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Is India Polio Immuned ..p8

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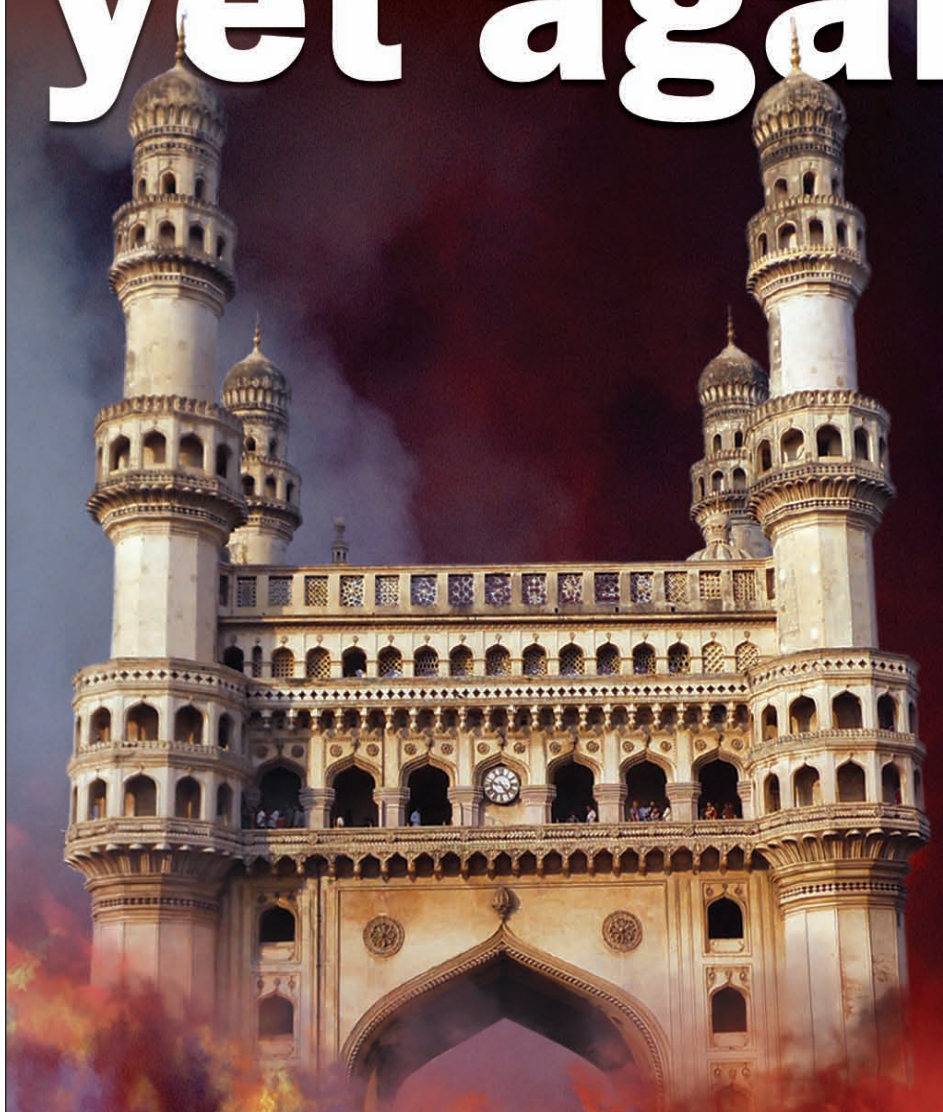
Terror Target:

Why Hyderabad yet again?



By Our Political Correspondent

Terror strikes Hyderabad yet again. The ghastly twin bomb blasts that occurred in the heart of Hyderabad at Dilshuknagar on 21st February, night claiming 16 innocent lives and injuring 129 others are a grim reminder of prevailing shabby security levels. We are alive today just because we were not at the blast's site at the fateful moment, not because we have any other knack of survival. Those who died here had lost their lives for no fault of theirs. Those dead and injured in the blast are hapless victims of inept policing and maladministration going on in the state. The occurrence of the recent blast is a joint failure of the police and the governments, both the centre and the state.

Contd. on page 2

CM Kiran consoling the victims of bomb blast

(File Photo) Mecca Masjid bomb blast

But, the Hyderabad City Police Commissioner Anurag Sharma in his post incident briefing had nothing more to offer than the following. That the Central Intelligence Bureau has only sent a cautionary advice on February 15th - containing the union home ministry's alert mentioning Hyderabad along with other three metros. Hyderabad Police quizzed Indian Mujahideen men in November but could not achieve any tangible information. The Kotwal admits that the city police knew that Dilshuknagar was a Terror target. That's why the Police monitored Dilshuknagar area many times. After 48 hours, the Police is working on different leads to nab the culprits and yet no one has been arrested till now. The state government constituted the SIT to probe the blast and identify the criminals. The Kotwal stated that Six Special Teams are formed. Interestingly, he also stated that "out of the 265 CCTVs in Hyderabad only 15 are non-functional. He also stated that CCTVs are primarily used for monitoring Traffic Violations. Fortunately he clarified that CCTV at Dilshuknagar was working and the footage pertaining to the blast was collected and ever since the Police is busy scanning the CCTV footages. All is under control and going on well in Hyderabad. But people of the Pearl City are a perplexed lot.

Many are wondering why Hyderabad has become a soft target for terrorists. Why only the Indian Mujahedeen (IM) outfits are being suspected -- how come only 'Dilsukhnagar' has become a sitting duck to the dastardly bomb attacks? What our state police are doing when they got three, not one alerts from the Intelligence Bureau (IB) from the Centre? How come the Hyderabad & Cyberabad police personnel are unable to get any leads on the numerous sleeper cells that exist in our great metropolitan city? And finally, how should we handle this terror menace -especially in Hyderabad? These are the questions that are engaging the attention of every Hyderabadi, and many persons in our country since Thursday night.

Why Dilshuknagar?

It is a well known fact that Thursday is a special day for the devotees of Shirdi Sai Baba and the Dilshuknagar Sai temple is known to attract thousands of devotees on every Thursday from far of places. It may be recalled that the same temple premises was targeted by the terrorists 11 years ago on a Thursday. Then two persons died and many were injured in that bomb blast.

Ironically, Dilshuknagar escaped another possible terror strike in 2007 August, when two more blasts rocked the city at Gokul Chat and Lumbini Park. Luckily, some cops have detected an unexploded bomb at Dilshuknagar planted by a terror module. So, till now this commercially bustling area became terror target thrice till now. We don't know how many more will come in future.

This hub of middle class has been chosen time and again by terrorists because it is a safe place for them to explode bombs and get away too. As this crowded market area, next to the national high way of Hyderabad - Vijayawada also home for cinema halls, shopping malls and eateries, is on the edge of Old City of Hyderabad, as such it is very easy for terrorists (IM) who have a base camp in old city to slip into its lanes and by-lanes.

If they trigger a bomb elsewhere, for instance in Kukatpally or Secunderabad, it would be difficult for them to plan their escape after planting the bombs. If they chose a place like Abids or Begumbazar or even Charminar, then the number of causalities of Muslims would be too high, which they cannot undertake as those lending logistic support would not approve of that. So, Dilshuknagar is the obvious choice for terrorists and unfortunately for the innocent people it would continue to be a vulnerable place.

Why Hyderabad?

Then why Hyderabad bearing the brunt so often among the top six metros in the country? This too linked with the demographics of the historic city. Here, the Old city of Hyderabad, with a 25 sq km area and a concentrated Muslim population of about 20 lakhs, any miscreant Muslim can easily escape from being identified, even if he is new to the city. This is not the case with any other city in India, as nowhere this much of overwhelmingly large Muslim population is densely concentrated at one place.

Moreover, utter poverty amongst Muslims and joblessness of Muslim youth make them easy target for the terror networks, which hire innocent Muslim youth for their heinous crimes. These youth unwittingly fall into the trap of hard core terrorists who preach hatred of every form to exploit their innocence. These youth who become recruits are turned into 'sleeper cells'— which term means "a group of people who are not seen outside and remain dormant in a community until activated by a pre-arranged signal, to perform acts of terrorism, espionage, sabotage or any other crime" . To put it simply some one who carries a bomb does not know what he carries, why he carries and what it does!!. The plight of several innocent

Site I : *Dilsukhnagar where terrorists exploded the bomb*

Site II: *Of terror massive destruction at Dilsukhnagar*

Home Minister Sabitha must know the way ahead

Its the high time to swing into action Mr Kotwaal

youth in old city is just that. Due to utter poverty, lack of education, lack of jobs, and lack of other opportunities – all leading to backwardness and making them attractive to criminal elements who are constantly hunting for such youth. That is it.

The vote bank politics and politics of appeasement have played havoc with the development of the Muslim community. The so called secular parties have done precious little to usher real progress of the minorities. Ever since, the formation of Andhra Pradesh state, successive generations of Muslims have began gradually losing jobs and income sources. Even those who had vast tracts of lands are also now leading a tough life. Thanks to the appeasement policy of the state government, the old city remains a forbidden city for any meaningful development. It is high time, basic infrastructure is established providing for good roads, English medium schools, well equipped government hospitals, good drainage system, plenty of recreational facilities, skill development centers and above all assuring each one of them about their sense of belonging and human dignity. The politicians have thoroughly failed till now.

State Police and their (in) capacity to deal

Another interesting thing is utter lack of professionalism in the state and more so in the Hyderabad police. Most of the lower rung staff (Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables and Constables) is employed in special branch and anti-terror wings; they consider these postings as severe punishment as they don't get any bribes like their colleagues do in law and order and traffic. These chaps lobby hard to get out of these 'wretched' postings and move over to lucrative law and order or traffic wings. That is the level of motivation for those occupying these sensitive jobs.

Intelligence Wing:

The state intelligence wing is presently headed by an officer of the rank of Additional DGP. Until the late seventies, it was headed by an officer of SP rank. In the early eighties, it was upgraded to DIG level posting; which gradually got elevated to IG level and now it is being headed by Mahender Reddy, IPS officer of 1986 batch. He has been in this post ever since Arvind Rao quit after YSR's tragic death in the chopper crash. No doubt, Mahender Reddy is an

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accomplished officer; but what about our wretched political system? The priority of present day chief ministers in the country are not maintaining law and order - rather gathering political information pertaining to dissident activity in the party and keeping a tab on political rivals. Much of the focus of the Intelligence Chief gets wasted in these matters. Added to the political interests, these days keeping tab on Telangana agitation and the manner in which the government led by Andhra leaders wanting to suppress it by hook or crook; efforts of the Intelligence wing in gathering information about Terrorism are getting diverted.

Otherwise, how can our top cops, explain the laxity in comprehending the inputs passed by central IB sources on 15th February and reiterated thrice in succession? To say that – warning note sent by central IB was not specific - is just nothing short of callousness. It is another thing that despite information it may not be possible to collate the same to avoid disastrous happenings but to rubbish the note sent by central IB is unpardonable.

Octopus wing:

We have a high profile "Octopus' wing, an anti-terror wing specially created after the 2007 August - blasts, which claimed over 45 lives and injured hundreds. But, the top officials who are to head it are not selected based on their efficiency or integrity, but because of their less loyalty to the chief minister of the day. Many still remember how a tough cop like AK Mohanty was shunted out of Hyderabad City Commissioner's post at the behest of MIM and packed of to newly created Octopus job; only to be shunted out from there too. Ironically, even now Octopus is being headed by an efficient officer (Addl. DGP - Surendra Babu of the 1987 batch) but what can one person do without the essential infrastructure being made available to him?

National Investigation Agency:

Yes, Hyderabad has got the National Investigation Agency (NIA) office after 2008 Mumbai attacks. First it was thought that Hyderabad would be its national headquarters for the strategic location of the city. But, thanks to sinister designs of the Delhi based lobbies, this headquarters was moved to Delhi and Hyderabad only got a branch, that serves as a mere rehabilitation centre for the local officials from South India who desire a posting in Hyderabad.

Hyderabad police always had a troubled relationship with the local

Muslim youth which prevents them from identifying the 'sleeper cells' of terror groups like Lashkar-e-Tayiba (LeT) or Indian Mujahideen (IM). Their brutal methods of torture and arbitrary arrests dissuade the Muslim youth from sharing any worthy information presuming that indeed they have a scent of such credible information. Contrarily, the illegal arrests and third degree treatment of many youth in the Old city pushed them to accept contacts with terror groups, just like what happened with Telangana youth branded as Maoists.

For instance, two Muslim youngsters – Mohammad Muqueemuddin Yaasir (24) and Mohammad Balighuddin Jaber (23), sons of Maulana Naseeruddin were claimed by police as the commanders of LeT and were sent to jails in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Finally, they were let off by the competent courts for want of any evidence and now the two are among those who vociferously condemned the latest bomb blasts. The case of these two youngsters is only an example of how thousands of hapless youth are bearing the brunt for no fault of theirs. It shows how stupid and clumsy our police investigators are.

Hyderabad invariably figures in news whenever there is a terror attack in the country and one or the other accused are seen linked to the city or the traces of the conspiracy were noticed here. But, never they could establish the links in the courts or secure conviction of any accused in the last two decades; ever since terror attacks are being linked to Muslim groups became an issue.

Thursday's blast at Dilshuknagar is a terror attack in the city after a gap of five years. But, the police are not showing professionalism in making a proper investigation. There is a tremendous unwillingness on the part of crime investigators to arrest suspected persons; all this because of their poor track record in picking up youth in connection with terror crimes in 2009, since the 31 Muslim youth arrested in the case of Mecca Masjid bomb blast were acquitted by the courts. Not only that, they were also paid compensation on the orders of National Minorities Commission.

Then the police arrested another set of people connected to some Hindu groups in the Mecca Masjid blasts case and Swami Aseemananda, now in jail, has confessed that it was the handiwork of his group to retaliate other terror attacks. The entire operation of switching from one accused to another accused has drained out the police. Now, the City police has no steam left to handle the situation and that's why it has accepted to allow the government to refer the matter to a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to be headed by an officer of Additional DGP rank.

What is to be done?

There are many ways to win any war; but the potential way to win the war on terror in Hyderabad is to win over the confidence of local Muslim youth, who need to be respected for being citizens of this country who too enjoy the fundamental rights guaranteed to them by the Indian constitution. Further, enabling better education and providing decent employment opportunities besides assimilating them into the national consciousness. Instead of treating every Muslim youth as a potential terrorist, the police should reach out to them and develop contacts with them. Only then, they will voluntarily inform the police of any movements of suspicious elements of terror networks. It is high time the civic authorities in Hyderabad pay attention to building the old city as per the master plan to make old city fully equipped with all amenities. After all the Hyderabad that is called a 'pearl city' is only because of its presence in the old city.

It is also important to remove the impression among Muslim youth that Hindus are generally against them. This is a gross misnomer and requires to be eliminated from their minds. The political leadership should do its best to convey to the Muslims that they belong to this country as much as any one else and that the terrorists are enemies to every manner of civil society. Allocation of sufficient funds for the development of Old City of Hyderabad in a time-bound program is more essential to prevent another terror blast in Hyderabad. ◆

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(File Photo) 2007 bomb blast at Gokul Chat in Koti

(File Photo) 2007 bomb blast at Lumbini Park

Is Law taking its own course?

By B Shivkant

A brutal attack on humanity yet again took place in the busiest place of the city of Hyderabad on Thursday. Nearly 20 people have died in the blast and more than 120 people suffering injuries and getting treatment in various hospitals in the Hyderabad city. The Hyderabad police has failed to identify the culprits and the groups behind this pathetic act against the hapless victims. The Chief Minister, The Opposition Leader Chandra Babu Naidu, the YSRCP Honorary President Vijayamma, Venkaiah Naidu of BJP and many politically employed or unemployed have visited the explosion site and condemned the act and went even to the Hospitals where the victims are fighting for life.

On the other hand the City Police Commissioner, DGP, Home Minister and off course the casual and inexperienced Chief Minister all are damn busy in meetings just to discuss how to go ahead with the unexpected and sudden bomb explosion and all seems very hopeless and clueless.

In the year 2007 twin blasts have taken place in Hyderabad city that too in the busiest place of Hyderabad i.e. Gokul Chat Bhandar in Kothi and at the Laser Show at Lumbini Park both considered as the heart of the city and the then CM YS Rajasekhara Reddy blamed the bomb attack was carried by banned outfits of HuJI, Lashkar-e-Tayyaba and Jaish-e-Mohammed and took 3 people in their custody for investigation and interrogation. At that time the police have reached Nagpur from where the Ammonium Nitrate based explosive Neogel-90 was bought for using for the bomb. Even now, the police are suspecting that the same kind of explosive material has been used for the Dilsukhnagar blasts.

More than Five and half years have passed and there is no progress in the investigation of the Lumbini Park and Gokul Chat bomb explosions where more than 45 people have died and hundreds received severe injuries and till today gets shiver in their spine whenever they recall that incident.

Many talks were in the air that Babu Bhai alias Jalaluddin Mullah from Lucknow, Shahid Bilal, Munir-ul-Islam alias Asadullah, and Asif Reza Khan who was killed in Gujarat later might have been behind the twin bomb blasts but till today no significant or noteworthy progress took place. From Balvinder Singh to Anurag Sharma, many Police chiefs changed but the police is clueless about the real culprits and always cry foul on terrorists from Pakistan and Bangladesh perpetrating these attacks and it appears that nobody has made any honest efforts to nab the guilty and pay homage to the innocent people who became victims of the evils and devils of terrorism.

The governments are responsible for providing safety and security to the Indian citizens but it seems the government are least bothered about the common man and his security and whenever such kind of inhuman incidents carried out by devils the government just washes its hand by paying some compensation and bearing the medical expenditure of the victims and there ends the matter.

It is evident that nobody in power centers really care for the precious human lives and the common man has to be the victim of such unethical and unlawful attacks killing the near and dear ones of many.

A routine dialogue always been heard from the people in power since a very long time on Television sets that "Law will take its own course" but is the law really taking its own course is the million dollar question boggling the minds of the youth and people of this country.

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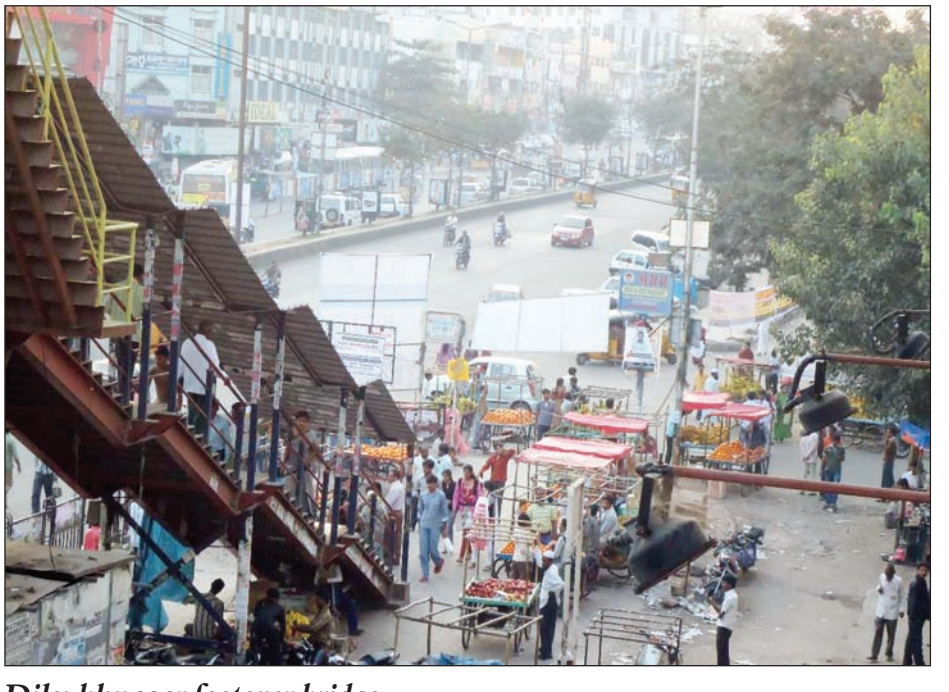
Lumbini Park, Tankbund

Gokul Chat, Koti

Mecca Masjid, Charminar



Dilsukhnagar footover bridge

DECCAN POST

Kotla must do something for AP

After a long gap, Andhra Pradesh has got a minister in railways. Senior MP from Kurnool, Kotla Jai Suryaprakasha Reddy, who is also the son of former chief minister Kotla Vijayabhaskara Reddy has been made a minister of state (MoS) in the Railways ministry. After prolonged neglect of AP's concerns, the appointment of Kotla as a MoS in the Railway ministry comes as a great relief amidst immense expectations. The State although never had a union minister heading the important ministry of railways; it did have two junior ministers several years ago. Bandaru Dattatreya and Bangaru Laxman were holding the reins as Ministers of State during the NDA regime a decade ago. The last congress leader who was another junior minister of Railways was late Mallikarjun in the early seventies. At a time when allocations for various states in the Railway Budget are heavily politicized, the induction of Kotla Junior into the union ministry is considered a huge opportunity for the legitimate aspirations of the state.

Being a senior politician and as the one who comes from an illustrious political family, Suryaprakasha Reddy has been given important work division within the railway ministry and Union Railways Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal accords a lot of respect and value to Suryaprakasha Reddy in the affairs of the railways matters. This is a good development. At the same time, Suryaprakasha Reddy has a workload full on his plate. He has many aspirations to fulfill from Andhra Pradesh, which is badly neglected in the matters of railways. All along, this key portfolio has been held by the north Indian politicians and especially those who hailed from Bihar and West Bengal; they have almost monopolized it for decades together.

Whether it is Ramvilas Paswan or Lalu Prasad Yadav or Nitish Kumar or Mamta Banerjee or Dinesh Trivedi whoever was at the helm had allocated huge funds for railway projects to their respective states and blatantly ignored the demands of other states. As a result, people

of Andhra Pradesh had to put up with whatever was allocated and never had the unity to voice their demand for due share. Now that Suryaprakasha Reddy is rightly placed over there, it is indeed time for the people of Andhra Pradesh to expect something from him.

It is interesting news that out of all 17 railways zones in India, only the South Central Railways (SCR) which caters to the most parts of Andhra Pradesh, besides serving other parts in other neighboring states, is in profits. No other zone is in profits. The SCR had total revenue of Rs 8,200 crore in 2012-13 financial year, which ends with March 31st this year. The total expenditure of the SCR stood at Rs 6,500 crore, leaving a profit of Rs 1,640 crores. This is a unique distinction as other zones failed to show this kind of results. But, still the SCR is a much neglected zone among others due to lack of political initiative and collective will of AP politicians.

DECCAN POST urges Kotla Suryaprakasha Reddy to ensure that the requirements of long pending railway projects are met in the upcoming railways budget which would be presented to the Parliament later this month. There are about 17 new railway projects with a distance of 1,837 km in Andhra Pradesh and these projects immediately need allocation of Rs 12,113 crore, to complete them in next two years.

But, the successive railway ministers never allotted more than 10 per cent of the total requirement, thus making it impossible to complete these projects before next 20 years. For instance, all these projects put together were allocated only Rs 280 crore in 2012-13 budget. Kotla should see to it that these projects are given not less than Rs 6,000 crore in the present budget.

Similarly, as many as nine doubling or trebling of existing lines and electrification projects, covering a distance of 824 km, too need a total Rs 3,162 crore. But, in the last year, they were given a meager Rs 250 crore. Now they should be given at least Rs 2,000 crores, so that they can be completed. Some of them are of short distance projects like 25 km to 57 km.

Experts of railways are of the view that any allocation of funds to the SCR is nothing but a productive investment as here the railways make profits. Modernization of Secunderabad Railway Station and improving sanitation in railway stations and bettering the reservation system and increasing the frequency of sub-urban trains are other priorities before Kotla Suryaprakasha Reddy. Let's hope he succeeds in his efforts to ensure these things.

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letters TO THE EDITOR

Rahul to takeover as PM?

Your last week's cover story as well as the cover page was of the International standards and reminded me of International magazines. The story which predicted in much advance that Rahul Gandhi might be taking the reins is exclusive and unique as no other newspaper or news channel carried this story. Everyone like me was expecting that the Congress party will field Rahul Gandhi as its prime ministerial candidate for the 2014 general elections. But now it seems that congress party is not sure that it will get the required numbers in the Lok Sabha to form its government for the consecutive third time. This move is expected to benefit the congress party in the whole nation especially when the congress party under the Prime ministership of Rahul Gandhi declare statehood to Telangana. The congress surely might introduce more populist schemes like "Aapka Paisa Aapke Haath" to attract the voters and try to cover up its failure in controlling the frequent price hikes in the country and surely will try to get rid of the corruption took place during the prime ministership of Dr Manmohan Singh. I wholeheartedly congratulate the whole team of Deccan Post for such an excellent story. Keep up the good work guys.

Dr Arun Kumar, Khairtabad

Hold elections to local bodies...

Your editorials are world class and every editorial is unique and highlights the utmost need of resolving the long pending needs of the people. It raises the voice of the people without any kind of hesitation. Even the Supreme Court of India has ordered the government as well as the Election Commission of India to conduct the local bodies election immediately. The development was struck and thousands of crores of rupees were not sanctioned to the AP state which resulted in the halt of development works in the state so badly and the decision comes as a big relief for the people who expecting development in their areas. It might be a setback to the congress party as it seems it is not going to fare well in the local bodies elections. But the government must conduct the periodical elections for the development of the state.

Sunitha, Erragadda

CBI should probe...

Yet another scam under the rule of Congress party has surfaced in form of heavy corruption in Augusta Westland chopper deals as it is being alleged that hundreds of crores of rupees have been given as kickbacks for striking the deals. People are tired of the corruption and it appears there could be no immediate relief for the common man. Recently the fire accident took place in Old Begumpet Airport raised eyebrows of many and the state government is not even going to get the insurance amount for the property damaged. The government should order for a CBI probe in the Fire Accident too so that the truth will come out and the guilty should not be spared at any cost as the public money has been used for those choppers.

Mohd Imraan, Tolichowki

The Hot Flavours

I am a regular reader of Deccan Post and follow the flavours page and find it quite sensual and the photo selection of you DP guys is excellent. Coming to the last week's issue I must mention here that the photos of Bipasha Basu and Shraddha Das were amazing and off course there was no obscenity. I would be expecting much more exclusive gossips and good photographs.

Punit Jain, Vidyanagar

Readers are requested to send in their feedback to
mail@deccanpost.net

Apex Court clears decks for holding elections to local bodies

BCs get their due for now...

By B Shivkant

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Andhra Pradesh government to conduct elections to urban local bodies and Panchayat Raj institutions on the basis of existing 60.55 per cent quota to Backward Classes (34%), Scheduled Castes (18.30%) and Scheduled Tribes (8.25%) as per the census of 2006 elections. A Bench comprising of Justices P Sathasivam and JS Khehar passed the orders on a petition filed by the State government and others challenging the decision of the Andhra Pradesh High Court directing the authorities to hold the polls by fixing 50 per cent reservation for various sections. Besides the State government, the appeal against the High Court orders was filed by Andhra Pradesh Most Backward Classes Committee and an eminent Social activist Dr P Vinay Kumar, a surgical-gastroenterologist based in Hyderabad.

The term of urban local bodies ended in September 2010 and that of Panchayat Raj institutions (PRIs) in July 2011. Since then on they have been under the rule of special officers in the absence of elected councils. The Centre had stopped the release of statutory grants to the tune of Rs 2,500 crore to these PRIs due to non-conduct of elections. A petition was filed in the High Court seeking conduct of elections to the PRIs, but the government said it had to first finalize the reservations (for various sections) as per the 2011 census.

Several Opposition parties in Andhra Pradesh have been accusing the ruling Congress government of dragging its feet over conducting elections. The BJP, Telugu Desam Party and the Left parties welcomed the apex court's order and wanted the government to conduct elections to the local bodies expeditiously. These parties allege that the Kiran Kumar Reddy government was unwilling to hold elections fearing defeat in all three regions. Opposition parties allege that there has been no development in the local bodies in the last two years and they are crying for even basic infrastructure. The so-called special officers have totally neglected the development of local bodies and caused enormous suffering to the basic needs of the people.

Dr P Vinay Kumar,

Several Backward Classes organizations in the state hailed the passionate struggle waged by Dr P Vinay Kumar, who joined the appeal against the High court order restricting the reservation quota to 50%. He urged in his appeal petition submitted before the apex court that the bar on reservation quota of 50% was at best applicable for admissions into educational institutions and government jobs but cannot be justified for reservation of quota in local body elections as there cannot be any justification of merit getting jeopardized in the society. The apex court granted stay on the high court's order prohibiting reservation beyond 50%. The Supreme Court judgment was a victory for the struggles by the association seeking 34 per cent reservation for BCs in these bodies. It is to be seen how the apex court would finally dispose of the matter. So far so good.

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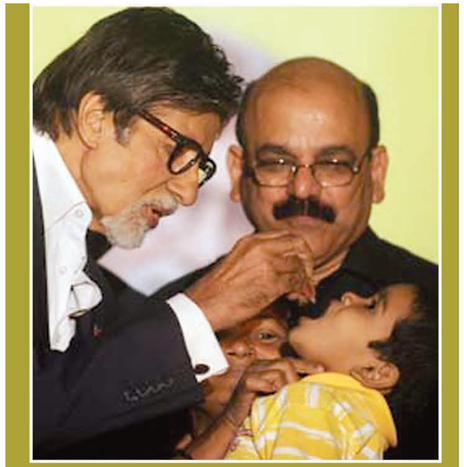
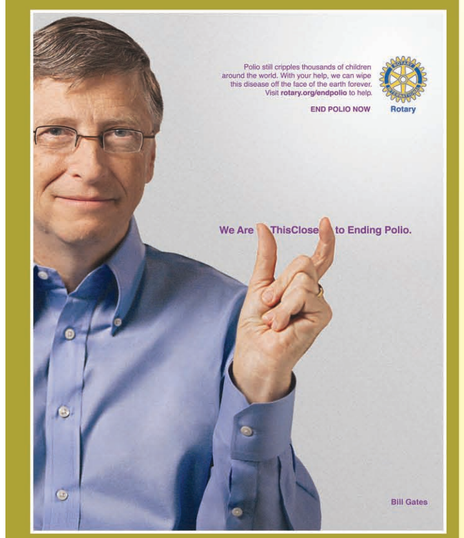




By Jaywant Naidu

Poliomyelitis, often called polio or infantile paralysis, is an acute, viral, infectious disease spread from person to person, primarily via the fecal-oral route. The term derives from the Greek 'Polios' referring to the grey matter of the spinal cord, and denotes inflammation, i.e. inflammation of the spinal cord's grey matter, although a severe infection can extend into the brainstem and even higher structures, resulting in polio-encephalitis, producing apnea that requires mechanical assistance such as an iron lung.

Although, approximately 90% of polio infections cause no symptoms at all, affected individuals can exhibit a range of symptoms if the virus enters the blood stream. In about 1% of cases, the virus enters the central nervous system, preferentially infecting and destroying motor neurons, leading to muscle weakness and acute flaccid paralysis. Different types of paralysis may occur, depending on the nerves involved. Spinal polio is the most common form, characterized by asymmetric paralysis that most often involves the legs. Bulbar polio leads to weakness of muscles innervated by cranial nerves. Bulbo-spinal polio is a combination of bulbar and spinal paralysis.

Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by a virus poliovirus. It invades the nervous system and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours. It can strike at any age, but affects mainly children under three. Polio is mainly passed through person-to-person (i.e. fecal-oral) contact, and infects persons who do not have immunity against the disease. There is no cure for polio, but the disease can be prevented by immunization with polio vaccine. Oral polio vaccine (OPV) was developed in 1961 by Dr Albert Sabin; OPV is a highly effective, safe and inexpensive vaccine, and has been used in all countries of the world to achieve polio eradication. Poliomyelitis was first recognized as a distinct condition by Jakob Heine in 1840.

Its causative agent, poliovirus, was identified in 1908 by Karl Landsteiner. Although major polio epidemics were unknown before the late 19th century, Polio was one of the most dreaded childhood diseases of the 20th century. Polio epidemics have crippled thousands of people, mostly young children; the disease has caused paralysis and death for much of human history.

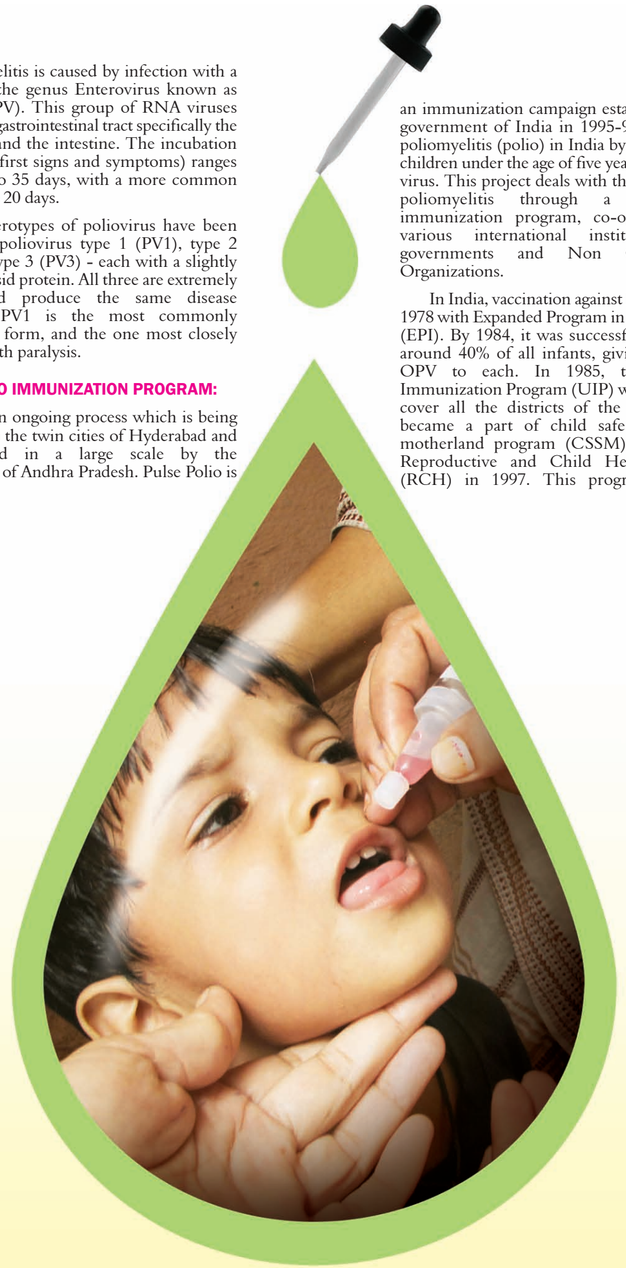
By 1910, much of the world experienced a dramatic increase in polio cases and epidemics became regular events, primarily in cities during the summer months. These epidemics which left thousands of children and adults paralyzed provided the impetus for a "Great Race" towards the development of a vaccine. Developed in the 1950s, polio vaccines have reduced the global number of polio cases per year from many hundreds of thousands to under a thousand today. Enhanced vaccination efforts led by Rotary International, the World Health Organization, and UNICEF should result in global eradication of the disease.

Poliomyelitis is caused by infection with a member of the genus Enterovirus known as poliovirus (PV). This group of RNA viruses colonize the gastrointestinal tract specifically the oropharynx and the intestine. The incubation time (to the first signs and symptoms) ranges from three to 35 days, with a more common span of six to 20 days.

Three serotypes of poliovirus have been identified - poliovirus type 1 (PV1), type 2 (PV2), and type 3 (PV3) - each with a slightly different capsid protein. All three are extremely virulent and produce the same disease symptoms. PV1 is the most commonly encountered form, and the one most closely associated with paralysis.

PULSE POLIO IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM:

This is an ongoing process which is being conducted in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad in a large scale by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Pulse Polio is an immunization campaign established by the government of India in 1995-96 to eradicate poliomyelitis (polio) in India by vaccinating all children under the age of five years against polio virus. This project deals with the ways to fight poliomyelitis through a large scale immunization program, co-operating with various international institutions, state governments and Non Governmental Organizations.



In India, vaccination against Polio started in 1978 with Expanded Program in Immunization (EPI). By 1984, it was successful in covering around 40% of all infants, giving 3 doses of OPV to each. In 1985, the Universal Immunization Program (UIP) was launched to cover all the districts of the country. UIP became a part of child safe and survical motherland program (CSSM) in 1992 and Reproductive and Child Health Program (RCH) in 1997. This program led to a significant increase in coverage, up to 95%. The number of reported cases of polio also declined from 28,757 during 1987 to 3,265 in 1995.

In 1995, following the Polio Eradication Initiative of World Health Organization (1988), India launched Pulse Polio Immunization Program along with Universal Immunization Program which aimed at 100% coverage. In 2012, India was declared free of polio by WHO.

Last year, the World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed that polio was no longer endemic in India. Next year, if no new cases arise, the country will be declared polio-free, perhaps the greatest public-health feat it has ever achieved, saving hundreds of thousands of children from paralysis and death. India's accomplishment was a triumph of consistent and strong political will as well as international coordination and has given a huge lift to the global fight against polio, a disease that as recently as 1988 claimed 3,50,000 people each year. In 2012, the global caseload was just 222. When India came off the WHO list last year, the number of countries where the virus is still endemic came down to three: Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Understanding how a country so huge, so diverse and so poor managed to stop polio transmission offers important lessons both for the complicated international effort to eradicate the disease for good and for India's own health care system. The oral polio vaccine was introduced in India in 1978, a year before the US was declared polio-free. In 1985, Rotary International launched its global effort to end polio everywhere. India was a signatory to the 1988 WHO treaty committing participating nations to be part of that effort. Routine immunization, in which patients sought out the vaccine themselves had reduced polio but couldn't stop it from spreading. Reported immunization coverage across India was officially as high as 90%, but the disease was still being transmitted. In 1995 and 1996, the government started to organize annual national immunization days, and in 1997, India established the National Polio Surveillance Project. In 1999, it set up an expert advisory group that monitored the program and provided continuous evaluation of how the disease was behaving around the country. Finally it was decided the best way to fight the disease was to focus on the states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, two of the poorest areas in the country where polio transmission was uninterrupted. Crucially, the group also decided to target migrant workers moving in and out of those states and started vaccinating along the trail that migrant followed. The goal of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative is to ensure that no child will ever again know the crippling effects of polio.

Let's strive collectively for a Polio free India. ❖

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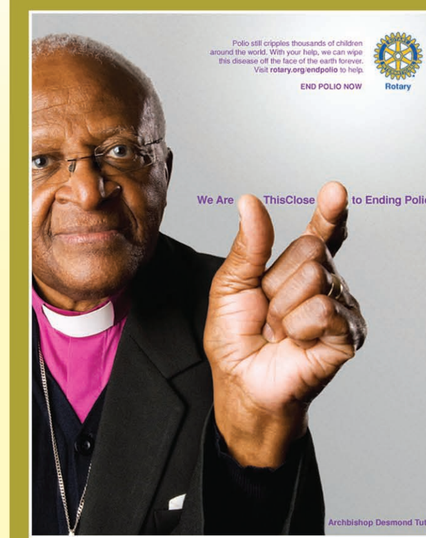
Is India polio immuned?



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Srinivasa Kalyanam at Varanasi

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams plans to conduct the unique ritual of Srinivasa Kalyanams at Kasi Viswanatha Temple complex in the Banaras Hindu University campus, Varanasi on February 23rd. Disclosing this to newsmen at the Banaras Hindu University campus the TTD Joint executive Officer Sri P Venkarami Reddy said 30 Vedic priests from Tirumala, 1000 Vedic students and 15 Vedic pundits of Varanasi would participate in the ritual performed as per the traditions observed at Tirumala between 3-5 PM on Saturday. 'The Kalyanams are being performed in premier towns and cities all over the country and also overseas as part of the TTD mission to spread the message of Sanatana Dharma' he told a crowded press conference.

namo VENKATESAYA

Asked about the promotion of Veda study by the TTD he explained the number of Vedic pathashalas run by TTD across AP and also the patronization of Sanskrit university at Tirupati.He also appraised about the multifaceted activities of the TTD which included charity, social relevance, religious, Medicare, education, publications, research and documentation.

Sri Venkarami Reddy also informed the media about the facilities like free rooms, free darshan, free annadanam, free tonsuring and free transportation available for the devotees at Tirumala and Tirupati. Among others, TTD PRO Sri Thalari Ravi, Sri Anjaneya Shastri, Dean of Shastra and Dharma Vijnan department, Chief liason officer Sri Venkat Sharma, Benaras University PRO Rajesh Singh , former Central Dharmic Council member Sri Nagabhushanam , faculty members of Banaras University.

SUDOKU 258

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

How to play : Fill in the grid so that every horizontal row, every vertical column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating the numbers in the same row, column or box. You cant change the digits already given in the grid. Every puzzle has one solution.

ANSWERS Sudoku-257

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

Answer 257 : Sophia, East Maredpally

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Laugh out loud

COMPLAN PILAYE
Santa jungle ke raste se ja raha tha. Tab uski najar ped pe latke hue saap pe padi.

***Santa** : Sirf Latakne se height nahi badhegi,mummy ko bolo complain pilaye.*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Taange Kaat Di
***Santa:** Mery dada ne 1857 ki jang me dushman ki taange kaat di thi*
***Banta:** Gardan kyon nai kati?*
***Santa:** Wo to pehle se hi kati hui thi*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

MILK
***Sardar Asked A Doctor :** Doodh Peene Se Rang Gora Hota Hai?*
***Doctor:** Han Hota Hai.*
***Sardar :** Chal Jhoote, Phir Bhains Ka Bacha Kala Kyu Hota Hai?*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DINNER
Ek Shadi me Santa bahut der se khana kha raha tha dusre ne pucha "kab tak khaoge?"
***Santa:** "main to khud kha kha ke thak gaya hu par card me likha tha **Dinner: 7 pm to 11 pm..**"*

ASTRO FOCUS

Feb 17 - 23, 2013

Aries: You would have to trying something new for this week. It would give you profit in your financial term. This week advancement is certainly yours, if you put your energy to positive use. Work completed this week will be much beyond your expectations and the result will be immediate. Your hard work and determination will bring you success. You will be able to get the blessings of elders.

Taurus: This week improving your skills and knowledge should be on your list of priorities. Business people will have a stiff competition. Family members will bring you happiness and look after you well. A sudden romantic development with someone you have known for long might come as a surprise.

Gemini: Your confidence and morale will be high during this period and success and gains will be with you. On career front, you will get good cooperation from your subordinates. Opportunities for a part-time job will brighten for some. Efforts with good intentions will succeed. Time spent with partner could give you opportunity to make healthy relationship.

Cancer: Work should be on your top priority and you have to be focus on that. Your accomplishment will bring you good results in the long run. Some of the natives may be able to recover long outstanding dues. All round happiness is in store. It is the proper time to use your influence and get the things done. Support from friends and associates will be immense. Your beloved will be caring but highly possessive.

Leo: This is the right time for major decisions on the professional front. Your financial status seems to get better with new opportunities and ventures in the offing. You may likely to get into a big occasion for progress. Your work will give you satisfaction. You will win over your rivals. Concentrate your efforts into career building activities. Time for the new strategies and plans.

Virgo: On career front, you will witness some improvement. Your suggestion might give you better result. Your charisma and glamour will bring you popularity. If necessary take a professional advice. Your inherent talents will come into limelight. Happy news from a friend or a close relative will boost your spirits and bring cheerful moments. Think twice before executing any important work.

Libra: Some misunderstanding may crop you with your family members. You have to try to patch up the differences with mutual talks and discussions. Do not use harsh words. During the second half, you may get a thick and fast inflow of money. Your personal friends and family members will extend excellent cooperation to you. You may get due recognition for the work you have done.

Scorpio: You are most likely to make some extra money from overtime or speculation. Growth opportunities will develop through interaction with influential people. Business persons will get good contracts. Some of the natives may hear good news during the week. Romance would rule your heart this week as you find immense pleasure in the arms of your beloved.

Sagittarius: Your practical and innovative nature helps you to build a new confidence with your business associates. Your financial position improves boosting your confidence and morale. Put your energy to positive use. Decision shall yield only favorable results. Teamwork, rather than attempting to go alone, will bring better results.

Capricorn: Your financial liabilities and commitments are going to increase a lot so play safe. Your willingness to help others would leave you tired and exhausted. You hard work shall be duly rewarded. Businessmen should focus into forming new alliances and partnerships. Your love/ relationship will remain same in this week.

Aquarius: Listen to others before you give your opinion. College students will venture into small part time jobs or short-term courses. You will evince interest in religious and spiritualism. Your positive outlook would impress those around you. This week you may have to bear with the erratic behavior of your seniors. Romantic matters and affairs of the heart will be exciting.

Pisces: An exceptional week with money coming in and going out. You'll have to make choices for your future, as you will have opportunities to make a great deal of money. Improvement will be there in finances this week. There will be gains from various sources. Inflows & expenses both could rise. Income will be good & pickup rapidly. Friends are helpful when you have needs that can be solved without spending or investing.

Preserve the Rich Indian heritage

Ritesh and Rajnish Mishra came to Hyderabad to perform Hindustani music concerts. They spoke exclusively to Deccan Post.

Can you tell us about the Banaras Gharana?

Banaras (Varanasi) is the hub of spiritual fervour and since ancient times it has been the centre for learning the true essence of Hindustani classical music. Devout Hindus consider Banaras to be a city of enlightenment, where "Lord Shiva" is said to have made his permanent abode since the dawn of creation. Amongst the many vocal Gharanas of India, such as Gwalior, Agra, Kirana Gharana, Jaipur, Rampur Sahaswan, Patiala, Delhi, Bhendi Bazar, Bishnupur of Bengal, Mewati and the Sufiana Gharana of Kashmir - the Banaras Gharana is undoubtedly the jewel in India's music crown.

Who are the important musicians of this Gharana?

Over the years, the Banaras Gharana has produced a galaxy of outstanding vocal, instrumental and dance performers including Pt. Hanuman Prasad Misra, Pt. Gopal Misra, Pt. Samta Prasad Misra, Pt. Mahadev Misra, Smt Alaknanda Devi, Ustad Bismillah Khan, Pt. Gopi Kishan, Pt. Birju Maharaj, Pt. Ravishanker, Pt. Kishan Maharaj, Pt. Rajan Misra, Pt. Sajan Misra, Smt Girja Devi, Smt Sitara Devi, Smt N Rajan and several others. And many of these maestros continue to believe that it was Banaras that made them and their music.

How did you take up to the classical music?

There was no force on us to take up classical music. We took to this path and are happy to follow it.

Is Banaras Gharana more a light classical genre?

Not at all. The Gharana is rich in its light classical repertoire: Thumri, Tappa, Kajri, Chaiti and Hori. But, it has a very rich history of 'Khayal' singing. We also draw our inspiration from other styles of singing. Our tradition is more than thousand years old, but it evolves everyday.

Can you tell us about your discs and Grammy nomination?

Our work with famous composer Micheal Nymen has been released as an album (SANGAM) selling worldwide. Our 3rd track "Mahadeva" in the album called 'Rise' has been nominated for the prestigious 'Grammy Awards'. We have also given background score to the audio book by Penguin & ANB publisher.

What is your message to the youth of this country?

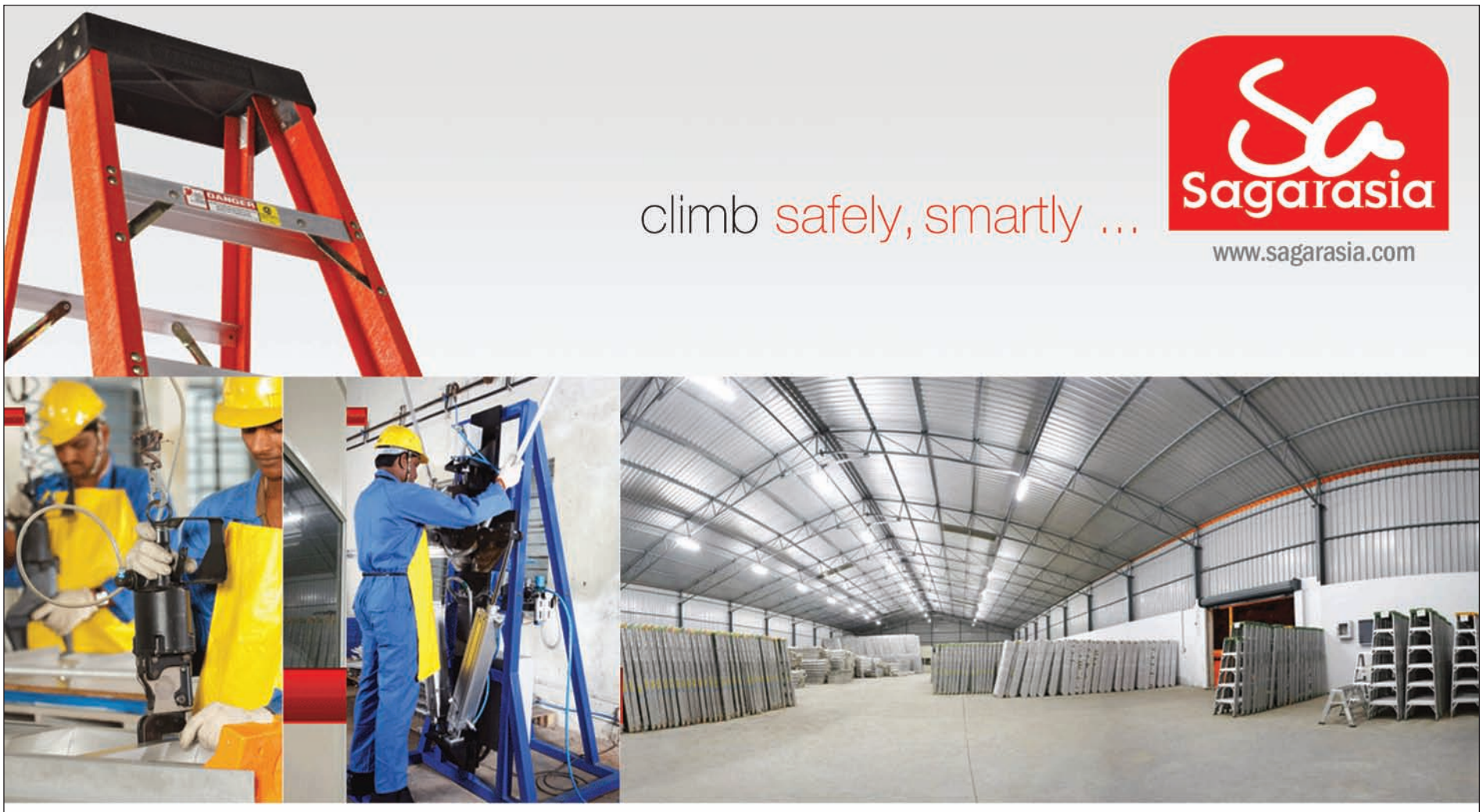
We perform for the youth of this country in schools and colleges through SPIC MACAY and would like to remind them that classical music is equally their treasure as ours. There is a very important need to preserve this rich heritage.

Any future plans?

We have a traditional family Gurukul in Dehradun and also arrange Baithaks and festivals through an organization called 'RASIPA'. This also provides an opportunity to youngsters to perform on stage.

mail@deccanpost.net

- JAYWANT NAIDU



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Alia wants to act in horror film

Bollywood baby Alia Bhatt made her debut with a youth-oriented film titled Student Of The Year. Now, looks like baby Alia has grown up. The newbie is very keen on featuring in a horror flick. In fact, the actress herself said that she would love to be a part of the Murder or Raaz franchise in future.

The 19 - years - old spoke at the screening of Murder 3. She said, "In these thrillers and scary movies, it is very difficult to portray (the role), to always look scared… and you know, (be) in that tense zone. So, I would love to do a film (like that). If 'Murder 4' or 'Raaz 4' happen, I would love to do it."

Directed by Alia's cousin, Vishesh Bhatt and produced by her father, Mahesh Bhatt, Murder 3 stars Aditi Rao Hydari, Randeep Hooda and Sara Loren in the lead roles. Vishesh Bhatt debuted as the director of the film, which hit theaters on Feb 15.

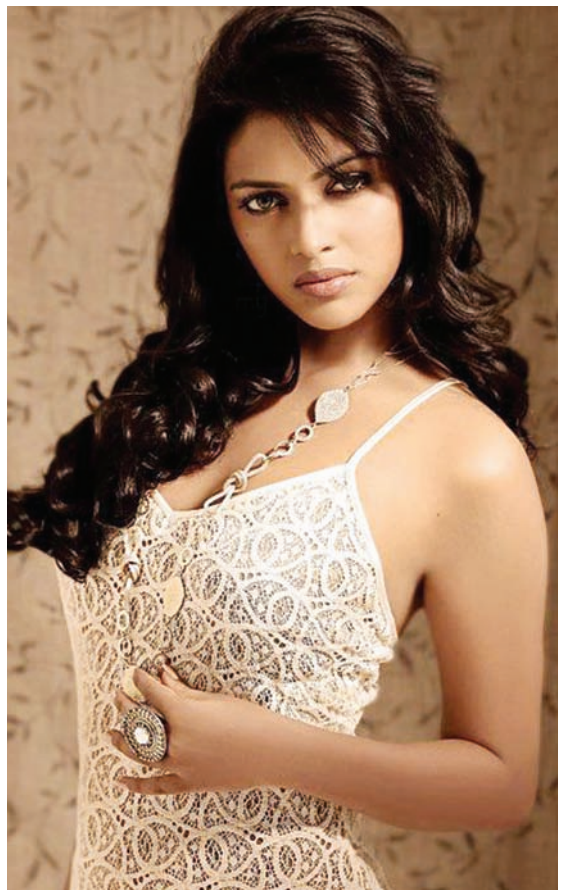
Alia Bhatt is very proud of her cousin. She said, "I saw it with the audience and I loved it. I think the 'Murder' franchise has gone a step ahead with this film. I feel very proud as a sister. Vishesh has taken such a beautiful story and made it so interesting and gripping."

Meanwhile, Alia has started shooting for "2 States" opposite Arjun Kapoor.

hot & SPICE

Amala Paul's liplock with Allu Arjun

Among all the latest trends in tollywood Lip Lock is the hottest of all. This trend had started from hollywood and finally arrived tollywood via Bollywood. Tollywood actors and actresses are giving their green signals for the lip-locks and intimate scenes in the movies these days, well of course it's when the script demands only.



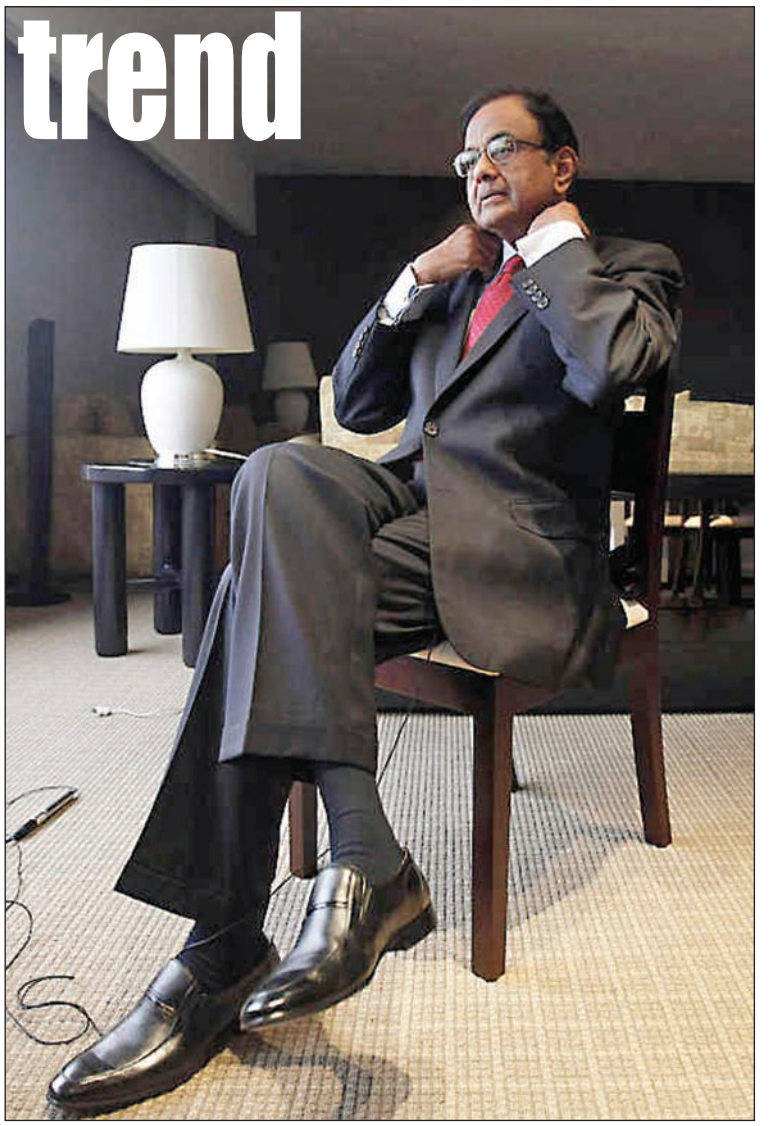
Recently, rumor mills are agog with speculations that Stylish Star Allu Arjun who started liplock trend with his back- to-back lip locks in 'Varudu', 'Vedam' and 'Arya 2' is once again locking his lips with Amala Paul in his upcoming movie "Iddarammayilatho" under the direction of Puri Jagannath. There is a very passionate scene in the film and this lip lock was shot in Spain aesthetically by top director Puri Jagannath. This super hot liplock scene between Bunny and Amala is sure to set the silver screen on fire.

The buzz is that Bunny and Amala were seen spending a lot of time on the sets to get into the comfy zone before the intimate kissing scene was shot. Remember, Amala had earlier done a smooching scene with Arya in Lingusamy's Vettai.

Iddarammayilatho is progressing briskly in Spain. Producer Bandla Ganesh is gunning a summer release as he's fast wrapping up the shooting of the film. Catherine Teresa is playing the other lead. Devi Sri Prasad is providing the soundtrack and Amol Rathod is the director of photography.

-DP Desk

Market in depressing trend



By V Sundar Raja

The minor recovery that was seen in the stock market has been a short lived one as the market has again witnessed a sharp reaction. The steep fall on a single day on 21st February is the biggest single loss in this current year, giving nervous moments for the investors. Stock market triggered a sharp downtrend, due to the sell-off in the global markets, as economic concerns continue to haunt the markets. Moreover, there was a selling pressure by the domestic investors while FIIs have been strong buyers in the Indian stock market in the last few weeks.

Stock market, witnessed weakness and all eyes are now on the much awaited Union Budget which is expected to be presented on 28th February and the Railways budget that is expected on 26th February. There is lot of hopes on this union budget, because the stock market has been in the depressed condition, in the last few weeks. Market is expecting lot of incentives for the corporate and also a friendly positive budget, for the stock market to enter into a bullish trend.

Stock market is expected to witness a consolidation trend in the next few days till the union budget is presented. This is expected to provide a next major direction for the market, for the investors to be cautious.

Banking stocks have turned very weak on concerns that there could be slowdown in this sector. Software stocks were seen positive, after the recent results of the software major Infosys and TCS. There is lot of hopes on the Pharma segment, and in-case of any incentives in the budget, then this sector could be an attractive portfolio for the investors. Automobiles have turned weak after a report of a slowdown in the Car sales, while metals like Steel and Aluminum have been in the downtrend, in the last few weeks.

Precious metals like Gold and Silver have seen a sharp slide in the last few days, in the commodity market due to global weakness. Gold has the next major support at 29,000 and Silver has the next major support at 52,000 in the MCX commodity market. Only in-case of any breakdown below this key support levels, then it indicates a further short-term downtrend. Leading base metals like the Copper, Zinc, Aluminum, Nickel, and Lead have all got into a weakening trend, after an earlier bullish trend due to selling pressure in the International market.

Dollar has made gains against the Rupee from 53 to 55 levels, where it is now currently facing strong resistance. It has to sustain above 55, to indicate a further appreciation. Crude oil is seen reacting at major barrier of 5,300, and is expected to move in a sideways range of 5,300 and 5,100, after an earlier bullish trend from 4,700.

Sensex has the next major technical support below at 19,000 and market needs to consolidate positively at current levels, for safety. But in-case of any further failure at major psychological support of 19,000, then it indicates a further short-term correction, to be cautious.

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Note - Investors should be aware of risks in the stock market.

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