed her husband, who could not accompany her.

She sought the blessings of voters to complete the projects such as ring road, airport, superspecialty hospital and drinking water, which Janardhana Reddy had started but "halted midway."

Janardhana Reddy said: "I am concentrating only in those constituencies wherever I have the scope of winning the election. My target is to win 20 to 28 seats. I am building party at the booth level with the available strength," he had told reporters.

Barred entry, Reddy cannot canvass for his wife or any other candidates that the party has fielded in Ballari district it considers as its stronghold.

Have received thousands of letters from people offering me houses, says Rahul as he targets BJP on issue of vacating bungalow

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

VIJAYAPURA (K'TAKA): A day after vacating his official bungalow in New Delhi following the Lok Sabha disqualification, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday took a swipe at the ruling BJP saying it has done a good thing by taking back the house, as he has received thousands of letters from people inviting him to theirs.

The former AICC President said his house is in the hearts of the people and that he doesn't want any home.

Asserting that Congress is against BJP and RSS' ideology which "believes in spreading hate and violence", he said his party will fight it without any fear, and ensure its defeat.

"BJP has put several cases on me, they have removed me from the Parliament, they have taken away my house, but thousands of people wrote letters to me saying Rahul ji- come to our house. My house is in your (people's) hearts. I don't want any house. They have done good by taking the house," Gandhi said.

Stating that in the case he has been accused of using wrong words against OBCs, he said, "first of all I don't use wrong words against anyone. I respect every citizen of Hindustan. As I say, (I have) opened the shop of love in the market of hate."

Gandhi vacated his official bungalow in Lutyens' Delhi on Saturday and shifted to his mother

Sonia Gandhi's residence, weeks after losing his Lok Sabha membership following his conviction in a defamation case. Last month, he was sentenced to two years in jail by a court in Gujarat's Surat in a 2019 criminal defamation case over his "why all thieves have the Modi surname" remark. A day later, he was disqualified as a member of the Lok Sabha. Gandhi was addressing a public meeting here after holding a massive road show, ahead of the May 10 Assembly polls in Karnataka.

Invoking 12th century social reformer Basavanna on his birth anniversary, Gandhi claimed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and ruling BJP leaders only spoke about the Lingayat philosopher in their speeches but didn't follow his teachings.

Calling the BJP government in Karnataka the "most corrupt in the country", he said Congress would win 150 seats out of the total 224 in the polls in the state, while the "40 per cent BJP government" would get only 40 seats.

"Basavanna had said don't fear, speak out truth. If we see today, there is BJP and RSS' ideology which is creating an atmosphere of hatred and violence in the country. Prime Minister and BJP leaders speak about Basavanna, but don't follow his teachings," Gandhi said.

He said Basavanna had spoken about helping the weaker sections of society, he did not say "help the

billionaires".

"I have read about Basavanna's teachings. He has nowhere written that get the country's wealth to Adani. I spoke in Parliament, I asked the Prime Minister as to what was his relationship with Adani. The country's entire wealth, ports and airports are being given to Adani; what's your relationship," he said.

Claiming that his microphone was first switched off in the Lok Sabha for asking those questions, Gandhi said his speech was then removed from the House records, and at the end he himself was removed from the Lok Sabha.

"They think that the truth can only be spoken in Lok Sabha, but it can be spoken anywhere, even here," he said.

AICC General Secretary K C Venugopal, Karnataka Congress campaign committee chief M B Patil and KPCC working president Satish Jarkiholi, were among those present. Earlier on Sunday, Gandhi began his two-day visit to the poll-bound southern state from Kudala Sangama, where he offered obeisance to Basaveshwara, also known as Basavanna, on his birth anniversary which is celebrated as Basava Jayanti. Basavanna is the founder of the Lingayat sect.

This visit of Gandhi is seen as an attempt by the Congress to bolster the Lingayat outreach ahead of the polls in an attempt to woo the dominant community. Lingayats constitute about 17 per cent of

the State's population and are largely seen as the ruling BJP's vote base.

Highlighting Congress' 'guarantees', including 200 units of free power to all households and Rs 2,000 monthly assistance to the woman head of every family if voted to power, Gandhi said they are based on Basavanna's thinking.

My family not new to being called 'outsider': Goa CM Sawant's father

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PANAJI: Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's father Pandurang Sawant has said his family and his son are not new to being called "outsiders", but it does not disturb them. CM Sawant, who will turn 50 on Monday, has often been labelled by some political and social activists as an "outsider" belonging to Sawantwadi in neighbouring

Maharashtra. The chief minister's father, a former functionary of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), told PTI that his family has no connection with Sawantwadi and they have been living in Kothambi village of North Goa for the last four generations.


"My grandfather came here during his childhood from Udir village in Ponda (South Goa) where some of

our family members still live. Our ancestral place is Parse in Pernem taluka of North Goa," he said. "When my son was chosen to contest the election on the BJP ticket for the first time in 2008, we faced a similar agenda. Someone went and told (BJP leader) Manohar Parrikar that Pramod Sawant is an outsider," Pandurang Sawant said, while lauding Parrikar for

training his son in administrative skills.

Pramod Sawant, a doctor and three-time MLA from Sankhalim in North Goa, first won the state Assembly poll in 2012.

He was first sworn in as the chief minister in 2019 after the demise of then CM Parrikar. He started his second term as the CM in 2022 after the BJP won the state Assembly polls.



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