

ANALYSIS 7
COORDINATION BETWEEN
AGENCIES NEED OF HOUR

MONEY 8
INDIA CAPABLE OF GENERATING
9% GROWTH: SANJIV SANYAL

SPORTS 11
BLACK CAPS THRASH
INDIA IN 1ST ODI

VIJAYAWADA DELHI LUCKNOW
BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD

*LATE CITY VOL. 5 ISSUE 31
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

VIJAYAWADA, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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ADIVI SESH
SAID CINEMA
CAN'T BE BLAMED
FOR CRIME
Page 12

AMBULANCE DRIVER GIVES INJECTION TO PATIENT IN HOSPITAL

The health department here has sought a clarification from officials after a video of an ambulance driver administering an injection to a patient in the emergency ward of a district hospital came forward. Chief Medical Superintendent (CMS) of the hospital, Dr. Diwakar Singh said that the video surfaced on the internet on Thursday. In the video, the ambulance driver is seen administering an injection to a patient in the emergency medical room of the district hospital, he said. According to Singh, the incident took place on Wednesday night.

HUMAN REMAINS RECOVERED FROM TROLLEY BAG IN ARAVALLI HILLS

The remains of a human body were recovered from a trolley bag in the Aravalli hills area near Pali Road here on Thursday, police said. The parts were discovered by a man who had gone to the hills, the police said. Officers from Surajkund police station sent the body parts to the mortuary after a forensic team examined it, they said. A team from Delhi Police, suspecting that the body parts could be linked to the Shradha Walker murder case, also reached the spot. Later, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Mehrauli) Vinod Narang ruled out any possibility of those being linked to the Shradha Walker case.

INDIA'S FIRST-EVER NIGHT SKY SANCTUARY IN LADAKH ALMOST READY

The work on India's first night sky sanctuary in Ladakh will be completed in over a month's time, Union minister Jitendra Singh said on Friday. The night sky sanctuary will attract tourists from across the world over to picturesque Ladakh and also boost tourism in the region, he said during a meeting with Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, R K Mathur, who had called on him at North Block here. "The work on India's first-ever night sky sanctuary, being set up by CSIR under Union Ministry of Science & Technology, in Ladakh's Hanle is going on in full swing and shall be complete in over a month's time," said Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel.

GOVT CONVENES ALL-PARTY MEET ON G20 PREPARATIONS ON DEC 5

The government has convened an all-party meet here on December 5 to inform leaders about India's preparations for the G20 meetings that New Delhi plans to host over the next one year, a senior leader of a party said on Friday. Presidents of nearly 40 parties have been invited for the meeting by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be present, the leader said requesting anonymity. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is also likely to attend the meeting at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, sources said. India will officially assume the G20 Presidency from December 1.

Miraculous escape for 40 schoolkids



PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

As many as 40 schoolchildren had a miraculous escape when a lorry rammed their school bus at Nakkapalli in the Anakapalli district on the national highway on Friday.

Police said that the private school was taking students to school. A lorry rammed the school bus from the rear end in which five students suffered injuries.

They were admitted to the government hospital at Nakkapalli where they were undergoing treatment. The incident took place when the private school bus halted in front of the residential school so some students had to alight from the bus. Except for five students, all other students escaped unhurt.

Jagan focused on 2024 polls

His next move is to appoint constituency observers

MARTH SUBRAHMANYAM
■ VIJAYAWADA

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president and Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is focussed on the General Elections in 2024 and as a prelude to this, he has appointed efficient leaders as presidents of various districts and coordinators.

The YSRC senior leaders hope that the reshuffle in the party functionaries would not only change the shape of the party but also rejuvenate it. Now, the YSRC is to appoint observers to the constituencies. It seems that the YSRC high command has effected many changes in the party keeping in view the ground realities as well as strengths and weaknesses of the party.

The YSRC senior leaders who could not utilise the opportunity given to them were sacked from the party positions recently.

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy whenever he met the district presidents and MLAs, he used to ask

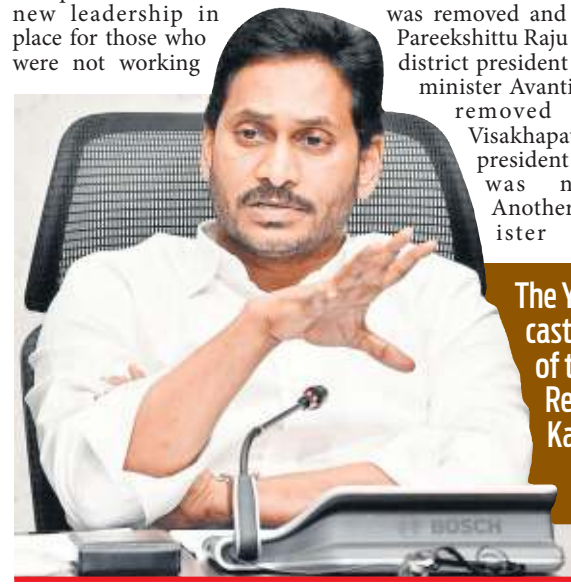
them to change their style of functioning as it was not up to the expectations. Since there was no change in 80% of leaders, the YSRC leadership wanted to induct new leadership in place for those who were not working

efficiently. At the same time, those who asked the leadership to relieve them from responsibility were removed from the posts.

Former minister Pushpa Srivani was removed and her husband Pareekshitu Raju was given the district president post. Former minister Avanti Srinivas was removed from the Visakhapatnam district president post since he was not active.

Another former minister Mekathoti

Sucharita was replaced with MLC Dokka Manikyavara Prasad who belongs to the Madiga community. In fact, Mekathoti Sucharita had been sulking on the YSRC high command for the last one year. Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy was removed from the Tirupadi district president post and Nedurumalli Ram Kumar was given the post. However, the high command has given the coordinator post to Chevireddy.



The YSRC leadership has given importance to caste equations in allocating party posts. Out of the eight coordinators, four belong to the Reddy community, one belongs to the Kamma community. Ten district presidents belong to the BC community, five to Kapu, five Reddy, two ST, one SC, one Vysya, and one to Kshatriya community.

Lay all-weather roads: CM

Officials directed to extend services of APCMMS App to villages



PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has directed the officials to take steps to make the APCMMS (AP Consistent Monitoring of Municipal Services) App being developed by the Urban Development Department accessible also to the people of all villages and strengthen the response system in the app-based grievances cell.

During a review meeting on the Municipal Administration and Urban Development held here on Friday, the Chief Minister suggested that emerging new technologies be adopted in the construction of the roads to make them long-last-

The APCMMS App, which is likely to be launched in a month, aims at maintaining constant monitoring of the basic infrastructural and municipal services in all towns and cities while its grievance cell would consist of a quick response system to address the problems of people

ing with good quality withstanding all weather conditions.

Another Jewel in the Crown

Asia's Largest Consulate of USA to be opened in Hyderabad Financial District, Nanakramguda in January 2023. Coming up on 12.2 acres with an investment of \$ 297 million, the new United States consulate will have 54 windows for VISA applications.

Lokesh's 4,000-km 'padayatra' from Jan 27

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) general secretary Nara Lokesh will embark on a 'padayatra' (foot march) beginning January 27, 2023, as his party is seeking to wrest power back from the YSR Congress.

For some time now there has been talk about Lokesh's strategic move as he is seen as the political heir as well to TDP supreme and former Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, but now he made his padayatra plan official.

"For 400 days, I will walk over 4,000-km across the state," he for-



I guess Mangalagiri has now become our citadel. I am leaving it in your hands now, as I will be touring the entire state for 400 days, Lokesh tells TDP cadre

mally told the TDP cadre in Mangalagiri.

The 39-year old Lokesh, son of Chandrababu Naidu, lost the Assembly elections in 2019 from Mangalagiri constituency that forms part of AP's capital region Amaravati.

"I guess Mangalagiri has now

become our citadel. I am leaving it in your hands now, as I will be touring the entire state from January 27. Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy will spare no arsenal to break our citadel, so we have to be very careful," he told the TDP cadre.

AP HC advocates protest against transfer of 2 judges

P3

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Tritiya
Chaturthi:
Nakshatram: Moola
Purva Ashadha:
Rahukalam: 19:17 AM to 10:40 AM
Yamagandam: 1:26 PM to 2:49 PM
Varjyam: 11:38 PM to 01:05 AM
Gulika: 6:30 AM to 7:53 AM
Amritakalam: 09:16 AM to 10:43 AM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy
Temp: 32°C
Humidity: 74%
Sunrise: 6:17 AM
Sunset: 5:32 PM
Updated: NOVEMBER 25, 2022 5:00 PM

CBI charge-sheets 7 in Delhi Excise case, say officials

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday filed its first charge sheet against seven accused, including two arrested businessmen, in the Delhi Excise policy scam case, officials said.

Besides the two arrested businessmen, those named in the charge sheet include the head of a news channel, a Hyderabad-based

liquor businessman, a Delhi-based liquor distributor and two officials of the excise department, they said.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, named in the CBI FIR, does not figure in the present charge sheet which is filed within 60 days of



the probe agency taking the investigation.

Buggana urges Union FinMin to extend soft loan

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held the pre-budget consultations with the Finance Ministers of States and Union Territories (with Legislature) in Delhi on Friday. The meeting was attended by Union Ministers of State (Finance), Chief Ministers, Deputy Chief Ministers, Lt Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Finance Ministers, Ministers and Senior Officers from the States/Union Territories and the Union Government. Speaking to the media person after the pre-budget consul-



tations with the Union Finance Minister, AP Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy said that many suggestions and requests

have been made in the best interest of the state. of Andhra Pradesh during the meeting. He said the issues discussed were special assistance

towards capital expenditure (Soft loan) should be extended for the next year. Discussed (Green Bonds) on rentable energy projects like Solar and Wind energy for the state. Infrastructure should be included under the PMAY housing programme. Spill-over issues under state reorganisation were discussed that includes Polavaram land acquisition under Act 2013, cost should be increased under revised estimates and the price should be approved. The State FM further said that the other issues that were discussed during the meeting were

the development of backward areas in Rayalaseema and Uttaraandhra besides Road and Rail projects in the states. The FM said that after YSRC took the reins in 2019 the government was very focused and has given top priority to the Education and Health sector to help the poor and the needy who need government help. Discussed government Medical Colleges and Hospital in every district, Industrial corridor for employment to unemployed youth, he said.



Shashidhar joins BJP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former Congress leader Marri Shashidhar Reddy joined the BJP in presence of Union Ports, Shipping, Waterways and Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy on Friday in New Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, Shashidhar said the Congress has ended in Telangana and declared that it is not possible for the Congress to tackle the TRS.

He said that development has completely stalled in Telangana in the last eight years due to Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's family rule. KCR is giving priority to his family's interests rather than the interests of Telangana.

He said that the hopes of Telangana are not getting fulfilled and that the Congress has totally failed as an opposition party in Telangana.

AP HC advocates protest against transfer of 2 judges

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh High Court advocates boycotted duties in protest against the transfer of High Court judges. The advocates alleged that the transfer proposal of High Court judges was a sign of discrimination. Advocates protested the transfer of AP High Court judges Justice Battu Devanand and Justice D Ramesh on Friday. The Supreme Court collegium headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on Thursday recommended the transfer of seven High Court Judges, including two from Andhra Pradesh High Court, three from Telangana, and two from Madras High Court. On Friday, the lawyers protested the recommendation for the transfer of AP High Court judges saying it is improper and a sign of discrimination. The advocates

stated that they will continue their protest until the decision is rolled back and recalled that the collegium had withheld the transfer of a Gujarat High Court Judge after such a protest. The lawyers strongly condemn the transfers and they should be withdrawn.

From AP High Court Justice Devanand was recommended for transfer to Madras High Court and Justice D Ramesh was recommended for transfer to Allahabad High Court.

Justices VM Velumani and T Raja of the Madras High Court have been transferred to the Calcutta and Rajasthan High Courts, respectively.

Justices A Abhishek Reddy, Lalitha Kanneganti, D Nagarjun of the Telangana High Court have been transferred to the Patna, Karnataka and Madras High Courts, respectively.



The Supreme Court collegium headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on Thursday recommended the transfer of seven High Court Judges, including two from Andhra Pradesh High Court, three from Telangana, and two from Madras High Court.

Gurukul students to get medals for best performance : Minister Merugu

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Social Welfare Minister Merugu Nagarjuna has said that the State government will implement a system of presenting gold, silver and bronze medals to the students who excel in studies and sports in the State SC Gurukuls. It has been decided to give these medals to the students from January, along with the titles 'Academic Star' and 'All Rounder'.

The minister said that the medals were being introduced to develop competitive spirit among the Gurukul students and improve their skills.

He said that the medals would be given to the students studying in Classes 5 to 8 on the basis of the marks they obtain in the regular examinations,



and to the students of Classes 9 to 12 on the basis of their marks in the weekend examinations. Two gold medals, two silver medals and two

bronze medals for each class will be presented to the students by their class teachers, for academics and sports. Minister Nagarjuna added that the students who win the medals must wear them on their uniforms. He said that 48 academic medals and another 48 all-rounder medals would be awarded to each Gurukul and these medals would be transferred to those who score the highest marks next week. He further said that they hoped the move increased the competitive spirit among the students. From January 3, the medals will be distributed to the students of all Gurukuls.



CM's move to develop libraries hailed

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chairman of the Rashtra Grandhalaya Parishad Mandapati Seshagiri Rao praised Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for his initiative to develop libraries in the State.

Addressing the media here on Friday, he said that the government had allocated Rs 10 crore for the creation of necessary facilities to modernise and effectively manage the libraries that contribute to the development of society and increase knowledge.

Respect women: Collector

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao has said that it is everyone's responsibility to respect women, who give life. This awareness will pave the way for a drop in the number of crimes against women. The Collector was the chief guest of a programme organised on the occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, by the District Woman and Child Welfare Department. The Collector added that women should be given a sacred place.

Dilli Rao said it was sad that despite the State government imposing stern laws for the protection of women, they are still subjected to sexual harassment and rape. To bring down crimes against women, awareness should be brought among men on the strict laws and punishments being imposed by the department as per law.

He said that there was a need to create awareness of financial empowerment for women, irradiation of child marriages, and women's laws



and rights. He said that the women who were subjected to harassment should come forward and inform ChildLine (1098), the women's helpline (181), or police and get protection. Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has introduced the Disha app to protect women in the State, which was the first such step in the country. Complaints received through the Disha app will be investigated and action will be

taken against the culprits at the earliest, he said.

A human chain was formed on the occasion. The Collector also became part of the human chain.

City Mayor Rayana Bhagyalakshmi, Deputy Mayor A SreeShailaja Reddy, B Durga, councillors Chaitanya Reddy, M Ratna Kumar, G Godavari, Madhuri Lavanya, A Vijayalakshmi and others were present.

Training for visually impaired

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In the era of advanced technology, persons with visual impairments should not be left behind. Empowering them with employability skills is the need of the hour, said Fr GAP Kishore, Principal of Andhra Loyola College said.

The admission notice for advanced employability skills training offered by Enable India free of cost was released on Friday. From December 6, training is offered at Andhra Loyola College by the trainers from Enable India. Hence, the persons of this region could make use of this training, said Correspondent Fr Sahaya Raj. Shanti Raghavan, Founder and Managing Director of Enable India, Bangalore along



with Moses Chowdary, the Project director participated online. They have informed us that this full-time course will last for 5 months and will cover intensive training on understanding disability-specific skills, Understanding compa-

ny expectations, and developing skills for employment as per industry standards. The training sessions will include Mobility sessions, Employability sessions, Webinars with Experts, Self-learning courses, and submission of Project work.

Persons with a Graduation having basic computer knowledge of screen readers and other assistive aids are eligible for this training. They should have basic communication skills in English, both written and spoken.

CS offers prayers at Tirumala, Tiruchanoor

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh Sameer Sharma, along with his family members, offered prayers at the temple of Sri Venkateswara Swamy on Friday. Later, he was rendered 'Vedaseervachanam' at Ranganayakula Mandapam. TTD EO AV Dharma Reddy presented him 'Thirtha Prasadam', a photo of Srivaru, a coffee table book on TTD, 'agabattis', a calendar and a diary.

The Chief Secretary later offered prayers at Padmavathi Ammavaru temple at Tiruchanoor along with his family. He was accorded a warm welcome by TTD JEO



Veerabrahmam with traditional temple honours. After darshan, he was presented with 'Prasadam'. Chandragiri Legislator and

TTD ex officio board member Dr Bhaskar Reddy, RDO Kakananarasa Reddy, DyEO Lokanatham, and others were present.

Women employees donate 'Sare' to Goddess

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

TTD women employees presented 'Sare' to Padmavathi Ammavaru as part of the ongoing annual 'Karthika Brahmotsavams' in Tiruchanoor on Friday. The 'Sare' included 'Pattu Saree', bangles, vermilion, turmeric, holy threads and other sacred items. The women employees carried the holy items over their heads and held 'pujas' inside the sanctum sanctorum. Along with the spouses of TTD mandarins and senior officials, Special Grade DyEOs Parvati, Varalakshmi,



DyEOs Nagaratna, Jagadeeshwari, SVETA Director Prasanti, Superintendent Srivani, women employees' representatives including Hemalatha, Anuradha, Lakshmi, and others participated in this noble event.

Girls' hostel building inaugurated

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Nuka Srinivasulu, Director (Finance), Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), inaugurated the Social Welfare Girls Hostel building in Vizianagaram district on Friday. The building, which can accommodate about 200 girl students, has been constructed by BDL as a part of its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative. The inaugural function was presided over by Deputy Speaker K Veerabhadra Swamy, in the presence of MP Bellana Chandra Sekhar and several dignitaries from the government of Andhra Pradesh and senior officials from BDL.



BDL has allocated an amount of Rs 200 lakh for the infrastructural development in Vizianagaram district. The building inaugurated on Friday is part of such activities taken

up by the company. It is also constructing additional rooms, kitchen sheds etc. in social welfare hostels, which are catering to the needs of students from the weaker sections.

Kodali, Vamsi involved in Rs 1,100 cr scam: TDP

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national spokesman, Kommireddy Pattabhiram, on Friday said that a fresh scam involving Rs 1,100 crore has come to light in the State.

Talking to media persons at the party national headquarters here, Kommireddy Pattabhiram said that the role of the YSRC MLAs, Kodali Nani and Vallabhaneni Vamsi, in this scandal should be probed both by the State government and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Observing that there is no limit for the financial scandals involving the YSRC MLAs in this State being ruled by financial extremist, Jagan Mohan Reddy, the TDP spokesman said stories on the ruling party leaders grabbing the lands of the poor and harassing them have been coming to light regularly.

Now, the true colours of a YSRC MLA, who migrated from the TDP to the now ruling party only for power and to make money, are exposed, Pattabhiram added. Narrating the details of the latest scam, Pattabhiram said that Kodali Nani and Vallabhaneni Vamsi under the supervision of their close associate, Olupalli Ranga, have formed a bogus unit in the name of 'Sankalpa Siddhi', through which they amassed Rs 1,100 cr. These leaders, who are



well aware of their defeat in the coming polls, are making such huge amount of money only to purchase votes in the next elections, he stated.

This 'Sankalpa Siddhi' and the Ekart India Private Limited are conducting their operations making Gudivada and Gannavaram as headquarters under the supervision of Ranga but Gutta Venugopal Krishna and Gutta Kiran as binamis, Pattabhiram stated. Their initial investment was a mere Rs 1 lakh when they established it on May 17, 2022 but within such a short time they made a whopping Rs 1,100 cr, he pointed out.

This thoroughly exposes how Kodali Nani and Vamsi looted the poor and how Volupalli Ranga, who is a close associate of Nani cheated the public. The agents of the Ekart Pvt Ltd and the 'Sankalpa Siddhi', cheated the common man by promising Rs 200 payment per day if one

invests Rs 20,000 besides paying Rs 60,000 in just 10 months, Pattabhiram explained.

Vamsi and Nani invested this money looted from the innocent public in lands in Hyderabad and Bengaluru under benami names, he said and demanded that the Vijayawada Police Commissioner respond to this immediately. He should answer how the money reached Bengaluru and why they purchased properties there and why Vamsi has been staying in Hyderabad for the past three to four months leaving his constituency, the TDP leader said.

Pattabhiram asked why the CID chief, Sunil Kumar, is keeping silent on this when the such a huge scam took place in the State. The CID chief, who voluntarily registers cases against the Opposition parties leaders even without anyone making any complaint, should now respond, he added.

Pattabhiram is of the firm opinion that the Tadepalli palace is certainly behind the YSRC MLAs making such huge amount of Rs 1100 cr in the name of these organisations. He also asked the Director General of Police (DGP) as to why he is keeping silent on this scandal and why he did not reveal the details of his scam. Pattabhiram demanded a CBI probe into the whole issue.

Steps for Constitution Day celebrations inspected

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar inspected the arrangements for the Constitution Day celebrations at Tummalapalli Kshetranya Kalakshetram to be organised on Saturday in which the Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will participate.

He observed the gallery and the premises and suggested several changes. He directed them to create a pleasant

atmosphere on the premises and to complete all arrangements on a war foot basis in time. He also inspected the drains on the main and internal roads and gave several instructions to the officials.

Meanwhile, the Mayor of the VMC, Rayana Bhagyalakshmi inspected the CC road construction works near KBN College and asked the contractor for details and the progress of the works. She directed the contractor to complete the work as early as possible by deploying more workers and machinery.



Blood shortage ends; rare groups still not available

People with rare blood groups urged to register with Red Cross Blood Centers

C PRADEEP KUMAR ■ VIJAYAWADA

The hardships faced by the patients and their attendants in getting blood in emergencies seem to have ended. There had been an acute shortage of blood during the past two years due to the pandemic-induced lockdowns and the scare among the people to donate blood. Blood donation was affected badly and the stocks of blood in all blood banks across the country dried up.

Children suffering from Thalassemia, pregnant women, patients undergoing regular dialysis and victims of accidents were the worst affected and had to run from pillar to post for blood.

In that precarious situation, Red Cross Blood Centers went to the residences of blood donors and collected blood for supplying to children suffering from Thalassemia, who require blood transfusion once in every three weeks.

With the efforts of the media in highlighting the shortage of blood, many blood donors have started coming to blood banks to donate and save the valuable lives of patients. In the past year, the number of blood donation camps has also increased considerably across the country.

As of today, a stock of 2,380 blood units is available with Red Cross Blood centers across various branches in the State and at any point in time, almost all Red Cross Blood Centers have min-



imum stocks, mostly with all groups. So far this year, 59,560 units were collected by the Red Cross. As a token of their responsibility towards society, most of the banks and educational institutions are coming forward to conduct camps with

their employees and NCC or NSS students for donating blood.

On Friday, the NSS wing of Siddhartha Mahila Kalashala, Vijayawada, donated 203 units of blood.

BVS Kumar, the State coordinator of Red Cross Blood Banks in Andhra Pradesh, has said that in spite of an increase in blood donors and blood donation camps, there is still a shortage of rare blood groups, especially negative groups. Though the availability of blood at blood banks has improved, patients or their attendants are still facing problems in arranging live donors at the time of surgeries. He appealed to the youth and donors with negative blood groups to get registered with their nearest Red Cross Blood Centers for 'voluntary donation at call' as some surgeries like heart, lungs and for treating patients with dengue fevers they need warm blood and the stored blood is not preferred, he added.

AP lagging behind during YSRCP regime: Manohar



PNS ■ SRIKAKULAM

Jana Sena Party Political Affairs Committee chairman Nadendra Manohar lamented that Andhra Pradesh is lagging behind in development when compared to other States, under the YSRCP regime.

Addressing the activists in Srungavarapukota on Friday, Manohar slammed that Jagan Mohan Reddy, who won elections democratically, is now trying to finish the democracy in the state.

"During Padayatra, Jagan Reddy gave blessings and kisses to the public even though they did not ask. But after

coming to power, he is maintaining 100 feet distance from the people," he lashed out.

The progress of the state has crippled, and the state is lagging behind in development if compared to other states during the Jagan Reddy regime, he flayed. Manohar claimed that the Janasena party is a selfless party and is striving for the welfare of various sections and reminded that it agitated for the construction workers' rights.

"The YSRCP leaders have eyed the precious lands of Visakhapatnam and are making efforts to grab the lands. They launched a false propa-

ganda that wonders what will happen if three capital cities are established," Manohar lambasted.

Janasena's foundation is unity. Work together and after ward decide what to do. People would support if for the struggle is good and justifiable, he told the cadres. He exhorted them not to be scared of police cases and work honestly for the party and for the people, he asked the Janasena activists. PAC member Mutta Seshidhar and general secretary Bolishetti Satyanarayana and Palavalasa Yashaswini were among those who were present.

Create society sans caste bias: Collector

PNS ■ NARASARAOPET

District Collector L Shiva Shankar has underlined the need for creating a society devoid of discrimination along the lines of caste, religion and creed.

The Collector, along with MP Lavu Srikrishnadevarayalu and Whip Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy, formally launched the Chapakudu programme on the third day of 'Veerula Tirunala' programmes being organised at Karemputti village in Macherla constituency.

On the occasion, the Collector unveiled the caricature image of Chapakudu and had lunch with the participants of the programme. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the 'Veerula Tirunala' programme was



launched about 850 years ago. All people irrespective of caste and religion participate in the programme. The 'Veerula Tirunala' programme began on November 23, he informed.

MLA and Whip Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy appreciated the organisers for organising the Veerula Thirunala programme grandly. MP Sri Krishnadevarayalu said that the glory of Palnati kingdom should be propagated widely.

Steps should be taken to organise the programme as an official programme, he suggested. SP Ravishankar Reddy, seer Charan Chenna Keshav, MRO Srinivasulu and other officials were present.

All facilities being provided in Jagananna colonies: Collector

PNS ■ ONGOLE

Collector AS Dinesh Kumar said that all needed facilities were being provided to the Jagananna colonies and Housing Day is being conducted every week to monitor the construction process.

Collector Dinesh Kumar inspected the Jagananna layout in Darshi mandal. He also inspected various development works in the mandal.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the construction of houses in the Jagananna colonies with the assistance provided by the government is being carried out. In addition to Rs 1.80 lakh given by the government for the construction of houses to the beneficiaries, if the beneficiaries are members of self-help societies, another Rs 35,000 would be given to the SC and the ST beneficiaries.

The Collector said that the government is depositing the money bills for the construction of houses immediately in the accounts of the beneficiaries. Every week special priority is given in the name of "Housing Day" to monitor the completion of the houses expeditiously. He explained that the government is providing all the basic facilities in the layouts for the quick completion of the



house construction. Dinesh Kumar said that the government would also consider the matter of building the houses in a specific budget for those who could not build them by themselves.

Later the Collector visited the government high school, junior college, and degree college and inspected the works being carried out under the 'Nadu-Nedu' programme. He directed the officials not to compromise on the quality of the works and instructed them to ensure that the works are carried out expeditiously.

The Collector directed that necessary benches should be provided for the students and drinking water facility should be improved. The Collector sat with the students in the classroom for a while and observed the way the teachers were teaching the students of class

6. The Collector noticed cooking a mid-day meal near the toilet and expressed anger over the officials concerned. He ordered them to change the place of cooking. The Collector also inspected the Anganwadi centre on the same premises.

Dinesh Kumar also inspected Darshi 4 secretariat and inquired about the services being provided by the secretariat. MPDO apprised the Collector that salaries had not been paid for two months to the staff due to technical problems and the Collector assured them to resolve the issues by speaking to the officials concerned.

Housing PD Pariah, MEPMA PD Ravi Kumar, RDO Sandip Kumar and MPDO Kusuma Kumar were among those who accompanied the Collector.



YSR Urban Health Centre opens Govt constructing 560 UHCs across the State

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Mayor Kavati Shiva Manohar Naidu, along with MLAs Maddali Giridhar and Mustafa, inaugurated the YSR Urban Health Centre near Nallacheruvu highway in the 14th division on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Mayor said that the government was constructing 560 Urban Health Centres across the State keeping in mind public health care. Out of the 560 Urban Health Centres, 16 are coming up in Guntur city, he said.

The Mayor said that some UHCs had already been completed and started functioning. The government has allocated Rs 95 lakh to Rs.1 crore for the construction of each UHC and Rs 10 lakh has been sanc-

tioned to carry out repairs of each of the 10 existing health centres in the city.

The Mayor said that the State government was allocating more funds to the education and medical sectors and working hard for the healthcare of the poor and middle-class people.

The Mayor asserted that the UHCs would conduct diagnostic tests and provide needed treatment to the patients, adding that the UHC which was inaugurated on Friday would cater to the medical needs of denizens of the Nallacheruvu area, which mostly the poor life.

"It has been a long-standing wish of the local people that a health centre should be set up in the area. The newly estab-

lished Urban Health Centre will be very useful for the local people. Except for surgeries, all other medical treatment will be available at the UHC," he said.

MLA Mustafa said that recruitment of doctors and medical staff were being carried out for the UHCs. He said that 10 beds were made available and 38 medical tests were conducted at the centre. MLA Giridhar said that the UHCs were being constructed with all modern facilities and appealed to the people to utilise them.

Corporators Vemula Jyoti Padmaja, Nimmala Venkata Ramana, Yatala Ravi Kumar, Telukuntla Hanumayamma Yogeswara Rao, YSRCP State joint secretary Sheikh Ghulam Rasool and Medical and Health officials were present.

Dressing room in ACA stadium inaugurated

PNS ■ GUNTUR

District Collector M Venugopal Reddy inaugurated the newly constructed dressing room and match officials rooms in the Andhra Cricket Association cricket stadium at Mangalagiri on Friday.

The Collector also inaugurated the CC road leading to the cricket stadium. Talking to the media on the occasion, the Collector said that the ACA stadium was constructed with

all modern facilities. Some of the works are still to be completed; he said and promised to extend the needed help to complete the works. He appreciated the efforts of ACA to produce talented cricket players. He also praised the ACA for constructing a cricket ground with modern facilities.

Tahsildar Ram Prasad, Chief Executive Office M Venkata Shiva Reddy and Manager Bhaskar were among those who were present.



Lifer for convict in acid attack case

PNS ■ KAKINADA

Kakinada Third Additional District Sessions Court Judge Kamala Devi sentenced the accused in the acid attack case to life imprisonment on Friday.

The court has convicted the accused Merugu Lovaraju (28) and sentenced him to undergo imprisonment for Life. The prosecution case was that the accused had brutally murdered his wife Subhadra (25) by pouring highly concentrated acid on her, suspecting her fidelity at their residence in Surryaaopt under Thimmapuram police station limits on October 5, 2014.

The case was investigated by A. Pallapuraju, the then Kakinada rural circle Inspector and charge-sheeted by circle inspector V Pavan Kishore his successor. SP Ravindranath babu who keenly monitored and directly supervised the progress of the case investigation has complimented the investigating officers for their efforts in gathering clinching evidence and ensuring that the accused get a conviction.

Action plan on AMR: 2-day international workshop begins

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The action plan for containment of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) across the State was briefed by MT Krishna Babu, Principal Secretary (Health, Medical and Family Welfare), on Friday. The Health PS spoke at the two-day global workshop, jointly organised by the Federation of Asian Biotech Associations (FABA), Infection Control Academy of India (IFCAI) and World Animal Protection (WAP) and the Government of Andhra Pradesh, virtually. The workshop discusses implementing State action plans for the containment of Antimicrobial Resistance. On the occasion, he said that Andhra Pradesh was in fourth place across India in implementing the plan of action for the containment of AMR programmes following the directives of the Central government after Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi. He informed the gathering that the State government had been implementing the Indo-Dutch project in Krishna district as a pilot project under the auspices of the



National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Infection, Prevention and Control method in 21 hospitals under NCDC. He explained to the delegates the measures taken by the government in controlling the sales of antibiotics without prescription and creating awareness among RMPs and PMPs on not to prescribe antibiotics unnecessarily. Director of Medical Education Dr Vinod Kumar said that the government would provide all necessary support in the implementation of the action plan. He empha-

vised creating public awareness of the appropriate use of antibiotics in the field of aqua as the State was a major exporter of aqua and poultry products.

On the second day of the workshop, the stakeholders would release the Vijayawada Declaration on Strengthening AMR Action Plans.

Drug Control DG Ravi Shankar Narayana, IFCAL president Dr Rangareddy, Additional Director of NCDC Dr Latha Kapoor, SVIMS-Tirupati Vice Chancellor Prof Vengamma and representatives of national and international organisations were present.

Officials directed to take steps for efficient sanitation

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Municipal Commissioner Keerthi Chekuri directed officials to ensure that garbage is not dumped on the roads and that sanitation is carried out efficiently in the city.

The commissioner held a review meeting with the officials of the public health department and SE on sanitation works, household garbage collection, waste removal, and trade licenses in the city.

Speaking on the occasion, the commissioner said that strict action would be taken against those who are negligent in sanitation work in the city, and everyone should carry out the duties of Swachha Guntur Sadhana.

She expressed anger over the improper sanitation work in the Chilakaluripet Road and other areas and ordered the CMHO to issue show-cause notices to Sanitary Supervisor Rambabu for lack of sanitation supervi-



sion. The Public Health Officers were directed to coordinate with the Vehicle Shed A.E. and D.E.E. The inspectors were ordered to set up a dustbin in front of every commercial establishment and to collect the garbage. Bulk waste generators must establish a waste management unit.

Keerthi Chekuri ordered surprise inspections in some wards every day, to take measures to improve sanitation and recommend actions to those who are negligent at the field level.

works are done within the Secretariat, workers should be allocated for house-to-house garbage collection and sweeping of main roads. A specified time should be set aside for the collection of garbage from street vendors. Businesses without trade licenses should be seized," she said.

Deputy Commissioner T Venkata Krishnaiah, SE Bhaskar, CMOH. Dr. Vijayalakshmi, MHO. Dr. Bhanu Prakash, DEE Haniif, Biologist Madhusudan Rao, and YY Rambabu were among those who were present.

Woman killed as gas cylinder explodes

PNS ■ NELLORE

A woman was killed when a gas cylinder exploded at an eatery centre at Vavilla village in Vidavaluru mandal on Friday.

Police said that a gas cylinder exploded at an eatery centre when eatables were being cooked. A woman vendor Ramanamma killed in the gas cylinder explosion. The fire brigade rushed them and extinguished the flames.



640 held in drive against liquor, ganja

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) registered 640 cases and arrested 701 people during weeklong inspections conducted from November 18 to 24 against illegal liquor across Andhra Pradesh. SEB Commissioner Ravisankar Ayyanar said that the SEB had taken key steps to restrain the illegal liquor and ganja menace. He said that strict and regular

checks were being conducted at all borders in the State to prevent liquor smuggling.

The SEB Commissioner said that with the establishment of surveillance using the latest technology, the SEC had intensified patrols to curb illegal liquor and ganja transportation. He said that the SEB was conducting surprise inspections which

were helping to curb the illegal liquor menace. He said that under the supervision of DIG Ramesh Reddy, the SEB conducted surprise checks from

November 18 to 24 all over AP State during which SEB seized 3,622 litres of ID liquor. Besides, 64,320 litres of EJ was destroyed, 3,300 litres of NDPL/ spurious liquor,

355 litres of DPL and 480 kg of black jaggery were seized along with 78 vehicles. He further stated that the officials caught 858 kg of dry ganja and arrested 81 people during checks. He stated that under the Spandana programme, 67 complaints were received in which 42 were redressed and 25 were pending. He added that the checks would be continued in the State in the coming days.

'Steps apace for better facilities in residential colonies'

PNS ■ ELURU

District Collector V Prasanna Venkatesh said that special arrangements are being made to augment facilities in the residential colonies. The Collector, along with MLA Puppala Vasubabu, inaugurated a bailey bridge, constructed at a cost of Rs 46.70 lakh at Gundugolanu village on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Vasu babu said that the Bailey bridge was constructed as the old bridge collapsed. Later, the Collector, along with the MLA, visited the Jagananna housing colony. Housing AE CH Satish explained to the Collector that 308 houses had been constructed out of the



sanctioned 731 houses in the colony.

The MLA brought to the attention of the Collector the construction of roads in the colony, and the Collector

assured that steps would be taken to construct the roads.

Collector Prasanna Venkatesh inspected the quality of the construction of houses in the colonies and expressed

his satisfaction. MLA Vasu babu interacted with the colony dwellers and knew their problems. Electricity, water, and roads were provided to the colony, the dwellers told them. Later, the Collector inspected the construction material and examined the quality.

Agriculture Advisory Council Chairman Veju Venkateswara Rao, APSRTC Chairman Kanumuri Subbaraju, Dwaraka Tirumala Trust Board Members Satyanarayana Raju, Mudundi Suryanarayana Raju, Mandal level People's Representatives, Villager's R&B SE G.V. Bhaskara Rao and DE M Govinda Mohan were among those who were present.

INDIA CORNER

Vigilance directorate suggests probe into 'Rs 1,300-cr scam' in buildings

The vigilance directorate has recommended a probe by a "specialised agency" into alleged irregularities in the construction of classrooms for Delhi government schools, claiming it involved a "scam of Rs 1,300 crore", official sources said on Friday. A report of the Delhi government's vigilance directorate recommending the probe has been submitted to the chief secretary, they said. The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), in a report dated February 17, 2020, highlighted "glaring irregularities" in the construction of over 2,400 classrooms in Delhi government schools by the Public Works Department (PWD). The CVC had sent the report to the Delhi government's vigilance directorate seeking its comments on the matter in February 2020. "The directorate however kept sitting over the report for two-and-half years until LG V K Saxena asked the chief secretary to inquire into the delay in August this year and submit a report," a source said.



Private schools seek to draft their own textbooks

The High Court of Karnataka has reserved for judgment a 1995 petition challenging the various provisions of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983. The provisions challenged include the reservation for appointment of staff in unaided schools and prescription of syllabus by the State government. On Thursday, the HC reserved the case for judgment after the government failed to file any objections. Private schools in Karnataka have approached the High Court of Karnataka, seeking among other things, permission to draft textbooks on their own. The Karnataka Unaided Schools Managements' Association (KUSMA) in the petition has sought "the State government ought not to prescribe any particular publication or textbook as the sole and exclusive reading material in private unaided schools; and that, private unaided schools are free to choose a textbook of their choice so long as such textbooks adhere to the syllabus prescribed by the State government." The provisions of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983 in this regard has been challenged.



Agra, Ghaziabad & Prayagraj to have police commissionerates

The Uttar Pradesh cabinet gave its approval on Friday for setting up a police commissionerate in Agra, Ghaziabad and Prayagraj districts. In the system, a commissioner of police heads the district police department or commissionerate, which is also vested with powers of an executive magistrate under various acts. The decision has been taken due to the increase in population, importance of these districts and to provide better policing and maintain law and order, Urban Development Minister Arvind Sharma said. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath gave the approval during a cabinet meeting. Sharma told the media in Lucknow. Sharma said the entire districts of Agra, Ghaziabad and Prayagraj would be brought under the commissionerate system after completing all formalities. These districts will be declared metropolitan areas to set up the commissionerate system, he said.



India doesn't believe in world order where few are 'superior'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Friday said India doesn't believe in a world order where a few are considered superior to others and asserted the country's actions are guided by the essence of human equality and dignity that is part of its ancient ethos. In his address at the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2022 held here, he also said India has always seen security and prosperity as a "collective pursuit" of the entire humankind. "It is my firm belief that if security becomes a truly collective enterprise, then we can think of creating a global order that is beneficial for all of us," Singh said. The defence minister said that now "we require to elevate the paradigm of collective



"It is my firm belief that if security becomes a truly collective enterprise, then we can think of creating a global order that is beneficial for all of us," Singh said.

security" to a level of shared interests and shared security. "India believes in a multi-aligned policy which is realised through diverse engagements through multiple stakeholders so that views

and concerns of all can be discussed and addressed for prosperity for all," Singh said. To talk of the security paradigm, national security should not be considered a zero-sum game, and "we

should strive to create a win-win situation for all," he added. The defence minister also asserted that "a strong, prosperous India wouldn't be built at cost of others. Rather, India is here to help other nations realise their full potential". "India doesn't believe in a world order where a few are considered superior to others. India's actions are guided by the essence of human equality and dignity, part of our ancient ethos and its strong moral foundation," Singh said at the IPRD 2022. The fourth edition of the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD), an apex-level international annual conference of the Indian Navy, began here on Wednesday. The IPRD seeks to foster an exchange of ideas and promote deliberations on regionally relevant maritime issues.

India's transformation from 'soft power' to 'software power' is for global welfare: VP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Technology has truly democratized governance-making it translate and accountable, and India's transformation from a soft power to software power is for global welfare, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar said on Friday. The Vice President made the comments during his valedictory address at UNESCO-India-Africa hackathon. "India is on the move as never before. We are the fifth largest economy in the world and on way to becoming the third largest economy by end of this decade. Technology has truly democratized governance-making it translate and accountable. Towards attaining this India has tapped the potential of digital-based E-Governance," he said. "India has successfully created massive Public Digital infrastructure to provide



prompt and efficient public services, in a swift transparent-accountable way. During the pandemic, the world saw the manufacturing prowess of India, as it provided vaccines, medicines and equipments to our friends. During the challenging times of pandemic our Atma Nirbhar strategy helped sustain and restore the global supply chains," he added. The Vice President also asserted that India's efforts

towards self reliance is not for the narrow self interest, but for the world. "Our self-reliance is not for the narrow self interest, but for the world. After pandemic, the world looks at India to provide momentum to the global economy. India has not only recorded impressive recovery, it has emerged as one of the brightest spot for investment, innovation and entrepreneurship, in the world.

"At world stage, India has been raising the vital issues about the developmental aspirations of developing countries. We are seeking level playing field and equal opportunities for developing countries to progress. India's transformation from a soft power to software power is for global welfare," he said. Over 350 students from 22 countries of Africa and 231 students from India participated in the 36 hour long hackathon to provide scalable technology-based innovative solutions. The countries participating in the "Unesco-India-Africa (UIA) Hackathon" which began on Tuesday, include Botswana, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Togo, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

India seeks consular access to eight former navy officers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday said it had sought further consular access to eight of its former navy officers under detention in Qatar for nearly three months. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesman Arindam Bagchi said the Indian embassy in Doha has been pursuing the matter with the Qatar authorities. Bagchi said some relatives of the detained officers were allowed to meet them in Qatar. Qatar authorities had taken Commander Purnendu Tiwari

(ret'd), the managing director of Dahra Global Technologies and Consultancy Services, and seven others into custody on August 30. The other detained officers are Cdr Navtej Singh Gill, Cdr Birendra Kumar Verma, Cdr Sugunakar Pakala, Cdr Sanjeev Gupta, Cdr Amit Nangal, Capt Saurab Vasisht, and Ragesh Gopakumar. "I would refer you to the government of Qatar for the reasons for their arrest," Bagchi said to questions about the reasons for the arrest of the eight Indian nationals.

Heritage lovers change social media profile picture to 'Sultan Palace' in solidarity

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

From Ara to Allahabad, several heritage enthusiasts have put Sultan Place in Patna as the display picture of their social media accounts in support of preservation of the 100-year-old historic landmark. The Patna High Court had in September stayed the proposed demolition of the palace to build a five-star hotel. In a spontaneous call for solidarity on World Heritage Week, people on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram updated their profile and cover photos, while some even changed their display photo on WhatsApp starting Thursday. By Friday afternoon, several users, including many pages dedicated to heritage



preservation, had updated their profile photos using image of the iconic palace that was built by the legendary ruler Sultan Ahmed in 1922. Social media-based groups like 'Heritage Times' updated its profile image on Facebook while 'Lost Muslim Heritage' of

Bihar changed it on Instagram. Most of them used common hashtags #SultanPalace #WorldHeritageWeek to highlight the significance of the occasion. "World Heritage Week is being held across the world from November 19-25. While many cities in India and abroad are celebrating the occasion, heritage buildings in Patna are facing threat of demolition and many have already been razed in the name of development," the Lost Muslim Heritage of Bihar page wrote on Instagram. "To raise awareness, we are appealing to change the profile picture on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to the image of Sultan Palace to show and express solidarity, and to save it from the bulldozers.

No one can stop us from rewriting history: Amit Shah

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah has said no one can stop rewriting of history to free it from "distortions" as he urged academicians to research and write about 30 great Indian empires and 300 warriors who showed exemplary valour to fight for the motherland. The home minister said on Thursday had it not been for Veer Lachit Barphukan, the Northeast would not have

with. These allegations could be true. But who stops it from being corrected now? Who stops us from writing the correct history now," he said. Shah urged historians and students to identify 30 great empires in Indian history that ruled for more than 150 years in any part of the country and 300 warriors who showed exemplary courage to fight for the independence of the country and conduct research and write extensively about them. "If we do this, we will see that the true history of India will be established and the lies will end spontaneously. In India, we now have a government which supports any endeavour to promote the glory of the country. We will work towards reviving India's glorious history," Shah said at the event organised by the Assam government.



Shah said a nation that does not derive pride from its glorious past, that does not garner inspiration from its heroes can never create a bright future for itself and cannot create better citizens and a golden future.

BJP conspiring to assassinate Kejriwal, says Dy CM Sisodia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid intense campaigning for the Municipal Corporation of Delhi elections, senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia on Friday alleged a BJP conspiracy to "murder" his party's convener and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, a charge the saffron party denied saying Sisodia was reading an "old script". Latching on to remarks by BJP MP Manoj Tiwari, the deputy chief minister also said his language "betrays the conspiracy being hatched to assassinate Kejriwal" and he should be investigated. The high-stakes MCD elec-



tions, which will be held on December 4, is being seen as a three-way contest between the BJP, the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). Showing some old tweets by Sisodia claiming threat to Kejriwal's life, Tiwari at a press conference said, "He does this

every year, claiming murder threat to Kejriwal. I don't understand what is going on as Kejriwal claims Sisodia will be arrested, Sisodia himself prophesies that Kejriwal will be murdered." Citing the death of AAP leader Sandip Bhardwaj, the North East BJP MP also alleged that it was not suicide but "murder". The top leadership of the AAP, including Kejriwal, were responsible for it, Tiwari said. Fifty-five-year-old Bhardwaj was found hanging at his residence in west Delhi's Rajouri Garden on Thursday and the BJP had demanded a thorough investigation into the matter.

SC notice to Centre on gay couple's plea

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday issued notice to the Centre and Attorney General R Venkataramani on two pleas by gay couples seeking a direction that their marriage be recognised under the special marriage law. A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli heard the brief submissions of senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi before issuing the notices on the pleas. "Issue notice returnable in four weeks. Liberty to serve the central agency. Notice be also issued to the Attorney General for India," the bench said.

HC quashes order to reinstate Uttarakhand Assembly staff

PNS ■ NAINITAL

The Uttarakhand High Court has upheld the order of the Speaker revoking 228 ad-hoc appointments in the state assembly secretariat. A division bench of Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice RC Khulbe on Thursday quashed the order of the single-bench to reinstate the dismissed ad-hoc employees and upheld Speaker Ritu Khanduri's order in this regard. The state assembly secretariat had filed a special appeal before the division bench chal-

lenging the single bench order. The court said the order of dismissal cannot be stayed. On behalf of the Legislative Assembly Secretariat, it was said that these appointments were made on a temporary basis and their services can be terminated at any time without notice, as per the rules. The high court on Thursday heard the special appeals filed by the Vidhan Sabha challenging the single-bench's order of reinstatement of the employees dismissed from the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly Secretariat.



Congress accuses BJP of 'doctoring' video to discredit 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday termed as "doctored" a video posted by the BJP IT cell head claiming that "Pakistan Zindabad" slogans were raised during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Madhya Pradesh, and said there will be "payback" for such tactics by the ruling party's "dirty tricks department". BJP IT cell head Amit Malviya posted a video of the Yatra in which former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath are seen walking and a voice purportedly shouting "Pakistan

Zindabad" is heard towards the end of the 21 second clip. "After Richa Chaddha's public application to join Rahul Gandhi's Bharat 'Jodo' Yatra, 'Pakistan Zindabad' (listen towards the end of the video) slogans raised in Khargon. INCM posted the video and then deleted it after the faux pas came to light. This is Congress's truth," Malviya tweeted. Hitting back, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said a video "doctored" by the "dirty tricks department" of the BJP is doing the rounds to discredit the "highly successful" Bharat Jodo Yatra.

'Answer to darkness of terror is light of goodness'

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The answer to the darkness of terror is the light of goodness and kindness, said Moshe Holtzberg, the uncle of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack survivor 'Baby Moshe', whose parents were killed by Pakistani terrorists at Nariman House here. It has been 14 years since the terror attack rocked the city, but the Holtzberg family remains an inspiration to many for their mission of love and kindness, he said. Baby Moshe, who was two years old at the time of the

attack, was rescued by his Indian nanny Sandra Samuel when Pakistani terrorists killed his parents Rabbi Gavriel and Rivka Holtzberg and four visitors at Chhabad Lubavitch Jewish Centre in Nariman House in Colaba on November 26, 2008. Baby Moshe, who is seen as a symbol of life amid tragedy, is now 16 years old and is studying in a school in Israeli city of Afula. He spends time with his maternal and paternal grandparents. The teen's uncle Moshe Holtzberg, who lives in the US, spoke to PTI through social

UNCLE OF 26/11 MUMBAI ATTACKS SURVIVOR



media on Friday. Holtzberg recalls the time he had spent with Baby Moshe in Nariman House and at Colaba market, where they would pet goats, he said.

"We see him as a symbol of unity and pray that god gives him the strength to carry forward his parent's mission," he said. Holtzberg (33) is the

younger brother of Rabbi Gavriel. "Several years have passed since the Mumbai terror attack and unfortunately, many more tragedies have occurred since. Just two days ago, a terror attack took place in Jerusalem," Holtzberg said. "We believe that the answer to the darkness of terror is the light of goodness and kindness," he said. Holtzberg further said that although it's been 14 years since the terror attack, people still approach his parents Rabbi Nachman and Frieda Holtzberg with heartwarming

stories about how they were inspired by his brother Rabbi Gavriel and Rivka. "For Moshe, India is home. No terror attack will chase him out of his home. Nariman House is his home, Mumbai is his city and India is his country," Holtzberg said. Moshe has expressed that he would want to go back at some point and continue what his parents had started, he said. Holtzberg said Baby Moshe's Indian nanny Samuel, who works as a social services provider in Jerusalem, frequently visits the boy she had rescued.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Incompetence

The Congress has utterly failed in forcing a truce between Gehlot and Pilot in Rajasthan

There is no end to the Mahabharat in Rajasthan with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot firing the latest salvo, calling his rival Sachin Pilot a traitor to the Congress, as someone who hobnobs with the Bharatiya Janata Party to topple his own party's Government in the state. The reference was to Pilot's fruitless rebellion in 2020. The grand old party indeed faces a dilemma. On the one hand, there is the stalwart Chief Minister, who enjoys the loyalty of most of the party MLAs and was even considered to head the party not long ago. He is unwilling to lose control of the state, the biggest state where the GOP is in power; he even chose chief-ministership over party presidency. On the other hand, there is the young leader who is impatient to hold the reins of the state—and is as determined as his 70-year-old arch-rival in this regard. The seething conflict, which was dormant for a few weeks, brimmed over on Thursday when Gehlot made the traitor statement in an interview to a news channel. The timing was conspicuous, for at that time Pilot was participating in the Bharat Jodo Yatra at Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh. It was also jarring as the "traitor" was being photographed with Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadhwa. "A gaddar [traitor] cannot be made the CM. The high command cannot make Pilot the CM," Gehlot thundered. The Rajasthan Chief Minister was almost challenging the Congress high command as well—or, to be precise, he is letting the challenge (which was made at the time of the Congress president election) continue.



Obviously, the Congress leadership has utterly failed in resolving the issue of Gehlot-Pilot rivalry in the state, the biggest state where the GOP is in power. The Gandhi family seems to be feckless and entitled; none of the members have the capacity or even the resolve to sort out things. Rahul Gandhi appears to be living in another era; his own party is withering away, and he is worried about... well, Bharat Jodo. This is not to say that uniting the country is a lesser job; perhaps it is greater than running a political party. But if someone is in-charge of a party—and let's not fool ourselves that party president Mallikarjun Kharge is the most important man in the GOP—it is their responsibility to ensure that it is kept united, strong, and fighting fit. At a time when the election campaign is in full swing in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, Rahul is busy with his yatra. And when he is not walking, he is triggering debates which are best left to historians. Worse, his Savarkar remarks annoyed a Congress ally, the Uddhav Shiv Sena. He has time and energy for such arcane issues but not for Rajasthan. It is astonishing that the Congress top brass has been unable to coax or force a truce in Rajasthan. Incompetence is monumental.

PICTALK



Employees of the Taj Mahal hotel shower flower petals in Mumbai

'Gaadi off' flop campaign offed

Delhi LG Vinay Kumar Saxena has set an example that governors can act as Ombudsman to clip the wings of chief ministers' arbitrary & fanciful actions



HASAN KHURSHID

Discretion' when qualified by word 'administrative' should be initiated with reference to the rules of reason and justice and not according to personal whims and fancies. Delhi Government has been indulging in organising flop shows called, "Red Light On, Gaadi Off" for the past two years beginning from October 16, 2020, which was repeated from October 18, 2021, onwards on the pretext of pollution control; whereas, the hidden motive of Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal appeared to satisfy his fetish for projecting his personality cult through unending desire of displaying his photos at every inch of Delhi roads.

Another hidden motive of Kejriwal behind this futile exercise may be his vote bank politics. If we presume that each of the 2500 volunteers has a household of five people, then with the simple calculation, Kejriwal gets the sympathy of 12500 voters straightaway.

The nature of the mindless campaign is that Delhi Government employs and deploys around 2500 civil defence volunteers on 100 crossroads of Delhi, for about a month in a year, holding placards displaying Kejriwal's photo with a short slogan, "Red Light On, Gaadi Off".

This year, LG Delhi, in his wisdom returned the file of the useless campaign and advised the CM to reconsider the proposal saying it was 'inhuman' and 'exploitative' to place civil defence volunteers at extreme polluted traffic junctions that does not have any parallel in any other civilised metropolitan city." LG also questioned the efficacy and effectiveness of such an 'ad-hoc' measure in mitigating air pollution as the capital reels under high air pollution.

LG is right by arguing the plight of the volunteers of all ages including the women who are made to remain standing in utter discomfort for eight hours continuously. They are not allowed to move leaving the post for water, tea or natural calls in total disregard to their human rights.

In another mindless and mis-



placed Deshbhakti campaign, Delhi Government had last year spent Rs. 104.37 crore on installing 35 metre high national flags at 500 locations in the city.

The Delhi government had also come out with a series of TV advertisements claiming that it had improved governance in Delhi. This advertisement had received flak from various quarters including former AAP member and Swaraj Abhiyan leader Prashant Bhushan calling it an example of political corruption. The outfit in a statement had said, "The heart of the problem is that this TV commercial unashamedly abuses public funds to create a personality cult for Arvind Kejriwal. It sings the praises of the AAP leader and tries to project him as a messiah."

Imagine, these heavy amounts could have been spent in providing bread to the starving citizens and shelters to the homeless living on the footpaths like reptiles and stray street animals.

Kejriwal has spent crores of rupees on promotion of his personality cult. In response to a query by a RTI activist Amit Gupta, under the Right to Information Act, the Delhi Government had reportedly disclosed in September, 2021,



LG IS RIGHT IN BY ARGUING THE PLIGHT OF THE VOLUNTEERS OF ALL AGES INCLUDING WOMEN WHO ARE MADE TO REMAIN STANDING IN UTTER DISCOMFORT FOR EIGHT HOURS CONTINUOUSLY

that it spent over 940 crore on publicity for campaigns against pollution in the last seven years beginning from 2015.

Kejriwal has not left any newspaper, bus, bus stops, metro stations, without displaying his photograph. He was however, not content with this spree of extravagance at the cost of taxpayers' money and thus invented the new idiosyncratic idea of 'Gaadi off' for his self promotion unmindful of the cost involved.

As a matter of fact, no desirable results were manifestly visible during the two preceding years. Habits die hard. The drivers on red lights were least bothered towards the presence of five to eight volunteers displaying CM's photo.

It's a good idea that on red lights, drivers switch off their engines but from the 'principle of reasonableness' what is the need of deploying 2500 volunteers. The placards depicting this message rather in bigger size can be affixed at traffic signals as advisory from traffic police or pollution control board instead of projecting and promoting the photo-happy CM. Will the CM agree to put LG's photograph on the placards or else can he opt to display the placards without anybody's photo?

In addition, these volunteers are called 'marshals' which is a highly distinguished and dignified rank in the Indian Air Force like Air Marshal and Field Marshal in the Indian Army. The civil defence volunteers wear police like uniforms which besides being unlawful misleads the gullible citizens who presume them as cops. The Commissioner of Police, Delhi, vide his Circular no. 59/C&T/AC-II/2003, had issued an Order to ban the wearing and use of uniforms of police and armed forces. This Circular was issued on the directions of LG, Delhi, under Section 37 of Delhi Police Act, 1978.

In May, 2015, the Supreme Court had said that ruling parties cannot publish photographs of political leaders in government-funded advertisements. However, in June, 2015, an advertisement on a big hoardings showing Kejriwal's photo had been put up near ITO, in which Kejriwal is congratulating Delhi students, sidestepping the order of the Supreme Court. The practice of abusing taxpayers' money is unashamedly being carried out by politicians.

(The writer is a legal journalist and author. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HITTING BELOW THE BELT

Sir — It is very unfortunate that Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot called the senior Congress leader Sachin Pilot a "gaddar" (traitor) which does not suit a person like Gehlot to use such language and the priority should be to fight unitedly to defeat the BJP as well as strengthen Rahul Gandhi's hand. Days before the Kanyakumari-to-Kashmir yatra led by Rahul Gandhi enters Rajasthan, Gehlot launched a scathing attack on Pilot dubbing him a "gaddar" (traitor) and said he can never be made the chief minister of the state.

Ashok Gehlot is an experienced, and senior Congress leader whom the party has given so much, it is unbecoming of someone with such experience to use this language, and make such completely false and baseless allegations. The priority right now is for the Congress Party to win the Assembly elections in Gujarat where Ashok Gehlot is the senior observer of the party and it is also important to strengthen the hand of Rahul Gandhi, who has spent the last three months walking 2,000 km in the Bharat Jodo Yatra to challenge divisive forces. It is high time the Congress high command must intervene in this matter and defuse the situation, failing which it will damage the prospect of the Congress Party in assembly elections in Gujarat.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

EXPOSING CHILDREN TO PUBLIC GLARE

Sir — Bollywood star Alia Bhat is right. Children (of celebrities or anyone else) should be kept away from the public eye. At least till their college education is completed. They should be kept in an environment of confidentiality for security, peaceful-coexistence without any disturbances and headaches.

Chinese President Jinping's daughter studied with an alias name at Harvard University (Massachusetts, USA). Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi took the name of Rahul Vinci when he studied for a year at Trinity College,

Dealing with Health catastrophe



dromes in 2019. In India alone at least 6.8 lakh deaths occurred due to five bacteria — Escherichia Coli, Streptococcus Pneumonia, K pneumoniae, S aureus, and P aeruginosa in the same year. Bacterial infections are also closely linked to poverty and low-income countries like in Sub-Saharan Africa where it was found to be higher compared to high-income regions like Western Europe and North America where it showed a lower trajectory.

The results present a dark picture of global health initiatives. Collective actions and greater mitigation efforts are a must so that a deeper dive into the pathogens can be made.

To minimize the burden of bacterial infections which is taking a heavy toll on human beings, stronger health facilities, and greater diagnostic laboratory capacity, mitigating efforts and controlled use of antibiotics on a war footing are needed. Lack of cleanliness in urban suburbs from stinking sewage lines to mountains of garbage, and unhealthy eating habits are breeding grounds that are mainly responsible for these deadly pathogens to take root in India.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

Cambridge, (from October 1994 to July 1995 and was awarded an M Phil in development studies in 1995).

Madhu Nivriti PS | Secunderabad

UPSET GALORE

Sir — After the upset win of Saudi Arabia defeating Argentina by a 2-1 margin in the first-round matches of the FIFA World Cup, one more top team Germany suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of Japan by a similar margin. Late goals by Ritsu Doan and Takuma Asano gave Japan an incredible 2-1 comeback victory over Germany in the World Cup after the four-time champions had looked to be cruising to victory via an Ilkay Guendogan penalty but paid a fatal price for missing chances.

The shock result was a repeat of their 2018 World Cup nightmare when,

as defending champions, they lost their opener to Mexico and, after another defeat by South Korea, were condemned to an unheard-of group-stage exit. Argentina has won the World Cup twice — in 1978 and 1986 — but at Qatar 2022 La Albiceleste wrote its name into the history books in an altogether different way. Thus Japan came from behind to stun Germany 2-1. Some more upsets are expected in this world cup as the standard of goalkeeping by most of the teams has gone up and as a result scoring goals is not an easy task. It is a lesson for the top teams that no match is won or lost until the final whistle is blown.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

What about Delhi?

Like most elections these days, the real issues are absent from the campaigns of the political parties

As the Municipal corporations of Delhi (MCD) elections get closer the Delhi local political circles are abuzz with hectic political activity. This would be the first MCD election after three MCDs were merged. It is an interesting fight as MCD has been dominated by the BJP and the state assembly by the AAP. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi is one of the largest municipal bodies in the world. It provides civic services to approximately 20 million citizens of Delhi. Around 1.46 crore people are expected to cast their votes for 250 municipal wards in the national capital. A total of 2,021 candidates have filed their nomination papers with the poll authorities for the upcoming civic elections in Delhi. Three major parties -- the AAP, the BJP, and the Congress are in the race to run the MCD. AAP performed well in 2017 and managed to win 49 wards with a 26.23 per cent vote share and which gives AAP a morale boost. A plethora of issues are presently haunting Delhi, but interestingly the candidates are focusing on the leaders of their respective parties. While the BJP harps upon the Prime Minister for harvesting votes, the AAP is banking upon the charisma of Arvind Kejriwal, "ek mauka Kejriwal ko" is their catchphrase.

But no one is talking about the broken roads and overflowing sewer lines which needs to be fixed. Due to improper drainage systems, residents face water-logging issues in rainy season in East Delhi. Broken roads, waterlogging and garbage mismanagement are some of the key issues that the residents in the national capital have been facing for years. The residents are jittery about the sloppy services they are getting

but interestingly neither of the two main contenders are focusing on the real issues but promising things which may take forever to materialize. The civic infrastructure of the city especially in the north and east is falling apart. MCD has been ruled by the BJP since 2007 and so suffers from anti-incumbency and very achievements to showcase which gives AAP an edge. There are problems that the BJP could not address in its tenures like the delays and unsatisfactory work by the contractors. Besides, there are issues of garbage collection, cleaning of lanes, street lighting, mosquito control, etc. on which the BJP-ruled MCD is found wanting. But it is not promising anything that would instill confidence among voters apart from Modi's rule at the centre. Will people buy it? We shall know on December 7 when the votes are counted.



SOUND BITE

There were no VVIP facilities in jail for Satyendar Jain. All that he got was according to the jail manual.



Delhi CM

— Arvind Kejriwal

New Twitter policy is freedom of speech, not freedom of reach ... Negative/hate tweets will be max-deboosted & demonetized, so no ads or other revenue to Twitter.

Twitter Chief

— Elon Musk

Actors post pictures of their food, vacations and cars on social media. It makes the viewers question them. My hero is someone who will achieve something big and bring a change. It isn't happening.



Actor

— Sunil Shetty

To be honest, my thing is simple, if I do one match or one series, I will lead the team my way, how I see and perceive the game. Whenever I am given the opportunity, I will always go out and play the brand of cricket I know.

Indian cricketer

— Hardik Pandya

I hear many times that our history has been misrepresented... but who can stop us now from rewriting our history with pride?



Union Home Minister

— Amit Shah



FIRST COLUMN BE AWARE OF KARMA TO HEAL WOUNDS

Stress must be dealt with awareness of actions, results



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

With the kind of stressful environment everywhere today, many of us get this thought that 'it would have been better if we were small babies'. That's because a small baby is perhaps the only one among us who is always stress free, with no burden of the past and no apprehension about the future.

According to behavioural scientists, stress is simply an inability to deal with whatever is going on around us. There might be innumerable reasons for this condition. However, one of the greatest is the remorse or that deep feeling of repentance from unresolved situations of the past as well as the uncertainty and fear about the future. Both leave us insecure. Hence, when there is pressure from our roles, relationships, commitments, family, work, debt and so on, we are left with no power and energy. There is no denial about the fact that in real life the pressures are real. However, if there is a disposition to understand and accept and the ability to remain in the present as a detached observer, it becomes much easier.

One must always keep this in mind that we are all on a journey of lifelong learning. Hence, learning to let go of ego, dishonesty or superficial interaction with others is not a small thing. There are many fears to be faced and in this whole journey, the heart is often broken, disillusioned and in pain. We try best to cover these wounds with many attractive bandages, but eventually we need to remove them



and begin the process of healing the wounds and become whole again.

Just as a stable building is one that has a broad and deep foundation, we need to develop breadth and depth in the way we deal with situations and people. In this context, having a broad intellect that is firmly established in the present yet is aware of past antecedents and future consequences of any action or behavior.

Knowing the full extent of the law of karma, we only receive the return for our own actions and not for someone else's. So, that person will surely receive the return for their anger. However, if we also react angrily, then yes, we too will receive the future return for that. Remember! angry words from someone are just noise, and regressive behaviour is just their way of bringing out frustration, hence worrying about them is useless.

Moreover, individual karmic accounts have led to accumulation of unlimited negativity in one's samskaras, thereby compelling souls to forget their original loving nature of peace and love and behave rudely. Today, we see that the vices of greed have penetrated at all the levels in society, be it political, civil and even medicine too. With massive scandals happening on a daily basis, there has been a "trust deficit" in society at a mass scale, putting the entire humanity in turmoil. Under such a scenario, how can one even think of experiencing inner power and inner peace?

The only hope for humankind under such a crisis lies in the almighty's wisdom and connectivity, by which we feel blessed, energetic and secured, for it is this divine wisdom which empowers us to have a clear vision of ourselves and our roles in this world drama. With trust and courage, if we take a step of determination, then we would surely receive the strength to shed the false accoutrements and make ourselves clean and free from dependencies. It is a small price to pay for the great gain of personal freedom, fulfillment and independence.

(The author is a spiritual educator)

Coordination between agencies need of hour



NISHTHA KAUSHIKI

On the 14th anniversary of 26/11, we must ponder over steps for civil-military fusion which can be a potent defence against the challenges nation faces

The families of the victims of 26/11 are yet to get justice. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has been actively trying to build a uniform and united narrative against the menace of terrorism. The country understands that there exists a symbiotic relationship between terrorism and transnational organised criminal networks that help such groups to raise finance for their activities.

According to the Indian delegation in 2019 at the Third Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues, the illicit activities of such criminal groups include "counterfeiting, money laundering, arms dealing, drug trafficking and smuggling terrorists across the borders". Recently, the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the UN, which India is currently chairing, met in Mumbai to deliberate on the financial funding of Pakistan-based terror groups. It was followed by the 'No Money for Terror' conference in the capital. The two developments came in the background of China's veto for designating Pakistan-sponsored terrorists as 'global terrorists'.

It is unlikely that Pakistan will discontinue its 'bait and bleed' policy against India. Pakistan is a highly motivated, determined and innovative adversary ready to suffer losses if it is at the cost of 'bleeding India'. Nevertheless, expecting the world powers like the US and China to financially squeeze out Pakistan entirely to finish off the terror groups based in Pakistan is unrealistic.

Geopolitically, if seen from the prism of the triangular dynamics of India, Pakistan and the US, apart from China, Pakistan and India, Islamabad has been a 'weaker' nation but is able to tilt the balance in its Washington's or Beijing's favour to prevent a rising India. Thus, each power fears losing out its 'hegemony' and hence, to save its 'sphere of influence', resorts to an 'asymmetrical power balancing', consequently side-lining India's core concerns.

This will continue in the coming times, and the US F16 package to Pakistan after its removal from the 'grey list' of the FATF and China's aforesaid veto proves the assertion. Many recommendations have been given for external balancing against adversaries' mala fide intentions. However, exploring what can be done further at a domestic level becomes pertinent and more important.

It is a well-established fact that external and internal security is interlinked. Although post 26/11 the country has witnessed almost negligible terrorist attacks in cities, that has been possible with the establishment of Multi-Agency Coordination Centres (MACCs) and Subsidiary Multi-Agency Coordination Centres (SMACCs). Other contributory factors include an active vessel management system, the Coastal Security Scheme, gapless electronic surveillance along the coastline, etc.



However, there is still much scope for increasing interoperability amongst the various agencies.

At the operational level, the decision at the apex level needs to be initiated to re-energise and redirect the country's efforts towards issue-based (illegal immigration, coastal security, narco-terrorism, cyber security, etc.) inter-agency cooperation between the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Indian armed forces with the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) as a central coordinating agency. Active cooperation between bureaucracy, intelligence and the security forces is a must.

Even the state services authorities should be inculcating a maritime domain awareness strategy apart from being in the loop of the inter-agency cooperation structure. The three agencies cannot secure India externally and internally while working independently. Proper sharing and communication of the intelligence data, the building of narratives and a more profound civil-military fusion are essential to combat Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. For instance, simple issues of consensus building such as information sharing, arranging financial resources, and the jurisdiction of the matter falling within the purview of MHA, defence forces or NSCS shouldn't be the debate. Instead, well-coordinated efforts with a comprehensive approach are required to enhance the nation's security.

Since different security agencies have one single goal of securing India, there should be greater consensus on consciously building joint narratives, which finally have to percolate at various levels—

national, regional and international in well-coordinated collaborative efforts through favourable perception management and agenda-setting. In a nutshell, it has to be complete teamwork of different agencies at different levels.

Next, India has to highlight the violations of its sovereignty and its counter responses at various global platforms to avoid any escalation in future developments, if any. One of the most critical steps in this direction can relate to adopting the practice of publishing scientifically established data on breaches in India's maritime security. Half-yearly information on the increasing number of Chinese and Pakistani warships and surveillance ships in the Indian Ocean Region should be made available in the public domain by the concerned security agency.

There is a lack of data on the number of maritime violations. Unless security experts and scholars cite the Indian statistics on territorial and maritime violations, the national interests cannot be taken care of. A fully activated civil-military fusion has now become unavoidable. Although the Government has taken appreciable steps in this direction, it needs to pick up the pace. First, the private sector security personnel of private critical national infrastructure usually take the adversary's first assault. Their technical and physical training from highly specialised security agencies is a must.

Second, the grassroots level too requires a high level of civil-military fusion. Routine surveillance and the reporting of the recordings of the CCTV cameras at critical national infrastructure can pick up the suspicious activities of the people who

take multiple rounds of their target to identify the 'weak spots'. Such reporting isn't possible without an active civil-military fusion. Using biology-driven AI surveillance mechanisms, robotics, satellite tracking, and multiple target tracking by sophisticated technology equipment has become essential.

In this line of thought, given the narrow interests of different powers, every time expecting the allies to upgrade our technologies would be a self-defeating purpose. Surveillance mechanisms should continue to be upgraded through the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' in the defence sector initiative. Moreover, active cooperation between different public and private agencies must be increased to strengthen DRDO's Technology Development Fund and other such agencies.

Finally, the challenge of hyper-social media interconnecting the different parts of the world also contributes to agenda setting. No sooner have narratives been constructed by the Government agencies, anti-national elements attempt to deconstruct them. The momentum of "talks and terror cannot go together" should not be slowed, and instead should be taken to the next higher level through the implementation of the National Educational Policy.

The adversaries' misadventures of 26/11 and other terrorist attacks and the country's counter responses should be incorporated into the national curriculum. It will ensure a civil-military fusion from a very early stage. In a nutshell, bring 'uniformity and unity' at the domestic level when there are uncertainties at the regional and international level. A united India is thus essential.



IT IS UNLIKELY THAT PAKISTAN WILL DISCONTINUE ITS 'BAIT AND BLEED' POLICY AGAINST INDIA. PAKISTAN IS A HIGHLY MOTIVATED, DETERMINED AND INNOVATIVE ADVERSARY READY TO SUFFER LOSSES IF IT IS AT THE COST OF 'BLEEDING INDIA'

The author is Associate Professor in Central University of Punjab, Bathinda

POINT COUNTERPOINT

EFFORTS BY THE WEST TO IMPOSE A PRICE CAP ON RUSSIAN OIL ARE "CONTRARY TO THE PRINCIPLES OF MARKET RELATIONS AND ARE HIGHLY LIKELY TO LEAD TO GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR GLOBAL ENERGY MARKETS."
— RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN



NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES OVER IMPOSING A PRICE CAP ON RUSSIAN OIL ARE ONGOING ... I HAVE SPOKEN TO TREASURY SECRETARY JANET YELLEN ABOUT THE ISSUE.
— US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Time to eliminate violence against women is now

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, on November 25, should result in more action

Recently the National Crime Records Bureau Report (NCRB) 2021 revealed more than 15 per cent rise in crime against women. The year witnessed a spike in the rate of crimes against women (number of incidents per one lakh population), which rose from 56.5 per cent in 2020 to 64.5 per cent in 2021. A majority of the cases (nearly 32 per cent) pertained to "cruelty by husband or his relatives" and almost 21 per cent pertained to "assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty", followed by kidnapping and abduction (17.6 per cent) and rapes (7.4 per cent). Are these just figures? Or a reflection of the safety and status of women in Indian society?



JAGDISH KAUR

Writer is President, Women's Initiative for Liberation, Growth & Action

worships the goddess twice every year with a lot of fanfare, topped the list of crimes against women, with Uttar Pradesh holding the first rank followed by Rajasthan and Maharashtra. On the other hand, the northeastern state of Nagaland reported the lowest number of crimes against women in 2021. Among the metropolitan cities, Delhi, the capital remains the most unsafe city for women with the number of cases surging over the past three years, from 13,395 in 2019 to 14,277 in 2021 which amounts to more than 32 per cent of total crimes in the 19 metropolitan cities in the country. The sexual harassment at workplace continues unabated.

What perpetuates the violence has been much dis-

cussed over the years, be it the result of many systems of sexism and patriarchy within Indian culture, gender-based inequality from early childhood, lack of education opportunities for the girl child and complexity of social and cultural beliefs where girls and women are at the receiving end, irrespective of their age.

Women remain the custodians of family honour and any action on their part to break the norms or traditions meet with a violent response from family and community.

The Covid-19 pandemic witnessed sudden and acute rise in cases of violence against women. The pandemic led to the loss of jobs of men and women. The men vented out their stress and frustration on

the women. The women who lost their jobs became more dependent on abusive partners. The lockdown phase obstructed women seeking help when facing violence.

The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is yet another day marked by the notional activities and promises to act against this menace plaguing the Indian society. While the traditional causes of violence such as dowry deaths, sexual assaults, acid attacks and honour-killings continue, there have been rising cases of intimate partner violence, including heinous crimes such as most foul murders.

Besides the legal solutions available, which are mostly not sought or remain outside the purview of most victims/sur-

vivors, the focus on change of basic mindset and conduct at the societal level is crucial. More work for gender sensitisation, education, employment opportunities, safe workplaces, strict enforcement of existing laws, creating women-friendly environments for reporting the crimes, follow-ups, facilitative judicial procedures, new laws with enhanced punishment, and timely justice will go a long way in securing safe environments for women at home and outside. Rehabilitation of the survivors, acceptance and community support are crucial to instill confidence to regain and sustain normal life for the victims of all forms of violence.

To date, most efforts to eliminate violence against

women and girls have mainly focused on responding to and providing services for survivors of violence. Prevention—i.e., addressing the structural causes, as well as the risk and protective factors associated with violence—is pivotal to eliminating violence against women and girls. Prevention requires political commitment, implementing laws that promote gender equality, investing in women's organisations, and addressing the multiple forms of discrimination women face daily.

The prevention strategy should focus on equal education opportunities for the girl child, respectful family and work relationships with men and boys, and promoting equality and equity through

media, job-opportunities, sports, and other fields.

Every individual has a role to play in eliminating violence against women. We all can contribute by being sensitive to the issue, listening to and believing survivors, increasing visibility of women in matters and decisions related to their safety, standing up against normalization of all forms of violence against women, educating ourselves on gender-based issues, challenging gender-norms leading to inequality, holding ourselves and other people accountable, supporting each other and condemning violence against women at all platforms.

The time to act is TODAY! Speak up and join the moment!

MONEY MATTERS

Rupee gains 16 paise to 81.54 against US dollar

The rupee appreciated 16 paise to 81.54 against the US dollar in early trade on Friday on broad dollar weakness and in line with its Asian peers. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 81.69 against the dollar, then gained ground to touch 81.54, registering a rise of 16 paise over its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee appreciated by 23 paise to close at 81.70 against the US dollar. Forex traders said the American currency has retreated from its elevated levels post Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) minutes. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.23 per cent to 105.82. Moreover, steady crude oil price is also aiding investor sentiments. "Brent is steady around USD 85 per barrel after Thursday's drop which came on reports that the price caps proposed for Russian crude were too high and above the current levels," IFA Global Research Academy said in a note. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.20 per cent to USD 85.51 per barrel.



Coal minister asks ECL to ramp up production to 50 MT

Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi on Thursday directed the officers of the Eastern Coalfields Ltd (ECL) to work for achieving the production target of 50 MT during the current fiscal to meet the energy requirement of the country, a statement said. In 2021-22, ECL produced 45 million tonnes (MT) of coal. On the second day of his two-day visit to the ECL areas, Joshi inaugurated several infrastructure projects that would help increase coal-loading capacity and control the pollution caused by coal production and dispatch, the statement said. Joshi also visited the View Point of Sonepur Bazarı open-cast project. He inspected the project and held a review meeting with officials. The minister also visited the underground coal mine in Jhanjhara, about 225 metres deep. At an annual production capacity of 3.5 MT, it is the most coal-producing underground mine in India, the statement said. Joshi is the first coal minister to visit the mine.



Gold falls Rs 270; silver tumbles Rs 705

Gold prices fell by Rs 270 to Rs 52,837 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid weak global trends, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal had settled at Rs 53,107 per 10 grams. Silver also tumbled by Rs 705 to Rs 61,875 per kg. "Stronger rupee and risk-on sentiments weighed on the domestic gold prices," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities. Bullion has rallied about 8 per cent in November amid dollar weakness, Parmar said. The rupee appreciated 16 paise to 81.54 against the US dollar in early trade on Friday on broad dollar weakness and in line with its Asian peers. "Gold consolidated in a broad range and volatility remained low after the Fed meeting minutes showed less hawkish outlook," said Navneet Damani, Senior VP Commodity Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services.



India capable of generating 9% growth: Sanjiv Sanyal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is capable of generating a 9 per cent growth rate but in view of the geopolitical situation, we should be satisfied with a 6.5-7 per cent economic expansion, says Sanjiv Sanyal, member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.



India is following an "investment and export-driven growth model" and against the backdrop of "turbulent" global times, the RBI and the government have followed a restrained macro-economic approach, which is a correct step. "It is a very turbulent time and we are generating a 7 per cent growth rate already. Nothing to sniff at. But if we get an open road, this economic machinery that we have built is capable of generating a 9 per cent

growth rate," Sanyal said at the Times Now Summit 2022. The global economy is facing supply chain disruptions following the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war in February.

In its World Economic Outlook released last month, the International Monetary

Fund (IMF) forecast global growth to slow from 6 per cent in 2021 to 3.2 per cent in 2022 and 2.7 per cent in 2023. A Finance Ministry report has said that India is well placed to grow at a "moderately brisk rate" in the coming years on the back of macroeconomic stability, despite global monetary tightening.

Sanyal said, "This is not the time to try and overextend ourselves. Any growth rate between 6.5-7 per cent growth rate is not to be sniffed at. Even in the best of times. So let us be satisfied for now. But the time has come when we will be able to press the accelerator and I'm assuring you that the Indian supply side is ready for the big time". He said India is getting inserted into the global supply chain.

"With the problems happening in the Foxconn factory in China, the only other place where Apple has a sizeable capacity is in India. There is an opportunity for us to insert in the global supply chain and we are already doing this," Sanyal added.

Domestic passenger vehicle sales likely to rise over 30% in Nov: Report

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Domestic passenger vehicle sales are expected to rise over 30-per cent year-on-year in November, driven by large order book and higher vehicle production while the commercial vehicle segment sales volume could grow in double digits during the month, a report said on Friday.

Tractors volumes, however, are likely to remain muted on inventory destocking with dealers, brokerage firm Emkay Global Financial Services said in a report.

It also said that vehicle discounts have reduced on a sequential basis and remain significantly lower than the elevated levels seen in the past. Automobile makers in the country are set to publish vehicle sales data for November on December 1.

Rationalisation in long-term capital gains tax structure on the anvil

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The finance ministry is looking at rationalising long-term capital gains tax structure by bringing parity between similar asset classes and revising the base year for computing indexation benefit to make it more relevant, an official said on Friday.

Currently, shares held for more than one year attract a 10 per cent tax on long-term capital gains.

Gains arising from sale of immovable property and unlisted shares held for more than 2 years and debt instruments and jewellery held for over 3 years attract 20 per cent long term capital gains tax.

The revenue department is now looking at rationalising the tax rates as well as holding period for calculating long-term capital gains and an announcement is likely in the 2023-24 Budget to be presented in



Parliament on February 1. Also, a change in base year for computing inflation-adjusted capital gains is being contemplated, the official added.

The index year for capital gains tax calculation is revised periodically to make it more relevant. The last revision took place in 2017 when the base year was updated to 2001.

Since the prices of assets increase over time, the indexation is used to arrive at the inflation-adjusted purchasing price of assets to compute long-term capital gains for the

purpose of taxation. "The whole effort is to make capital gains tax structure simple and tax-payer friendly and reduce compliance burden. There is scope for bringing parity in tax rates and holding periods for similar asset classes," the official told PTI.

Under the Income Tax Act, gains from sale of capital assets -- both movable and immovable -- are subject to 'capital gains tax'. The Act, however, excludes movable personal assets such as cars, apparels and furniture from this tax.

Forex kitty grows for 2nd consecutive week; rises \$2.54 bn to \$547.25 bn

PNS ■ MUMBAI

In the second consecutive week of an increase in the kitty, India's forex reserves have grown by USD 2,537 billion to USD 547,252 billion for the week ended November 18, the RBI said on Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall kitty had swelled by USD 14,721 billion in the highest weekly rise since August 2021 to USD 544,715 billion.

It can be noted that in October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused by global developments.

Foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, increased by USD 1.76 billion to USD 484,288 billion during the week to November 18, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI on Friday.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

The gold reserves increased by USD 315 million to USD 40,011 billion, it said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by USD 351 million to USD 17,906 billion, the apex bank said. The country's reserve position with the IMF was also up by USD 111 million to USD 5,047 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank said.

Redcliffe Labs lines up additional USD 10 million to expand operations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Diagnostics platform Redcliffe Labs on Friday said it plans to invest additional USD 10 million (around Rs 81 crore) to expand its genetic and specialised testing portfolio.

The company, which has a focus on next generation technologies in the diagnostics space after building an AI (artificial intelligence) platform, has already invested USD 6 million earlier into genetics and specialised testing coverage from prenatal to

Ugro Capital eyes nearly threefold jump in loan sales at Rs 7,000 cr by Mar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Small businesses-focused non-banking lender Ugro Capital has set a target of nearly three-fold growth in loan book to Rs 7,000 crore by March, having already reached Rs 4,375 crore of AUM in the first half.

The NBFC had a loan book of Rs 1,317 crore in FY21 which more than doubled to Rs 2,970 crore in FY22 and scaled past Rs 4,375 crore in the first half of the current fiscal, driven by increased credit demand from its focus segments as well as co-lending and co-origination partnerships. It has such partnerships with 10 banks/large NBFCs.

"We closed the September quarter with a live loan book of Rs 4,375 crore, which means a monthly run-rate of Rs 408 crore and the net disbursement in the first half stood at Rs 2,017 crore.



oncology, neurology and nephrology, among other segments.

"We plan to add advanced high throughput NGS (next-generation sequencing) facilities at our expanded NRL (national reference lab) site and de-centralised low throughput sequencers across all

regional reference labs," Redcliffe Labs Founder & MD Dheeraj Jain said in a statement.

According to a study report by Market Research Future (MRF), the global market for genetic testing is anticipated to develop at a compound annual growth rate of 11.5 per cent and reach a value of over USD 22,800 million between 2019 and 2024.

By the end of 2024, the prescribed genetic testing segment is anticipated to account for more than USD 21,600 mil-

lion, it claimed. The market for genetic testing in India has grown by over 15 per cent to reach Rs 400 500 million.

Redcliffe Labs currently has over 43 laboratories and 1,100-plus authorised collection centres.

The company said it is working towards having an additional 57 laboratories in the next six months. It also plans to have 1,200 collection centres and become accessible in more than 200 cities and 3,500 pin codes by June next year.

Goa only state to achieve 100% PFMS compliance for Central schemes: CM Pramod Sawant

PNS ■ PANAJI

Goa has achieved 100 per cent compliance with the public finance management system (PFMS) for schemes sponsored by the Central government and is the first state in the country to do so, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said.

The chief minister on Thursday chaired a meeting with officers of the state finance department.

Talking to reporters on Thursday evening, Sawant said Goa has achieved 100 per cent compliance with the PFMS for Centre-sponsored schemes, and claimed that it was the only state in the country to do so.

The state government has received fund to the tune of Rs 200 crore from Rs 306 crore allocated for projects

The proposals for 14 projects that were rejected will be sent back to the Central government after making required changes, he said. The state has undertaken revision of schemes under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and loans have also been revised, the chief minister said.

He further claimed that the state's financial situation was good and the government had not taken any planned loans in the last four months.

The state government has cleared all the bills of contractors (who were awarded government tenders) and not a single one has been left pending for more than a month, Sawant added.

under Central schemes and the remaining Rs 106 crore will be received by next month, he said.

The chief minister further said that the state government wanted to pitch 56 projects under Centre-sponsored schemes through consultants.

"At least 46 project proposals were sent to the Centre for approval, of which funds have been disbursed for 18 projects and among these, 16 have been completed," Sawant said.

Akshay Ahuja's Startup receives seed capital To set up over 500 robotic labs in different schools across India

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Start Up Envioia Robotech Technologies Pvt Ltd has received seed capital for its venture to set up over 500 robotic labs in different schools across India to make students future ready. The seed capital has been given by Chitkara University from its Chitkara Innovation Incubator Foundation (CIIF) and Startup

India. The seed fund will assist him in rapidly scaling his firm, and will also help the start up in capturing a significant share of the market in the near future. With these plans in place, Akshay envisages to take his company's turnover to over Rs 30 crore from the current Rs 2 crore in the next one year, an increase of over 1500 per cent. Thinking his alma mater Chitkara University for the

seed capital for his venture Envioia Robotech Technologies Pvt. Ltd, Founder Akshay Ahuja states: "The National Education Policy has made it mandatory for schools to introduce Robotics and Coding as a part of their curriculum. In line with this I set up Envioia Robotech Technologies Pvt Ltd. Terming it "Mission Transformation Labs", we are providing Transformation Labs

worth Rs 10 Lakh in just Rs 3 Lakh."

Commenting on the launch Akshay Ahuja states: "I did not want any child to suffer the way a visual learner like me did due to lack of facilities in the education system. Being an edupreneur we must pay back to society once we become capable enough and I have started doing the same." Parent company

Robochamps has so far established many such labs across the country. Set up by Akshay in 2016, the vision of Robochamps is to revolutionise education and move it from being less theoretical and more practical and provide a "Hands-on Practice" experience to students.

The struggle was immense in order to make schools and educators believe in a start up

and adopt their product. It was all the more difficult as robotics and coding were subjects which were still in the nascent stage and schools were not too keen on investing in such new practices. The first school lab was set up in a school in the small city of Banga in Punjab. Then came the setting up of Indian School Awards in 2017 which had 50 schools participating. The following year the Awards



became international and were held in Dubai and were attended by 500 schools and the brand Robochamps became international. Currently, Robochamps has set up labs in over 100 schools and is present in more than 85 cities in the country.

The robotics labs are well equipped with the latest technology and the tools are well designed for the students. With the current seed capital the company is aiming to create over 500 labs in coding and robotics.

what's brewing?

Director Daniel Goldhaber: There is no magic bullet to tackle climate change



Anupam Kher:
'I'm ready to return to directing'

Actor Anupam Kher, whose this year's credits include successful Indian films - *The Kashmir Files*, *Karthikeya 2* and *Unchai*, says he is ready to return behind the camera. Speaking to *Variety* on the side-lines of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Kher said, "I would love to direct. After a long time, a story has come to me. My niece is autistic and I have a story about a grandfather and his autistic granddaughter who live together. I have a rough structure already. Once I write the script, I may start by the end of this year or next year."

Such a move would come twenty years after his feature directing debut, 2002's *Om Jai Jagadish*, reports *Variety*. Before that, he will close out this year with the release of Tamil horror *Connect* (December 2022), in which Kher plays a priest conducting an exorcism via Zoom.

He's also on board to start shooting Canadian filmmaker Eisha Marjara's *Calorie*, which was in the Co-Production Market at Film Bazaar in 2016.

Produced by Joe Balass of Compass Productions and Filmoption International, it is an inter-generational story of three women whose past lives collide during an emotionally-packed summer trip to India. "It's a very good script. Unfortunately, it has been delayed, but I will shoot for that. It will be filmed in Canada and India," Kher said.

For personal reasons, Kher had to cut short his contract

Daniel Goldhaber, director of *How to Blow Up a Pipeline*, on Friday said that there is no magic bullet or immediate remedy to tackle climate change, but there is a need for the right kind of conversations.

"Only the right kind of conversations and interventions are the key. Through *How to Blow Up a Pipeline* we are trying to provoke the right conversation on this burning issue," said Daniel Goldhaber.

He was speaking during the *Table Talk* programme in the 53rd International Film Festival of India, underway in Goa.

"We are trying to understand why some are being pushed to engage in environmental extremism. It also tries to be frank about the consequences of such extreme acts," he added.

How to Blow Up a Pipeline film premiered at IFFI.

Emphasising that the climatic issue is an ocean that we haven't really explored, Daniel opined that the consequences of climatic change are not being felt immediately by those countries which cause the reason, but in other places of the planet.

"There is a massive responsibility on us to deal with that," he added.

How to Blow Up a Pipeline portrays the story of a crew of young environmental activists who with their radical resolve dares to execute a mission to sabotage an oil

pipeline. They engage in the act as a reciprocation to the deeds meted out by the system resulting in a climate crisis. The movie is an adaptation of Andreas Malm's 2021 book, 'How to Blow Up a Pipeline- Learning to fight in a world of fire.'

"My parents are climate scientists. I have been brought up in an environment knowing climatic changes and the activism associated with it," he said.

Daniel said that it is an American film, completely based on an American concept adapted from an European book, but it is always great to get the movie propagated at Asian as well as other countries since the issue is universal.



Queen Latifah claims she 'didn't know she was a girl' when she was younger

Actress Queen Latifah has gotten candid about how her sense of identity has evolved over the years.

During an acceptance speech at the inaugural TheGrio Awards in Beverly Hills, *The Equalizer* star claimed she "didn't know [she] was a girl" when she was younger, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

"It all starts with the family for me. My parents raised me with the idea that Black is beautiful. Black is beautiful. Black is beautiful. Black is OK," the 52-year-old explained.

"You start saying it enough and you start believing me. And so I didn't realise at the time that what they were preparing me for was a whole world."



"I didn't know I was a girl, initially, I had to be told that. That had to be explained to me..."

Cause I was running around with my T-shirt off like the boys... I wanted to play the sports and all these things had to be explained to me because I was free," she added. "And so my whole life would feel like I've been trying to maintain my freedom to be me."

As for now, Latifah knows who she is. "I wear these beautiful gowns and dresses because I want to, because that's my part of me. I play in the dirt, I play basketball with the boys - 'cause that's me. I love who I love because that's me. I know me. I know what I've done and what I haven't done."

The *End of the Road* star later encouraged the audience, "I realise that life is fleeting and you just gotta do the best you can. Be as honest and genuine as you can."

She further noted, "Don't go for what people are trying to tell you about yourself. It's not true. I said, don't go for what people are trying to tell you about yourself."

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's upcoming film *Pathaan* has a huge Hollywood star Tom Cruise connect, according to the film's director Siddharth Anand.

Siddharth said, "When one sets out to make the spectacle action film of India with one of the all-time biggest heroes of our country, Shah Rukh Khan, you need to have a champion team that is unified in the vision."

"Thankfully we got an A-team that came together to push the visual envelope with *Pathaan* and I was delighted to have someone like Casey O'Neil, who has extensively worked with Tom Cruise, to be by our side."

Emmy award-nominated Casey, regarded as one of the best action directors in Hollywood, is the brain behind Tom Cruise's death-defying stunts in films like *Jack Reacher*, *Mission Impossible* series films, *Top Gun: Maverick* and has also worked with Marvel Studios and Steven Spielberg to name a few.

About Casey, Siddharth adds, "He brings in a wealth of experience and he immediately bought into the idea of creating edge of the seat action for *Pathaan* that could match what he's done back home in Hollywood."

"What Casey has created in *Pathaan*, is simply mind-boggling. You will have to see the film for that because we aren't going to disclose any details from the film till it releases in theatres on 25 Jan."



Shah Rukh Khan has a Tom Cruise connect in Pathaan

FUN

ARCHIE

CALVIN AND HOBBS

GARFIELD

REALITY CHECK

SPEED BUMP

CROSSWORD

NANCY

GINGER MEGGS

SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

SOLUTION

P	R	E	G	N	A	N	T	
F	A	C	E					
R	A	C	E					
F	H	O	G	A				
O	P	T	E					
N	O							
M	I	L	O					
E	A	L	K					
R	A	T	T					
K	O	A						
E	R	E						

ACROSS

- Calm and quiet
- Sit on this
- Steam bath
- Obse player
- Applaud
- An area of cut grass
- A box for a body
- Once more
- Heartbeat
- Practise something before doing it for an audience
- Normal
- A student might carry this (6,3)
- Someone who makes things out of wood
- A reddish-brown metal
- The largest mammal
- Untrue
- Leg joint

DOWN

- A keyboard instrument
- From one side to the other
- Simple to do



From Italy to Hyderabad

The love that many of us have for pizza is never-ending. In this regard, *The Pioneer* spoke to one of the most famous pizza chain's director, Jasper Reid, who is also the founder and CEO of Dolomite Restaurants Pvt. Ltd., the company that manages the Jamie Oliver Restaurants in India, for our weekly edition of the Hyderabad. During an exclusive chat with us, Jasper spoke about the beginning of the franchise in Hyderabad, his association with the city, and much more.

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Jamie's Italian launches Burger Festa, freshly made with toasted, homemade brioche buns, where you get to pick your side. Sharing about not just good food, but creating a memorable experience with *The Pioneer*, it was time for Jasper Reid to dig in deep with us about his pizzeria place in Hyderabad.

Before that, let us try to harken back to some history. Jamie Oliver was an English chef, restaurateur, and cookbook author. He was known for his casual approach to cuisine, which led him to host

numerous television shows and open many restaurants too! The celebrity chef exhibited enthusiasm when it came to cooking international cuisine, but his recipes haven't always been well received in their homelands, like Oliver's fried rice fiasco. But with Jamie Oliver Pizzeria here in Hyderabad, we had so many questions to ask Jasper. For example, what led to the beginning of this franchise? The spokesperson

said, "Four generations of my family have lived and worked in India. We are British by origin but in love with this country! We kept talking to people who told us they craved authentic Italian cuisine, and we have always loved Jamie Oliver, so



India and Jamie came together — like a love match!" The main character, Oliver, first

captured the public's attention when his 1999 television series *The Naked Chef* premiered. In 2005, he launched a campaign, Feed Me Better, to introduce schoolchildren to healthier foods, which was later backed by the government. A lesser-known fact is that the first of its restaurants was opened in Oxford in 2008, and from there on, there is no end to its chain.

The chain is now allowing you to build your own pizza, which you can choose and they will bake! You can get your loved ones to build a pizza right from scratch, where you can choose your hero ingredient, favourite sauce, and toppings.

They will bake your pizza to order using only the highest quality mozzarella and cheddar cheese. Jasper continued, "In a word, freshness makes us stand out from other pizza chains. Everything we do is done from scratch and to order, and we only use the best ingredients. We make all our dough, our sauces, and all our dishes by hand and with love. We believe in simple and honest cooking."

Apart from this, as we discussed above about the holder's Good Samaritan deeds, his show did such a great job of reminding schools and the government that good food did not have to be expensive food and even got the attention of the then Prime Minister, Tony Blair. And what happened next was surreal: Blair met Oliver and pledged that he would support the rebuilding of school kitchens so that fresh meals were made daily, junk food would be produced less, and additional staff training would be provided!

Jasper didn't shy away from applauding Hyderabadis either. He

stated, "The great people of Hyderabad appreciate great, fresh, authentic food. The culinary heritage of Hyderabad is famous all around the world, and quality is a must.

We always wanted to come to Hyderabad because we felt we could play a part in developing Italian food in this wonderful city. South Italy's food is dominated by tomatoes, olive oil, and pasta, while the north's common ingredients are alpine cheese and meat. We brought those to the city of Biryani."

The primary thing about Italian cuisine is its sheer simplicity! A good olive oil, sea salt, and a small amount of balsamic vinegar are all you need to make an outstanding salad. But talking about pizzas, their style is described as "crispy and crunchy crust with a light airy interior, loaded with delicious toppings, a unique flour blend, and a fast service style."

"Pizzas are the ultimate customizable food, and we want everyone to have it their way, any time. It's also a super creative and interactive activity, and everyone learns a lot. We hope that some customer creations may also go on our menu. Pizza was always about the people and not the chefs, and so "build your own" is just the last in the history of pizza power for the people. In my view, nothing beats a simple margarita.

This is the ultimate litmus test for any pizzeria or pizzeria. But it's not that easy. You need to know your dough and make it with love; you need time; you need the best San Marzano tomatoes and the best mozzarella; and, above all, you need to make it with love. Love is the answer, and we know that for sure," signed off Jasper on an exclusive note with us.



PCOS: Healthy diet & exercise for a better lifestyle

PCOS is a complex medical condition that can affect various areas of your health in subtle ways - including reproductive, metabolic and psychological health. Although there is no cure for PCOS, you can manage PCOS and prevent the risk of developing future complications with a combination of lifestyle modifications and medications, where required.

Every woman is different and so will be their PCOS journey, this makes it important to have a personalized treatment that suits your lifestyle, symptoms and concerns. Mugdha Joshi, Senior nutritionist and care manager at Veera Health, Online PCOS Clinic said, "One of the most effective approaches in managing PCOS is making lifestyle modifications. Lifestyle modifications include following a healthy, balanced diet, coupled with regular physical activity, stress management and getting good quality sleep. Although medications also do help in controlling the symptoms, they are alone not a sustainable option in the long run. You need to build healthy lifestyle habits that can help treat the underlying hormonal imbalance."

Exercise

Not just your diet, physical activity is as important to your PCOS journey. If you are a beginner to exercising, keep the intensity low and slowly allow your body to adapt to the new activity. Along with incorporating cardio exercises such as walking, running or cycling, it is also important to include strength training to make it a holistic routine. Start with 30 minutes of daily exercise and gradually increase intensity and frequency. Also keep yourself active throughout the day by taking the stairs, doing chores, walking to the market etc. Taking small steps, making small changes in terms of following a diet and exercise routine will help your body ease into a healthy lifestyle naturally.

Sleep

Sleep plays an important role in maintaining healthy blood sugar levels. In fact, decreased sleep is a risk factor for developing high blood sugar levels so it is important to get 7 to 8 hours of quality sleep every night. You can start with optimising your sleep schedule, create a pleasant bedroom environment and follow a nightly routine.

Diet

About 80% of PCOS treatment is about a diet that can help balance hormones, correct insulin resistance, and lower androgen levels. Eating the right diet can improve PCOS symptoms such as irregular periods, hirsutism, acne, and weight gain naturally. However, most women with PCOS believe that following a generic weight-loss diet is enough to manage PCOS. In fact, you don't have to starve yourself or try restrictive diets that cut out food groups. Many such diets can actually worsen food cravings, lower energy levels, and only cause temporary weight loss.

Stress

Although stress alone cannot cause insulin resistance — high levels of stress hormones such as cortisol and adrenaline actually make it harder for insulin to work properly. In times of stress, it is important to look after yourself kindly. Being physically active, getting good sleep, taking time out to rest and relax can help cope with stress. For some people on-going counselling for stress management and relaxation techniques such as meditation can also help. Making lifestyle changes can take time, but it forms an important part of your PCOS journey. Staying consistent and patient with your progress can help you achieve lifestyle reset that is not only good for your PCOS but also for your overall health!

'I'm excited to be a part of Orr Kadhal Kanaa with Adnan sir'

TEJAL SINHA

Be it *Akhiyaan na Akhiyaan* alongside the talented Asees Kaur or *Aaj Sajeya* starring the gorgeous Alaya F, singer and composer Goldie Sohel has made his own mark, and gained a great following in the independent music industry.

Hailing from a musical background, Goldie had never done or gotten any formal music training. His father was a singer, and his grandfather used to sing for All India Radio, so he was raised in a musical household. But ironically, Goldie never planned to become a musician, and music just happened to him. Over time, he has collaborated with some of the legendary musicians from the industry, including Vishal Daclani, Asees Kaur, Harshdeep Kaur, and Papon, to name a few, which he says was very raw and adds more colour to the music when he performs with them.

Without any further ado, we placed a call to the singer, who takes us through his debut in the Tamil music industry with *Orr Kadhal Kanaa*.

Recently, the makers of Aishwarya Rajesh starrer *Farhana* released the song *Orr Kadhal Kanaa* in the first week of October. The film's music is composed by Justin Prabhakaran, who made his Tamil debut with *Pannaiyaram Padminiyyam* and his Telugu debut with *Dear Comrade*.

This is not Goldie's first collaboration with Justin. They had previously collaborated for two tracks; *Tittar Bittar* and *Mann Kesar Kesar* in *Meenakshi Sundareswarar*, a 2021 film starring Abhimanyu Dassani and Sanya Malhotra.

The *Aaj Sajeya* singer says, "I met Justin Prabhakaran through Rajshrekhar, who is a brilliant lyricist. He introduced me to Justin, and I sang a Hindi song for him for *Meenakshi*

Sundareswarar. We had become good friends, and I told him that I wanted to sing in different languages also. Then he called and asked me, "Would you like to sing a Tamil song?" And I was like "yes," and then we met and recorded it. It was a very fun experience. An interesting thing to learn was the language, which is very different from how we do it in Hindi and Punjabi. In Tamil, it is a very different experience, I would say."

When asked about the difficulties of singing in a different language, he said, "It was a lot of work. The pronunciation of words was a bit difficult for me as it was my first time, but it was fun. There was a translator who made me understand, and even Justin made me feel comfortable and asked me to sing in my own way. Everything is the same, be it Hindi, Punjabi, or South Indian. We all make music in the same way. It's all about bringing out the music's soul. Though the language is different, the connection is the same, and the working style is the same. But yeah, it has different variations and different kinds of musical parts, but I felt it to be mostly the same way in the other industries. I personally felt very nice singing this."

Sharing the same platform or voice alongside the legendary singer and composer Adnan Sami was not something any newbie would expect for their debut. This was the same feeling that Goldie had, too.

"I had no idea that I would be singing along with Adnan sir," he said, adding, "When we went to dub, I was surprised and shocked at the same time to share the song with such a legend. I am glad that this happened. I am extremely grateful to the film and to Adnan sir for including me in the song."

Singing for films is a different thing, but Goldie is very pleased to see the independent music industry growing at such a pace.

"I am happy that this is happening and how it should be, and that people are putting their music on YouTube and Spotify, so now we have a variety of music. It's good, and everyone has their own sound, lyrical taste, composition, and musical style. I myself love making independent music, and I'm glad this is happening because even I'm doing it," he signed off.



In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, singer and composer Goldie Sohel, who made his Tamil music debut with *Orr Kadhal Kanaa* in the upcoming Aishwarya Rajesh film *Farhana*, discusses how the project came to him, the challenges of singing in a different language, working on the song with Adnan Sami, and much more.

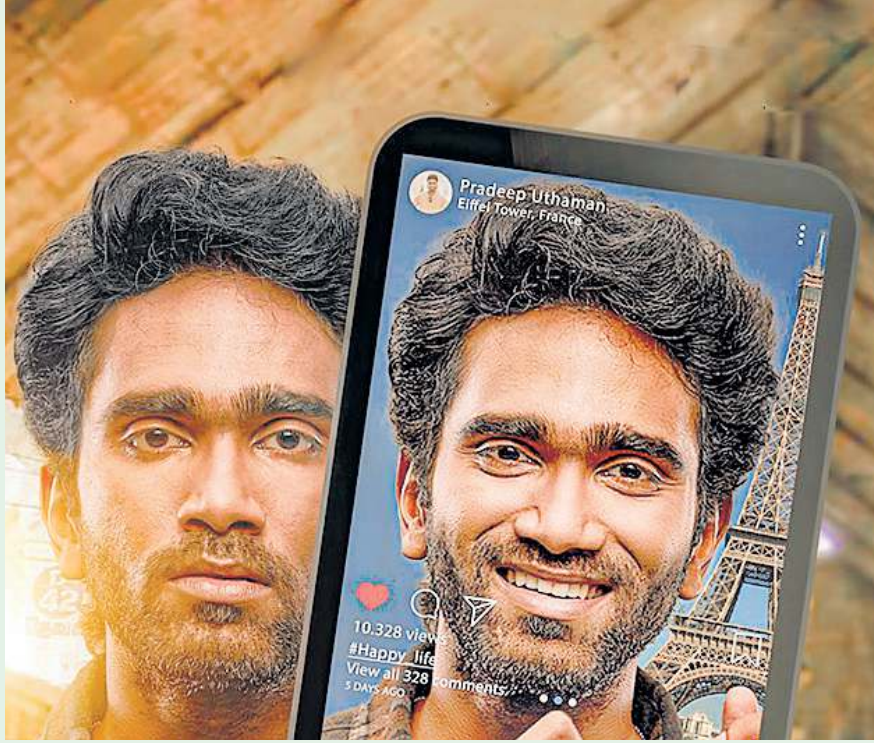
Love Today : Laugh, Think, Cry and above all Fun

PNS | HYDERABAD

Love as a concept is cherished by all of us, but what a relationship brings along with it, is what we dread. We have this overt propensity for trusting the person whom we really care for and love. In hindsight, the fear of being left out lurks around the corner. In a relationship, the one thing that takes time to build is trust; sadly, the same thing can be dismantled quickly. Exclusivity is one of the prime demands in the early stages of a relationship. The feeling of "I know everything about him/her is what makes a relationship special" or at least an illusion of it all compensates for one's insecurity and anxiousness.

"I know you inside out, baby", is the essence of *Love Today* written and directed by Pradeep Ranganathan. The film is an extended version of a short film titled *Appa Lock* directed by Pradeep Ranganathan himself in 2020. In the modern day, life without a mobile device is pointless for most of us. It is an understatement to say that we are not dependent on our phones. Be it work or leisure, we just need that little thing in our hands all the time. Our personality is stored within the locked folders of our smartphones. Starting from whom you're texting to what you view for pleasure or which app you use the most is all recorded in that smart peculiar device that we are so addicted to.

Love Today, starring Pradeep Ranganathan as Uthaman Pradeep and Ivana as Nikitha in the titular roles is a wonderful take on the modern dating space. IT employees Uthaman Pradeep and Nikitha are madly in love and as mentioned earlier, they both are under the impression that they know each other inside out. However, thirty minutes into the film, when Sathyaraj who plays Nikitha's poker faced father gets to know about the couple in a rather awkward yet hilarious manner, puts the cute couple to a test by asking them to



exchange their phones for a day. The reluctant couple eventually gives in to the pressure and exchanges their phones. What follows after that is sure to make you burst out so hard you'll be gasping for air. The rosy tale turns into a colossal mess in just a few hours once the pair unlock each other's phones. A person's tendency to brush off all feelings of distrust under the garb of genuine love is tactfully put out in the open. As the story unfolds, Uthaman Pradeep and Nikitha find out things that blow their minds. The film has all the things that a millennial can relate to. For instance, you've got Aajeedh Khalique as Revi, Nikitha's best friend who

constantly tries to woo her, but sees no results whatsoever. Remember it is not Revi, it is Revi. You must keep this in mind, okay? No matter what Revi does to win her heart, Nikitha conveniently and politely puts him in the friend zone. A theme that a zillion guys can reckon with. Pradeep Ranganath masterfully uses different techniques to keep the audience hooked to the seats. When the character finally decides to open Nikitha's Instagram app and reads out all the chats, you will see the guy going into a surreal world. Out of the earth's orbit to be precise. The split screen editing technique has been put to best use whenever there's an intense conversation between the couple. The constant

inclusion of the scene time and again where a little kid sows a seed in the soil and gets restless over time to see it not grow into a tree metaphorically plays out extremely well in the pre-climax.

Raadhika Sarathkumar as Pradeep's nagging mother is a delight to watch. Raveena Ravi (here it is Ravi, not Revi) as Pradeep's sister, who is all set to marry Dr. Yogi played by Yogi Babu serves as one of the driving factors of the movie. Comedian Yogi Babu as the would-be groom tickles the funny bone whenever he appears on the screen with his usual comedic quirks. There is no doubt that Yogi Babu is a great actor, but he transcends his limits as an actor towards the fag end of the movie in a dialogue where he reflects on his life.

As entertaining as the film is, it makes the viewer think about the concept of trust and companionship. The emotional scene where Uthaman Pradeep seeks refuge in his mother's lap stands out. In this scene, Raadhika Sarathkumar comes up with power lines like this one, "No matter how hard a guy tries, if the girl isn't into him, she will not even let him touch a strand of hair. If she really loves you, she won't think for a second to sacrifice her life for you." Filmy as it should rightly be, the line hits you hard.

The virtuoso that he is, Yuvan Shankar Raja does an outstanding job with the background score. Cinematographer Dinesh Purushothaman's work is seamless throughout the film and the production values look flawless.

Love Today is the perfect amalgamation of drama and comedy with out-of-the-box performances from the cast. Special shout-out to Pradeep Ranganathan for excelling as a director, writer, and actor. *Love Today* makes you laugh, think and cry. Is it for you? Well! If you enjoy having fun, it is! Also, are you willing to exchange phones with your partner? (haha)

Rating: 3.75/5



Jai Balayya from Veera Simha Reddy, a tribute to Balakrishna

Natasimha Nandamuri Balakrishna is back with his favourite genre, Action Emotion

Entertainer with *Veera Simha Reddy*. Going by the teaser and posters, the film has massy elements to give high to fans in theaters. As the film is scheduled to hit the screens for Pongal, 2023 the makers have begun the musical promotions with its first single *Jai Balayya*. Touted to be a mass anthem for fans, Thaman has composed the song.

The song which starts with lyrics, "*Raajasam Nee Inti Peru... Pourusham Nee Onti Theeru.*" elevates NBK's characterisation and lyricist Ramajogayya Sastry reflects his true persona in

the lines. Thaman makes sure the song ticks all boxes right from the lyrics, composition, vocals, and music to Balakrishna's swag and mass steps. Singer Karimullah added energy to the song with his vocals and Thaman's beats added more power to it. The dance moves of Balakrishna will make masses and fans go crazy.

Veera Simha Reddy is directed by Gopichand Malineni under Mythri Movie Makers. Shruti Haasan is playing the leading lady in this project and Duniya Vijay, and Varalaxmi Sarathkumar are the other prominent cast. The film's shoot is presently taking place in Hyderabad. It is set for a grand release worldwide for Sankranti, 2023.

Nenevaru to hit the theaters on Dec 2

Makers of the movie were quite happy with the response for the teaser, and are expecting double the response for the trailer.

Directed by Nirnay Palnati, the movie is bankrolled by Bhimineni Sivaprasad and Tanneru Rambabu combinedly under Kaushal Creations banner. Poonam Chand, Kumavath and Kiran Kumar Moturi co-produced this movie, which marks the last film of editor Kola Bhaskar. Baahubali Prabhakar is the antagonist in this movie, which also has Tanishq Rajan, Geet Shah, Raja Ravindra, Tagubothu Ramesh and others in significant



roles. RG Sarathie son of Radhagopi, is making his debut as the music director.

Films are breaking language barriers, said Kantara director Rishab Shetty

Kantara film director Rishab Shetty has said that films are now crossing the language barriers. "If the content connects with the audience, the movie will be accepted as an all-Indian movie," said Rishab Shetty, actor, director and producer in Kannada.

Kantara directed by Rishab Shetty is his latest critically acclaimed film. On Thursday, he was speaking during a Masterclass in the International Film Festival of India over the topic of 'Representing Cultural Diversity and Identifying New Markets.'

"Films today are crossing the language barrier. If the content connects with the audience the movie will be accepted as an All-Indian movie. I believed in the mantra that if a movie is more local and rooted, then it has a greater universal appeal," he said.

Shetty said *Kantara* at its core captures the ongoing conflict between humans and nature. "It's an amalgamation of nature, culture

and fiction. Our cultures and belief systems are rooted in every one of us. The movie was a result of the folklore I had heard and experiences of childhood in the 'Tulunadu' culture.

Hence, I wanted the background music of the movie to be naturally a beacon of the culture," he said. About the role of Shiva in *Kantara*, Shetty said he had a passion since childhood to play such a character.

"The idea of *Kantara* was conceived during the second Covid lockdown and I shot the entire movie in my hometown Kundapura, Dakshina Kannada District in Karnataka," he said.

Talking about his breath-taking performance in the climax of *Kantara*, he said the climax is the imperative as that is what stays with people. He added that the regional cinemas in the late 90s had influenced western movies. However, today they are incorporating local culture and diversity has given them the much-needed vibrancy and vividity which has been accepted by the audience.



Hollywood action touch for Sudheer Babu starrer Hunt



Nitro star Sudheer Babu is coming up with an action thriller *Hunt*. The film is directed by Mahesh and produced by V Anand Prasad under Bhavya Creations banner. This high voltage action thriller is in filming phase as of now and it has Sudheer babu playing the role of an upright action oriented cop. The film has now received a Hollywood touch.

Renaud Favero and Brian Wiziari who worked in several Hollywood action films including the Marvel franchise in the past, are now associated with *Hunt*. They are composing a few action blocks. The producer V Ananda Prasad said

"Renaud and Brian are two top action choreographers. They've worked on the upcoming John Wick 4 as well. Their action choreography will be one of the major highlights of our film. The shoot has been wrapped up and the post production is going on now. We shall announce the release date soon. The teaser and the *Papa Tho Phailam* songs have caught on quite well."

Sudheer Babu plays a powerful cop in the film which also features Srikanth and *Premisthe* Bharath in important roles. The film also stars Srikanth, Bharath, Mime Gopi, Chitra Shukla, Kabir Duhan Singh, Mounika Reddy, Goparaju Ramana, Sanjay Swaroop, and others.

Adivi Sesh said cinema can't be blamed for crime

Earlier this year, with *Major*, actor Adivi Sesh tasted box office success and won hearts for his realistic portrayal of Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan, the heroic martyr of the 26/11 Mumbai attack.

As the year comes to an end, the broody-eyed, suave-looking actor is eagerly awaiting the theatrical release of his forthcoming movie *Hit - The Second Case* - a spine-chilling thriller that will be released on December 2.

In a reverse *deja vu* of sorts, the movie is making news for some similarities it shares with the Shradha Walkar murder case that surfaced recently. *Hit 2* was in the making for almost a year now while the horrific crime in Delhi has come to light in November.

In *HIT 2*, Sesh essays a lazy, laidback cop on the trail of a criminal in the port city of Visakhapatnam.

"What is strange about *Hit 2*, however, is like the eternal question of which came first, the chicken or the egg? What happened here is, completely independent of the Delhi crime, we had come up with the story a year ago. And it has many of the same features. And even the name of a character is Shradha in our film," Sesh told IANS.

The *Hit* universe created by director Dr. Sailesh Kolanu is the backdrop for a series of seven movies that explore the murky realms of humanity, expressed in the form of heinous crimes.

Each movie revolves around a crime story set in a particular city. The first movie in the series, *Hit*, was a small film that went on to become a cult hit. Sesh came on board for the second movie and is also on for the third

movie when it is made. So what was it about the movie that got him interested in the role?

"I consider myself emotional by nature and by that I mean that women and men are both equal," Sesh said. "As an audience it really shook me up when I heard about the crime that took place against the woman in the film. When I was hearing the story I forgot that I was being pitched as an actor. I just so wanted retribution against the perpetrator of these crimes. So for it to be a very hopeful movie meant a lot."

For Sesh, the movie brought along its fair share of tough moments. It wasn't the action sequences, however, that had him gasping, Sesh confessed.

"As a vegetarian, it was tough to shoot in a fishing harbor for nine days for an action scene. It was not just the smell but we were rolling in it. I'm quite proud of the action scene. Sunil Rodrigues has choreographed it."

Sesh disagreed with the criticism in some quarters that blame cinema for the growing crime rates. Cinema as an institution cannot be blamed for fanning crime, he emphasized.

"The most infamous killer, at least the one I have heard of, is Jack the Ripper from 1888," Sesh said as he signs off, "He terrorised all the women of England at that time. There was no movie in those days. So ultimately, I think, if someone wants to do evil, they'll get inspiration from anywhere. I think to blame cinema is a mistake."

