

BOLLYWOOD/ TOLLYWOOD MOVIE & TV NEWS

Tollywood

Prakashraj and his addiction

He is known as one of the most sought after actors in the southern circuit and has come up with some power packed performances.

He is none other than Prakashraj and time now to talk about his flip side. Apparently, Prakash is said to be addicted to smoking and some say that he puffs like a chimney. However, in the recent past, Prakash has been working hard on fighting away this addiction and though it has been quite a challenge for him, he is said to have managed to reduce the quota a bit. Sources reveal that it is during the work times when the pressure is high that Prakashraj is said to be letting himself go with two or more cigarettes.

Priyamani's thoughts on gossips

The buxom beauty Priyamani who has been busy with her many movie assignments also makes it to the gossip headlines on and off. Sometime back, it was her bikini act which scorched the screens and since then she has come more under the scanner.

However, the pretty starlet was sharing her thoughts recently when she said that gossips show how famous one can get.

Apparently, Mani believes that if someone is taking their time out and talking about you, it only goes to show how popular one is. The good side of this is, many have been comparing Priyamani to the late Soundarya and see her as a replacement.

What next from Sivaji?

He is one of the most talented and highly skilled actor but then luck has been eluding him at the box office. He is none other than Sivaji and recently, he came up with movies like 'Diary' '18-20 Love Story' and though his performances were hailed, he was not able to score a success. Now, many are waiting to see what he is going to come up with.

For now, Sivaji has taken the role of a producer and is said to be busy with the making of a new movie but then many want to see him proving his mettle more as an actor than in any other role. Hope he is reading this.

Srihari's role to be increased in 'Magadheera'

Real star Srihari is one man who is always an asset to any movie that he works in. This time, it is the blockbuster hit 'Magadheera' and many have been hailing his performance in the film. Now, the good news is that producer Allu Aravind has announced that the role of Solomon Raju, enacted by Srihari would be increased as soon as the film reaches the completion of 50th day. Apparently, some of Srihari's scenes were said to be chopped due to the length of the film but now this will be an added benefit for those who watch it after the completion of 50 days. Srihari from his end has been happy with the outcome of the film.

Milk white beauty wants to make her mark

She is known as the milk white beauty of the southern circuit and has got a strong following in Telugu as she made her debut here. She is none other than Tamannah and right now she is busy with her assignments in Kollywood.

However, there is news that she is now beginning to focus on Telugu once again and is said to be keen on scoring another hit here. Her last best was 'Happy Days' and right now, she has been riding high with successes in Kollywood. Many of Tamannah's fans have been missing her here and they are waiting to see her back on the Telugu screens. Only time will tell what her moves are going to be like.

Hamsa turning hot hot!!!

She started her career as a model but soon she got into the world of movies.

Though she has not scored much success with her stints she has been able to make her presence felt and get the attention of the movie industry. She is none other than the tall and lanky Hamsa Nandini and slowly but surely she has been making her way in the circuit.

Those who have been watching her lately say that she has been turning into one hot sex bomb and with a figure that can make the men go mad. Her last stint was in the film 'Adhineta' and Hamsa's sexy stills got many appreciations. All the best for the future Hamsa!!!

Brahmi does it once again!!!

The super comedian Brahmanandam who has been enthralling the Telugu audience from decades has not lost his sheen at any point. Though he has delivered some remarkable performances and set the audience into splits of laughter, his efficiency has not come down a bit. Yet again, he repeated his magic in the latest offering 'Anjaneyulu'.

His chemistry with hero Ravi Teja was exceptional and many said that those scenes had a great impact for the film. Both Brahmi and Ravi scored major success with their comedy in the blockbuster 'Kick' and yet again 'Anjaneyulu' is doing the trick. Way to go Brahmi!!!

A look at Goutham Menon

When it comes to hard hitting movies or tender romantic entertainers, the name of Goutham Menon stands first. Not just for the content, but also for the amazing technical values that he offers.

Here is a look at his personal side, Goutham has a mechanical engineering degree from Mookambika College in Trichy and later, he joined Rajiv Menon as his trainee and learnt the nuances.

Then, he started his own ad company with the name of 'Photon Factory' and soon it became a full length production company. For someone who doesn't have much of film background, this sure is a success story.

Sagarika Ghatge wants to get out of Chak De shadow



Mumbai: Two years after making a dream debut opposite Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan in *Chak De*, Sagarika Ghatge is ready with her second film but the actress wants people to stop calling her Preeti Sabharwal, her popular screen name in the movie.

Ghatge, who will be next seen opposite Arjun Rampal in *Fox*, says that she stayed away from the arc light to focus on her career.

"It was not a deliberate attempt to stay away from movies. But after *Chak De*, I wanted to do only good movies. It took me time to select the right kind of film and I wanted people call me by my real name and not as Preeti Sabharwal, the character I played in *Chak De*," Ghatge told PTI in an interview.

"Wherever I go, most of the people still call me Preeti. But I hope after they see my upcoming films, they will start calling me by my own name," Ghatge added.

The 27-year-old actress played the role of a hockey player, who along with her teammates goes on to win the Women's Hockey World Cup in the movie. Shah Rukh played the character of a hockey coach in the movie.

Ghatge will next be seen as a lawyer in the Dipak Tijori directed movie *Fox*, which hits theatres on September 4.

When asked whether she feared being stereotyped by filmmakers, the actress said, "Had I been stereotyped, then probably I would have been getting only some sport-related roles all my life but I have not even got one film on sports after *Chak De*."

Apart from *Fox*, Ghatge will be seen alongside Emraan Hashmi and Neha Dhupia in "24x7 Raftar". She just finished shooting for the movie.

Although, Ghatge wants to experiment with all kinds of roles and genres, her wish is to do some comic roles.

"As an actor you need to work in all kinds of genres. And I am not going to stick to any one kind of role. However I hope to do comedy soon," she said.

Ghatge describes model-turned actor Arjun Rampal as one of the most "relaxed and chilled out actors" in the industry, saying, "He made me feel really comfortable. He even rehearsed his lines with me."

The actress was initially scared to work with Sunny Deol in *Fox*.

"Sunny was like a senior on the sets. He is a very reserved person. Initially it was very scary. But later on it was fun," the actress added.

Michael Jackson's body moved to secret freezer



London: Late 'King of Pop' Michael Jackson's mother has moved his body to a secret freezer because she wanted it kept where she could visit him privately. Jackson's body had been temporarily entombed in Motown legend Berry Gordy's family crypt at a cemetery in the Hollywood Hills. But it was re-

ported that Jackson was moved under tight security to the basement of another cemetery, reported mirror.co.uk.

Katherine is apparently refusing to let her son be buried because she is terrified robbers will snatch his body. So Jackson lies alone in a small, bare brick "cold room" in a gold casket that is under perspex to keep out frost. "She cries and says that she's sorry and that she loves him," said a source. There are plans to move Jackson's body to a permanent memorial accessible to the public.

Mallika honored in Los Angeles!

For the first time in the history of Hollywood, a career recognition, honorary citizenship and official Resolution was bestowed upon a Bollywood star by the City of Los Angeles. Mallika Sherawat received the prestigious honor in the presence of members of the entertainment industry, friends, family and fans during a ceremony at Los Angeles City Hall on the eve of Indian Independence Day.

In the City Hall Council Chambers, Councilmember Jose Huizar presented Mallika the honor to hearty applause from those assembled, citing her career achievements and charitable efforts. Mallika accepted the Resolution, which was signed by the Mayor and all City Council members, before giving an inspiring speech to numerous rounds of applause throughout the hall.

The seemingly excited Mallika said, "Thank you. I am deeply, and humbly, grateful for this grand honor. And a very special thanks to Councilmember Huizar, Mayor Villaragosa, Mayor Riordan, and all the City Council... And to my friends, family and fans who are here today, sharing this Recognition with me - on such an auspicious day, the eve before we celebrate Indian Independence Day. As the first Indian Bollywood actor to receive this Recognition, I proudly accept it in honor of my home country, mother India, and my beloved Bollywood, the world's largest film industry."

PNB aims to issue global credit cards by March 2010



Intending to widen its credit card base across value as well as high end customers, public sector lender Punjab National Bank (PNB) is now aiming to issue 2 lakh global credit cards by March 2010.

"We are targeting to issue two lakh global credit cards to our customers by end of the current fiscal," PNB Chief General Manager (Credit Card Venture) Ranjan Dhawan told this to a news agency on Monday.

The bank would also shortly launch its new cards- Corporate and Platinum credit cards.

"Corporate Cards will be meant for senior executives of companies who often travel for business purposes. In this category, there will be two cards such as Individual liability and corporate liability," he informed.

Another second Platinum card will come with enhanced benefits for high end customers (income having between Rs 7 to 10 lakh per annum).

"This card will meet the requirements of customers like premium gold membership, lounge expenses etc," he said.

Imports of sensitive items up by 13.7% in Apr-May 2009-10



The import of refined oil saw a huge jump of 358.7 percent and that of milk 243.1 percent in April-May, pushing the inbound shipment of sensitive items up by over 13 percent during the period.

However, the imports of other sensitive items like marble and granite, automobiles, spices, alcoholic beverages, cotton and silk dipped during the first two months of this fiscal, according to official data. Imports of sensitive items, though they constitute 3.4 percent of the total import basket, are monitored by the government to see whether they are causing any adverse impact on domestic firms, particularly small and medium.

The overall import of sensitive items went up by 13.7 percent to Rs 6,948 crore from Rs 6,110 crore in the same period last year.

The import of refined edible oil, and milk and its products was Rs 563.27 crore and Rs 31.87 crore in April-May, respectively, against Rs 122.79 crore and Rs 9.29 crore in the same period of the previous year, respectively.

Imports of tea and coffee in the period went up to Rs 27.27 crore from Rs 17.86 crore in the same duration last year.

India's overall merchandise (finished products) imports during the first two months of this fiscal, however, declined by 25.6 percent to Rs 1,57,514 crore from Rs 2,11,752 crore.

The import of edible oil increased to Rs 3,023 crore during April-May from Rs 1,423 crore a year earlier.

"The increase in edible oil imports is mainly due to substantial increase in import of crude palm oil and its fractions," the data said.

Imports of alcoholic beverages and cotton and silk dipped to Rs 29.28 crore and Rs 246.57 crore during the first two months of this financial year from Rs 61.54 crore and Rs 372 crore, respectively.

Imports of sensitive items from countries like Indonesia, Canada, Argentina, and Brazil went up, while those from Thailand, China, Korea, Japan, Australia, the US, and Germany declined during the period.

Oil prices slide further in Asian trade

Crude prices slid further in Asian trade on Monday as markets reacted to falling consumer confidence in the United States, analysts said.

New York's main futures contract, light sweet crude for delivery in September, shed 56 cents to USD 66.95 a barrel in early trade from its close on Friday.

Brent North Sea crude for October delivery fell 44 cents to USD 71.00.

Prices continued moving downwards as data released by the University of Michigan on Friday showed an unexpected fall in consumer sentiment, which spooked the commodities and equities markets, analysts said.

"The report showed a drop in consumer confidence and that weighed on the oil market."

The oil market was also pressured by the falling stock markets," said Victor Shum, senior principal of Purvin and Gertz energy consultants in Singapore.

The report stated that its consumer sentiment index dipped to a preliminary 63.2 from 66.0 in August, confounding most analysts who had expected it to rise to 69.0 and raising further red flags on consumer spending, the main driver of the US economy.

Shum added that weak oil fundamentals would continue to put a peg on crude prices.

"Given the very weak oil market fundamentals, the mid-60s to high-60s is about the right range. The path of least resistance is down," he said.

BUSINESS & MARKET NEWS

Sensex tumbles over 412 pts at mid-session

The Bombay Stock Exchange benchmark Sensex tumbled over 412 points at mid-session on Monday on frantic selling by funds in line with weakening global trends.

The Sensex, which commenced the day lower, fell further to record a hefty loss of 412.65 points at 14,998.98 at 1230 hrs with heavy-weights led by Reliance Industries suffering notable losses.

Similarly, the wide-based National Stock Exchange index Nifty plunged by 128.85 points at 4,451.20 at the same time.

Marketmen said the BSE index tumbled tailing weak Asian peers as concerns grew that a global economic recovery may be rockier than expected after data showed US consumer confidence fell to its lowest since March.

They said realty, metal, auto and refinery stocks were the major losers as major players preferred to book profits from the recent surge in these segments.

A succinct exposition of the global economic crisis



The four key aspects of the crisis articulated by the RBI Governor are macro imbalances, conflicts between monetary and fiscal policies, inflation targeting and the interplay of the real and financial sectors. The global economic crisis, the deepest of our generation, is often compared to the Great Depression of the 1930s. Both were global in scope. Both were centred in the U.S. and, more important, were preceded by mounting global imbalances, loose monetary policies and high leverage.

But there are major differences between the crisis of today and the Depression of the 1930s and the several intervening crises affecting individual countries. The last mentioned were essentially traditional retail banking crises. Richer countries bailed out the crisis-hit countries and regions. In contrast, the current crisis has hit at the very heart of global finance with no buffer to fall back upon.

The other distinguishing feature of the current crisis is that no country has been spared. The U.S. and the EU have been at the epicentre of the crisis.

Global imbalances

Discussing four aspects of the crisis, Reserve Bank of India Governor D. Subbarao has said (in his JRD Tata memorial lecture, "Questioning the questions" on July 31, 2009 — RBI website) that global imbalances along with developments in the financial markets were the two root causes of the crisis. There were large and persistent current account surpluses in Asian economies and corresponding current account deficits in advanced economies. Central banks in Asian countries invested their large reserves in government bonds of the advanced countries. That in turn drove down risk free interest rates to historically low levels, caused an unprecedented credit expansion, lowered credit standards, eroded credit quality and encouraged the search for yield at all costs. All these have been the factors responsible for the crisis, Dr. Subbarao added.

Although India did not contribute to the global imbalance, it remained affected by the crisis, principally because of its integration — through trade and financial markets — with the rest of the world over the last two



decades has been rapid. Global imbalances can never be eliminated but they have to be managed in such a way that they do not reach destabilising levels. Unnerved by its complexity and size of the crisis, governments and central banks have responded with an unprecedented "show of force", according to Dr. Subbarao. However, even as banks and governments co-operated and collaborated many of the familiar conflicts came to the fore. Central banks brought down their policy interest rates to record lows: in many advanced countries they are near zero. However, even in normal times monetary transmission has lagged behind policy. In a crisis situation, there is fear and uncertainty which further impede transmission. Central banks responded through a slew of measures variously described as quantitative and credit easing. Despite all this, governments had to revive their credit markets with huge fiscal packages to stimulate demand. They had to recapitalise their banks.

Consequently fiscal deficits have ballooned around the world. Financing these deficits has not been a problem so far. However, there are reasons to think that the present tensions between monetary and fiscal policies will remain. Monetary policy will therefore have to be conducted in a regime of large and continuing fiscal deficits.

In India too, there have been tensions between monetary and fiscal policies even though the government and the RBI have co-ordinated their crisis management efforts. Such coordination was necessary to cushion the economy. However, the large government borrowing has impeded monetary transmission and militated against the objective of ensuring low interest rates. Going forward, the government and the RBI will need to strike a balance between short-term compulsions and medium-term sustainability with great care and judgment. High fiscal deficits can sow the seeds of the next inflationary cycle.

The RBI needs to roll back the special monetary accommodation provided (a) the government shows a firm and credible commitment to fiscal responsibility and (b) there are more definite signs of recovery.

Inflation targeting
In the years leading to the crisis, inflation targeting — rather than targeting monetary aggregates — was the accepted policy of central banks in the developed world: it seemed to promise stable growth, low inflation and low unemployment.

The crisis changed all that. Two important lessons have been: (a) the policy of benign neglect of asset price build up has failed and (b) price stability does not guarantee financial stability.