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PAPER WITH PASSION

Unfair to her

Sex detection tests, though illegal, are rampant across India and lead to skewed gender ratio

The fight for girls' rights is secondary to fighting to first keep them alive. Many people in India still want sons, not daughters. They are willing to do anything to see that their women do not give birth to girls. The latest pattern shows they seem to prefer termination of pregnancy over female infanticide. The illegal use of sex determination tests to know the sex of the unborn child is rampant in India. It shows the utter failure of State Governments and the police force to strictly enforce the ban on such tests. The latest instance is from Odisha, where a racket was busted in Berhampur last week. The police raided a residence-cum-clinic where it said an inter-State sex selection racket was in operation for years. When the clinic was raided, 11 pregnant women were awaiting their turn. Over a dozen accused were arrested, including, shockingly, an ASHA worker. A sophisticated, portable ultrasound machine, banned since 2005, and paraphernalia were seized. It was a "referral" clinic recommended to pregnant women by medical practitioners. A day earlier, Dharmapuri police in Tamil Nadu rescued six pregnant women from an illegal clinic and seized an ultrasound machine. A week ago, the Kurukshetra police in Haryana exposed an illegal clinic. In April, too, a decoy team of Haryana and Delhi officials raided a Delhi nursing home involved in this racket. Another illegal clinic was closed down in Ludhiana this March. The Rajkot police in Gujarat arrested the kingpins of a similar racket in a nursing home.



Such sex determination operations are happening in every State of the country. The affluent have other alternatives like going abroad where the tests are legal. Some years ago, it came to light that sex detection kits were being smuggled into the country from abroad. Costing close to ₹20,000, the kits were easier to transport and deliver and were less messy. Non-invasive Prenatal Test (NIPT) is another technology that has come to India. It is highly accurate and can determine the sex of the foetus quite early in the pregnancy. The test is officially allowed to detect genetic disorders in the embryo. However, its misuse is also reported. Last August, a raid on a private laboratory in Gurugram revealed the use of this test. It is quite clear that the primary reason for the skewed gender ratio in many States is people resorting to female foeticide or abortion after knowing the baby's gender. It is officially acknowledged that millions of girls are statistically missing in India, and millions more are abandoned as "unwanted". The Government must take the initiative to stop the racket. The Medical Council of India can de-register medical practitioners involved in conducting the tests. Campaigns and counselling at the community level can save the girl child. Pregnant women need the support of the State to be able to say 'no' when forced to undergo the test.

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PICTALK



Liverpool fans climb atop traffic lights as they wait ahead of the trophy parade in Liverpool, England

New season

For the sake of Delhi's development, let's hope the new L-G and the CM work together

In a surprise move a few days back, the Centre decided to replace Anil Bajjal with Vinai Kumar Saxena, a seasoned bureaucrat working with Khadi Gramodyog, as the Lt Governor of Delhi. Bajjal had resigned recently citing personal reasons. The tenure of the outgoing L-G was marked by several controversies and a strained relationship with the Delhi Chief Minister. The AAP Government maintained that the L-G was stalling its work and creating obstacles. It even accused him of working against the interests of Delhi's citizens. The Delhi L-G is a Central Government appointee and reports to it. Matters had come to such a pass that the Delhi CM sat on dharna outside L-G's office. The issue reached the Supreme Court, which put its weight behind the L-G, saying the Delhi Government meant the L-G and not the elected Government. The constitutional amendment in 2019 dealt the final blow to the Chief Minister as it mandated the Delhi Government to work under the L-G. The new L-G has, however, struck all the positive notes after assuming office. He met the Delhi Chief Minister warmly and assured him of working together for the city's development. Besides, he also said that he would be seen more on roads than in Raj Bhawan.



The Chief Minister has also shown a positive attitude towards the new L-G. Having said that, it will be interesting to note how they work together. After all, the L-G is a representative of the Central Government. Delhi, as well as general elections, are just two years ago and the BJP would not like to give any brownie points to AAP. Moreover, Delhi's Government's powers are limited and the files keep pending with the L-G for consent. For instance, the Government's plan to deliver ration at the doorstep has been stalled as the L-G and CM were at loggerheads. There have been numerous instances in which the L-G has deferred the decision at the Centre's instance. At the end of the day, however, it's all about the people of Delhi. They can do little about the Centre and the State Government working at cross-purposes. Let's hope the new L-G can walk the talk and resist any anti-people moves by the very people who appointed him for the sake of development in Delhi.

Kashmiri Pandits are simple people



HASAN KHURSHID

Since Greek times, when people extended extreme hospitality to guests and strangers, the tide has reversed and xenophobia is being stoked

Pandit Kailash Nath Kaul 'Mekash Kashmiri', was a great Urdu poet of Jammu. Aggrieved by the strained Indo-Pak relations, he once wrote in his anthology: "Kyun jang ke saaman idher bhi hein udher bhi; sehme hue insaan idher bhi hein udher bhi. (Why is the battle preparedness this side and the other side; people on both sides are terrified)." The poet was right while revealing the plight of gullible citizens on both sides of the border who are least bothered by political machinations.

In addition to lurking external aggression, the internal situation is marred with communal tensions. Mostly, we hide our misdeeds blaming British rulers for their "divide and rule" policy, but the magic vend of Angrez jadugar cannot retain its ugly impact forever. We need to honestly introspect for finding the causal factors behind hate-mongering, polarisation and communal divide strategically designed by political masters, misusing religions and promoting xenophobia.

Xenophobia is an extreme, intense fear and dislike of customs, cultures and people considered strange, unusual or unknown. The term xenophobia comes from Greek, where 'phobos' means fear and 'xenos' means stranger, foreigner or outsider. It also means guest or wanderer. As a matter of fact, there was a practice among ancient Greeks for extending extreme hospitality to strangers and guests. They used to consider unexpected guest a god or goddess, walking among people in disguise. This culture of hospitality towards strangers was an essential feature of that time and the violation carried serious repercussions, which can be found in the *Illiad*, *Odyssey* and other Greek literature.

However, with the turning of time, the tide got reversed and people globally started behaving adversely towards the strangers and guests to the extent of developing phobia towards them. Phobia, an anxiety disorder, triggers rage and anger when you



encounter a thing, individual or group, you are afraid of. There are mainly three main categories of xenophobia: stranger/immigrant, cultural, and religious. A person suffering from xenophobia will reject interaction with anyone they hate. They will avoid business and social contacts with them, describe their living areas as dangerous, make derogatory remarks against them and, if they have been indoctrinated by communal politicians, they will easily get ready to assault or kill the hated individual on one pretext or the other. These days, religion is the most (il)logical pretext to spew venom and exhibit naked xenophobia.

These days, our country is in the grip of ideologically sponsored communal divide by attacking and lynching members of minority community on the pretext of *azan*, loudspeakers, *namaz*, etc. Wahabi clowns are shamelessly displaying their skills of killing Shia Muslims in Pakistani amphitheatres. The same lobby following Wahabi ideology has indulged in aimlessly killing Kashmiri Pandits (KPs), who are very simple and harmless people. If Kashmiri

THESE DAYS, RELIGION IS THE MOST (IL)LOGICAL PRETEXT TO SPEW VENOM AND EXHIBIT NAKED XENOPHOBIA. OUR COUNTRY IS IN THE GRIP OF IDEOLOGICALLY SPONSORED COMMUNAL DIVIDE BY ATTACKING AND LYNCHING MEMBERS OF MINORITY COMMUNITY

Muslims feel that they are targeted, falsely arrested or killed by police and paramilitary forces, it's the matter between them and the Government. How come KPs are at fault and why are they being targeted?

Those indulging in terror acts in the name of false jihad are as a matter-of-fact Wahabis, who have camouflaged themselves under the cover of Islam, which is the fact known by very few people, including Muslims. Wahabism is the distorted version of Islam. Its founder was Sheikh Najdi ibn Abdul Wahab who in association of Ibn Saud, a Bedouin tribal chief having Zionist ancestry, founded this new cult in 1744 AD. They are currently the rulers of Saudi Arabia.

The *Quran* says: "Prophet Mohammad was sent to the world as a mercy to mankind" (21:107). Allah abhors any disturbance of peace (2:205). The murder of one innocent person is akin to the murder of the whole humanity." Whereas Sheikh Najdi ibn Abdul Wahab, the founder of Wahabi cult, in his book *Kitab al Twahid*, prescribes forceful conversion of Muslims and others to his Wahabi ideology

wherein he manifests: "Follow my ideology, else get ready to be killed."

In 1766, Ibn Saud was killed and his son Abd al Aziz took over as Emir (temporal leader). He accelerated his attacks in a spectacular bid to extend his territory. Since then, it has been the schismatic, fraudulent practice of Wahabi terror operators to misguide and exploit the Muslim youth for recruitment with the promise of Paradise. Hence, attacks on KPs are un-Islamic.

Muslims of Kashmir and outside must raise their voice for the protection of KPs. Similarly, Hindus engaged in violence and lynching of Muslims must know that in *Ramayana Ratnas-80*, *Yuddhakanda* 116.44/45/46, it is conveyed, "The wise never injures even those that harm him. On the other hand, they go to their aid in case of trouble and help them out. Virtuous conduct is the ornament of a meritorious person. (Sita's advice to Hanuman not to kill or cause harm to female demons that tormented her at the Ashok Vatika.)"

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

STOP VIOLATING THE ATMOSPHERE

Sir — Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay's recent comments "If Ram Rajya comes, we will completely ban Urdu, madrasas ... and all Shivlingams found would be ours" reek of ignorance and false arrogance. Out of ignorance, he is saying that he will ban Urdu when Ram Rajya comes to Telangana. But he doesn't know that Urdu is in the 8th schedule of the Indian Constitution and he wrongly thinks that Urdu is the mother tongue of all Muslims. There was a time when leaders would talk about employment, development or science but now I am ashamed that we are choosing leaders who hate a particular religion because they only contribute 15 per cent of the votes.

Such leaders talk about destruction of a particular religion instead of the nation's development. The people of Telangana vote for development and the State is a good example of secular India where all citizens live in peace and harmony. Bandi Sanjay must not try to ruin this fabric of harmony. By winning one or two byelections, perhaps the BJP is dreaming about forming the Government in Telangana, but there is no swing in favour of the BJP in Telangana.

Zeeshaan | Kazipet

STOP PAMPERING THE BUREAUCRATS

Sir — In a country engulfed by inequality, where the VIP enjoys a privileged position from a toll tax to the airport, it is easy to feel for the common man. The recent episode in which Delhi Government-run Thyagaraj Stadium was found closing its ground to athletes at 7 pm, apparently to allow Principal Secretary (Revenue) to walk his dog on the track, must come as a rude shock to all, especially to sport lovers. The athletes were forced to practice in the scorching heat during the day because the premises were closed early.

What is most distressing is that even after 70 years of Independence, our bureaucracy has retained its colonial character and public servants remain aloof

Chief Minister as the Chancellor



The West Bengal Cabinet has taken a decision to make the Chief Minister the Chancellor of the universities as against the existing system of the Governor holding the post. This is an attempt to strip the Governor of his powers in running the universities. It is an unprecedented move and sets a bad example for other States. In the present system, the Governor can act independently in the appointment of Vice-Chancellors. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who expects the Governors to be the puppets in the hands of Chief Ministers, has locked horns

with Governor Jagdeep Thakur but she is finding the going tough.

This move paves way for direct political interference in the administration of universities and the intention of the Cabinet meeting decision is to achieve that only. The power of governance has been vested into the hands of Chief Ministers but the Governor is the constitutional head of a State. The Governor is a mid-pole between the State and Centre. Unsurprisingly, the BJP and the Left have closed ranks to oppose Mamata's attempt to usurp power from the Governor. By divesting the Governor of his position as Chancellor, the age-old custom is being given a go-by. This smacks of Mamata's addiction to an autocratic rule. All political parties must close their ranks and fight tooth and nail against her rapacious desire of usurping the power of university administration.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

from common people. The episode lays bare the sense of unbridled power and entitlement that many politicians and bureaucrats gain merely on the basis of winning elections or passing an exam once but not due to consistent outstanding performance. Politicians, bureaucrats and business tycoons must be kept out of sports governance, and much more needs to be done so that only competent and deserving persons acquire strategic and pivotal positions in sports administration. It's time to get serious.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

CONGRESS TO TAKE GOVT TO TASK

Sir — As the Central Government completes eight years in office, an aggressive Opposition led by the Congress will release a 'report card' on its performance. The communications department of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) has prepared a report card highlighting the failures and performance of the Central Government on various fronts including

economy, foreign policy, communal harmony and inflation. The unemployment rate is very high and has broken a 45-year record while inflation is rising especially in essential commodities, petrol-diesel prices are at a historic high while the rupee against the dollar is at a historic low; the foreign reserve is also dipping.

On national security, China's aggression at the Line of Actual Control is a major concern on which the Government's performance is lacking and it hasn't taken on China in the manner it should be dealt with. There are also concerns about communal harmony and polarisation in the country as several areas in various States have seen unrest on this front in the last few months. The Congress is also going to highlight the failures of the Central Government over the last few years in the coming days to the people of India.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

SOUND BITE

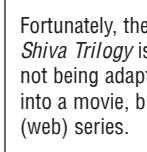
Despite the (PM's) rhetoric, industries are closing down, the GDP is crashing.



Telangana CM — K Chandrashekar Rao



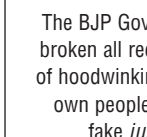
Catholic Church head — Pope Francis



Author — Amish Tripathi



Former Australia coach — Justin Langer



Congress chief spokesperson — Randeep Surjewala

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FIRST COLUMN

HYPERTENSION IS A SILENT KILLER

Early prevention can reduce cardiovascular mortality



VIKAS MAHATME

Time to prevent hypertension as silent killer from engulfing the nation. With at least 1.13 billion adults suffering from hypertension in the world, May 17 is observed as World Hypertension Day. We need to check the right boxes to generate awareness about the issue while initiating medical efforts to tackle it as well.

Today when we talk about having a healthy lifestyle especially after Covid, it still looks a distant reality especially when one is suffering from high blood pressure resulting in hypertension. It is not without any reason that hypertension is called the silent killer. It is related to heart disease, development of ischemic heart, and chronic kidney and other killer diseases.

In India, over the last decade, cardiovascular diseases have emerged as the top killer in India and an underlying cause for this exponential rise is hypertension. The latest NFHS 5 India data reveal that non-communicable diseases account for 65 per cent of all deaths in India and the major metabolic risk factors include raised blood pressure among others.

Although easily treated and controlled if detected and treated early, high blood pressure is now a full-fledged health crisis with twenty-one percent of women and 24 percent of men age 15 and suffering from hypertension according to the latest NFHS 5 data. Thirty-nine percent of women and 49 percent of men age 15 and over are pre-hypertensive.



Early diagnosis is the crucial step for proper management, and is associated with substantial reductions in cardiovascular mortality. Primary health care centres in India should be responsible in providing basic health measures including regular and continuous supply of medicines so that the poorest of the poor are not deprived of regular medication. Besides screening, the healthcare workers should also be trained to provide lifestyle advice, to initiate low doses of safe medications and to reinforce adherence. The NFHS 5 findings also revealed that when it comes to treatment, only seven per cent women and six per cent men who have been diagnosed with high blood pressure are on medication - an issue that is of critical concern.

In a recent update by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare 'a population-based initiative for prevention, control and screening for common NCDs, i.e., diabetes, hypertension and common cancers has been rolled out in the country under National Health Mission (NHM) and also as a part of Comprehensive Primary Health Care. Under the initiative, persons more than 30 years of age are targeted for their screening for common NCDs. Screening of these common NCDs is an integral part of service delivery under Ayushman Bharat - Health and Wellness Centres. The preventive aspect of cardiovascular diseases is strengthened under the Comprehensive Primary Health Care through Ayushman Bharat Health Wellness Centre scheme, by promotion of wellness activities and targeted communication at the community level will help in early detection and diagnosis of hypertension.

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle is another important aspect for controlling of high BP. Avoid smoking, limit or eliminate alcohol consumption and increase intake of fresh fruits and vegetables in your diet regularly. One should also reduce salt intake and try and follow WHO recommendation of less than 5g per day. This will significantly reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases and coronary heart attack.

Other useful measures are promotion of physical activity by local environmental changes at home, workplace and schools. User-friendly food labels which are easy to interpret for consumers in determining unhealthy food products high in salt, sugar and fats will also help in reducing controlling of blood pressure in the long run.

(The writer is a Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

Seeing in candlelight or LED lamp glow?

Cultivate respect for local culture and customs, do not dump in our baggage from elsewhere, minimise any disruption we may bring



BALAKRISHNAN SATYAM

Change is not easy to come to terms with. While it is taking place all the time, there's a juxtaposition of the old and the new. Our eyes can either see a continuity and harmony, or we see a struggle.

If T.A. Edison were to visit my home, he'd notice the electric bulbs immediately. Right now, nearly all of them are LED. A few years ago, they were a mix of CFL and LED bulbs. Before that, some were GLS and some CFL. When all were GLS (it simply stood for general light source) bulbs with a few fluorescent tubes, no one quite expected much innovation in domestic lighting.

Now if Edison were to look for something remotely resembling a gramophone in my home, he would find no similarity with how music is stored and replayed today. Sometimes we look upon heirloom objects with understanding and admiration in a Science Museum. Some exhibitions are termed as 'retrospectives'.

Today, in the IT industry, 'retrospection' is a formally scheduled exercise. People gather to look at past events and concluded projects together to go over subjective and objective data and to share experiences. They expect benefits from doing it such as improved team collaboration, better productivity, preventing repetition of mistakes, anticipating future problems, and improved work processes.

There is a proper way to regard the past - merely raking it up in a rough way brings little good. It's also only vain to crudely compare the past with the present, and to say that one or the other is superior by far. About forty years ago, the bicycle and the radio were regarded as outmoded, and virtually as relics. Neither has disappeared. They have a redefined role and command a useful place, and offer a different set of experiences than they did before.

When a person from a different culture, particularly from Europe, looks at communities on other continents they don't see them instinctively as backward or primitive like in the days of their great-grandparents. This healthy trend began Down Under with the Maori traditions and then the Abo ceremonies being respected, and with legislation passed to protect and cherish indigenous culture and languages.

In many countries, with the onset of the tech toy craze and the information explosion from so-called "popular magazines", there was a devaluation of traditional forms of recreation, fitness regimens, beauty treatments, and handicraft jewellery. Regional folklore and linguistics have often got swamped under by the deluge of the wide mainstream channels.

When we really look at it, today's LCD/LED television has its forerunner in the old picture tube that you could see



WHEREVER EXTENSIVE AND DELIBERATE FRACTURING HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THE PAST, THE PROCESS OF MAKING AMENDS NEEDS HONEST ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND A COMMITMENT TOWARDS THE FUTURE. WHEN IT COMES TO AN ILLUMINED ATTITUDE, WHY SHOULD YOU BE IN THE GLS ERA RATHER THAN LED?

(The writer is a creative director, advertising faculty, and an amateur epistemologist. The views expressed are personal.)



today as 'primitive' though it was a tremendous leap in knowledge and capability when TV was introduced. So when we come across what might seem simplistic or naive practices in our communities, we must realize that they are all stages. The new cannot dismiss the old. The old cannot cast an iron mold on the emergent new.

Very typically, we expect to see a 65+ person talking about the good old days, about ancient lore, historical bonds, and about movies of the 1930s their grandparents had mentioned! We are equally unsurprised when a millennial is wholly unaware that the Earth had been orbiting the Sun even prior to the release of the PlayStation console or The Need For Speed game. A 'generation gap' might seem apparent. Now it's commonly seen that just as there is a craze about the 'latest', there is a big business in 'antiques'. What is seen less is a practical perspective. To see a continuity and a succession of developments over months and years. To form an idea of how our earlier generations have lived and how our own lives have come to be.

It's true that there is such a thing as progress. We speak of 'golden ages' when largely peace prevailed. The arts flourished, new discoveries were made, and the general populace improved

their lifestyle. These are decades and successive centuries with which are associated a bonanza of great buildings, musical compositions, garden areas, reservoirs, stage presentations, and poetry events.

When ancient learning from Asia could flow into European societies, their dogmas could get shed and an era of revival of knowledge and arts came about. Their ships then accessed the material and cultural resources on faraway lands on other continents. Thus, many communities across the globe have experienced the coming into contact with other ethnicities - some through barter and hospitality, and many through shock of violence and subjugation. Unsurprisingly, then, that conflicts always seem a greater likelihood than collaboration.

In a somewhat later era, scientific breakthroughs in medicine, transportation, and communication have travelled eastward this time, and electrified and awakened relatively dormant civilisations. And thus, the baton travels, the torch is propelled ahead. We see that everyone does indeed have their place under the sun, and there are no lasting monopolies. The value of enormous oil reserves can get assessed very differently in a mere 150 years. Distance education over the web is going to level out the

quality gap in syllabus and teaching between regions. Zoonotic viruses from afar can arrive at your doorstep, just as remote opportunities become encashable for you.

In the midst of all the globalisation, what is the role of 'local'? What could that term mean anymore? Through very long periods of association, a language and its dialects, a bunch of sub-ethnicities and a larger society come to be identified with a given geography. Somehow, it feels natural that a deeper affinity is readily available amongst its members than is immediately possible with persons outside the 'locality'. This is not in conflict with globality. Rather, we only expand the scope of how we relate to each other - as neighbours, as our tribe, as native speakers in our language group, as fellow pilgrims, as river sharers, and so on. Vasudaiva kutumbakam, as is loftily inscribed on our Parliament building's entrance - of the world as a family - is an extension of this natural tendency in us.

The lesson we can glean from examples worldwide - from New Zealand to the Caribbean, from Polynesia to Alaska - is to cultivate respect for local culture and customs, to not dump in our baggage from elsewhere, and to minimise any disruption we may bring. This new attitude is writing fresh chapters in community relations.

It goes without saying that wherever extensive and deliberate fracturing had taken place in the past, the process of making amends needs honest acknowledgement and a commitment towards the future. When it comes to an illumined attitude, why should you be in the GLS era rather than LED?

When it is clearly possible for many modern companies to practise retrospection sessions to achieve their goals, it's a matter of time before the larger society learns to incorporate similar methods towards promoting harmony between communities and class interests. Typically, the approach assesses what they would like to stop, what they want to continue with, and what they wish to start. Except for the most adamant, many people find it possible to agree that some things can be stopped or minimised. The key thing is to orient individuals to initiate reforms rather than resist them. Welcome the change!

POINT COUNTER POINT

WOW! STADIUM IS EMPTIED, ATHLETES TOLD TO LEAVE SO THAT DELHI GOVT'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY (REVENUE) CAN WALK HIS DOG!
—NOTED ACTIVIST-LAWYER PRASHANT BHUSHAN



SPORTSPERSONS ARE FACING PROBLEMS ...STADIUMS GETTING CLOSED BY 6 OR 7 PM. ALL SPORTS FACILITIES WILL REMAIN OPEN TILL 10 PM.
—DELHI CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL

Exemplars of a positive work ethic

People who possess a strong work ethic produce high-quality work consistently and that motivates them to stay on track

Work ethic is a set of moral principles we use in our jobs. It has been measured as a multidimensional variable composed of seven factors, including self-reliance, ethical behaviour, valuing leisure time, hard work, giving centrality to work, productive use of time, and delay of gratification." — Miller, M.J., Woehr, D.J., & Hudspeth, N. (2002).

The meaning and measurement of work ethic: Let me illustrate these seven factors with examples I have come to see or hear.

The first example that comes to mind is Sir M Visvesvarayawho personified a wonderful work ethic in engineering and public administration. A stickler for time and perfection, he would



SUDHEESH VENKATESH

(The writer is Chief Communications Officer, Azim Premji Foundation. The views expressed are personal.)

rebuke his engineers for drawings, and notes that did not meet his standards. In the early 1900s, as the Dewan of Mysuru, he was on an official visit to Nanjangud where he was scheduled to attend a function at the local municipality. He arrived at 9 a.m. sharp, much to the chagrin of the organisers. By the time the officers gathered their wits around and got the function going, it was 9.30 am. After admonishing the officers, Sir MV promptly left at 10 am, midway through the function, so that he could keep his next engagement!

Another beacon of professionalism is Prof. Duncan Haldane, the Eugene Higgins professor of Physics at Princeton University, winner of the 2016 Nobel Prize. The



award announcement was made at around 5 am EST. Haldane, who was teaching first-year undergraduate students 'Electromagnetism: Principles and Problem Solving' those days, turned up for his class four hours later, sporting a light smile.

Applause and cheers erupted. "Thank you," he said, lowering his head in slight bows as the clapping continued. A student asked, "Do you need to teach on this big day? Would you rather not celebrate, Prof. Haldane?" After a pause, Haldane replied, "Well, what can I say," eliciting a round of laughter from the students. "I guess we'll have to double down and learn some electromagnetism and see where it goes."

The next example goes to show that even the greatest personal tragedies cannot deter the committed from putting work first. Sahitya Akademi Award winner Devudu Narasimha Sastri was an eminent Kannada and Sanskrit scholar who wrote and spoke extensively on the philosophy of the Bhagavad

Gita. In the 1950s, he was due to speak Chapter 2 of the holy book at an event in Udupi. While he was speaking, someone handed him a telegram that contained the death news of his eldest son. Without a pause, he finished his speech. It was only after he got down from the stage that his wife and friends who were in the audience received the tragic news. Sastri is reported to have said Chapter 2 is about being stoic and detached and how could my practice differ from precept".

Anil Kumble, too, showed stoicism when he bowled 14 overs with a broken jaw in the Antigua Test of 2002. He even claimed Brian Lara's wicket. On his way home to Bengaluru the next day for his surgery, he said, "At least I can

go home with the thought I tried my best. I did not want to sit around."

Every example of a positive work ethic, however, doesn't make headlines. There are some that we grow up watching and admire deeply. MN Krishnaswamy, the headmaster of my school in Mysuru, personified all the seven factors that I started the piece with. Always on time, never to miss a class, the first to be in school and the last to leave, his exemplary work yielded phenomenal results for my alma mater.

A positive work ethic should not to be confused with being a workaholic. During my years with the British retailer Tesco, I found their executives valued their vacations and leisure, and this

made them better at work.

There are also people who feign a positive work ethic, often staying late in the office to impress bosses. There is, however, a story about a foreign head of state getting annoyed during a factory visit in Japan because none of the workers lifted their heads to acknowledge his presence. When he asked them about it, one of them replied, "I am paid to do my work."

People who possess a strong work ethic produce high-quality work consistently. This motivates them to stay on track creating a virtuous loop that leads to self-respect, satisfaction, and fulfillment. Like a wise, much-respected director at Asian Paints once told me, "Work is its own reward!"

MONEY MATTERS

7 of top-10 firms add Rs 1.16 lakh cr in m-cap; HDFC Bank lead gainer

The combined market valuation of seven of the 10 most valued firms jumped by Rs 1,16,048.1 crore last week, with HDFC Bank emerging as the biggest gainer...



BGauss Auto to invest Rs 40 cr to double electric two-wheeler mfg

Electric two-wheeler maker BGauss Auto Pvt Ltd plans to invest around Rs 40 crore to double production capacity to 2 lakh units annually by next year...



Bank of Maharashtra tops PSU lenders chart in loan growth in FY22

State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the top performer among public sector lenders in terms of loan and deposit growth in percentage terms during 2021-22...



US surpasses China as India's biggest trading partner in FY22

PNS NEW DELHI

The US surpassed China to become India's top trading partner in 2021-22, reflecting strengthening economic ties between the two countries.



Exports to the US increased to USD 76.11 billion in 2021-22 from USD 51.62 billion in previous fiscal year, while imports rose to USD 43.31 billion as compared to about USD 29 billion in 2020-21.

During 2021-22, India's two-way commerce with China aggregated at USD 115.42 billion as compared to USD 86.4 billion in 2020-21, the data showed.

supplies and are diversifying business into other countries like India. In the coming years, the bilateral trade between India and the US will continue to grow.

Transport Corp posts 38pc rise in PAT to Rs 73 cr for Jan-Mar

PNS MUMBAI

Integrated supply chain and logistics solutions provider Transport Corporation of India (TCI) on Saturday reported a 38 per cent year-on-year growth in standalone profit after tax (PAT) to Rs 73.10 crore for the March quarter.

Macro data, global cues to dictate market trend this week: Analysts

PNS NEW DELHI

Trading activity in the equity markets will be guided by a host of macroeconomic data announcements scheduled during the week, apart from global trends amid ongoing concerns over high inflation, analysts said.



Foreign institutional investors (FIIs), a key driver for the Indian markets, would also be tracked for cues, they added.

"Market will remain busy with macro numbers this week where GDP, auto sales and PMI numbers will be factors on the domestic front, whereas PMI numbers of various countries and unemployment data of the US will be important global macro numbers."

FIIs are still in selling mode where it will be interesting to see whether they start some buying in the Indian market amid improved sentiments, said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

ning of the new month also and participants will be closely eyeing important high-frequency data like auto sales, manufacturing and services PMI data. Before that, GDP data, which is scheduled on May 31, will be in focus.

Reliance spends Rs 1,185 cr on corporate social responsibility in FY22

PNS NEW DELHI

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd spent a record Rs 1,184.93 crore in fiscal year ended March 31 on corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives that spanned oxygen delivery during second wave of the pandemic, education and healthcare, according to the company's latest annual CSR Report.



"During FY 2021-22, Reliance contributed Rs 1,184.93 crore towards supporting a number of need-based, impactful CSR initiatives," it said. The initiatives were spearheaded by Reliance Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the company led by Nita M. Ambani.

JK Tyre lines up Rs 1,100 cr capex for two years

PNS NEW DELHI

JK Tyre and Industries has planned a capital expenditure of Rs 1,100 crore till next financial year, company's CFO Sanjeev Aggarwal said. The tyre maker plans to invest in capacity expansion as well as regular maintenance of the existing infrastructure.

Sell-off by FPIs continues; pull out Rs 39,000 cr from equities in May so far

PNS NEW DELHI

Continuing their selling spree, foreign investors have dumped Indian equities worth over Rs 39,000 crore this month so far amid rising bond yields in the US, an appreciating dollar and prospects of more aggressive rate hikes by the Federal Reserve.



With this, the net outflow by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) from equities has reached Rs 1.66 lakh crore so far in 2022. Going ahead, FPI inflow into India is likely to remain volatile, given the headwinds in terms of elevated crude prices, inflation and tight monetary policy, according to Shrikant Chouhan, Head - Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities.

Recently, there are signs of selling exhaustion by FPIs, and domestic institutional investors (DIIs) and retail buying are emerging as a strong counter to FPI selling.

DCM Shriram focusing on developing, manufacturing versatile drones: Joint President

PNS NEW DELHI

DCM Shriram Industries is focusing on developing and manufacturing versatile drones that will be used not just in the defence sector but across the board, its Joint President Rudra Shriram has said. The company is engaged in the businesses of sugar, chemicals and industrial fibre and has a turnover of around Rs 8,000 crore.

WardWizard lines up Rs 650 cr investment to set up Li-ion plant

PNS NEW DELHI

Electric two-wheeler maker WardWizard Innovations and Mobility is lining up close to Rs 650 crore investment for the manufacturing of Li-ion advance cells and related infrastructure, according to a top company executive.

The company has already tied up with Singapore-based renewable energy management consulting firm Sunkonnect to do a feasibility study and identification of the potential partner for production processes. In an interaction with PTI, WardWizard Innovations and Mobility Managing Director Yatin Gupte said the company plans to invest around Rs 600-650 crore to come up with the required infrastructure over the next 18 months.

Axis Bank grows organically, tie-ups start delivering benefits

PNS NEW DELHI

Axis Bank has started to reap the benefits of its strategy to grow organically alongside strong partnerships to fuel growth in the credit cards business, raking in the highest ever acquisition in the March quarter, a top official said.

lose sight of delivering quality services, Sanjeev Moghe, President & Head - Cards & Payments, at Axis Bank, said. The fourth-largest private sector bank clocked the highest ever quarterly growth with over 1.1 million credit card acquisitions in the March quarter of 2021-22.

"We split our business into two segments, one is organic which is based on our own sourcing and another vertical is all kinds of partnerships that we have. Both of these opportunities are growing, we did 1.1 million credit cards in Q4FY22. We believe we can hit this momentum of a million cards now in every quarter. What I am saying is that for the next couple of quarters, I will see a run rate of this number." "Then onwards we expect our momentum to grow further as long as the economy stays stable. We have our learnings from Covid what not to do. Post-Covid, we launched new kinds of sourcing capabilities including digital which has made our acquisition more efficient," Moghe told PTI in an interview.

card users has gone up and the bank's partnership businesses are delivering results. "Frankly, some partnerships are still in the growth stage. Google partnership will acquire more momentum. So all of this, plus our organic business will take our momentum further. Our capabilities are now much better than a few years back, the level we have reached basis the fact that our partnerships are now on a better footing and many of the partnerships still have to acquire momentum," the official added.

Drone Destination to establish 150 drone pilot training schools by 2025

PNS NEW DELHI

Delhi-based company 'Drone Destination' plans to establish at least 150 drone pilot training schools across the country by 2025, its CEO Chirag Sharma has said. "We intend to partner with universities, agricultural institutes and police academies to serve the distinct needs of the ecosystem and enable employment and entrepreneurship opportunities to over 1 lakh individuals required by our industry by 2025," Sharma said in an interview to PTI.

the Ministry of Civil Aviation at Gurugram, Bengaluru, Gwalior and Dharamshala; one in association with Sanskardham Global Mission Institute; and the most recent launch at Punjab's first Drone Training School in Chandigarh University," Sharma noted.

The company is adding two more schools to its network in association with Hindusthan College of Engineering in Coimbatore and with Vaigai College of Engineering in Madurai, he said. While inaugurating the two-day-long Drone Festival of India on Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said it is his dream that everyone in India has a smartphone, every farm has a drone and every house prospers.

"Promotion of drone technology is another medium of advancing our commitment to good governance and ease of living. In the form of drones, we have a smart tool that is going to be part and parcel of people's lives," Modi had said.



Projects worth over Rs 19,100 crore of JICA planned in NE

PNS GUWAHATI

Various projects involving over Rs 19,100 crore of assistance by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are being implemented in the North-East region of India, a top official said on Sunday. Besides its assistance in strengthening infrastructure, the agency is looking at social development projects with a focus on medical infrastructure and enhancing livelihoods, JICA Chief Representative in India Mitsunori Saito said.



bridges, which take longer (time) to complete," Saito told PTI on the sidelines of a conclave here. He said the JICA is looking for providing financial assistance in social development projects in the region. It signed an agreement with the Centre in March this year to provide Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan amounting to approximately Rs 2,942 crore for the Assam Health System

Strengthening project. "We will invest in hospital extension and procuring of sophisticated medical equipment in Assam. We will offer similar support to such projects in other states also, if it comes through," the JICA official said, adding that the agency is also focused on natural resource management in the North-East region. "We are not only looking at forestation but also upgrading the livelihoods of people who are dependent on forests," he said. On delay in execution of some JICA-funded projects in Assam's largest city Guwahati, Saito said, "There are various reasons for such delays. There are issues with clearance, land acquisitions, etc. Problems arise even after the construction starts...we are hopeful that the projects will be completed soon."

He will visit some sites of the ongoing projects in Guwahati. Speaking at the 'Natural Allies in Development and Interdependence' conclave here, Saito said the "official development assistance (ODA) of approximately 314 billion yen (over Rs 19,100 crore) has been made in ongoing projects in the North Eastern region by the JICA". The assistance was provided for capacity enhancement of 14 regional core hospitals in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, and hydroelectric power station in Meghalaya.



K. RAMYA SREE

There was a time when radio was the only medium to get information on world affairs instantly. Radio has witnessed all of this expansion, from tape recorders to television to new digital platforms, and has stood the test of time despite being one of the world's oldest mediums. Apart from the fact that it has a massive reach in the country, it still remains one of the most trusted mediums.

Radio City is India's first private FM radio station, started on July 3, 2001. From being stuck in traffic, going on a long drive with friends and family, or just sitting still with a bunch of friends at any tea stall, Radio City has been a source of entertainment while also delivering important news to many people in the country. For the past 21 years, it has kept the

In conversation with **The Pioneer**, Ashit Kukian, CEO, Radio City, talks about its transformational journey as it now gets a digital boost and shares, "As part of the company's ongoing digital transformation strategy, Radio City has been broadcasting its flagship radio shows on audio streaming platforms to further enhance the convergence of radio with digital Radigitalisation. Since radio is essentially an audio platform, Radio City is on the cusp of integrating radio with digital as a gradual step toward the next phase of growth and has been launching multiple radio plus

From just a radio to 'Radigitalisation'



audience engaged with various programs and is still leading the game, and is now entering the digital space to keep its audience engaged 24x7.

It has been consistently transforming itself with the objective of staying relevant to the audience. In today's time, a consumer spends approximately six hours per day consuming content, which was previously limited to just two or three hours a day,

digital IPs. This also attracts advertisers to utilise the capabilities of Radio City's digital content to include radio and digital strategies in their media marketing plans."

According to him, Radio City has built indigenous properties both for on-air and digital platforms to showcase emerging talents through their top artists, podcasts, web radio shows, and much more.

TEJAL SINHA

Getting to meet someone you've always aspired to and always get inspired by is a dream come true. One amongst us is Deeksha Joshi, who has worked in many Gujarati films like *Sharato Lagu*, *Dhunki* (2019), *Luv Ni Love Stories* (2020), *Vaahlam Jaao Ne* (2021), and also in the film *376D*.

Deeksha now makes her debut in Bollywood with the film *Jayeshbhai Jordaar*, starring Ranveer Singh, Ratna Pathak, and Boman Irani. We did not miss the chance to get in touch with the actress to know more about her role, the transition she has made from Gujarati films to Bollywood, and a lot more.

For those who haven't watched the film yet,

During the pandemic, the radio industry reported a 44% decline in advertising revenue in 2020 to reach Rs 1,270 crore, the Pitch Madison report revealed.

Radio City, too, witnessed a downfall during the pandemic. However, post the pandemic, the recovery rate of Radio City has been proliferous due to the consistent efforts of driving multiple properties with a digital expansion approach.

He shares, "With the post-pandemic recovery gaining momentum, we are actively building digital strategies and programs that allow our audiences to participate and enjoy wholesome entertainment on-air as well as through our social media platforms."

In order to reach newer heights, they will now create and promote content on digital platforms with the objective of monetising it across mediums.

They have been exclusive radio partners of two IPL 2022 teams, Mumbai Indians and Lucknow Super Giants. To keep IPL fans entertained, they have hired cricketer-turned-commentator Aakash Chopra to host their cricket show *Cricket ka Blockbuster*.

It's the legacy of Radio City in promoting content in the digital front that has aided us in our journey toward digital transformation, says the CEO.

RJs are quickly emerging as social media influencers. What are some of the key marketing strategies being undertaken to help them complement and collaborate with brands?

He shares, "Digital and social media platforms are revolutionising the existing broadcast paradigm to create a cohesive and collaborative entertainment ecosystem. This amalgamation has given birth to RJs turning into influencers, with them enjoying an extended proposition on social media platforms. We are utilising this powerful mar-

Jayeshbhai Jordaar is set in a fictional village in Gujarat. The film shows us that there is a lot of patriarchy and abuse against women happening here. Out of all the women there in the village, there is this one girl who happens to be very strong and yet very smart. That's none other than Preeti, Jayeshbhai's sister, played by Deeksha Joshi.

Deeksha, who originally hails from Uttarakhand, tells us, "A lot of women here are very submissive and they are not able to voice themselves. They are not able to communicate and live in a lot of fear, and so does Preeti. She is also going through a lot of abuse, be it physical or mental, in every way. She comes across as a character who knows her way out. She knows how she is going to get through all of this. She comes across as a smart, sweet person, and this interested and intrigued me in doing the film and the character as well. I have never seen such a girl ever or acted in any of my films. She also has a quirk about her that separates her from other women from the village."

Working with the actors that she's always watched on-screen and then sharing the same screen was an unbelievable experience for the 376D actress. "Of course, there was a lot of inbuilt pressure that I had created for myself.

Honestly, the director was confident, everyone was confident that this girl (me) was going to do really well. But I was under a lot of pressure because there were people you watched growing up, people you admired, who were in the film, and then you

ketting tool to partner with advertisers in broadcasting strong branding and marketing messages. RJ influencers are becoming primary touchpoints for brand collaborations in metro cities as well as in Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets. As social media influencers, RJs are delicately balancing their anchoring and advertising roles to share creatively crafted messages aimed at enhancing brand collaborations with entertaining content. We have been pushing our digital content to complement radio and are integrating it within our existing IPs where RJs are playing a crucial role in this convergence of content and creativity. This will undoubtedly help to strengthen our offerings across radio, digital, and social media.

Not just that, even podcasts have been garnering high adoption among digitally-savvy consumers. Capitalizing on this to increase listeners' preferences, they have been developing a manifold of unique podcasts and are continually building creative content and topics that are first of their kind.

Meanwhile, there are many programmes specially curated for Hyderabadis. From foodies to women-oriented programmes, they got everything covered. So tune in to Radio City for some exciting content coming up.

'I am open to doing regional cinema in different media'

In an exclusive interview with **The Pioneer**, Bollywood debutant Deeksha Joshi speaks about her role in *Jayeshbhai Jordaar*, working with some senior actors, and the type of films that she would like to work on.

suddenly share the screen with them; it was incredible. So, when that happened, I tried to keep myself very calm, but a lot of credit will go to these actors because they just made me feel so comfortable. Not once did they give me the vibe that you're a newbie and this was my debut in the industry. In fact, it felt like I was a part of the family. It was all very beautiful. I didn't expect that and I felt that it happened really soon and there was no effort that was required by either of us. It happened very organically."

The *Karsandas Pay and Use* actress has made many beautiful memories while shooting for *Jayeshbhai Jordaar*. "Talking about one would be very difficult, but if I have to specifically talk about one, there was this one scene that I had to go out and explore where Preeti's character is. I was under pressure that I had to do it, but when I started to perform, I was in that energy for the entire day that I didn't realise that I did not even have food. Because I was so involved in that scene, I wanted it to come outright. I feel so proud of the fact that director Divyang helped me get that tone that we wanted, the tone that he had visualised for the character. He got it and the audience really enjoyed it," she shares, adding that that was her scene and she is grateful that she had an opportunity to work in such a big film and show her capability and calibre."

This film is really special for Deeksha because it is her debut Bollywood film and she feels grateful because whoever has watched the film till now has really liked it.

She shares, "Whoever has watched the film has loved it. I went to four Housefull shows, and I just saw the audience clapping. That was the moment I thought that the director had won. This is where the performers win because this is where the audience enjoys the film. What more do you want? So we got really good reviews. It's talking about a sensitive issue, but it's not intense in its tonality. It is very entertaining and very well presented. It is kept light, so it reaches out to a lot of people. People do not get heavy once they leave the cinema hall, and keeping all of that in mind and out of all the films released this year, I believe this film will stand out. This is one film that people will watch over and over because of the strong message that it has got, and I feel that somewhere it will require a double or triple watch for people to clearly understand the message that Divyang has been trying to say, those little details in the film. It is a very well-made film because even Divyang has directed for the first time a film like this and presented it in an entertaining way. Such a difficult job."

Deeksha is more concerned with the content of a film than with its language. We asked her about the transition that she made from working in Gujarati films to Hindi films. She shares, "I have been giving auditions for the Hindi film, the type of content that is coming out for OTT, shows, and even films. In fact, I am open to doing regional cinema in different media. I am not Gujarati myself. I have learned Gujarati for the films, so I easily pick up languages. I want to ultimately

mately work on really good scripts. Scripts that have a strong female narrative are logical and, at the same time, entertaining as well. Stories that are written from the heart and work in a collaborative setup, be it in any language. Rather than doing back-to-back work, I would rather do work on projects where I can give my all, not just as an actor. I can be associated with the director and writer and create a character by collaborating with them. And that did happen with this film as well. We had a lot of discussions."

She further adds, "I would like to work on projects where the director trusts me as an actor and as a person. I would also like to connect with my director at a human level first before that director-actor equation comes in so that we know what exactly we are going to bring out. More than the language, it is the kind of content that I would like to work with. I was very sure that anything that had to do with gender, or the way women looked in society, or feminism in society, had to do with Anything related to that, I would love to work on or be a part of it. I was very clear from the beginning itself about the kind of content I would like to work on." When it comes to the actors that she would like to work with in the future, the list is never-ending for her.

She says, "There is a long list, but I would really like to work with Manoj Bajpayee. It has been a dream for quite some time to work with him. Apart from him, I also want to work with Pankaj Tripathi, Sanjay Mishra, Neeraj Kabi, and Tabu. It will be like a dream come true whenever there is a chance to work with her. I want to work with actors who have really impressed me in the last few years and learn from them."

It looks like 2022 is going to be a full pack-year for the actress. She signs off by saying, "I have a couple of Gujarati films that are going to be released this year. There is another Hindi film that I shot last year and will release this year. There is a Gujarati web series again. Another Gujarati film that I did has Amitabh Bachchan for the first time acting in a Gujarati film named *Fakt Mahilao Mate*, which is going to be released in August. There is a great lineup for the year and I am very excited about it. Due to the pandemic, there was a complete halt, and now there's a flush of all the films one after the other, and I am looking forward to it."

Johnny Depp may be making post-trial film comeback in *Beetlejuice 2*

Hollywood star Johnny Depp is rumoured to be making his post-trial film comeback by starring in *Beetlejuice 2*. According to *aceshowbiz.com*, fans have flooded social media with the claim after they noticed the embattled actor's name seemed to appear on a call sheet found when they said they searched on Google for the *Beetlejuice* sequel. Michael Keaton and

Winona Ryder are also rumoured to be reprising their roles from director Tim Burton's 1988 original alongside Depp. The rumour started making the rounds ahead of the jury in Depp's defamation case against former wife Amber Heard being dismissed to deliberate on the feud. The 1998 film revolved around a dead married couple, played by Alec Baldwin and Geena Davis, who are resurrected as gormless ghosts who become hell-bent on haunting an irritating family out of their dream home. Fans said they would be overjoyed to see Depp in the follow up, especially after his gruelling days in court fighting to prove he is not a domestic abuser. Ryder, who played goth Lydia Deetz in *Beetlejuice* and was engaged to Depp for three years from July 1990, has defended her former fiancé Depp throughout his legal battles. She said her experience with the actor is wildly different than the allegations that

Heard has made. "I truly and honestly only know him as a really good man, an incredibly loving, extremely caring guy who was so very protective of me and the people that he loves, and I felt so very, very safe with him," Ryder said in court in July 2020. "I do not want to call anyone a liar but from my experience of Johnny, it is impossible to believe that such horrific allegations are true. I find it extremely upsetting, knowing him as I do." Ryder, who also starred alongside Depp in *Edward Scissorhands*, has said she is "hopeful" that *Beetlejuice 2* will go ahead. She confirmed on May 24 in an interview with USA Today she would be appearing in the cast by declaring, "I'm in! I'm definitely excited and I'm really hopeful that it'll happen." "The only way we would do it is if everything was perfect and we had all the people, obviously Michael and obviously Tim." *Beetlejuice 2* would again reunite Depp with his long-standing collaborator director Tim Burton, who has cast Depp in eight of his films including *Ed Wood* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. It is slated for release in the summer of 2025.



what's brewing?



● Meghana



● Manasa Varanasi



● Kushboo



● Aby Dominic



● Sanjana

GRAND LAUNCH

Miss India World Manasa Varanasi, along with a few actresses, graced the grand launch of Hi-life exhibition on Saturday at HICC Novotel on Sunday.

PARTY



● Ishaq Bukhari and Ibraheem Bukhari



MEN IN STYLE

Actor Anil Rathod attended the launch of Jahanpanah's 30th store at Habsiguda. The brand reverberates royalty, class, comfort, affluence, and is one of the most preferred brands for its classic, traditional and contemporary men's wear.

Photos by SV Chary

ICE CREAM WAR



The Great Indian Ice Cream Tasting Challenge was conducted at Hi-tech city on Sunday. Govindas Shah, Chairman, Scoops & Cream Stone Ice Creams, Sudhir Shah, IICMA (Indian Ice Cream Manufacturers' Association), Rehan bin Ali Masqati, Marketing Head, Masqati Ice Cream, M. Rajgopal, Founder & MD, Hybiz Tv & Telugu Now, and Dr.Sandhya Rani, CEO, Hybiz.tv & Telugu Now, were the chief guests at the event.

FUN

ARCHIE

CALVIN AND HOBBS

GARFIELD

REALITY CHECK

SPEED BUMP

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7		8		
9			10	
11				
12	13		14	15
16				
17			18	
19				

NANCY

SUDOKU

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

ACROSS

- Graveyard
- In the lead
- Shelf
- Pay attention
- Threesome
- Yours and mine
- An old fortified building
- Racket
- Mirror reflection
- A jewellery item
- A type of pen
- Got well again
- Liquid always in your mouth
- Lift
- To bother or annoy someone for fun
- Feeble

DOWN

- A game played on a square board
- Infuriate
- Story
- Jockey

SOLUTION

S	E	N	T	E	N	C	E	N	C	E	W
L	O	V	E	E	X	A	M	I	T		
L	E	D	E	X	P	A	N	D			
C	U	R	V	E	W	A	G	E	S		
T	I	I	T								
I	R	I	S	H							
O	I	T	H								
N	E	T	L	E							
L	O	A	M	E							
R	E	M	E	M							

It is all known that Ram Pothineni is all set to entertain his fans with the bilingual action entertainer *The Warriorr* helmed by N Linguswamy. As the movie is scheduled to release on July 14, the makers and director have speeded up their work.

The makers are treating the fans of Ram Pothineni with chartbuster songs and massy updates. The *Bullet* song created massive records on YouTube and the recently released teaser in both Telugu and Tamil upped the fervor to a whole new level. Now, they announced the great news that the shooting of this movie is completed. In this schedule, N Linguswamy picturised a mass introduction on Ram Pothineni.

They shared a new poster of Ram Pothineni and treated all



Ram Pothineni Starrer *The Warriorr* Shooting Wrapped Up

his fans. The back-to-back updates have worked their magic on the audience, who now await to see *The Warriorr* in the theatres on July 14. The team is also planning to conduct several promotional events ahead of the film's release.

The Warriorr starring Ram Pothineni is among the eagerly expected movies for many reasons. For, the young Telugu actor has partnered with ace director N Lingusamy for the first time and this film, a bilingual, will mark Ram's debut in Kollywood. Also, it will show Aadhi Pinisetty in a hitherto unseen role of a strong villain. It is to be noted Lingusamy is known for his action entertainers and both Ram and Aadhi are known for their dedication to give the best. The film has a stellar star cast

with Krithi Shetty as the heroine (her name is Whistle Mahalakshmi). *The Warriorr* is being produced on a high budget by Srinivasaa Chitturi under Srinivasaa Silver Screen banner. Pavan Kumar will be presenting the movie. *The Warriorr* movie will hit the theatres worldwide on July 14, 2022 in the theatres.

Nayanthara and Vignesh wedding card goes viral



Actress Nayanthara's relationship has always been the talk of the town. Even the news of her relationships with Simbu and Prabhu Deva made headlines. Currently, her relation with the Kollywood director Vignesh have been in news for quite some time. Rumors about their relationships have been doing rounds on various social media platforms. Meanwhile, now it is being said that the couple are soon going to tie the knot and also have started sharing their wedding invitations to their near and dear ones. An image of the wedding card is viral on social media. According to some latest reports, the couple will be getting hitched on June 9, this

year at the Tirumala Tirupati Temple, Andhra Pradesh. The couple had also visited the temple earlier to choose the dates for the marriage events. The wedding card going viral includes various floral decorations and green creepers. It also has a blue sky as a background and a bungalow with the beautiful aises. The pathway to the bungalow leads through a serene fountain and coconut trees. The card also has 'WN' written on the top, following the phrase 'Save The Date' for their wedding, which is then succeeded by the names of the happy couple - Nayan and Wikkk. The date mentioned on the card is June 9, 2022 and ends with the phrase: 'Mahabbs'.

Speculations rife on Prashanth Neel's female-centric film

Prashanth Neel, the director of the *KGF* franchise, has achieved pan-India fame following the success of both parts of the movie. Speculations surround the director's next project, one of which is said to be a female-centric film. A few online sources went on to decode a few scenes from *KGF-2*, which hint at a strong character, specifically a female role, with the potential to be made as an entirely new film in the franchise. According to the sources, the first girl child is born in Kollar Gold Fields in Chapter 2 of *KGF*, and Rocky Bhai names her after his mother. And, as the girl

grows up under the watchful eye of a strong guardian following Rocky Bhai's death, surely there is room to tell her story as well. According to reports, the story will be told in the form of a female-centric film starring a superstar in the lead role. Some claim that Prashanth Neel's writing team is also working on this spin-off, though it is unclear whether they will release it or not. Meanwhile, Prashanth Neel will have to wrap up 'Salaar' with Prabhas, after which he will direct Jr. NTR for their *NTR31*, before he commits himself to another project.



F3 mints Rs 18.77 crore in two-day collections from AP & Telangana



F3, starring Venkatesh and Varun Tej, has performed exceptionally well as the movie grossed Rs 18.77 crore in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The movie made Rs 8.4 crore in Andhra Pradesh and

Telangana alone, taking the two days' total to Rs 18.77 crore. It was released a few days ago and received mixed reviews on its first day. Despite this, box office receipts have been steadily increasing as the film attracts more audiences. According to the most recent reports, the film earned more than \$750,000 at the US box office. The Nizam area fetched a whopping Rs 8.16 crore, while the UA area fetched Rs 2.23 crore. The numbers for the Venkatesh and Varun Tej-starrer are Rs 2.41 crore from Ceded and Rs 1.42 crore from Guntur. While East Godavari area has Rs 1.28 crore, while Krishna is worth Rs 1.18 crore. F3 is directed by Anil Ravipudi and also stars Tamannaah Bhatia, Mehreen Pirzada, Sonal Chauhan, Rajendra Prasad, Murali Sharma, Sunil, Ali, and others.

K3 Kotikokkadu to release on June 17



Singeetam Srinivasa Rao's wife Lakshmi Kalyani passes away

Tollywood ace filmmaker Singeetam Srinivasa Rao's wife Lakshmi Kalyani has passed away in Chennai after a prolonged illness. Several celebrities from the Telugu film fraternity have taken to social media to convey their condolences and extend their support to Singeetam Srinivasa Rao. Singeetam Srinivasa Rao and Lakshmi Kalyani got married in the year 1960. Lakshmi Kalyani played a key role in his professional life. He was always assisted by Lakshmi Kalyani in writing film scripts. Singeetam had also wrote a book, *Srikalyaniyam*, about his beloved wife. He helmed many

actor Kicha Sudeep is gearing up for the release of his next outing *K3 Kotikokkadu* directed by Shiva Karthik. Co-produced by Shreyas Srinivas and Devendra DK under the banner of Good Cinema Group, the film was already released in Kannada and was a big hit there. The film, which has set a record as the highest-grossing film of Sudeep's career, will soon be released in Telugu. It is scheduled for a grand theatrical release on June 17. The Telugu trailer of the movie starring Madonna Sebastian and Shradha Das has already been released and has impressed the audience of all sections. There was also a good response to the first single released from the film. The film is set to release three more songs as part of its musical promotions. Producers are also making special plans for movie promotions. The producers have revealed that Hero Kicha Sudeep has set a record as the highest-grossing film of his career and that *K3 Kotikokkadu* will be a huge success in Telugu as well.



Fans raise concern on *Pushpa* 2 story being rewritten

Allu Arjun and Sukumar, who had a huge hit with *Pushpa: The Rise*, were supposed to have begun filming for the second installment of the two-part film. However, even after months of *Pushpa: The Rise* release, the team has yet to provide any information about *Pushpa: The Rule*, causing fans to be concerned. According to sources, the

Slum Dog Husband first look poster launched



Young actor Sanjay Rao, who made his debut with *O Pitta Katha* will next be seen in an outright entertainer, which is titled *Slum Dog Husband*. Today on Sanjay's birthday, the motion poster of the film was unveiled. The motion poster of the film was unveiled by Rana Daggubati, which showcases the funny side of the story. The film has Sanjay Rao and Pranavi Manukonda in

the lead roles. The hero, Sanjay Rao is seen extensively loving his dog. He, his dog, and the female lead Pranavi are all seen in wedding attire in the same. The poster has a funny and quirky vibe to it. The film also has Bramhaji, Chammak Chandra, Sapthagiri and others playing the lead roles. The film is directed by Dr. AR Sridhar and produced by Appi Reddy and Venkat Annareddy under Mic Movies banner.



KINGS OF EUROPE

Vinicius Jr's 2nd-half strike helps Real Madrid beat Liverpool 1-0 to win 14th Champions League title

AP ■ PARIS

Vinicius Junior scored the only goal of the game as Real Madrid beat Liverpool 1-0 in Saturday's Champions League final in Paris to become kings of Europe for a record-extending 14th time after a night marred by problems outside the ground that led to the kick-off being delayed by over half an hour.

Brazilian winger Vinicius turned in Fede Valverde's enticing low cross in the 59th minute at the Stade de France and Liverpool could not find an equaliser as Jurgen Klopp's side lost to the Spanish giants in a Champions League final for the second time in five seasons.

The Anfield side will wonder what might have been had the outstanding Thibaut Courtois not pushed Sadio Mane's shot onto the inside of a post when they were on top in the first half, as they fell short of a trophy treble.

Winners of the English League Cup and FA Cup this season, they just missed out to

LIVERPOOL WILL 'COME AGAIN'

AP ■ PARIS

A season that will live in the memory for Liverpool fans ended on a night that will be remembered for all the wrong reasons as Jurgen Klopp's men were beaten 1-0 by Real Madrid in Paris.

Less than a week ago, the Reds were on the brink of an unprecedented quadruple. Instead they have to settle for the double of League and FA Cup after missing out on the bigger prizes of the Premier League and Champions League.

Manchester City claimed the English title by one point after a dramatic final day when Pep Guardiola's men came from 2-0 down to beat Aston Villa 3-2.

"These boys played an



outstanding season," said Klopp. "The two competitions we couldn't win we didn't win for the smallest possible margin.

"City was one point better and tonight Madrid was one goal better."

Vinicius Junior scored the only goal as he stole in at the back post to turn home Fede Valverde's cross-coming shot.

But the fact it was Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois who was named man-of-the-match said more about the flow of the game.

"When the goalkeeper is man-of-the-match then something is going wrong for the other team," added Klopp.

"They scored a goal and we didn't. That's the easiest explanation in the world of football."

For the third time this season, Klopp's men failed to fire in a final.

Twice they beat Chelsea in penalty shootouts after 120 goalless minutes at Wembley.

But Madrid were not so forgiving as they capped a remarkable run through the competition to claim a 14th European Cup.

Klopp has now won just one of his four European Cup finals.

Four years ago, Real also won a clash between the sides 3-1 in Kiev.

Liverpool bounced back a year later to win their sixth European crown in Madrid.

And Klopp is confident his side will not stop at reaching the showpiece for a third time in five years.

"The difference between now and 2018 is I see us coming again," he said. "I wished it but I couldn't know it."

"They have an incredible attitude, it's a fantastic group and we will go again."

European club football's greatest prize for a fourth time.

Ancelotti was also in charge of Real when they won the 2014 final having triumphed with AC Milan in 2003 and in 2007, the latter victory coming against Liverpool.

"We managed the game very well," said Ancelotti, who called himself "a record man".

"I had luck to come here last year and have a fantastic season. A fantastic club, a really good squad with a lot of quality and mental character," he told *BT Sport*.

DELAYED KICK-OFF

The delayed kick-off may have been responsible for the slow start to the game, as it took 16 minutes before there was an incident of note, Mohamed Salah turning a low Trent Alexander-Arnold cross towards goal only for Courtois to save.

Liverpool were seen as favourites to avenge their loss to the Spanish giants in the 2018 final in Kyiv and they began to take control of the game.

Mane came agonisingly

'I can't do much more' to win Ballon d'Or: Benzema

AP ■ PARIS

Karim Benzema admitted he had done all he could with Real Madrid this season to make himself favourite for the Ballon d'Or after helping the Spanish giants beat Liverpool 1-0 in Saturday's Champions League final in Paris.

Benzema did not score in the final at the Stade de France as Vinicius Junior netted the only goal of the game, but the Frenchman finished as the Champions League's top scorer with 15 including 10 in the knock-out rounds.

"Of course," the 34-year-old told *Canal Plus* when asked if the Ballon d'Or was on his mind after a season in which he also won La Liga with Real Madrid.

"Now I will join up with the national team but I don't think I can do much more with my club.

"We will see what happens, but in any case I am proud of what I have done."

Benzema will join up with the France squad for a series of UEFA Nations League games in June after finishing the season with 44 goals altogether for Real.

He scored hat-tricks against Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea in the Champions League knockout rounds and netted three times across the two legs of the semi-final against Manchester City.

"There is no luck," he said in reference to a series of remarkable comeback wins on their run to the final.



close in the 21st minute as he skipped his way into a shooting position inside the box only for Courtois to tip his net-bound shot onto his right-hand post.

Klopp's side, with Fabinho and Thiago Alcantara starting in midfield after overcoming fitness worries, were on top but could not turn their superiority into a lead.

OUTSTANDING COURTOIS

Real, meanwhile, created almost nothing in the first half with Karim Benzema quiet, but their captain briefly thought he had got the breakthrough two minutes before the interval.

The Frenchman prodded home after the ball broke back to him inside the area but the offside flag was raised.

The decision to disallow the goal was upheld after a lengthy VAR check, despite Fabinho deflecting Valverde's

Manchester City for the Premier League title and were denied a victory here which would have put them level

with AC Milan on seven European Cups.

"These boys played an outstanding season. The two com-

petitions we couldn't win, we didn't win for the smallest possible margin," said Klopp.

Instead Real have a fifth

Champions League in nine seasons to go with their Spanish title, as Carlo Ancelotti becomes the first coach to win

touch through to Benzema.

Yet Ancelotti's side kept their nerve and were rewarded with the goal as the hour mark approached.

Valverde drove forward down the right before firing a low ball across the face of goal for Vinicius to turn it in at the far post past his Brazilian national team colleague Alisson.

Just like in 2018, Real had drawn first blood, but this time there was no need for them to send on Gareth Bale in order to ensure victory.

Courtois was superb, flying to his right to keep out a Salah curler before two saves in quick succession late on.

First the Belgian got down low when substitute Diogo Jota deflected Salah's effort towards goal, and then he produced a strong arm to turn a Salah strike behind.

It was Real Madrid's night.

Djokovic cruises closer to Nadal clash



AP ■ PARIS

World number one and defending champion Novak Djokovic reached a 16th French Open quarter-final on Sunday where old rival and 13-time winner Rafael Nadal could be waiting.

Djokovic, bidding to equal Nadal's record of 21 Grand Slam titles, eased to a 6-1, 6-3, 6-3 last-16 victory against 15th seed Diego Schwartzman of Argentina.

"I have a lot of respect for him (Schwartzman). He's a good person off the court," said Djokovic who has now beaten Schwartzman seven times in seven meetings.

Djokovic is still to drop a set at Roland Garros after cruising through the first week.

He has also won 22 sets in a row, stretching back to his Italian Open title triumph in Rome earlier this month.

"I've made a good start but I have a lot of work to do," added Djokovic who will face Nadal for the 10th time at Roland Garros and 59th overall if the Spaniard defeats Felix Auger-Aliassime later Sunday.

In an interesting twist, Auger-Aliassime has Nadal's uncle and former long-time coach Toni working with him.

Toni coached his nephew for the best part of three decades during which time Nadal won 16 of his record 21 Slam titles.

When asked if he will divulge to Auger-Aliassime the secret of how to become just the third man to defeat Nadal at Roland Garros, the 61-year-old coach was unequivocal.

"Of course not. I told Felix that my ethics do not allow me to give him advice on beating my nephew. It's as if I were telling someone how to defeat my own son," said Toni ahead of his first meeting with Rafael since their split.

Toni said he would not sit in Auger-Aliassime's player box for the match, taking his

place instead in the presidential box on Court Philippe Chatrier.

In the wide open women's event, which saw nine of the top 10 seeds fall before the second week, Canadian teenager Leylah Fernandez reached the quarter-finals for the first time.

Fernandez, seeded 17th, and who was US Open runner-up last year, fired an impressive 40 winners past 2019 semi-finalist Amanda Anisimova to secure a 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 win.

The 19-year-old has made the quarter-finals on the back of an impressive 23 service breaks over four rounds at Roland Garros.

"It was a very complicated match. Amanda is a very good player but I was happy to win in front of you," said the 2019 junior champion.

She next faces Martina Trevisan for a place in the semi-finals.

The world number 59 from Italy booked her place in the quarter-finals for the second time in three years, edging out Aliaksandra Sasnovich from Belarus 7-6 (12/10), 7-5.

Trevisan enjoyed a surprise run to the quarters as a qualifier in 2020, losing to eventual champion and current world number one Iga Swiatek.

"Paris is a bit like my second home," said the 28-year-old, who won her maiden WTA title earlier this month in Rabat.

"The atmosphere here is magical and I feel great on the court."

American teenager Coco Gauff reached the last-eight for the second successive year with a 6-4, 6-0 win over Belgium's Elise Mertens.

Gauff, 18, will face either US compatriot, and 2018 runner-up, Sloane Stephens or 23rd-seeded Jil Teichmann of Switzerland for a spot in the semi-finals.

Later Sunday, 19-year-old Carlos Alcaraz, the youngest man through to the second week of the French Open since Djokovic 16 years ago, takes on 21st seed Karen Khachanov.

Alcaraz has won 20 of 21 matches on clay this season but needed to save a match point to beat Spanish compatriot Albert Ramos-Vinolas in the second round.

DJOKOVIC IS STILL TO DROP A SET AT ROLAND GARROS AFTER CRUISING THROUGH THE FIRST WEEK. HE HAS ALSO WON 22 SETS IN A ROW, STRETCHING BACK TO HIS ITALIAN OPEN TITLE TRIUMPH IN ROME EARLIER THIS MONTH

Perez wins chaotic Monaco GP

AP ■ MONACO

Sergio Perez rebounded from Red Bull team orders that denied him a chance to race for the win one week ago to pick up his first Formula One win of the season in the rain-marred Monaco Grand Prix.

Perez earned his third career F1 victory on the slick city streets of Monaco after a questionable strategy call by Ferrari cost pole-sitter Charles Leclerc a win on his home circuit.

Although Leclerc finished the race for the first time in four tries, he finished fourth and allowed reigning world champion Max Verstappen to extend his lead in the points standings. Carlos Sainz Jr finished second for Ferrari and Verstappen was third for Red Bull.

Verstappen now leads Leclerc by nine points in the standings; Leclerc has two wins this season, Verstappen and Perez have combined for five victories as Red Bull and Ferrari have claimed all seven races.

But the win went to Verstappen's teammate just one week after Perez was ordered to cede the lead to Verstappen during the Spanish Grand Prix. Leclerc had dropped out of the race with an engine failure and Red Bull chose to capitalize by manipulating the finish to get Verstappen the win in Spain.

The team promised Perez he'd be allowed to race for wins and held its word Sunday.



70 minutes for heavy rain and began from a rolling start behind a safety car. It was then red-flagged on Lap 30 after Mick Schumacher's heavy crash three laps earlier sliced his Haas car in two. He escaped unharmed. "I'm fine, very, very upset not to finish the race," Schumacher said. "I don't know why the car split in two."

George Russell finished fifth for Mercedes ahead of McLaren's Lando Norris and the Alpine of Fernando Alonso. Seven-time F1 champion Lewis Hamilton was eighth for Mercedes - extending his winless run with the Silver Arrows to eight races - while Valtteri Bottas was ninth for Alfa Romeo and Sebastian Vettel 10th for Aston Martin.

The restart after Schumacher's crash was again a rolling start behind the safety car. But the long delay and red flag shortened the race from 77 laps into a timed race so that it would end by local curfew.

"You dream of winning this, and after your home race, there is no place more special to win," Perez said after waving the Mexican flag.

Leclerc led from the pole and screamed in rage when told to pit for a second time on Lap 22 - at the same time as Sainz. His engineer realized the mistake and yelled "stay out!" but it was too late and Leclerc came back out on track in fourth place.

"What are you doing?" Leclerc shouted.

After the race, he lectured Ferrari again.

"No words, no words. We cannot do that," he radioed. Leclerc also won the pole a year ago but never got to start because he crashed at the end of qualifying, and the car's gearbox failed moments before the start. In 2018 and 2019, Leclerc had retired from the race with crash damage.

The race was delayed by