

**NATION 5**  
'INDIA MUST  
ELIMINATE POVERTY'

**MONEY 6**  
ARCELORMITTAL INITIATES  
RS 42K CR PAYMENT FOR ESSAR

**SPECIAL 7**  
MASTER  
OF THE MIND

THIS OFFICER  
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HYDERABAD, SUNDAY DECEMBER 15, 2019; PAGES 12 ₹3



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12

## KEJRIWAL ROPES IN PRASHANT KISHOR FOR IMAGE MAKEOVER

**NEW DELHI:** Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has inked a deal with Indian Political Action Committee (IPAC) for image makeover, the party chief Arvind Kejriwal announced on Saturday. The AAP had secured 67 out of 70 assembly seats in Delhi in the last assembly elections in 2014. The date of assembly election in Delhi is to be announced soon as the poll needs to be completed by February 14, 2020. Political strategist and currently an influential leader of the Janata Dal (United), Prashant Kishor runs advocacy group IPAC.



## HUMAN TEETH USED AS PENDANTS IN TURKEY 8,500 YEARS AGO

Researchers have discovered two 8,500-year-old human teeth, which were used as pendants in a necklace or bracelet, at a prehistoric archaeological site in Turkey. The rarity of the find suggests that the human teeth were imbued with profound symbolic meaning for the people who wore them, said archaeologists from University of Copenhagen. During excavations at the Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük in Turkey between 2013 and 2015, researchers found three 8,500-year-old-teeth that appeared to have been intentionally drilled to be worn as beads in a necklace or bracelet.



## UK, US ISSUE TRAVEL ADVISORIES AMID NORTHEAST VIOLENCE ON CAA

The US, the UK, France and Israel have issued travel advisories following violent protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in parts of the northeast, advising their citizens either not to travel to the region or to exercise caution. The US, in an advisory posted on the website of its mission in New Delhi, asked American citizens in the northeastern states to exercise caution following the protests and violence in response to the CAA.



## US MAGICIAN BROOMSTICK CLIP SWEEPS FANS OFF FEET

**CALIFORNIA:** California-based magician Zach King, 29, has clearly swept his millions of fans off their feet with this trick: Dressed as Harry Potter, he zoomed around in the air while riding a broomstick. He shared this video on TikTok, Instagram, and Twitter this week, getting 8,033,076 views on Instagram, and whopping 2.1 billion on TikTok. "They rejected my application to Hogwarts but I still found a way to be a wizard," he captioned the clipping.



## Girl raped, set ablaze in UP

**BANDA (UP):** In a chilling reminder of the recent Unnao case, an 18-year-old girl was allegedly raped and set ablaze at a village in neighbouring Fatehpur district here on Saturday. She is battling for life at a Kanpur hospital with 90 per cent burns.

The 22-year-old accused is her distant relative, who allegedly raped and set the girl ablaze when she was alone at her house in a village under the Hussainganj police station, Circle Officer Kapil Dev Mishra said. On hearing her cries, neighbours rushed her to a local community health centre from where she was referred to the Kanpur hospital.

## JNU VC says students tried to attack him

**NEW DELHI:** JNU Vice-Chancellor Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar on Saturday claimed a group of 15-20 students tried to attack him on the campus but university security staff saved him.

"I had gone to School of Arts and Aesthetics to see how the exams were going on. When I was returning to the administration block, 15-20 students surrounded me, abused me and tried to attack me. However, I was rescued by university security personnel and policemen in plain clothes," Kumar said.

## Charge-sheet filed in Samatha case

**HYDERABAD:** A charge sheet has been filed in a court here in connection with the gang rape and murder of a Dalit woman in Kumram Bheem-Asifabad district of Telanganalast month, police said on Saturday.

It was filed within 20 days of the incident after completion of investigation along with all relevant evidence with forensic reports and 44 witnesses have been cited, Kumram Bheem Asifabad district Superintendent of Police M Malla Reddy told reporters.

# 'My name is Rahul Gandhi, not Rahul Savarkar'

Says 'I will die, but will never apologise'

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said he "will die but never apologise" for speaking the "truth" as he is a Gandhi and not a Savarkar, and asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his "assistant" Amit Shah instead to apologise for "destroying" the economy of the country.



Addressing the Congress' mega 'Bharat Bachao Rally' at Ramlila grounds here, he took a dig at the BJP for demanding an apology for his "rape in India" remark and said, "The BJP asked me to apologise. My name is not Rahul Savarkar, it is Rahul Gandhi, and I will never apologise for speaking the truth."

"I will die, but I will not apologise for speaking the truth and nor will any Congressman do so. It is Narendra Modi and his assistant Amit Shah who have to apologise to the country for destroying India's economy," he asserted.

Accusing Prime Minister

Modi of single-handedly "destroying" the country's economy, he said, "All of India's enemies wanted that its economy, which is its strength, should be destroyed."

"That work (of destroying the economy) has not been done by the enemies, but by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi himself. And, (he) still calls himself a patriot," he added.

Training his guns on the prime minister, a charged Rahul Gandhi said Modi only thinks about one thing - whether he has the power.

Continued on Page 4

## Rahul Jinnah 'more appropriate' name: BJP

**NEW DELHI:** Hitting back at Rahul Gandhi for his Savarkar jibe at the BJP, the ruling party on Saturday said a "more appropriate" name for the Congress leader is "Rahul Jinnah" as his "Muslim appeasement" politics makes him a worthy legate of the Pakistan's founder. Veer Savarkar is revered as Hindutva icon for the BJP but is accused by its rivals of tendering apologies to the British government to secure release from jail when India was under the colonial rule. Targeting Gandhi, BJP spokesperson G V L Narasimha Rao said, "The more appropriate name for you Rahul Gandhi is RAHUL JINNAH. Your Muslim appeasement politics and mindset makes you a worthy legate of Mohammad Ali Jinnah, not Savarkar."

## While ministers welcome 'encounter', Etala differs

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Even as Ministers Talasani Srinivas Yadav, Gangula Kamalakar Reddy, Malla Reddy and MP Ranjit Reddy joined cheerleaders in hailing KCR for the Shadnagar encounter, Health Minister Etala Rajender on Saturday created a sensation by observing that 'encounter' of the accused offered no solution in the Disha case.

In fact, he went one step ahead and remarked that even hanging the accused in a grave case like this would not offer any solution. He batted for bringing change in society.

Adopting a philosophical tone, he opined that cell phones, TVs and modern technology had been ruining people's lives. "Parents are worried about the future of children." There was no guarantee that a person who had gone out would return home safely. Citing some instances, Etala pointed out how some parents were behaving cruelly towards children. He expressed his concern over people's decadent behavior.

Following Disha's gang rape-



cum-murder, Ministers of the state Cabinet expressed divergent views. Home Minister Mahmood Ali felt that Disha should have availed assistance by calling 100, Cinematography minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav went on record stating that the state cannot provide security to one and all. After the encounter deaths of the accused in Disha case, Ministers welcomed the action taken by the police.

Talasani called it as "the fiercest form of CM KCR". He said that people had "underestimated the silence of KCR".

"The whole nation is looking towards Telangana", he remarked. Several other Ministers spoke in a similar vein, suggesting that KCR should be credited for the 'encounter'.

## RTC BUSES' EFFECT Metro timings shortened

Requests to extend Metro timings fall on deaf ears

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Commuters' requests to retain the extended Metro services' timings seem to have fallen on deaf ears, considering that L&T HMRL has just restored the timings to pre-RTC strike schedule.

Effective Sunday, the first train starts at 6:30 am, instead of 6:00 am, and last train is at 11:00 pm. L&T HMRL just put out a note stating, "Please note that the timing of Hyderabad Metro Rail from 15th December would be 0630 hrs-2300 hrs from all the terminal stations."

The trains were running from 6:00 am in view of RTC strike until 11:00 pm, prior to which they were running from 6:30 am. This certainly did not go down well with passengers who asked the Metro authorities to have a relook at the order. A netizen Abhishek Dama, expressing his disappointment, said, "It is total disappointment. When city is roaming round the clock, you are cutting down service times."

Continued on Page 4



HMDA Secretary Ram Kishan, Special Grade Deputy Collector BS Lata, EO lands Gangadhar, SDC Aparna, CE BLN Reddy, Director Narendar and other officials monitoring e-auction on Saturday

## Windfall for HMDA at Uppal Bagayath e-auction

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

A square yard of land at Uppal Bagayath layout went for a whopping amount of Rs 77,000 during an e-auction conducted by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) on Saturday. The authority raked in Rs 40.04 crore for 29 plots of 6623.5 sq yards during the auction conducted from 9 am to 12 pm. It earned Rs 115 crore for 23 plots in the afternoon, totaling Rs 155 crore for 52 plots.

While the average bid cost

was 60452.35 per sq yard in the morning, in the afternoon the average cost was Rs 46588.2 per sq yard. The average bid cost is around Rs 49520.96 per sq yard. While the lowest bid amount was Rs 30,200; the highest was Rs77,000 per sq yard.

In the first session, plot number 1302, spreading across 166 sq yards, fetched an amount of Rs 77,000. In the second session, plot number 105, spread across 822 sq yards, fetched an amount of Rs76,600.

Continued on Page 4

## Thousands gather at Jantar Mantar to protest against citizenship act

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Protests against the new citizenship law intensified in the national capital on Saturday as thousands of people gathered at Jantar Mantar and Assam Bhawan here, and called for an end to "religious profiling".

People from all walks of life came out in solidarity with those opposing the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and dubbed it as "anti-people".

'Not In My Name' campaign, which was earlier in headlines against the alleged attacks on minorities, also held a protest at Jantar Mantar against the amended citizenship act.

Rahul Roy, one of the organisers of the 'Not In My Name' campaign, said, "It can be an act, bill or whatever, but clearly it is against the Constitution and is unlawful. The intension of the act is to create communal tension in the country."

"This act is being used to create hatred against Muslims. If the government thinks that this will end here then they are wrong," Roy said. The Delhi Metro Rail



Similar agitations were also held near Assam Bhawan, where people holding candles raised slogans in protest against the controversial legislation.

Sara Javed Chawla, a 24-year-old Delhi University student, said the communal politics should be stopped.

"The current government is doing politics on religion and nothing else. They do not talk about the real issues, but divert people's attention from them. Why you are creating Islamophobia?" she said.

"Why only the Muslims of this country need to prove or show their citizenship. The Muslims are equally Indians as the people from other religion," Chawla said.

Continued on Page 4

## BRKR Bhavan rooftop conference hall by Jan

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Despite the State government's resolve to prune budgeted expenditure and adopt austerity measures, the proposal to have a state-of-the-art rooftop conference hall atop BRKR Bhavan remains, with the officials readying to spend at least Rs 3 crore for the 600 square-foot facility at the ad hoc Secretariat building.

The officials in fact are adorning the hall, which can seat 300 people at a time, with modern gadgets, including a video wall. A special lounge is

being built for the Chief Secretary, apart from a mini conference hall for higher officials. A pantry, VIP dining hall and a cafeteria are also on the cards.

A high-speed lift will enable VVIPs to reach the 10th floor in 30 to 40 seconds flat. The conference hall will have centralized AC and broad dais, apart from a huge video wall.

According to sources, Chief Minister K Chandrababhu Naidu may inaugurate the conference hall in the second week of January.

Continued on Page 4



Work in progress atop BRKR Bhavan

## Golconda has another castle underground

**NAVEENA GHANATE ■ HYDERABAD**

The famous Golconda Fort perhaps has another fortress underground!

An excavation being carried out at Naya Qila, an extended portion of the Golconda Fort, has brought to fore many secrets. The excavations have been taken up in a 40-acre parcel of land owned by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in Naya Qila, adjacent to the golf course. Many antiquities and inscriptions, some purportedly dating back to



15th century, have also been found. ASI officials and historians believe there may be something underground. The area was inspected by ASI Southern Regional Director Maheshwari on Saturday. She ordered the authorities to carry

out the excavation work under the guidance of experts.

According to sources, the golf club has reportedly sought additional land. The present excavations were taken up for the purpose of granting scientific clearances.

Naya Qila was built in 1656 by Sultan Abdullah Qutb Shah as further defence from the Mughal armies. However, for gaining access to the Naya Qila one has to face hurdles; particularly to visit the Hathiyani Ki Jhad - The Elephant Tree - one has to traverse through the golf club.

## Trainee IPS suspended for cheating on wife

**NAVEEN KUMAR ■ HYDERABAD**

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued orders suspending trainee IPS officer Kokkanti Venkata Maheshwar Reddy, who had been booked by the Rachakonda Police for allegedly cheating on his wife. The victim, Kokkanti Bhavana, a resident of Hyderabad, had lodged a complaint with the Jawahar Nagar Police against Maheshwar Reddy, alleging that he had cheated on her and even threatened to kill her.

The suspension order said, "The competent authority has considered the issue and in



view of the fact that the aforesaid case is pending for investigation against you (referring to K V Maheshwar Reddy); it has been decided to suspend the offer of appointment, dated 2nd December 2019, till fur-

ther orders." The MHA has also said the suspension orders will be reviewed if he is cleared of criminal charges. "However, after getting cleared from such criminal proceedings, your

Offer of Appointment will be reviewed by the Ministry and thereafter you will be able to join the Basic Training Course at SVPNPA, Hyderabad without loss of seniority," the order said. According to the complaint, the couple, in a relationship since 2009, had registered their marriage in 2018. However, their marital life soured when disputes arose between them after Maheshwar Reddy cleared UPSC. The 28-year-old Bhavana had stated that her husband, upon becoming an IPS probationer, refused to accept her on the specious ground that she belongs to a different caste.

Continued on Page 4

**TODAY**

**ALMANAC**  
Month & Paksham: Margashirsha & Krishna Paksha  
Panchangam  
Tithi : Tithiya: 07:18 am.  
Chaturthi: 04:34 am (Next Day)  
Nakshatram: Pushya: 04:01 am (Next Day)  
Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)  
Rahukalam: 04:17 pm- 05:40 pm  
Yamagandam: 12:11 pm - 01:33 pm  
Varjyam: 12:43 pm- 02:15 pm  
Gulika: 02:55 pm - 04:17 pm  
Good Time: (to start any important work)  
Amritakalam: 09:54 pm - 11:26 pm  
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:49 am - 12:33 pm

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**  
Forecast: Partly Cloudy  
Temp: 29/18  
Humidity: 72%  
Sunrise: 06:38  
Sunset: 05:44  
Current Weather Conditions  
Updated December 14, 2019 5:00 PM



# There is always a price to pay for extra-judicial killings

**T**here is always a price to pay for extra-judicial killings and it is only a question of zeroing in on the perpetrators and deciding the quantum of punishment.

The 'encounter' killing of Sohrabuddin Sheikh in Gujarat tormented the high and mighty of the Gujarat government during the mid-2000s. The law does not give anyone the power to serve as judge, jury and executioner.

It was mentioned in this column last week that the 'encounter' deaths of four youth suspected of gang-raping and killing veterinary doctor Disha had brought temporary relief to the Government by mollifying an angry public and by deflecting attention from failures of the police but that it would create new headaches.

This is exactly what happened after the Supreme Court

constituted a high-level inquiry commission even as Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's cheerleaders, including Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy, showered him with encomiums. The fact, however, remains that the appointment of a commission with two distinguished ex-judges and ace investigator DR Karthikeyan is beyond what the Telangana police may have anticipated.

This is not another commission that will throw up its hands in despair if the State authorities do not extend cooperation like the Bhargava Commission did. Mr. Karthikeyan has a reputation to defend after cracking the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, tracing the killers, and ensuring they were killed or jailed.

Here is how the trouble for the authorities begins. It must answer a host of disturbing

**Here is how the trouble for the authorities begins. It must answer a host of disturbing questions starting from the genuineness of the encounter, questions that got drowned in the din preceding and following the shoot-out at Chatanpally**

questions starting from the genuineness of the encounter, questions that got drowned in the din preceding and following the shoot-out at Chatanpally.

Chief Justice of India S A Bobde observed, after the Hyderabad shoot-out, that justice can never be instant and loses its character if it becomes revenge. What is troubling in dispensing instant justice is the question whether some more criminals could have been involved and whether, as the TS police suggest, the four



**S NAGESH KUMAR**  
Former Resident Editor,  
The Hindu

accused in Disha case had a role also in similar crimes reported in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. And, dead men do not speak.

Answers are needed why the alleged killers were not handcuffed while being taken to the crime scene and what evidence the police expected to gather in pre-dawn darkness from the agricultural field near the spot where Disha's body was set on fire.

Of course, Cyberabad Police Commissioner V S Sajjanar became an instant hero.

a whole in the entire episode.

The impatience of mobs demanding instant justice stems from the unacceptable delays in disposing of rape cases and handing out punishment to convicts. The frustration of Nirbhaya's parents and public over the long rope given to the paramedic's killers by entertaining endless review petitions and mercy petitions has eroded people's confidence in the judiciary.

When tempers run high, logic runs low. Mr. Jaganmohan Reddy doffed his hat to KCR for the elimination of Disha's killers. He did not leave it at that. What purpose, he asked, would be served by the legal machinery if the accused were set free after lengthy trials in courts of law? KCR had resolved this dilemma instantly.

Jagan was perhaps reminiscing about his late father, YS Rajasekhara Reddy, who was

the chief minister when the Warangal 'encounter' happened. Jagan got the Assembly to pass the Disha Bill prescribing death penalty for extreme cases of rape and delivery of judgment within 21 working days - seven for investigation and 14 for the trial.

Such pieces of legislation are the result of either administrative inexperience or inadequate homework. The Delhi High Court in 2014 denounced a trial court for examining 22 of 24 witnesses in a day in a case of murder of a 14-year-old-boy. As the super-fast procedure led to the 'conviction' and award of the sentence of life imprisonment to two innocent men, the Court observed, "Justice hurried is justice buried".

While it may be possible to complete a trial in 14 days, it beats one's imagination how the police can gather, collate and analyse evidence in seven

days in cases where issues are complex or multi-dimensional.

Section 25 of the Evidence Act lays down that a disclosure by an accused to the investigation officer is inadmissible as evidence. The evidence against Disha's killers was largely based on their disclosure. Police had to painstakingly link various other pieces of evidence like the tyre puncture, mechanic's statement, proof of purchase of petrol, video footage and present them in court. The 'exchange of fire' saved them this trouble.

After the 'encounter', the police and KCR must have felt relieved that public anger had subsided. But, for the Telangana police the headache has just begun as the Commission will keep it busy for the next six months. Every action, as they say, has an equal and opposite reaction.

## 'Rest of India looking at TS'

**PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR**

Welfare Minister Koppula Eswar and Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy on Saturday said that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao offered pucca solution to the agriculture sector, which was in disarray five years ago. They hailed him as the one who introduced sweeping changes in the agriculture sector.

The novel schemes implemented by the state government is grabbing the eyeballs of the nation, said Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy. He said that other states are eagerly watching the developments in Telangana as Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao contemplated several novel concepts and projects in agriculture sector.

The Minister was speaking after formally inaugurating a new building on the premises of Polasa Agriculture College in Jagtial District. The building was constructed with an outlay of Rs 16 crore. Speaking on the occasion, the state government



Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy drives a paddy plantation tractor in Polasa Agriculture College in Jagtial on Saturday

**Chief Minister offered a 'pucca' solution to the agriculture sector, which was in disarray five years ago, said Agriculture Minister Niranjan Reddy**

in the country were eagerly watching the developments in the Telangana as the CM contemplated several novel concepts and projects. He hailed the Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bima schemes as unprecedented in the country. It was KCR who influenced Prime Minister Narendra Modi to think about farmers, he said adding that the Center would not have cared for farmers had KCR not been there.

was contemplating to establish agriculture colleges in the private sector in the coming days. Agriculture is a part of the life of the Indians and it would continue as a prime occupation, he

further said. During the past five years, agriculture has attained prominence because of Chief Minister's farm-friendly initiatives, said the Minister. He further said that other states

## Congress struggles to survive in TS

**RAMAKRISHNA PERALA ■ KARIMNAGAR**

Following back to back setbacks in Assembly, Parliamentary elections held in the State, the Congress is now trying to make its presence felt by winning the Urban Local Body polls, especially in north Telangana, where the BJP is emerging stronger.

Subsequent to its lackluster performance at the Lok Sabha hustings in Karimnagar, Adilabad and Nizamabad districts, the Congress leadership, representing this part, is slowly but steadily losing its sheen.

Though they could take part in certain programmes, their impact was not evident in the previous strongholds like Karimnagar.

The BJP has certainly occupied the prime slot in this region and the local MP Bandi Sanjay has taken advantage over the Congress leaders to take the party ahead of its other rivals. Even the TRS is considering the BJP as its prime opponent in the urban areas of north Telangana. The senior leaders of Congress representing these three districts subsequent to this aspect are silent and they are not keen on taking any risks at the present hustings of local bodies.

## ASIFABAD GANG RAPE CASE

# Police file charge-sheet in special court

**PNS ■ ADILABAD**

The district police on Saturday filed charge-sheet in the fast-track court to try the gang rape-cum-murder of Samata. The charge-sheet named Shaikh Babu as A1, Shaikh Shabuddin as A2 and Sahikh Maqdoom as A3.

Cases have been registered under Section 302 and 376D of the Indian Penal Code and also under the SC and ST Atrocities Prevention Act. The police have named 44 persons, including two police officials, as witnesses in the incident. The forensic lab report says that the victim was gang raped before killing her by slitting her throat.

According to Asifabad district SP Malla Reddy, the fast-track court would conduct trial in the case from Monday onwards on a daily basis. The SP exuded confidence that the culprits would get punished in the case. Earlier, the Law Department issued GO Rt No. 647 to enable establishment of special court to try the case as early as possible. Several Dalit and Bahujan organizations have demonstrated on a large scale demanding punishment to the guilty in the sensational case.

The state government has set up the special court to try



**The police have named 44 persons, including two police officials, as witnesses in the incident. Meanwhile, the Adilabad Bar Association resolved not to lend any legal assistance to the accused in the case**

the case following submission of a report by the District Collector Rajiv Gandhi Hanmanthu in the case. Meanwhile, the Adilabad Bar Association on Friday resolved not to lend any legal assistance to the accused in the case. This apart, National Child Rights Commission Member Pragyna Parande visited the bereaved family members of Samata and declared that there was no caste discrimination in dealing with the Disha and Samata cases.

It may be recalled that Samata, who eked out a living by selling balloons going from one village to another village, was on November 24 dragged into the bushes by the accused on the outskirts of Yellapatar village of Lingapur mandal of Asifabad district and gang raped before killing her. The incident created a sensation in the region.

## Sircilla 4th nationwide in MGNREGA implementation

**PNS ■ RAJANNA-SIRCILLA**

Rajanna-Sircilla district has been placed in the fourth rank in the national rankings in implementation of MGNREGA scheme. It secured fourth rank in the category of effective implementation of MGNREGA scheme in the district. Out of 18 districts selected for the award under the category, Sircilla secured fourth place followed by Siddipet at fifth position.

While both Bankura and Coochbehar of West Bengal got first and second places, Srikakulam of AP obtained third rank. In a statement, Collector D Krishna Bhaskar said team work of officials helped the district to get national rank.

## 'Palle Pragathi' second phase from January 2

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

The second phase of Palle Pragathi would be held from 2-11 January 2020 in around 12,751 villages, said Minister for Panchayat Raj Errabelli Dayakar Rao here on Saturday. The Minister was speaking at a review meeting held with the chairpersons of Zilla Parishads, CEOs of Mandal Parishads and other senior officials. Addressing the meeting, Errabelli said that the first phase of Palle Pragathi programme was successful and the second phase too was likely to get a tremendous response.

In the second phase, he said works pertaining to Shamshan Ghats and Dumping Yard and also increased the salaries for workers of Zilla Parishads.



nurseries would be executed. He directed the officials to undertake the works for the comprehensive development of rural areas. He said that the State Government has increased the funds for the construction of Shamshan Ghats and Dumping Yard and also increased the salaries for workers of Zilla Parishads.

Dayakar Rao directed the District Collectors to hold review meetings with MPs, MLAs and other elected representatives by December 28 to finalise the programme in their jurisdictions. He said that the second phase of the programme should be launched by conducting Gram Sabhas on January 2.

## Soon, Siddipet to have its Shilparamam

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

As part of the government efforts to make Siddipet a tourist destination, a Shilparamam will be established soon here, said Finance Minister T Harish Rao on Saturday.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating the town hall built at a cost of Rs 6

crore, the Finance Minister said that the district, which has already emerged as a model for development, will be developed into a model tourist place in Telangana.

He also requested Mamidi Harikrishna, Director of Department of

Language and Culture, to set up a dance academy and music school in the district.

Stating that the district boasted of many tourist spots, Rao said it was also the birthplace of several writers, artists, folk singers and other well-known personalities. To mark the inauguration of the

town hall, named 'Vipanchi Kala Nilayam', a host of cultural programmes were organised.

A large crowd turned up at the auditorium to watch the artists in action. Zilla Parishad Chairperson, V Raja Sharma, Collector, P Venkatrami Reddy, MLC, Farooq Hussain, Joint Collector, M Padmakar and others were present.

## UoH team makes path-breaking study

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

A study by Anil K Pasupulati, Assistant Professor at the Department of Biochemistry, School of Life Science, University of Hyderabad (UoH) and his team, has shown that reactivation of embryologically active events contributes to diabetic nephropathy.

Diabetes is a major cause of kidney failure, blindness, heart attacks, stroke and diabetes of lower limbs, and is one of the leading causes of death worldwide. Diabetic nephropathy is one of microvascular complications that arises as a consequence of hyperglycemic milieu, and is characterized by moderate to heavy proteinuria and degeneration of renal tissue. In healthy individuals, glomerular podocytes (present in nephron) are intact and offer glomerular permselectivity thus curb protein loss in the urine. Nevertheless, the molecular cues that manifest in podocyte injury and protein loss in diabetic nephropathy



have largely remained unknown.

Several embryologically active signaling events remain silent in adult life. However,

**Anil K Pasupulati, Assistant Professor at University of Hyderabad and his team, has found that reactivation of embryologically active events contributes to diabetic nephropathy**

reactivation of those events in the mature adults manifest in the progression of diseases such as cancer and diabetes.

Dr. Anil's laboratory is interested in understanding the mechanism of how pathological events trigger and implicate in the pathogenesis of diabetic nephropathy, a press release said. In their recent study, Anil and his colleagues demonstrated that human growth hormone activates Notch signaling and NICD1 expression. Activation of this signaling resulted in podocyte injury

and proteinuria in experimental rats and showed that patients with diabetic nephropathy display increased NICD1 expression.

Anil K Pasupulati received his M.Sc. (Biochemistry) from Andhra University and Ph.D. from Osmania University. He had post-doctoral experience from the University of Michigan (2008-12) and before moving to the University of Hyderabad, Anil served at Osmania University and National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad.

## NEW ROLE



Home Minister Mohd Mahmood Ali hands over appointment letters to Hyderabad Agriculture Market Committee chairperson Cheedalla Radha and vice-chairman Korudu Bheemeshwar, in Hyderabad. The state government has constituted the committee for a period of one year

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**CRIME CORNER**

**Two held for stealing diamonds from jewelry shop**

The Saifabad police arrested two inter-state criminals for stealing diamonds worth Rs 40 lakhs from Riddhi Siddhi Jewellers in Basheerbagh on Saturday. The arrested persons have been identified as Ramesh Mansoor Thandeshwar, 65, and Mayur Kishore Kumar Suru, 44, both residents of Mumbai. The police had received a complaint stating that two persons had come to the jewellery shop for purchasing diamonds by introducing themselves as persons from Bangkok. The duo asked the sellers to put the diamonds in an envelope and seal it so that they are not sold to anyone. They returned the next day to check the sealed packet and after checking, they have left the premises saying that they will return after some time. After they did not turn up for four days, the seller grew suspicious and checked the sealed cover only to find fake diamonds. The Saifabad Police registered a case under sections 380 and 420 of the IPC. The police formed special teams to locate Mayur and Thandeshwar. Based on CCTV footage, the duo were nabbed at Borivali in Mumbai. The stolen booty was exchanged for Rs 14.69 lakhs which was shared equally by the duo. The police said that Mayur and Ramesh are goldsmiths by profession and knew each other since 15 years.

**Two students commit suicide in separate incidents**

A 23-year-old engineering student from Gudivada in Andhra Pradesh has found hanging in his hostel at Kukatpally Housing Board Colony on Saturday. The deceased student was identified as Krishna Tej. Police said that he discontinued his B.Tech and left home on December 2. He joined Sai Sudha Men's Hostel at KPHB on December 6. However, on Saturday he was found hanging in the hostel corridor. The reason for his suicide is yet to be ascertained. In another incident, a student committed suicide by jumping in front of a moving train under Rajendranagar police station limits on Friday. The deceased student, Pavan was undergoing coaching at Sri Sai Defence Academy in the Nalanda Nagar colony in Hyderguda. Sources said that Pavan was depressed for the past few days over the payment of the fee in the academy. The management was also pressurising him to pay his fees. As news of Pavan's death spread, students in the academy staged a protest alleging that the pressure from the academy has driven him to end life.

**Two former bank employees arrested for loan fraud**

The Hyderabad police officials arrested two former bank employees who had helped a person to get a bank loan with fake documents. The accused have been identified as Parvez Zaheer, 61, and Bejenki Rambabu, 62. Both of them worked at Central Bank of India, Musheerabad Branch. Parvez Zaheer and Bejenki Rambabu had conspired with Mohammed Imran and created fake land documents and got Rs 70 lakhs loan sanctioned to Imran. Based on a complaint from the bank manager, a case was registered and the duo were arrested.

**One killed, one injured in road mishap**

A person was killed and another sustained injuries when a tipper lorry hit them at Masab Tank late on Friday night. According to the police, two persons who are yet to be identified, were crossing the road when a lorry hit them. Both the persons sustained serious injuries in the accident and one of them, aged around 50 years, died on the spot. The injured person was shifted to Osmania General Hospital for treatment.

**DISHA CASE**

**DNA REPORTS HELP COPS NAB ACCUSED**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Deoxyribo Nucleic Acid (DNA) found on half burnt clothes helped cops nail the four accused in the case of woman veterinary doctor who was raped and murdered in Chatanpally, according to the FSL report.

If the accused men had burnt her body totally, forensic expert could not have matched their DNA to the body and even rape would not have been confirmed, official said.

The autopsy report of the Cyberabad rape and murder victim Disha has confirmed the presence of alcohol in her body. Shadnagar police, while presenting the remand case diary before the court, said that the accused forced the veterinary doctor to consume soft drink laced with alcohol before raping her near a toll plaza at Chatanpally.

The toxicology report was submitted to Shadnagar police by Telangana Forensic Science Laboratory. The report established that the seminal stains found on Disha's undergarments and scarf belonged to the accused. "We have found the DNA samples from the partially burnt clothes on the Disha's body. The same was gathered by our clues team and sent to FSL for testing," said Dr Venkanna, head of clues team from Hyderabad police.

According to the FSL report, the liver tissue of the victim contained alcohol traces which establish that the accused forced her to drink liquor. The revelations came after forensic experts examined the viscera of the victim during the autopsy.

**Spl injection administered to keep bodies from decomposing**

**HYDERABAD:** Officials have administered special injections to the bodies of the four accused as the High Court has ordered for them to be preserved. Each injection is said to be costing around Rs.7,500, sources said, adding that it's effect can be seen for a week.

**Each injection is said to be costing around Rs.7,500. It's effect can be seen for a week**

hospital. It is learnt that the police are taking all measures to preserve the dead bodies until SC passes an order to hand over the bodies to their relatives. According to sources, officials



According to the family of the victim, the doctor was a teetotaler.

"The victim got into a cab for Scooterbowli after parking her scooter at Tondupally toll plaza at 6pm. After completing her work, she returned to the spot at 9.30 pm without halting anywhere on the way

that night. So, this suggests that the liquor was force-fed to her by the accused as they raped her," said an official.

Despite the killing of the accused in the shootout, police say it will file a charge sheet in the court. Four accused - Jollu Shiva, Mohammad Areef, Jollu Naveen and Chennakeshulu

**According to the FSL report, the liver tissue of the victim contained alcohol traces which establish that the accused forced her to drink liquor**

allegedly raped the veterinary doctor on the night of November 27 near Tondupally toll plaza.

All the four suspects in the rape and murder case were killed in a shootout at the Shadnagar in Ranga Reddy district on December 6. The police claimed that the accused attacked cops while they were taken at the spot for crime reconstruction.

**2 foreign drug peddlers nabbed, narcotics seized**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Excise enforcement of Hyderabad arrested two drug peddlers and seized banned narcotics including 8 grams of cocaine, 9 grams of MDMA and 4 ecstasy tablets in Banjara Hills on Saturday.

The arrested persons have been identified as Saeed Ali, 33, from Palestine and Abdurabu, 29, from Oman. Ali is a resident of Banjara Hills whereas Abdurabu is a resident of Nanalagar.

Both the accused were addicted to drugs. Ali came to Hyderabad from Syria around 10 years ago for his education and started peddling drugs to earn some quick bucks. He was also involved in a drug case at Ameerpet Excise Station in July 2018.

Abdurabu came to Hyderabad from Oman around 5 years ago. Abdurabu was detained in his academics at Holymary Engineering College. A cheating and harassment case was also booked against him when he cheated a woman from old city. Abdurabu confessed that he used to supply drugs at party places and clubs in the city, the officials said.

In view of upcoming New Year celebrations, the excise officials heightened their vigilance and kept a watch on illegal activities.

While conducting a route watch in front of Century Hospital at Road No.12 in Banjara Hills, the duo were arrested with the contraband. Four mobiles and Rs 30,000 cash was also seized from them.

During initial investigation, the duo revealed that they sell cocaine at Rs 7000 per gram, MDMA at Rs 4000 per gram and an ecstasy pill



**2 held, 8 kg ganja seized**

**HYDERABAD:** The Mangalhat police arrested two drug peddlers and seized 8 kilos of marijuana, a two-wheeler without a number plate and a smart phone. The accused were identified as Vikas Jadaav alias Avinash, 20, and Ravi Kuril, 21, said the police, adding that their associate, Vikram Singh, 35, is reportedly absconding. Both Vikas and Ravi are childhood friends and are addicted to alcohol who ran into debts, said the police inspector of Mangalhat, G Ranaveer Reddy. "To fund their vices, they decided to sell drugs. They purchase ganja from villagers for Rs 3,000 per kilo and sell the same to higher price in the city. They were doing this since the last one month. Vikram Singh, their associate asked them to sell drugs in Dhoopet area" said the official. On Thursday afternoon, the duo purchased 8 kilos of marijuana from Vikram at Jummerath Bazar in Lower Dhoopet on credit basis for Rs 4,000 per kilo. While they were entering a bylane of Rahimpura ground in Mangalhat to sell the drugs the police officials nabbed them.



at Rs 2000 per pill to customers at party places. They purchase the drugs from Bangalore and Goa. They also revealed their suppliers were 'Daddy' and 'Dola' from Bangalore and Goa respectively.

Officials also seized a two wheeler registered on the name

Mohsin Abdullah Saleh which has 17 unpaid challans with most of them for not wearing a helmet. The oldest challan was issued in the year 2016.

The two accused persons and the contraband were handed over to the SHO Ameerpet Excise for taking further action.

**'People in rural areas need to be aware of dental problems'**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Health, Medical & Family Welfare, Etela Rajender inaugurated the 6th IDA Telangana State Dental Conference 2019 at Cyber Conventions in the city on Saturday.

The limelight of the event was showcasing of the knowledge and expertise of more than 25 keynote speakers of international and national repute who shared their valuable inputs and updates in research, science and technology.

Speaking at the event, Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, MLC, chairman and director of Telangana Rashtriya Rythu Samanvaya Samithi said that people staying in rural areas need to be aware of dental problems.

"The awareness among people is increasing every year regarding dental problems. It has increased a lot in urban areas but it needs to go to a few rural areas as well. We need to create a platform to spread awareness among the masses. It will improve our profession. The improved technology should be used by all the practitioners," he said.

The scientific e-posters and research papers presentations have accounted to more than 400 where UG and PG students have showcased their knowl-



**The conference hosted over 110 trade stalls of international and national companies offering various materials and equipment at economical prices for the benefit of practitioners and students**

edge and clinical skills, providing an opportunity for the student fraternity to interact with each other and mentors from different institutes.

The conference also hosted over 110 trade stalls of international and national companies offering various materials and equipment at economical prices for the benefit of practitioners and students.

The conference is an initiative of the dental fraternity from Telangana, with support from members of the neigh-

boring states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka. The profile of the gathering in attendance includes principals, deans, chairmen of various institutes, practitioners, academicians, post-graduate and undergraduate students gearing up to more than 2,500 delegates in number. The Dental Council of India has approved 18 credit points for the 6th TSDC conference, which is the highest in any state due to the quality of the event.

**HMDA to conduct 4-day LRS Mela**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) will conduct Maha LRS (Layout Regularisation Mela) from 17th to 20th December.

Only applications submitted to HMDA will be considered. HMDA advised people to bring all relevant documents, proofs, NOCs, drawings and ID proofs. HMDA would digitize the file, and process it accordingly based on the updates. Citizens can visit the second floor of HMDA office Tarnaka. Last date is December 31.

**GHMC plans to set up 3 waste processing plants**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In order to reduce, reuse and recycle the construction & demolition (C&D) waste, GHMC entered into an agreement on PPP mode to establish waste management plants with Ramky Group.

The proposed C&D waste management facility shall be established in an area of 17 acres at Jeedimetla industrial park, Gajularamaram village, Quthbullapur mandal, Medchal district. The plant is all set to commence its production shortly.

The C&D waste generated in and around Hyderabad will be processed in a scientific way to make green and eco-friendly products out of it with the capacity of 500 TPD per day. The C&D waste can be

used as low-level fillers and sub-base of road construction works, where as the material after segregation can be used to prepare pavement blocks, pre-cast products including construction of compound walls, pre cast pillar and other such works.

GHMC is planning to establish similar projects in three other places in the city.

In order to facilitate to the citizens the GHMC is identifying 300 places in the city, where the citizens can dump the material in nearby transit places or containers so that it is transported to the C&D plant. The waste will be transported to the plant by the registered agencies.

So far the C&D collected at Jeedimetla plant is 2,17,000 tones in a year.

**A Japanese touch to green drive**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

United Way of Hyderabad has inaugurated the first ever Miyawaki plantation drive at the University of Hyderabad on Saturday.

Prof. Arun Agarwal, UoH, Rekha Srinivasan appreciated the initiative taken up by United Way of Hyderabad for green campus and other initiatives. Miyawaki is a technique pioneered by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki that helps build dense forests.

The approach is supposed to ensure that plant growth is 10 times faster and the resulting plantation is 30 times denser. It involves planting dozens of native species in the same area and becomes maintenance-free later.

**Four held for watchman's murder**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Bowenpally Police apprehended 4 persons on Saturday who had set fire to a watchman and killed him.

The arrested persons have been identified as Thumkunta Madhava Reddy, 55, Samala Madhava Reddy, 49, Jakkula Surender Reddy, 50, and Dami Naresh Singh, 27.

The watchman was identified as Sharanappa, 48. He succumbed to his burn

injuries after battling for his life for more than a week.

Earlier, the police were under intense scrutiny for not arresting the trio as they had close ties with the ruling party. However, the Police refuted this claim.

T Madhava Reddy, S Madhava Reddy and Surender Reddy are real estate business partners. Since 2005, they claim to be legal owners of Plot No. 103 to 106 at Shiva Enclave in Old Bowenpally.

However, VC Prakash Reddy, a resident of Banjara Hills also claims to be the legal owner of the same plots. In this dispute, a few cases were registered against the trio at the Bowenpally station.

"On December 5th, the trio trespassed into the plots and demolished the compound wall with JCBs. While demolishing the wall, watchmen Sharanappa, Srinivas and Chinnalaxmi obstructed them. T Madhava Reddy then

beat them and misbehaved with Chinnalaxmi.

The Bowenpally Police registered a case. On December 6th, the accused trio in an inebriated condition doused petrol on Sharanappa and set him ablaze. The four persons who were along with the prime accused fled the scene.

The injured were shifted to Gandhi Hospital. Sharanappa died on Friday. The four were arrested near Secunderabad Railway Station.

**RGUKT gets Asia's Education Award**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technology (RGUKT), Basar has been selected for the Asia's Education Award 2019. According to the Consumer Research Report 2019 by International Brand Consulting Corporation USA, RGUKT has been selected for its contribution in Asia as the most trusted University for technical and science education from India.

Dr A Ashok, Vice-Chancellor at RGUKT, Basar congratulated the staff and students for their efforts in achieving the milestone. The award signifies the true



essence of pride and honour as recognition of hard work, success, creativity and responsibility. The university has been chosen as the most trustworthy and exceptional educational institution in the country.

**QR code scams on the rise in Hyderabad**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Beware of fraudsters who are scamming shopkeepers in Hyderabad through fake QR codes and UPI payment apps, warns the Cyberabad police.

Talking about a new modus operandi used by the scammers, officials said that they are now using fake e-wallets and payment applications to siphon money from shopkeepers.

In a recent case reported in Cyberabad Cyber Crime Police Station, the victim received a request for delivery of hydraulic oil worth Rs 21,000 through a phone call. "The shopkeeper was defrauded by the fraudsters and lost an amount of Rs.56,000 by scanning the QR codes sent by the fraudster thrice," CCS police said.



Officials said that cyber fraudsters, reportedly from Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, look for stores on Google or Justdial and place bulk orders through

phone call. "Upon placing the order, they ask vendors about the UPI app or e-wallet they use in order to generate application specific QR code. The

**Police officials said that the scamsters are now using fake QR codes, e-wallet and payment applications to siphon money from shopkeepers**

targets are then sent QR code through WhatsApp and are asked to scan it and enter the PIN from their application, leading to money transfer. When questioned about funds being debited, fraudsters ask them to scan the QR code again to get a refund. In this way, scammers successfully managed to defraud shopkeepers in and around Hyderabad," told the officials.

Cyberabad Police have advised the vendors and shop-

keepers not to scan QR codes sent by unknown contacts. "QR mode of payment in unknown e-wallets should be avoided. UPI payment apps and e-wallets must be used only after obtaining a thorough understanding of their functioning. In case of any doubt of being defrauded, one can dial 9490617310 to file a complaint with Cyber Crime Police Station, Cyberabad," concluded the officials.

# Cong, BJP have no place in TS: Harish

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
Launching a scathing attack on the Congress and BJP, Finance Minister T Harish Rao said that both the parties have no place in the state. He further stated that BJP and Congress are two sides of the same coin. "Development is possible only with TRS and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao. Telangana is now a role model for many states in the country," he said and assured that Sangareddy and Kandi mandals will get Godavari waters very soon. Addressing the gathering after inducting Sangareddy Block Congress leader Ramakrishna Reddy into TRS in Kandi mandal head quarters on Saturday, Harish Rao said that BJP-ruled states are now looking towards the development of Telangana. He alleged that the BJP-ruled states are copying Mission Bhagiratha scheme. "The state government has implemented



Finance Minister T Harish Rao welcoming Congress leaders into party fold at a programme in Sangareddy on Saturday

various schemes for the welfare of all the communities in the state. Telangana is the only State in the country which has been implementing schemes like Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak and providing financial aid to families to conduct the wedding of their daughters. Also, the government itself is admitting pregnant women into hospitals through government ambulances freely besides giving KCR Kit and Rs 12,000," he said elaborating on the initiatives of the state government. On the occasion, the Finance Minister asked the party activists of Sangareddy to strive hard for the victory of TRS in the ensu-

**Telangana is the only State in the country which has been implementing schemes like Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak and providing financial aid to families to conduct the wedding of their daughters, said Harish**

ing municipal polls. "Sangareddy will get nothing if Congress or BJP wins," he opined. "We developed Kandi mandal a lot and there is a need to develop it further. We will allocate double bed room houses specially to Kandi mandal. We will complete Agriculture Engineering College, MPDO and MRO buildings besides solving drinking water problem," he said. Harish Rao said that the industries were closed due to power shortage during Congress regime, however, the industries were revived after the formation of TRS government. The Minister said that Sangareddy and Kandi mandals will get Godavari waters soon. The government will supply purified water to every house, he assured. Kandi mandal senior leader Ramakrishna Reddy and Sarpanch Vimala Veeresham and several Congress activists joined TRS on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Ramakrishna Reddy said that he is leaving the Congress as no leader helped him when he was in trouble. "I am joining TRS with that pain. My political career started with TRS and now I am rejoining the TRS. I urge everyone to extend their cooperation for the development of the Kandi mandal. I am urging the Minister to allocate house sites to the 500 poor people," he said.

# No RTC employee is happy, claims Ashwathama

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
RTC JAC convener E Ashwathama Reddy has stressed that the government should conduct elections for unions in the corporation at any cost. Having trade unions in democratic country is certain, he said and added that it is not correct on part of government to give signals of deferring the elections for two years. He said that the government has to conduct secret voting and take a decision by taking majority workers' opinion into consideration. "If not, we will wage legal fight," Ashwathama warned. Speaking to the media at Employees Union Office located at Vidyanagar here on Saturday, Ashwathama Reddy demanded the state government to tell the basis on taking members to Workers Welfare



Councils. He alleged that the RTC management is making all the women conductors to work in morning shift unilaterally. The officials are neglecting the directions issued by the Chief Minister in regard to women workers, he said. "Not a single employee is working happily now. The Telangana government is reducing buses from 3,500 to 2,500 by removing 1,000 buses

whereas Bengaluru has 7,000 buses. The RTC may get revenue, but with government's move, the people and commuters would face severe troubles," he said. Demanding the state government to lift duties, which are against the law, Ashwathama Reddy warned the RTC management that they will lodge a complaint with the Labor Commissioner. He alleged that some officials indulged in corrupt practices during strike. He demanded the state government not to increase the retirement age up to 60 years but the government has to provide an opportunity to the workers who wished to work till 60 years. He asked the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao to fulfill the assurances given in luncheon meeting with the workers at Pragathi Bhavan.

# Windfall for HMDA at Uppal Bagayath...

**Continued from Page 1**  
The government fixed Rs 30,000 per sq yard as upset price for the auction. This means a person cannot bid an amount that is lower than Rs 30,000. There were no bids for 2 plots and single bids for 4 plots in the afternoon session. Plot number 966 and 979 spread across 1,000 sq yards and 1,415 sq yards respectively, saw no bidders. The e-auction will be conducted till Monday. About 127 plots are up for auction, of which 100 are domestic plots and the rest commercial and multiple-use plots. Principal Secretary Arvind Kumar said that there was overwhelming response to auctions at Uppal Bagayath and further auctions would be held on December 15. Commercial plots would be auctioned on December 16.

# 'Limit sale of liquor to two hours a day'

**PNS ■ NALGONDA**  
BJP leader D K Aruna on Saturday urged that the State government to control indiscriminate sale of liquor, which was one of the main reasons for the rise in crime against women in the State. Speaking on the sidelines of a seminar, "Women Empowerment - Their Safety" here, Aruna found fault with the liquor policy of the State government. She pointed out that liquor shops had opened near schools, temple, roads and residential areas in violation of Supreme Court directives. Blaming liquor for crime, she said that excessive drinking was one of the main reasons for rape and murder cases. She cited the cases of Disha and Samatha as example for it. "There is a need to control liquor sale to see that such incidents don't recur in the



State," she added. Stating that the state government should not consider the liquor business as generation of revenue, she underlined the need to discourage the liquor business by limiting the sale of liquor for just two hours in a day. It is not possible to implement complete prohibition in a single day, the government should take a decision to introduce prohibition in a phased manner.

# Komatireddy takes protest to Melbourne

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
Congress MP from Bhongir Komatireddy Venkat Reddy staged a protest at Federation Square at Saint Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne, Australia on Saturday against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. The protest programme was organised by Foreign Congress Youth leader and AICC member SA Sampath Kumar's son Deepak Pragna. On the occasion, the Bhongir MP slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao for introducing 'anti-people Bills'. "Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has not fulfilled even a single poll promise. People across all the sections are not happy with KCR's rule," he alleged. Giving a call to the NRIs to strive hard to bring the Congress back to power in state and the Centre, Komatireddy asked the NRIs to expose the anti-people policies of the government through social media. "Justice will be done to the people and development will take place in Telangana only if Congress comes to the power," he said.



Congress MP from Bhongir Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and others at a protest in Melbourne, Australia

# TS BJP likely to get new chief by month end

**K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD**  
After the recent Lok Sabha elections in the state, both the Telangana Congress and the BJP have been trying to portray themselves as the only alternative to TRS in the state. While the BJP won four Lok Sabha seats, the Telangana Congress won three giving BJP a tough competition. Ever since, both the parties are on a verbal fight over the 'alternative' party title in the state. However, both the parties are expecting change of heads very soon, as some senior leaders of both the parties are keen on crowning the state chief position. To add to the existing competition, leaders from different communities such as OC, BC, Reddy are using caste card to bag the chief position. While Reddy leaders feel that they are the only competitors to TRS and its chief K Chandrasekhar Rao, leaders from BC community say that the party can come to power only with their support as the state comprise of more than 50 per cent of BCs. According to sources, the BJP may get new state Chief by the end of this month. However, one of the party leaders has stated that the appointment of booth, mandal and district-level leaders haven't done yet. A speculation in the political town is that the high command may nominate Telangana BJP chief after appointing national party president.



# Thousands gather at Jantar Mantar to...

**Continued from Page 1**  
Protesters carried placards that read 'stop religious profiling', 'stop dividing India, boycott CAA and NRC', "when injustice becomes law, resistance becomes duty", "save India from fascism". The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill was signed into law by President Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday. Under the new law, members of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities who have come from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan till December 31, 2014 and facing religious persecution there will not be treated as illegal immigrants but given Indian citizenship. Another protester at Jantar Mantar said this is the "new politics after the Mandir-Masjid". "After the Mandir-Masjid politics, now the government is dividing people on the basis of citizenship. They would not stop creating communal tension in the country," 39-year-old Mohammad Ikrar said. Ahmed

**Protesters carried placards that read 'Stop religious profiling', 'Stop dividing India, boycott CAA and NRC', "When injustice becomes law, resistance becomes duty"**



Malkajgiri MP Revanth Reddy, K Jana Reddy in New Delhi on Saturday

# Modi adopting divide and rule policy, says Revanth

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
The Congress had taken up 'Bharath Bachao Rally' to highlight the State and Central government's failures and to fight against the problems of farmers and unemployed youth. Addressing the media at Delhi on Saturday, Revanth Reddy alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi destroyed the institutions by adopting divide and rule policy. He alleged that economic slowdown is taking the national development in reverse gear. Launching a blistering attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Revanth Reddy said that the Central government has failed to tackle the economic recession. "Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has pushed the state into debt trap, which was once surplus. Only KCR's family became rich after the formation of Telangana State," the Malkajgiri MP said.

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi has failed to tackle economic recession. The slowdown took the national development in reverse gear, said Malkajgiri MP Revanth Reddy**

# Trainee IPS suspended...

**Continued from Page 1**  
Bhavana Birudala, a resident of ECIL, vented her emotions in a blog post on a social media platform. She said, "My husband is currently undergoing training at LBSNAA and he is cheating on me with another woman. He is being offered a significant dowry from the marriage proposal." Bhavana, presently a government employee, had met Maheswar Reddy in 2009 while they were pursuing engineering course from Osmania University, Hyderabad. She said, "Venkata and I have been in a relationship for nine years before we married on February 9, 2018. We first met at university. Our association started when he wanted to be friends with me. Gradually he liked me, and later he said he loved me and promised to marry me (sic)." Bhavana added that he had even said that he couldn't live without her. "However, now he says that he got another match and they are offering him a huge dowry. I did everything possible to support him during his UPSC exam, but now he has suddenly changed after he turned an IPS trainee." She approached the police in October. The police advised the couple to sort out their issues amicably and directed them to go for counselling. However, their relationship remained disturbed. A month later, the lady approached the police station and registered a case under 498-A (husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC.

# BRKR Bhavan rooftop conference...

**Continued from Page 1**  
The officials are carefully following the guidelines of GHMC and Fire Department. They are taking into consideration the opinions expressed by experts from JNTU as well. They are of the view that the building would be stable for 60 years. Aero bricks and light material are being used for construction. They are using asbestos sheets, which would not be impacted even if there are gales at 160 to 180 km per hour. Glasses are also being used for the construction. The works are being supervised by TSIIC. According to sources, the construction could be completed by January.

# Metro timings shortened

**Continued from Page 1**  
Early goers and shift employees will again start suffering. Another netizen Vidyasagar Jagadeesan asked: "Early morning long-distance trains start leaving Secunderabad station from 5 am. Why not start Metro trains at that time?" Several employees in the city work on night shifts or graveyard shifts, which end early in the morning. Requests are pouring in to start the trains as early as 5 AM so that most of the night shift employees who log out in the early hours can reach home safely. Sources pointed out that the trains have been rescheduled, after RTC strike was called off, as the footfalls in the early hours have been less (post-RTC strike), making it unviable to run the services. After starting the Raidurg station, many

commuters asked the trains to be run until 12:00 am. Officials cite that the last train starts from terminal station at 11:00 pm and no changes have been made to it. The last train, which starts at 11:00 pm at terminal stations like Nagole, Raidurg, Uppal, Miyapur, LB-Nagar, MGBS, will reach Ameerpet at around 11:35 pm and destination by 11:50 pm. HRML MD NVS Reddy said, "As most of the Metro commuters are requesting for continuation of the temporary late night operations introduced during RTC strike period i.e. starting the last trains from terminal stations at 11 pm, the train timings are now as under: Morning trains start at 6:30 am, instead of 6:00 am, and the last trains from terminal stations leave at 11 pm and reach their final destinations at around 11:50pm."

# 'My name is Rahul Gandhi...'

**Continued from Page 1**  
"They will do anything for the power- make the youth unemployed, destroy the economy and what not," he said. He also alleged that people manning various institutions, including media and constitutional ones like judiciary, have forgotten their work. While approving of media's criticism of the UPA government, he said, "I respect that and you did the right thing but today you have forgotten your work." "It is your responsibility to rise when you are suppressed and attacked as it is not an attack on you but on the very soul of India. This country is being scared and suppressed, but no Congressmen have any kind of fear. I am telling those people in institutions not to fear from anything. The Congress party is standing with them. We will together end this atmosphere of fear in the country," he said. The Congress leader alleged that the BJP and PM Modi have set the entire north east region on fire and states like Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura are burning. "He (Modi) has burnt all these places. He divides people and works towards weakening the country, while you people, who have come here, don't divide India and work with your sweat and blood for taking the country forward. "Your own country is being weakened and divided and our economy is being destroyed," he said.



State BJP president Dr K Laxman performing puja at Anantagiri on Saturday

# BJP launches 'Namami Musi River'

**PNS ■ VIKARABAD**  
Hyderabad's once mighty river has been reduced to a giant sewer due to indiscriminate urbanisation and lack of proper planning - DR K LAXMAN, State BJP president  
Laxman appealed people to keep the river clean, which is also known as a "Telangana Ganga". Hyderabad's once mighty river has been reduced to a giant sewer due to indiscriminate urbanisation and lack of proper planning besides open for untreated domestic and industrial waste. There was a need to inculcate spirit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who had launched a project to clean the our historic and scared ganga. He alleged that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao even did not keep his word of keeping Musi river clean and green. The party would continue the agitation till the government cleans the Musi river spread in five districts of the state. He said hundreds of villagers have been affected and suffering from various diseases due to pollution in Musi river who are living in 600 villages on the banks of the river on both sides. As part of NMR agitation programme, the party leaders would visit Musi at Suryapet on December 17.

**SHORT READS**

**Four sentenced to 30 years' jail for raping minor**

**BILASPUR:** A court in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district sentenced four men to 30 years' imprisonment for repeatedly raping a 14-year-old girl. Third additional district and sessions judge Sanjeev Kumar Tamak on Friday convicted Charan Singh (30), Ishwar Dhurv (31), Nageshwar Rajak (26) and Manoj Wadekar (35), the victim's lawyer Priyanka Shukla said. The court sentenced the accused to 30 years in jail and imposed a fine of Rs 21,000 on Singh, and Rs 50,000 each on the other three convicts, she said. On February 20, 2017, the victim, a resident of Torwa here, had lodged a complaint against the accused for allegedly raping her repeatedly since 2015. Shukla said. The accused, who are residents of Devrikhurd area, had recorded an obscene video of the victim and sexually assaulted her after threatening to make the video public, she said.

**Manipur CM's brother kidnapped, rescued in Kolkata; five held**

**KOLKATA:** Five men pretending to be CBI officers went to the apartment of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh's brother Tongbram Lukhohi Singh here and kidnapped him, police said on Saturday. However, the police rescued him within hours and arrested the five accused, two of whom were from Manipur. The incident happened on Friday when the accused carrying toy guns entered Singh's rented accommodation in New Town area here and kidnapped him and one of his associates, the police said adding that they later called up Singh's wife and demanded a ransom of Rs 15 lakh. Following a complaint lodged by Singh's wife, the police swung into action and rescued the two on Friday evening and arrested the five accused from Beniapur area in central Kolkata, a senior police officer said.

**Fadnavis' 'Varsha night club gang' plotted against BJP**

**MUMBAI:** Former BJP MLA Anil Gote has accused the then Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis and his "coterie" of conspiring against mass leaders like Eknath Khadse and Pankaja Munde. Gote, who recently joined the NCP, dubbed the then CM's official residence, where "conspiracies" were planned according to him, as "Varsha night club". Gote alleged that a group of BJP leaders, including the then minister Girish Mahajan, would meet Fadnavis at his official residence in Mumbai every night and hatch plots on strengthening the local opponents of these mass leaders. Gote said he joined the Sharad Pawar-led party as he was "fed up" with the conspiracies of this "Varsha night club". His statement on December 12 came on a day when disgruntled BJP leaders Pankaja Munde and Eknath Khadse virtually raised a banner of revolt against Fadnavis, without taking his name. Khadse had blamed certain BJP leaders for the defeat of his daughter Rohini from Jalgaon district and that of Pankaja Munde.

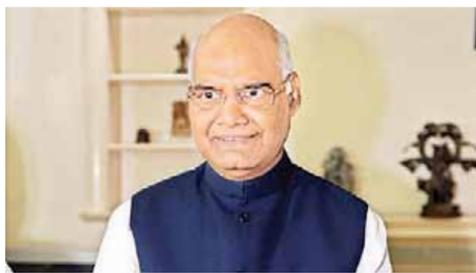
**'India must eliminate poverty, become middle-income country'**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

India has set itself for sustainable development as it strives to eliminate poverty and become a middle-income country, President Ram Nath Kovind said on Saturday.

The president hosted a conference of 46 heads of central universities and institutes of higher learning in the fields of agriculture, pharmaceuticals, aviation, footwear-design, fashion, petroleum and energy, maritime studies, planning and architecture and information technology.

"India has set itself for sustainable development as it strives to eliminate poverty and become a middle-income country. Each of these institutes will be instrumental to the realisation of our socio-economic goals. The central agricultural universities can support our national goal of promoting sustainable agriculture, productivity and supporting our farmers with useful research," Kovind said in



**Each of these institutes will be instrumental to the realisation of our socio-economic goals. The central agricultural universities can support our national goal of promoting sustainable agriculture, productivity and supporting our farmers with useful research," Kovind said in Rashtrapati Bhavan**

Rashtrapati Bhavan.

"The same is true of all other institutes linked to different areas be it pharmaceutical, aviation, oceanography, petroleum and energy, IT, Design, Architecture and others. Each of them is doing well

but we need to raise the bar further. As our economy grows we need to acquire the scale and efficiency that is greater and better than the best in the world," he added.

The president said while developing their specialisa-

tions, these institutes should collaborate and learn from each other.

"This is possible for institutes in the same field. It is also possible across categories. For example, advances in information technology can aid architects and town planners to design smart cities that minimise use of energy. All of them should set up systems that can scout for and support cross-category collaborations which might hold creative promises to solve many of our problems," Kovind said.

"Great institutes of learning are different due to the leadership they nurture and build. The heads of leading higher education institutes must discharge their key role as leadership mentors for the next generation of academic-administrators. This would ensure that we have a ready talent pool of directors, deans and administrators who can conceive, establish and administer our institutes of higher education," he said.

**Cong out to regain lost ground in Ladakh via 'divisive politics'**

**PNS ■ JAMMU**

A senior BJP leader from Ladakh on Saturday accused Congress of trying to regain the lost ground in the Union Territory through "divisive politics" by provoking the youth on "false pretext".

Leh district president of BJP Dorje Angchuk claimed that Congress Rajya Sabha member Ambika Soni is trying to create a scare among the Ladakhis by predicting threat to their resources and rich cultural identity.

Cautioning that situation in Ladakh may turn alarming, Soni on Friday demanded inclusion of the Union Territory in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to protect its resources and rich cultural identity.

"Till now Congress has been relying on the false promise of UT to lure the voters but failed to fulfil the promise despite being in power for decades and now that the BJP has met the aspiration of the people of Ladakh by making it a UT, which Congress opposed in the Parliament, it is now trying to divide the people by creating fear in their minds,"

**He said, "the fear, apprehension and disenchantment among Ladakhis as claimed by Soni is a product of her sinister mind to provoke the people of Ladakh by creating an issue in the form of sixth schedule"**

Dorje said reacting to her statement in the Rajya Sabha.

He said, "the fear, apprehension and disenchantment among Ladakhis as claimed by Soni is a product of her sinister mind to provoke the people of Ladakh by creating an issue in the form of sixth schedule".

Dorje said while creation of separate administrative councils for protecting the tribal rights of the identified tribes of the four north eastern states, the people of Ladakh already have two highly empowered Autonomous District Hill Councils for Leh

and Kargil.

"We have full faith in these Councils which have been given additional powers lately to safeguard the interests of the people and develop the area," he said.

Allaying the apprehensions of the people, Dorje assured them that Para 58 (2) of Part IV of J&K Reorganisation Act of 2019 clearly states, "The President may make regulations for the peace, progress and good government of the Union territory of Ladakh under article 240 of the Constitution of India."

"Any law needed to safeguard their interest will be made," he said.



**ATTACK ON HOME GUARD JAWANS**

**Fourth accused has criminal background**

**PNS ■ SHIMLA**

The fourth accused held for firing at two home guard jawans in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu has a criminal background, police said.

Main accused Shubham Panwar, alias Shivu (23), was arrested on Friday evening from Aleo where he had been hiding at his friends' place, Kullu SP Gaurav Singh said on Saturday.

Shivu's two friends -- Vikash Rana (26) of Kangra district and Priti (24) of Bihar -- have also been arrested for harbouring the offender under



Section 212 of IPC, he added. A resident of Uttarakhand's Dehradun, Shivu had fled after

attacking the home guard jawans in Kullu district on Thursday.

**Girl sexually assaulted in school toilet**

**PNS ■ MUMBAI**

A seven-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by an unidentified man inside the toilet of her school in suburban Malvani, police said on Saturday.

The incident occurred on Friday, they said.

"As per the complaint lodged by the victim's mother, her daughter was sexually assaulted inside the toilet of her school during the day on Friday," an official said.

"On returning home, the victim told her mother about the incident. She then took her daughter to a doctor, who suspected that a crayon or a pencil could have been used for the assault," he said.

Malvani police have registered a case under IPC section 376 (rape) and sections 4 and 8 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, he said.

Police are going through the footages of the CCTV cameras installed in the school, but as of now nothing suspicious has been found, the official said, adding that a probe is on.

**Modi made false promises to people, misled them 6 yrs ago: Manmohan**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Zon Saturday alleged that his successor Narendra Modi misled the people by making "lofty promises" which he "failed" to fulfil.

Addressing a mega 'Bharat Bachao' (Save India) rally at the Ramlila grounds here, the Congress leader said Modi had promised to take the country's economy to USD 5 trillion by 2024, double farmers' income and provide two crore new jobs every year for youths. "Six years ago, Narendra Modi showed lofty promises to people. Now it has been proved that all these promises were false and he has failed in fulfilling all the promises made and the people of the country were misled," he said.

The rally was attended among others by top Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, besides Congress chief ministers Kamal Nath, Ashok Gehlot, Bhupesh Baghel. However, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh was conspicuous by his absence. In his brief address,



**"It is our duty to strengthen the Congress party and strengthen the hands of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, so that we can take the country forward in the real sense" he noted.**

Manmohan Singh urged the people to strengthen the Congress party and the hands of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in order "to take the country forward in the right direction".

"It is our duty to strengthen the Congress party and strengthen the hands of Sonia

Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, so that we can take the country forward in the real sense" he noted.

He also urged Congress workers present at the rally in large numbers to take the message of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi to every nook and corner of the country.

**CBI books ex-Sangeet Natak Akademi chairperson Leela**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The CBI has booked ace Bharatnatyam dancer and former Chairperson of Sangeet Natak Akademi Leela Samson for alleged "unfruitful expenditure" in Rs 7.02-crore renovation project of Koothambalam auditorium of Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, officials said Saturday.

Samson, a Padma Shri awardee and also a former chairperson of Central Board of Film Certification, has been booked along with the then officers of the Foundation: Chief Accounts Officer TS Murthi, Accounts Officer S Ramachandran, Engineering officer V Srinivasan and proprietor of CARD and Chennai Engineers, they said.

The CBI also conducted searches on the residential premises of the accused.

In a complaint to the CBI, the Chief Vigilance Officer of the Culture Ministry has alleged that the officials of the Foundation awarded the contract for the renovation work to consultant architect CARD



Leela Samson

**The CBI also conducted searches on the residential premises of the accused.**

in violation of General Finance Rules (GFR), they said.

After conducting an inquiry in 2016, the Culture Ministry alleged that the 84-year old Foundation had spent Rs 62.20 lakh more than the estimated amount on the Rs 7.02-crore project.

**VP recalls Mahatma's 'view' to shut Cong platform**

**PNS ■ ANAND (GUJ)**

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday invoked Mahatma Gandhi's "suggestion" to disband the "Congress as a platform" after India attained independence from the British in 1947.

Naidu also said everybody celebrated the Supreme Court's unanimous verdict on the Ayodhya dispute, clearing the decks for the construction of a Ram temple.

The vice president was speaking as the chief guest to mark the 40th Foundation Day of the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA) on the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) campus.

"Mahatma Gandhi gave two suggestions after Independence. First, he asked for the closure of the Congress as a platform. I am telling you for your information that the Congress was primarily a movement of people of different ideologies," he said.

**CAA stir: Jamia announces vacation till Jan 5, exams cancelled**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Jamia Millia Islamia on Saturday declared vacation till January 5 and cancelled all exams in view of the tense situation in the university due to students' protest against the amended citizenship act.

"All exams postponed. New dates to be announced in due course of time. Vacation declared from December 16 to January 5. University will reopen on January 6, 2020," a



senior university official said. The university turned into a virtual battlefield on Friday when students and policemen clashed with each other as students tried to march to

Parliament in protest against the legislation.

Earlier in the day, the university administration had announced postponement of exam scheduled on Saturday.

The students had called for a university lockdown on Saturday and had planned to boycott the exams to protest against the amended citizenship act and also against the Friday's violence following clashes with police during their march.

**Violent protests continue in Bengal; buses, rly stations torched**

**PNS ■ KOLKATA**

Violent agitations continued to rock parts of West Bengal for second consecutive day on Saturday as people protesting against the amended Citizenship Act set several buses on fire and torched portions of a railway station complex, officials said.

Incidents of violence were reported from Murshidabad and North 24 Praganas districts, and rural Howrah, police said.

Angry protestors torched around 15 buses, both public and private, and blocked traffic on the arterial Kona Expressway in Howrah that connect both NH6 (Mumbai Road) and NH2 (Delhi Road) to Kolkata, the police said.

Traffic movement along the expressway came to a standstill, they said.



The National Highway 34, one of the main roads that connect north and south Bengal, was blocked in Murshidabad. Buses were also set on fire there, the police said.

Several other roads in the district were also blocked, they said.

In Howrah district's Domjur area, the National Highway 6

was blocked as protestors set tyres ablaze and ransacked several vehicles, the police said.

A huge police contingent was at the spot to control the situation, they said.

Since last night, 20 shops have been set on fire in Bagnan area of Rural Howrah, an official said.

**Child marriage, teenage pregnancy cause of great concern for govt: Union health minister**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Increasing teenage pregnancy and other health issues in that age group are of great concern for the government, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Saturday and stressed on the need for making adolescents healthy to harness the country's demographic dividend.

At the inauguration of a workshop -- Investing in Adolescent Health: Harnessing the Demographic Dividend -- he said adolescence is a critical phase in developing potential in a person and making investments in this age group will be the best way of leveraging India's advantage of having a young population.

"The ongoing levels of teenage pregnancies and child marriages in certain pockets across the country is a cause for



Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan

great concern, and taking sexual and reproductive health services out of the clinics to India's adolescent population will be the way forward," the Union minister said.

Vardhan addressed the work-

**With 253 million adolescents, India comprises a high proportion of individuals in a transient phase of life that requires nutrition, education, counselling and guidance to ensure their proper development.**

With 253 million adolescents, India comprises a high proportion of individuals in a transient phase of life that requires nutrition, education, counselling and guidance to ensure their proper development.

This group is also susceptible to various avoidable health problems such as early and unintended pregnancy, unsafe sex leading to STI/HIV/AIDS, nutritional disorders like malnutrition, anemia, obesity mental health concerns and others.

The other speakers at the inaugural session included UNICEF India Representative Yasmin Ali Haque, WHO Representative to India Henk Bekeidam and Hisham Mundol, Executive Director, India and Child Protection, Children's Investment Fund Foundation.

At the workshop it was emphasised that in addition to its inherent value, promoting and protecting adolescent health will lead to public health, economic and demographic benefits.

CAPSULE



**SpiceJet grounds 3 aircraft citing defects**

**MUMBAI:** SpiceJet has informed the exchanges that it has grounded three of its B737 freighter aircraft. The low cost carrier on Friday said that the step was taken "on the advice of the Israeli Aerospace Industries (IAI), which converted these aircraft to the statement by the company: "During an internal examination of IAI's manufacturing facilities, a potential defect was discovered in the process used to manufacture the 9G rigid barrier installed on these aircraft." "These aircraft will return to operations after regulatory clearance," it added.



**Zuari Agro CFO Samrat Sen resigns**

**NEW DELHI:** Zuari Agro Chemicals on Saturday said its Chief Financial Officer Samrat Sen has resigned. The company has accepted Sen's resignation and December 14 is his last day in the service, it said in a BSE filing. "Samrat Sen, Chief Financial Officer, designated as a key managerial personnel of the company, has resigned. His resignation has been accepted and his last day of service in the company is December 14, 2019," it said.



**EESL commissions first EV charging station in south Delhi**

**NEW DELHI:** In a bid to build a robust EV charging infrastructure, state-run Energy Efficiency Service Ltd (EESL) and South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Saturday inaugurated the first electric vehicle public charging station in south Delhi. The inauguration coincides with the National Energy Conservation Day being celebrated across the country. EESL said in a statement. The charging station has been installed in the SDMC parking area of Greater Kailash-1 N Block market. EESL has installed the charging station after the signing an agreement with SDMC. This is the first of the 75 charging stations to be installed across SDMC areas as per the agreement. The installation of public charging stations would help in increasing the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the city. With increasing penetration of EVs, the local emission of pollutants is also expected to reduce, leading to cleaner air providing several health benefits to the public.

**Wipro, IISc tie up to make 3D printer**

**BENGALURU:** Wipro 3D and renowned Indian Institute of Science (IISc) are collaborating to build the country's first industrial grade metal 3D printer, the software major said on Saturday. "The country's first 3D printing machine works on selective electron beam melting technology and offers higher build rate, better thermal management, higher density and superior mechanical properties," said the city-based company in a statement here. Wipro 3D, the additive manufacturing business of Wipro Infrastructure Engineering and IISc have developed the industry grade additive manufacturing machine. Commenting on the 3D printing facility undergoing benchmarking currently, Ajay Parikh, Wipro 3D business head said the facility symbolises Wipro's effort to indigenise and industrialise metal additive printing technology.

# ArcelorMittal initiates Rs 42K cr payment for Essar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Global steel giant ArcelorMittal has initiated payment for acquisition of debt-ridden Essar Steel for Rs 42,000 crore, sources said on Friday.

The decks for acquisition of Essar Steel by L N Mittal-led company was cleared by the Supreme Court last month.

According to banking sources, "Payment from ArcelorMittal has started flowing and entire payment is expected to be cleared in a day or two."

Another source privy to the development said ArcelorMittal has arranged the entire fund and is likely to transfer the amount by Monday.

"ArcelorMittal has arranged the entire amount of Rs 42,000 crore which is likely to be transferred to State Bank of India, the lead banker to take control of Essar Steel under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code," one of the sources said.

When contacted, ArcelorMittal refused to comment on the issue. After the payment to the lenders, this will be the single-biggest recovery under the IBC. While ArcelorMittal had kept the entire Rs 42,000 crore amount to be repaid in an escrow account, it did not immediately



**When contacted, ArcelorMittal refused to comment on the issue. After the payment to the lenders, this will be the single-biggest recovery under the IBC**

release it to the lenders after the November 15 Supreme Court order, sources said.

As per the plans approved by the committee of creditors (CoC), upheld by the Supreme Court in its November 15 ruling, SBI will receive the largest chunk at about Rs 12,161 crore, the sources said. Besides, Canara Bank will get Rs 3,493 crore and ICICI Bank Rs 2,110 crore, the sources said.

Following the Supreme

Court verdict, ArcelorMittal last month said it expects to complete the acquisition by the end of this year.

ArcelorMittal India Private Ltd's (AMPL) resolution plan for Essar Steel India Ltd (ESIL) has been unconditionally approved by the Supreme Court and the approval of AMPL's resolution plan is the final procedural step in ESIL's corporate insolvency process, the company had said in a

statement.

"Completion of the transaction is now expected before the end of the year. After completion, ArcelorMittal will jointly own and operate ESIL in partnership with Nippon Steel Corporation, Japan's largest steel producer and the third largest steel producer in the world, in line with the joint venture formation agreement signed by the two companies," it had said.

The Supreme Court paved the way for ArcelorMittal's takeover of Essar Steel for Rs 42,000 crore and set aside the July 4 National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) order giving equal status to financial creditors and operational creditors.

The bench had clarified that financial creditors enjoy primacy over operational creditors and the adjudicating authority cannot interfere with the decision approved by the committee of creditors.

The top court said the adjudicating authority can send back the resolution plan to the CoC for the implementation in accordance with the guidelines but cannot change the commercial decision taken by the CoC.

## Jaipur Foot plans to scale up ops to go global

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

The iconic Jaipur Foot is planning to scale up its operations to provide artificial limb free of cost to physically challenged people both in India and across the world. For this, its parent body Bhagwan Mahaveer Sahayata Samiti is working on a plan to use modern information technologies and latest advancement in medical field to bring artificial limbs to the doorsteps of Divyang or physically challenged individuals.

"Our leadership team, including founder and chief patron D R Mehta is inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aspiration of a healthy India, of which Ayushman Bharat is a core component," Jaipur Foot USA chairman Prem Bhandari told PTI in an interview.

In Washington for a day on Friday to meet Indian Ambassador to the US, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, New York-based Bhandari said that early this month a physically challenged woman in Philippines, a sister of an embassy driver, has sent pictures over WhatsApp of her leg which she lost in an accident.



**Based on the pictures, doctors at Jaipur Foot, which has an office in Manila, manufactured artificial limb for her**

Based on the pictures, doctors at Jaipur Foot, which has an office in Manila, manufactured artificial limb for her.

"In less than a week's time she was mobile," he said, adding that a similar help was provided to a physically challenged individual in Germany. For privacy reason, he did not disclose names of the beneficiaries.

Jaipur Foot traditionally holds camps within the country and now with the financial grant from the External Affairs Ministry has been organising camps in various parts of the world, in particularly in the third-world country to provide artificial limbs to the needy.

While in the market, it costs somewhere between USD7,000 to USD15,000, Jaipur Foot, a non-profit body provides its free of cost. It receives corporate grants and donations to meet its expenses.

Inspired by the two recent cases of Philippines and Germany, Bhandari said the leadership team of Jaipur Foot is exploring the possibility of making it accessible at mass level.

## Govt to allot 6 coal mines soon

PNS ■ ISLAMABAD

After poor show of investors in the previous rounds of coal auctions, government is now finally considering allotment of six mines soon.

The Ministry of Coal had initiated the auction process for 27 coal mines under tranches 8, 9 and 10 for non-regulated sector and the allotment process for 15 coal mines under tranches 6, 7, 8 and 9 for various specified end-uses such as power, iron & steel.

In the auction process, the successful bidders for all the mines except Gare Palma IV-1 have been recommended by the Central Government, an official statement said. Accordingly, allotment process of Bikram mine in Madhya Pradesh to Birla corporation has been initiated. The company quoted a price of Rs 154 per tonne of coal that would provide state government a revenue of Rs 166.32 crore for 30 years.

The Jamkhani block in Odisha is being allotted to Vedanta that quoted a coal price of Rs 1674 per tonne giving a revenue of Rs 13,057 crore to the state.

## Pak, WB sign pact for financing Khyber Pass Economic Corridor

PNS ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and the World Bank has signed a project agreement worth USD 406.6 million for financing the Khyber Pass Economic Corridor (KPEC) project with an aim to promote economic development.

The signing ceremony was held on Friday at the Economic Affairs Division, Islamabad, The Express Tribune reported.

The project is aimed at constructing a 48km four-lane, dual carriageway, high-speed and access-controlled motorway from Peshawar to Torkham border point with Afghanistan in a bid to promote economic development and ensure uplift of the areas adjoining the expressway and falling in Khyber-Paktunkhwa.

The project envisages public-private partnership and private financing for developing clusters of economic activity, economic zones and expressways. The connecting transport infrastructure and economic zones would provide a strong foundation for the private business to invest in these zones.

The global integration of South and Central Asia is intertwined with the Khyber Pass, which has served as the key node



**The project envisages public-private partnership and private financing for developing clusters of economic activity, economic zones and expressways**

in trade for hundreds of years. The expressway between Peshawar and Kabul through the Khyber Pass represents a section of Corridors 5 and 6 of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Corridor 5, which runs

through Pakistan, has the potential to provide the shortest link between the landlocked countries of Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the Arabian Sea. Corridor 6 provides access to Europe, the Middle East and Russia.

The KPEC will finance the Peshawar-Torkham expressway portion of the Corridor 5. The Peshawar-Torkham expressway will reduce transit time and costs for regional and international trade, transiting the Khyber Pass and extend till Karachi-Lahore-Islamabad-Peshawar Trans-Pakistan Expressway system.

It will be developed as an integral part of the planned Peshawar-Kabul-Dushanbe motorway.

## PVR cinemas to welcome New Year with a classics

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

PVR Cinemas, the largest and the most premium film exhibition company celebrates the year-end with an opportunity for its patrons to walk down the memory lane with classics from Bollywood and Hollywood film library. The first of its kind initiative, 'The Nostalgic Show' will open with the screening of Casablanca on 15th December 2019 across 4 cities.

PVR in its endeavor to offer unique experiences is introducing this creative property to enable the movie aficionados to experience and enjoy their iconic favorites on the big screen once again. This is the exhibitor's latest initiative towards increasing accessibility to quality content and enhancing out-of-home experience that has been at the heart of the brand's creative offerings.

Mr. Gautam Dutta, CEO, PVR Cinemas said, "It gives us immense happiness to see the excitement amongst movie



enthusiasts for new and niche content. The film industry globally and in India is huge with a plethora of celebrated content. Being in the entertainment, exhibition and distribution industry, we believe it is our responsibility to build avenues for our audience to experience the best of both worlds, new and old."

## Congressional committee 'eyeing' India, Japan and S Korea

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

With an eye on China, and as part of its effort to maintain peace and rule of law in the Indo-Pacific region, a top Congressional committee has sought to bring three democratic countries of the region - India, Japan and South Korea - at par with its 'Five Eyes' for intelligence sharing.

The 'Five Eyes' is an alliance comprising of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Great Britain and the US. It is an international agreement under which these five countries cooperate and share signals intelligence, military intelligence, and human intelligence.

Congressman Adam Schiff, who chairs the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, in a report to the House of Representatives on Thursday argued the case for India, Japan and South Korea be brought along with the 'Five Eyes' so as to maintain peace and rule of law in the Indo-Pacific region.

## Bangladesh withdraws import curbs on 9 items from India through two Tripura land ports

PNS ■ AGARTALA

The Bangladesh government has withdrawn its restrictions on importing nine items from India through two land ports in Tripura, in a boost to traders of the region, officials said on Saturday.

Bangladesh had exported various items amounting to Rs 522.42 crore in 2018-19 while



imports of goods through seven land ports in Tripura to the neighbouring country were

around Rs 14.66 crore, they said.

"The trade imbalance is due to restrictions imposed by Dhaka on various items. Bangladesh has withdrawn its restrictions on importing nine items through Akhaura land port and Srimantapur land custom station," state industries and commerce department's additional director Swapna Deb Nath said.

The nine items on which the restriction was removed from December 1 included cashew nut, paper, sugar, generator, broken glass, chocolate, baby wipes, confectionary and bitumen, she said. Currently, five other land customs stations-Muhurighat, Khowaighat, Dhalaighat, Manughat and Puran Raghna are operational along Indo-Bangla border in Tripura.

## Adani Transmission gets Lol for project in Maha

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Adani Transmission Ltd (ATL) on Saturday said it has received a Letter of Intent for a power transmission project in Maharashtra.

The Letter of Intent (LoI) to ATL has been awarded under a tariff based competitive bidding model from Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Ltd (MSETCL).

"ATL has received the LoI from MSETCL to build, own, operate and maintain a transmission project in Maharashtra for a period of 35 years," a company statement said.



Switchgear) Substation at Vikhroli in Mumbai.

According to the statement, this will be the first ever 400 kV substation facility in Mumbai.

The project is critical to Mumbai as the existing capacity of transmission corridor is not sufficient to carry further power into the city. It would enable additional power to be brought into the city, thus helping in meeting the future demand of Mumbai.

## More Indians visiting Nevada, look beyond Las Vegas

PNS ■ LAS VEGAS

Las Vegas may be Nevada's twinkling desert jewel and a mecca for pleasure-seekers, but the western US state is seeing a steady rise in the number of visitors to its other tourist attractions.

The number of Indian tourists to the Silver State has been rising each year, Travel Nevada officials said. Many Indian visitors come looking for Nevada's natural wonders, like Lake Tahoe's crystal waters and forested peaks and the expanses of Highway 50, dubbed as the 'Loneliest Road in America.'

"Last year there were 53,600 Indian tourists in Nevada. If one looks at the figures of the last five years, there has been a steady rise each year in the numbers of Indians visiting the state," said Tracie Barnhouse, Public Relations Specialist for Nevada Division of Tourism.



The following are the year-wise numbers of Indian tourists to Nevada: 2013: 42,200, 2014: 46,100, 2015: 47,900, 2016: 49,400 and 2017: 51,100.

While Las Vegas is where almost three-quarters of the state's population resides, the focus for many tourists now is also on interesting spots in rest of the state, Barnhouse told PTI. "People often view Las Vegas as just the iconic neon-lit Strip,"

Many Indian visitors come looking for Nevada's natural wonders, like Lake Tahoe's crystal waters and forested peaks and the 'Loneliest Road in America.'

the recent Governor's Global Tourism Summit at the Plaza Hotel in Downtown Las Vegas.

The purpose of the three-day event was to convey the message to global travel and tourism industry that there is a lot more to Nevada as a destination than gaming and shows.

"Whether you are talking about our rural areas, the great outdoors, Red Rock, or the Valley of Fire, we want the world to know you can come here. There is a lot more you can experience, and Nevada's got a lot to offer," he said.

There are other experiences one can have, whether it is see-

ing petroglyphs (a rock carving, especially a prehistoric one) or rock climbing, Sisolak said.

"Millennials are more interested in an experience than they are in a purchase. They want to have memories. Nevada can create memories, and it is where memories happen," he said.

"This millennial generation is more interested in experiences. They don't want to accumulate things. They want to accumulate memories. And that is the idea we are trying to get across that you can have a great memory when you are here," he said.

# MASTER OF THE MIND

VISWANATHAN ANAND speaks with HARSHIT BISHT about his three-decade long career that includes highs and lows, memorable matches and how did it feel to remain at the top

What's the first thing that comes in mind when you hear the word chess? For most of the people in India, it is Viswanathan Anand. And that's so because he's there at the top since forever. Right from being India's first Grand Master in the year 1987 to becoming the first Asian, who won the World Chess Championship in 2000 and repeating the same in the year 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012. It's been 31 years since he first arrived at the top and today he is still there, as strong as he was then and arguably on the greatest.

He is the only person to have won the world championship in tournament, world and knockout formats, as well as rapid time controls and was the fourth player in history to pass the 2800 ELO mark in FIDE rating list, and occupied number one position for 21 months.

Recently he has come up with his book *Mind Master* which was launched on December 13, 2019 in which he has discussed about various moments of his long successful career, the challenges he came across, tour of his greatest games and some of the worst losses.

Anand who turned 50 on December 11, 2019 says that writing the book was like a walk down the memory lane. "For me it was a trip down the memory lane. When you write a book, you are forced to think hard and keep your focus clear on what you want to tell people. You have to think of each and every moment that was special and pen it down correctly," he tells you.

One just can't share the highlights of the journey, you have to recollect all the moments that happened no matter small or big.

"Remembering each and every thing was interesting because I have realised that when you have a big success you forget all the little difficulties that you faced all through," he says.

Anand has narrated many stories from his journey in the book. One such is from his match with Kramnik in 2008. "Right before the game was about to start, I had a panic attack. I started angsty because of something that I was not able to recall at that time. I tried calling my trainers but couldn't connect with any. I didn't know what to do next. It was then when my wife told me: 'Nothing can be done now, just forget about it and see what happens.' I agreed and went ahead with the game. But at the end the game went well and we all celebrated," he recalls.

One thing that he has learnt from that experience is that everything is unpredictable. One just have to work hard and aim for success. "Luck too plays its part in such games," he says.

Anand started playing the game at a young age. However, it was his mother who introduced him to the game. "My mother taught me how to play the game. I was just six then. After some time, I joined a chess club and it was one of the most important experiences of my life. Not because I learnt the game there, but

because I went there solely to have fun. And that's what got me interested in the game. It was a natural way to learn," he tells you.

The major step was when his father shifted to Philippines for a while and it was then when he got the chance to get exposed to a lot of chess players and he got engaged with the game like never before.

Anand got his early success in 1983 when he was crowned as the National sub-junior champion with a perfect 9/9 score which was followed by winning several other tournaments and earning International Master (IM) norms in the following years. His rise was such that by the time he was 18, Vishy became India's first Grand Master in the year 1988.

During his illustrious career, Anand has come across the likes of Anatoly Karpov, Garry Kasparov, Magnus Carlsen to name a few and has developed healthy rivalries many of them.

Playing chess is not everyone's cup of tea. There are many factors that one has to keep in mind. One of them is to know your competitor in and out. "The main thing was to be familiar with who you are playing, you prepare for your opponent and then you have to assume that they will do the same with you and then it becomes a guessing game," he tells you.

Try to anticipate what they might do next and how do you will deal with that, along the way you want to do is strengthen your skills, you need to keep practicing it to be ready for any new development.

"The more technically proficient you are, the less easy it is for people to catch your weakness. You need to keep working on your weakness constantly, and also brush up your strong points because anything you don't keep improving and keep adapting will fall behind," he says.

Playing in the world championship matches was all about controlling yourself. "In chess, the only thing that matters is who makes the last mistake. So you should do the best you can. It is a constant struggle," he says.

There were times when things used to get tricky and lead to tension during the match, which used to affect the proceedings. But Anand handled them all. "It's about how you master your emotions and deal with the constant tension. It's interesting because all these tension and how you deal with it in chess is probably one of the things that fascinate people outside of chess. How do you deal with all that? That's why you often say it's a mind game because in a sense you are really vulnerable with how you feel and the struggle is what I have discussed in the book," he tells you.

It is not possible for anyone to get success in whatsoever he attempt, there might be cases when the luck favours one, but it cannot happen always and when it comes to sports when a strategy fails it can have immediate impact. In team sport, the other member can cope up for the other one but in individual it gets

slightly worse.

"The most important thing is to forget the disappointment and also to forget the happy moments, if there are more games to be played," he says.

For Anand the most important thing is to focus on the next game. "Whether you are euphoric after a good result or depressed after a bad one, what you have to do is try to keep that aside. Calm yourself down and play the next game as if nothing has happened. That's the ideal way of dealing with such situations," he says.

In his book he has highlighted one instance where it was very difficult even to get a flick. Nothing he normally did worked out then. "The whole night I couldn't sleep. When I came to the working room next day, I found my team had been working the whole night. I was happy that they were putting themselves up for me and I felt a little better. Eventually I forgot what happened and started getting ready for the next game," he tells you.

Refreshing the memories of his greatest opponents and memorable matches he tells you that when he was young, it got an opportunity to play against players like Karpov (Anatoly) and Kasparov (Garry). It was a matter of great honour. The early match with Karpov in 1991—my first big candidate match. Also the big World Championship match with Kasparov in 1995 were some of the main highlights of his early career.

"I think in terms of maturity and the results and the way I approached the match, the best match I played in my life was the match against Kramnik (Vladimir) in Bonn (2008). It was simply my biggest success in a match," he says.

The worst was in Chennai against Magnus Carlsen in 2013.

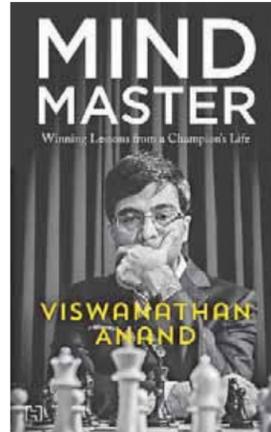
Vishy also has a say on the current world number one Magnus Carlsen, who has touched FIDE's highest-ever ELO rating of 2882.

"He is obviously incredibly strong. I got to know him about 17 years ago for the first time in some tournament and it was clear that he had great talent," he says and tells you that Carlsen has grown suddenly.

"Till 2008, I generally had good results against him. He had this breakthrough in 2009, he started to climb up. He is very good at starting the game. That I am not probably good at, especially slow positions, technical positions he is incredibly strong and it's been quite difficult to learn how to deal with that," Anand tells you.

He says that it is difficult to compare Carlsen and himself since he is 20-21 years older than Carlsen. "I met him when he was starting his peak and I was declining and I was trying to learn how to add up to his new approach at a different stage of my career, so it is very difficult to compare," Anand says.

It is often assumed that in individual sports like shooting or chess there isn't much pressure unlike cricket or football



“WHETHER YOU ARE EUPHORIC AFTER A GOOD RESULT OR DEPRESSED AFTER A BAD ONE, WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO IS TRY TO KEEP THAT ASIDE. CALM YOURSELF DOWN AND PLAY THE NEXT GAME AS IF NOTHING HAS HAPPENED. THAT'S THE IDEAL WAY OF DEALING WITH SITUATIONS”

where the crowd gathered in the stands make it all the more typical to concentrate. But Vishy don't agree with this and says that it gets all the more difficult to concentrate in the closed room because if you are slightly nervous than it can cost you dear by distracting your focus.

With great matches come great expectation and it becomes tricky to handle that. "It's a big challenge and all sportsman go through it. The bigger challenge is how you can thrive under pressure, how you deal with expectations because all these things are distracting you from concentrating and focus on what you want. If you start thinking about what comes next, I have found that the moment I start thinking about results rather than the game, generally you are punished," he tells you.

The constant struggle is to block out the thought of what people are saying about you, what are their expectations and how can you meet that.

It is very easy for an outsider to give an advice about keeping your nerves calm before a tense situation but the person who is going to deal with that, only knows how it is to be like and when it comes to the 8X8 board, it is the most important aspect to mentally prepare yourself so that one doesn't feel the burden.

"It's very difficult. In fact it is one of the things that you aim for and almost never succeed completely. But you try your best to find the things that worked for you in the past, you need to develop good understanding for yourselves," he says and tells you that stress is a sequence of memories, you have positive memories from winning a game, negative experiences of playing badly. You often learn more from failures than you do from success but we constantly see what works for us what doesn't and try to apply the correct principle in the future.

"In the book, I talk about what to do when suddenly you hit a wall. Nothing seems to work, how do you find way to motivate yourself again? The method I found was, when my own expectation have sunk very low, then I was just free to enjoy chess and not think about what my expected score was and then I felt much better," he tells you.

"How do you put yourself in the right place against every opponent? "Different positions call for different approaches and strategies. So it's basically about applying past experiences, learning what works and try to apply in future. But it's very hard to get it right because as we say the same problem will keep on coming but in slightly different versions every time. And so it's very hard to apply the lesson like that," Anand tells you.

A rule that Anand abides by is to think what went wrong the last time and modify it. "One such instance mentioned in the book that I found that I would often make a blunder when I got influenced by events before the game. In chess we have time control and move 40 and after that you get an extra hour. So the good chance to take a break. And one of the thing I found is that, there is no bet-

ter than 40s to get up from the board, go to the players area, just relax for 5 minutes and then come back and think again. So this was very interesting application of the experience I was having, disconnecting the past and current situation," he tells you. If you are winning on move 30 and then you blundered on move 35 and then you arrive on move 40 and you are slightly worse now. The only thing that matters at the end is that you are worse on 40.

"So, on move 40 if you can go to the players area and get yourself away from the chess board, you try to get used to the new situation and then you come back and tell yourselves that It's Okay! It doesn't matter that I was winning before, I need to put it on the back," he tells you.

One need to read the situation and make the fresh break and that was successful for Anand. "We take inspiration from some negative experience and then try to correct it," he tells you.

When you are at the highest level of anything it becomes very important for you to maintain that consistency because even a slight dip in form will be enough for people to question your caliber and who knows it better than Anand himself who is just not there at top for more than three decades but also time and again proved that he has got everything in him to be placed right there and proof of which is his World Rapid Chess Championship win in 2017.

Anand tells you the method that he has applied all these years to keep himself motivated for the challenges that came across. "The most important thing is to find what are the circumstances under which, you play best. I found that I learn new things in chess and I played the best when I am enjoying myself and so that is what you aim for," he says and tells you that you have to enjoy yourself and learn new things.

"One of the problem in rapid and blitz is that you can have these little streaks during the tournament because there are so many games. So if you play 9 blitz games there is enough room to have one good streak and one bad streak in the same day. And it goes very fast so you don't have time to settle after games and it calls for different approach when you play classical tournaments. But this is not some big long term problem, I try to solve it out," he says.

But at the end the grandmaster is too a normal human being who wants to relax and take some time out for his family. "At home, I am like any other normal person. When I am with my family, I just try to relax and have a good time," he tells you.

For Anand one of the nicest way to recover after bad disappointment is to come back home and play with his son because for a few minutes it takes him into a completely different world.

"It's important to have hobbies, friends and things that distract you. I have mentioned in the book that the quickest way to forget disappointment is to change your subject. And that is what I try to do," he tells you.

**The unending Baloch saga**

A book that traces the roots of the deep-seated Baloch alienation to the forced accession of Kalat to Pakistan in 1948

09



11

**Correct your weaknesses**

Identify, acknowledge, and address your own fault lines, and things will change sooner than later

I think that people should absolutely be allowed to do whatever they want with their bodies and to live the life they want to lead  
— Elisabeth Moss



Our textiles are our communiqué. These bear imprints of diverse cultures and their traditions. There is deep history and heritage attached to what we wear and re-create over and over again, writes SAYALI GOYAL as she shares her impressions from



## TEXTILE JOURNEY THROUGH BENGAL

When talking about Bengal, one must start the narrative from a weaving cluster village as the textile heritage of the region boasts of some of the finest weaving traditions of the country. Upon reaching Bengal, about four hours north of Kolkata, lies Shantipur, a village of Jamdani weavers, who migrated from Bangladesh during partition. Traditionally, these weavers made *dhotis*, a drape worn by Bengali men, now reduced to occasional wear. Which is why they mostly weave saris for the local women.

A master weaver, who hosted us at his workshop, shared with us how weaving involves the critical labour of his family members — his wife and his brother's family weave for nearly six to eight hours a day. Sometimes it takes up to a week to make one sari which they sell for ₹1500. An average of ₹10,000 is what a weaver makes per month, which is slightly above the minimum wage. The information is enough to make you sit up and wonder: what is the fair price for a traditional craft? Where does the difference lie between a skilled labourer and an artisan? Our host explained that they visit the *melas* organised by the ministry that provide a platform to sell directly to customers; at other times, boutiques from the city commission them pieces. He shared that for him, this is the best job as he can stay close to his artisanal tradition and family. Working in the city, he said, that would require him to live alone.

It was pleasing to see the community spirit in the weavers and that women held an equal position in the trade. There are 50,000 weavers in Shantipur who mostly work on handlooms, but the market demand has been in the hold of power looms as well. He talked about the use of natural dye only on request or when the weavers are specifically provided with naturally dyed yarns by the boutique. Chemical dyes are cheaper to produce, thus making it a competitive product. The community has now formed a weavers' society to bring more structure to the craft village where they try to solve issues of daily business. They hope for bigger, more concrete support from larger organisations in buying more looms and raw materials like threads. For the weavers, the biggest challenge is the money circulation, as they are only paid at the end of the month; most of their cash is invested in raw materials by that time. A common complaint is that the larger buyers work on consignments and refuse to pay for raw materials in advance, which for them is a big risk.

My rendezvous with the weavers in Shantipur and interactions with the master craftsmen left with me questions but also ideas. My visit to Mahamaya, a third generation Kantha artist and a National Award winner proved insightful. Some of her masterpieces include scenes from the

Ramayana with Kantha stitch work.

"Illustrations make for a *naksha* on Kantha which is the stitched layered fabric", explained Mahamaya. Kantha stitch is typically a long running stitch; however, there is innovation today and Herringbone, Satin, and Button stitches are also used. Browsing through her pile, I came across one that her grandmother had made, a 70 year old piece with natural colours.

Kantha is a way of storytelling through geometric patterns, figurative narratives, and floral illustrations. Mahamaya talks about her process and shares that she like to draw first on the fabric and then go by her instinct to fill colours into the piece of work. "Some of these works take years to make. Sometime I do the border and then another artisan fills the space inside. Reds and black were traditionally used but now there are more options in colours. I look for inspiration in other forms of art as well as in books and museums. During my mother's time, they used to pull out threads from old saris to embroider but now I use anchor thread. I also collaborate with other artisans like Kashmiri, who I have worked with for sixteen years. She is in the craft for tradition and it is a skill that gets her money as well".

Mahamaya has trained artists and taught them to preserve the art. Speaking of innovation, Mahamaya likes to experiment with the base fabric like cottons and tussars. There is a lot of scope where the artist could bring themselves in the work with experimentation within the technique. Some of her new projects include graphic inspiration and also a mix of techniques like applique. A new series is being developed under her, which is inspired from the panels of *Kamasutra*. Mahamaya shares that most of the works are commissioned art pieces such as the ones recently sold to Reliance Foundation at the Swadeshi Bazaar, but a lot of orders in the form of wearable art such as *dupattas* or bed linen keep the workshop running.

The textile documentation trip to Kolkata would be incomplete without a meeting with Namrata, Founder of Biome Conscious Textiles. Her story of entrepreneurship came together as she was looking out of the window of life for inspiration to make her financially independent while also staying true to her values. She was at that time questioning consumerism. So, there she was, with no prior experience in business other than having some entrepreneurial DNA by virtue of belonging to the Rajasthani Marwari community. Then, she encountered someone who was invested in herbal dyeing process for almost a decade. Naturally, it was the opportunity she was waiting for, to work in a social impact space through the world of clothing and fashion that she understood very well ever since her childhood. She finally found a product in her hands that was in harmony with nature and did not promote consumerism.



### Au Naturelle

Indigo process that Biome follows and shares at workshops:

Take 2 parts of refined lime powder and mix some warm water and stir for almost 10 minutes. Now add 1 part of indigo sweetened powder and mix slowly and cover, removing all oxygen supply and light exposure for 3-4 hours. Open and check if the top is metallic purple and bottom is green. If yes, your indigo is active, alive and ready to go. Dilute if needed and put your fabric inside. Let it soak the dye, and as you bring it out, it magically comes out green turning blue on exposure to sun's light and oxygen. In time, it's bright blue. Wash it after it's dry with a mild soap and rinse in vinegar water and dry again. Ready to wear!



"I am but a tool in the hands of this movement," she said. "I like to think, and question, and that is what makes me act the way I do. I love clothes but not the indulgence".

Namrata believes that clothes are a symbol of need, comfort, artistic expression, dignity, celebration, attraction, and more but they must not become the reason for environmental degradation and human exploitation. Her organisation represents the idea of a *communiqué* — of a clean present and a cleaner future that is invested in the welfare of everyone involved in the process.

Working with bio-degradable products is what keeps her going ahead in her journey. Endorsing, embracing and collaborating with other like-minded people are her sources of joy. Biome makes natural-dyed fabrics and customised garments. It identifies with the movement of integrating with nature. As part of that process, Biome also sells natural dyes and Namrata travels with natural dyeing workshops throughout the country.

She believes that work should not be for one person's fancy but instead should be collaborative and transcend differences. "In the end, work should unite, not divide". Revolution starts with an individual but it must expand to the community as we are parts of one big whole. Nature is the intelligent system that has prevailed ever since life started, we can only grow and survive in harmony with it.

Namrata realised that we as humans need to engage our senses to relate to our physical presence in life. And only listening or reading are incomplete ways of sharing, understanding and experience the beauty of natural dyes. Through workshops, Biome facilitates spaces and guidance to dye your own fabrics, engage with the look, smell and feel of the dyes, and know how real and alive it is. Just like us.

Biome is interested to adopt 'grow local, buy and sell local and decentralise'. Hence, they have been exploring work with the strong weaving heritage of Bengal and introduce natural dyeing to the weavers. Also, instead of thinking of 'export', the focus is on spreading awareness amongst Indians, who form a significant hub of consumers and can afford the best fabrics. Biome also concentrates on natural fibres, sustainable man-made fibres, and hand woven fabrics along with naturally dyed threads and fabrics. Natural dye is the boundary that does not limit, but instead creates a balance between environment and our need for colours.

Namrata makes it a point to collaborate with

other sustainable field workers when she is touring for her workshops, especially with those who are working in education, food, lifestyle, and the like.

A piece of textile is a symbol of creation. So much has been created, imagined with warp and weft and has been an expression of art and design. Our textiles are our *communiqué*, our language various cultures marked it with their sense of aesthetics and there is deep history and heritage with what we wear and re-create over and over again. Design has been evolved in textiles in rhythmic dance with our lifestyle, socio-economic conditions, geography of a place and now it marks globalisation. Another important driver has been 'fashion' and it has both pros and cons as anything in excess can result in.

Biome has always loved and learnt from collaboration and sharing. That's been the constant motivation and satisfaction. "This one time, we happened to meet this bright, young student from Srishti School of Design and we came in touch with her work on flora and fauna, and a very imaginative expression of human mating a flower and the resultant evolution of life. When we interacted with her more, we discovered that she loves trees, can communicate with them and sketching plants alive is her passion. We took a look at her sketches and decided to convert them on our clothes through batik and herbal dyes. Thus started this experimental project of batik and painting with herbal paste. On board was the batik artist, Sushanto and Ghana, an artist from Chennai who was with us for that period. We released a collection and it was like a dream come true", Namrata reminisces.

Paramita Kar Choudhury is a batik and block printing artist who also dabbles in shibori and clamp techniques. She started her journey with synthetic dyes but soon found the calling for natural dyes. She took her training from an experienced practitioner from Shantiniketan. Then she opened her unit and heart to embrace Biome as a collaborating partner to use her herbal dyes and process orders together in batik, block printing, and dyeing.

As I traversed through the landscape of Bengal, it was heartening to see skilled craftsmen dedicating their time to keep the age-old traditions alive. So many ideas bubbled inside my mind after all the interesting conversations, but for the moment I treated myself to a naturally dyed blue and white Jamdani.

The writer is the founder and cultural curator at [www.cocoaandjasmine.com](http://www.cocoaandjasmine.com)



ARNOLD BENNETT, THE AUTHOR OF *THE OLD WIVES' TALE* AND *CLAYHANGER*, HAS AN OMELETTE NAMED AFTER HIM. THE OMELETTE WAS INVENTED AT LONDON'S SAVOY HOTEL WHERE BENNETT OFTEN STAYED

With his keen understanding of the region, the author traces the roots of the deep-seated Baloch alienation to the forced accession of the princely state of Kalat to Pakistan in 1948, writes KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

# The unending struggle of the Baloch

The statement by General Rawat, Chief of Staff of the Indian Army, that Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) is controlled by terrorists and Gilgit-Baltistan and POK have been under illegal occupation of Pakistan is to be noted seriously. A perusal of history shows that many such provinces in the North West region as well as North East region of the country were part of India and the country was forced to surrender the rights over them as part of a ploy by the British rulers.

One such independent country that existed during the colonial rule of the British and enjoyed the status of a sovereign nation was Balochistan. Ironically, nothing much has been written or taught in India about Balochistan, its glorious past and communal amity (which is in stark contrast to that of Pakistan). One of the TV news channels in Kerala had telecast a programme about Hinglaj Mata Temple in Balochistan which is being preserved with utmost care by the tribal community. Every year, the Mandir draws thousands of Indian devotees to this country and the pilgrims are treated with respect by the tribal communities. In modern times, the term Balochistan was heard in the Indian narrative for the first time in 2009 when the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh assured his Pakistani counterpart Yusuf Raza Gilani that India was doing nothing in Balochistan. "Indeed nor should it be doing anything there," the economist-turned-politician is reported to have said in the joint statement with Gilani issued on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement meeting held in Egypt.

An attempt has been made to unravel the hitherto untold and unpublished details about Balochistan. "Pakistan: The Balochistan Conundrum" authored by Tilak Devasher, a former senior official of the Cabinet Secretariat. Devasher is an authority on Pakistani politics which could be understood from his first book "Pakistan At The Helm", published by HarperCollins. His lucid style and articulation are the reasons why readers prefer his works. Devasher tells the required facts in a straightforward manner. His intentions are clear because he wants people to get enlightened and educated. The style is as elegant as Devasher himself.

The author takes the readers straight to Balochistan and gives us



some important facts which would kindle passion in the mind to know more about the subject. The population of Pakistan is 21 crore while that of Balochistan is 1.23 crore. Balochistan constitutes 44 per cent of Pakistan's landmass. This is just one of the reasons behind Pakistan's avarice for this once sovereign country. Balochistan is a treasure house of minerals and energy resources. "Had there been no Balochistan, there would not have been any Pakistan," felt the British rulers who had manipulated the geo-politics of the region before they lowered the Union Jack and gave way to the national flags.

The British colonialists wanted to manipulate and influence the sub-continent by remote controlling from London. They had a fear that the ever increasing influence of the then Soviet Union was detrimental to their political, commercial and other strategic

interests. Hence they felt the need to have a region, a long strip from the Gilgit to Balochistan administered directly by the British. This was what suggested by a British army officer R C Money in charge of strategic planning in India during the period.

"However by 1947, the British felt that instead of locating a base in a weak Balochistan, such a base could be established in Pakistan that was more than willing to accommodate the British. Hence it was in British interests to ensure that Balochistan was kept within Pakistan and did not become an independent entity," writes Devasher (Page 85).

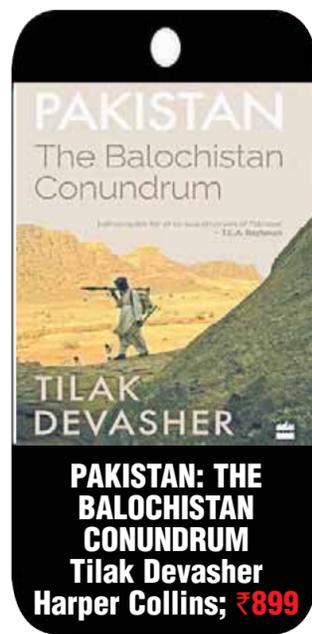
As per various treaties entered into by the then rulers of the princely State of Balochistan (the Khans of Kalat) with the British government, the former had been assured by the colonial masters that Balochistan would remain a

sovereign country with no obligation of any kind either to India or Pakistan. What Devasher has done is to bring to light the palace coup staged in Kalat with the political script authored in the corridors of power in Lahore, New Delhi and London. It shocks us and further embarrasses as because it was another *faux pas* committed by Jawaharlal Nehru which resulted in Mohammed Ali Jinnah annexing Balochistan to Pakistan.

This backstabbing came within weeks of Jinnah issuing a statement declaring that "the Government of Pakistan recognises Kalat as an independent sovereign State, in treaty relations with British government with a status different from that of Indian States." Needless to tell, Jinnah's statement was issued immediately after a well publicised meeting the former had with the Khan of Kalat and his aides.

Jinnah was a visionary as well as an Islamic fundamentalist. As on date, '36 per cent of Pakistan's total current natural gas production, as also reserves of coal, gold, copper, silver, platinum, aluminium and uranium are in Balochistan. Reko Diq, Saindak, Sui and Chamalang produce a wealth of resources like copper, gold, natural gas, coal and other minerals. Reko Diq is a copper and gold mine in Chagai district with an estimated mineral resource of at least 54 billion pounds of copper and 41 million ounces of gold', writes Devasher. All these details establish the fact that Pakistan without Balochistan is a big zero. Jinnah and the subsequent rulers of Pakistan have made use of all games in the trick to keep the people of Balochistan in perpetual poverty, illiteracy and ignorance. This is what the Grand Old Party did in India too.

Devasher has revealed the details of



how the then Prime Minister Nehru rejected and refused the offer from the Khan of Kalat to merge with India. What the author has stated in pages 81 and 82 is sufficient to expose the then Prime Minister's inefficiency, failure to read the writing on the wall and his larger than life image hyped up by the media.

This book is a must read for all those who are interested in the history of the sub-continent, prior to and after the exit of the British rulers lest we are cheated by manipulated and distorted history. Balochistan is waiting for India. India's safety and security could be ensured only through the liberation of Balochistan and Tilak Devasher is an author who has to be taken seriously by our policy makers and those who want to excel in the game of diplomacy.

While reading the book, what crossed the mind was the football teams from Balochistan, namely Makran United and Makran Sports Club which used to figure in the Sait Nagjee Football Tournament which was held at Kozhikode in Kerala. They were favorites of Malabar's football lovers. Balochistan is loved by people who know about the country.

## NEW ARRIVALS

**KHANTASTIC: THE UNTOLD STORY OF BOLLYWOOD'S TRIO**  
Sanjukta Nandy  
Rupa, ₹295

Did Shah Rukh Khan reject *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*? Did Amir Khan audition for *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak*? Was Salman Khan's voice dubbed by another in *Maine Pyar Kiya*? Did Salman's and Amir's film rejections give Shah Rukh Bollywood on a platter? KHANTastic answers all these questions. Destiny binds together this charismatic trio. Three different, yet magnetic personalities—they form the three points of the invisible Bandra Triangle in Mumbai.

**NAKED**  
Papa CJ  
Westland, ₹499

Papa CJ is able to turn the ordinary into the extraordinary. And then destroy it. Only to rise again like a phoenix. As Papa CJ lays bare his life, from the streets of Calcutta to the University of Oxford and stages across the world, you will bask in nostalgia, laugh your guts out, feel your heart ache, and find a new lens with which to look at your own life. A lens that allows you, like Papa CJ, to always see the positive. And of course, the funny.

**PAPER MOON**  
Rehana Munir  
HarperCollins India, ₹299

When her estranged father passes away, Fiza, fresh out of college, discovers that he has left her a tidy sum in the hope that she will open a bookshop... Overnight, Fiza's placid life is thrown into a whirl of decor decisions and book-buying sprees, unconventional staff and colourful patrons, small pleasures and little heartbreaks, as the store — Paper Moon — begins to take shape in a charming, old Bandra mansion...

In a refreshing departure from stereotypical portrayals of muslim women, their helplessness and ignorance, the book *Resilience: Stories of Muslim Women* explores the lives of 11 women who fought against all odds to shine, once they got the opportunity to study in a tiny adult education centre. The author, Shubha Menon, has documented life of girls and women of Nizamuddin Basti, Delhi, in a manner that makes the reader a partner in her adventure. The reader is taken through the winding *gullies*, narrow staircases and tottering houses, right into the homes of the girls.

The Seher Centre was an experiment in education started by social activist Shabnam Hashmi. At the time, Shabnam herself was a young girl studying in Russia. She was home for the summer holidays and went with a friend to Nizamuddin Basti to volunteer as a teacher for young girls. When it was time for her to go back to Russia, two of the girls begged her not to, as they had seen hope in their lives after she had started teaching them. Shabnam could not turn her back on the girls. She stayed back and started the Seher Education Centre. From 1980 to 1985, about 400 girls studied in the Centre. The book encompasses the stories of 11 girls whose stories unfold one by one.

The girls' stories are poignant and real. There is Farida, who started wearing a burqa at 9, got married at 12 and was a mother of two, divorced and abandoned by 16. Today, she runs a non-profit, teaching other young girls like her. Mussarrat, who was virtually a prisoner in her own home, forced to do domestic chores all day. She is now a health supervisor with the Aga Khan Foundation. And Parveen, who was turned away from the Gandhi residence because she

# Hope lives behind the veil

*Resilience* is an important book on Muslim women in contemporary India. It brings out stories untold. There are so many layers to examine, writes JAYSHREE M SUNDAR



couldn't write her name in the entrance register. Today she a Sewa Dal worker and political voice for a political party. The stories of Syeda, Asma, Ishrat, Shahjahan, Najma and Ayesha also show the transformation that the Seher Centre brought about.

The writer recreates the tiny room where classes were held. We learn about the rivalry between the girls, their favourite teachers and how their thoughts are gradually changed, till from burqa-clad silent citizens they become agents of change in their own right. We also learn about the various forces at play in the *basti*, those that opposed girls education. There are the elders

of the *basti* who disapprove of girls going to school. There are the Pirzadas who want Shabnam to teach their kids exclusively because they do not want their children to share space with lowly 'Ghosis'. There are opposing forces in the *basti* and old mores are at loggerheads with new thinking. The Shah Bano case is at the centre of this dichotomy. The author dwells upon the case at some length.

The writer has included conversations with eminent, educated Muslim women — Syeda Hameed, Warisha Farasat, Zarina Bhatti, Seema Mustafa, Noor Zaheer — who talk about the state of Muslim women in the country. These conversations

are a good counterpoint to the conversations with the Seher girls. The Markaz versus the Dargah is another contradiction of the *basti*. The Markaz propagates pristine orthodox Islam which is strident and austere. The author does not deride one practice at the cost of the other. Their parallel existence may occasionally clash but seldom becomes a major flare-up. The reader is gently led through this labyrinth of contradictions and incongruities which are both literary and figurative. A hidden world is revealed in easy flowing prose. What gives the book its unique flavour is the anecdotes and tales about the Nizamuddin Basti, the *dargah*, the *Auliya*, the



graves, monuments, etc. The book is full of interesting details that lend colour to the stories of the girls.

It was not just the old and new that were clashing in the *basti*. There was Shabnam Hashmi herself, a communist-atheist, ultra-liberal rebel of sorts. She never wore a burqa and sported short hair and spectacles. Just the way she looked, raised the red flag for many in the *basti*. Subjects like sex, reproductive rights, gender parity, taboo for Basti dwellers, were freely discussed in the Seher Centre. Shabnam's total lack of fear against a menacing, threatening phalanx of Basti old men, guardians and gatekeepers of the

'izzat' of their women and girls, was cause for alarm. Girls, who were not allowed to uncover their heads in their own homes or sit on a chair in front of their elders, began to learn alphabet of rights. The Seher teachers who included Shabnam's mother and sister, were berated because of the fear that they would make the girls 'azad' and 'la mazhab'. Underlying this popular slogan verbiage was the larger fear that *Basti* women may begin to think and assert their rights.

This book brings out the unique world of the Nizamuddin Basti. One which you may not find on a map. Where, in the by lanes of crowded homes with limited means women broke out of the shackles of stereotypical roles and fearlessly fought their way to an education. Where women helped women. The book has interesting anecdotes about the ghosts that coexist with human beings there and the sounds of urdu, the music from the dargah, and the fragrance of *kebabs* which create the unique atmosphere of this area.

*Resilience* is an important book on Muslim women in contemporary India. There are so many layers to examine. And, Seher comes out as a unique experiment, which not only transformed all those women who studied there but their future generations.

The writer is a senior advertising professional and a visiting professor at B-schools



comes back to his village rejecting a big fat job offer. He now goes on to find a girl for his *mama* who happens to be Meera (Payal Rajput). Meanwhile, the *mama* tries to patch up Karthik and Harika (Raashi Khanna) who breaks up during their college days. However, while everything is going well, Karthik suddenly leaves. Why did he leave? What is Rama Narayana predicting and fearing? And how does Venkata Ratnam, also called Military Naidu, get to meet Karthik again is what shapes the rest of the movie.

The *Mama-alludu* bonding is well portrayed

CAST:  
Venkatesh, Akkineni Naga Chaitanya, Raashi Khanna, Payal Rajput, Prakash Raj, Nassar  
DIRECTOR: K.S. Ravindra aka Bobby  
RATING: 3 STARS

hype but at times feels like it is Venky's one-man show as he over-powers Chay in both performance and screen-time.

The film had the usual melodramatic plot that is predictable and a not so interesting love story that looks like it was added just to up the glamour quotient. The storyline seems outdated for the present generation. But as said earlier by the director, it takes you back to the time when people lived happily in villages and families bonded. Take this scene for instance where Karthik is asked to choose between his *mama* and Harika and he replies, "I would choose *mama* over my life". While it had its emotional content, somewhere down the line, it became too dramatic. But, despite all the drama, the *mama-alludu* bonding is sure to leave one

teary eyed by the end of the film. It could have left a better impact though, if it had invested in a better storyline.

Speaking of performances, Venkatesh was terrific as always, with an impeccable comic timing and amazing action scenes. One feels like this is the Venky from *Lakshmi*, with the kind of action scenes the director focussed on. Like in every other film, Venky manages to impress one and all. Chay has delivered his best performance so far. The off-screen bond the *mama-alludu* share was visible in the

Raashi and Payal, though did not get much screen space, were presented glamorously and played justice to their roles.

Nevertheless, Prakash Raj who plays the role of an Army Major deserves a special mention for his acting. Rao Ramesh also justified his presence in the character given to him.

Speaking of music, it felt like a drab and did not go in sync with the rest of the movie. Better background score could've left a better impact on the audience. The music, helmed by Thaman, was average.

**VERDICT:**

The tried and tested formula, predictable plot might leave audience disinterested as they can predict what's going to happen next. However, the comic timing of Venky-Chay, their emotional connect and bond, leaves one seeking for more. The action, comedy, anger, love, is all well portrayed and the film is a one-time watch.

# VENKY MAMA: STAR CAST LET DOWN BY POOR STORYLINE

One of the most awaited films of Tollywood this year, has finally hit the screens. But could the film do justice to the hype it generated pre-release? K RAMYA SREE writes about the expectation vs reality scenario of the movie

The storyline of *Venky Mama*, helmed by Bobby, is fairly straightforward and takes the audience on a rollercoaster ride of emotions. Rama Narayana (played by Nassar), father of Venkata

Ratnam (Venkatesh), is the head of the village who believes in astrology and destiny. He opposes Karthik's (Naga Chaitanya) parents' wedding as he predicts their death as soon as Karthik turns one. As predicted, Karthik loses his parents in a road accident. This is where

the actual plot begins. Venkata Ratnam now adopts Karthik and shuns his dream of becoming an Army personnel while also rejecting many marriage proposals for Karthik's good upbringing. After Karthik graduates from engineering college, he



# JUMANJI: The Next Level: Fun on the run

The odd bunch is back again, in the oddest game you have known. *Jumanji: The Next Level* keeps things in more or less at the same level as its 2017 predecessor, and still manages to pack a punch. In many ways, this new film of the franchise would seem like an easier job than the 2017 release, *Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle*. The challenge for that film was to bring back an idea which worked over two decades ago, in the 1995 Robin Williams-starrer *Jumanji*, and reorganise the 90s fantasy comedy for the new-generation mind space. *The Next Level* is merely following up what worked a couple

of years ago. Like any smart sequel aimed at cashing in on the popularity of a franchise that's up and running, *The Next Level* tries to deliver what worked once, with a bigger bang. Most of it should thrill the humongous hardcore fan base. The big action scenes and boisterous gags are all in place, and the climax ties up the adventure with trademark aplomb. A minimal storyline takes off a couple of years after the incidents of the 2017 film. Spencer, Bethany, Martha and Fridge are in college now. His friends aren't aware, but Spencer had kept the broken *Jumanji* video game, and he now gets it going after repairing it. Which means it is time for

the gang to be sucked into the game again. What's more, Spencer's grandpa (Danny DeVito) and his buddy (Danny Glover) get pulled in, too. The world of *Jumanji* is unpredictably dangerous as ever but the twist here is that the human protagonists don't end up as the same gaming characters as they did in the last film. This leads to random humour. The CGI work and choreographed action sequences are nothing exceptional, but are sufficient to regale and also carry the plot forward. As always, the film is mainly enjoyable for its quirky mix of characters, along with a plot that runs thin but is nonetheless wacky and

never dull. *Jumanji: The Next Level* is fun on the run, aimed at pleasing the whole family, just right for the holiday season coming up. It continues to be a ride on the wild side. Will there be a next level beyond *The Next Level*? Hang around for the mid-credit scene at the end, and you'll know.

CSAST:  
Dwayne Johnson, Jack Black, Kevin Hart, Karen Gillan, Awkwafina; Nick Jonas;  
DIRECTION:  
Jake Kasdan;  
RATING:  
3 stars

# MARDAANI 2: Rani rocks in topical film

Sometimes, a film acquires added significance than it warrants, for the sheer timeliness and topicality of a societal ill that it highlights. *Mardaani 2* is such a film. An otherwise engaging cop-and-villain thriller gets a whole new dimension when the cop in question is the film's female protagonist, and the villain she chases is a juvenile psychotic serial rapist-killer.

Beyond Rani Mukerji's resounding return and adequate dose of suspense that the film delivers, it aims at working as a chilling reminder of how crime against women continues unabated all around us. Coming in the wake of Hyderabad, Unnao, Baghpat among several other such recent incidents, *Mardaani 2* tries opening up a necessary conversation.

It would have succeeded wholly, had the film managed to find the right bal-

ance between crime thriller and social commentary. Instead, debutant director Gopi Puthran tends to reel under melodrama while imagining Rani's objective as protagonist Shivani Roy. After a while, Shivani seems more like a filmi messiah than a duty-bound cop. Puthran, who also wrote the first *Mardaani* for director Pradeep Sarkar, has crafted a film that roughly follows the template of the earlier film.

While the first film highlighted trafficking of women, the sequel talks of rape and safety of women. Things get darker this time around, with the screenplay clearly influenced by the grizzly mood of numerous Hollywood films in the genre, including *Silence Of The Lambs* and *The Bone Collector*.

The story is set in Kota, the Rajasthan town that is a hub of coaching classes for entrance aspirants. A psychotic criminal is on the prowl. He has been brutally

raping, torturing and murdering young women, and he reveals a narcissistic streak in the way he exhibits the corpses of his victims. He even dares Shivani to nab him before he picks his next victim by the end of the day.

Rani as the no-nonsense Shivani Roy in the *Mardaani* films has surely carved a newfound niche that will let her stay significant, in a mainstream industry that is slowly learning to accord bigger roles to its actresses. The heroine in uniform would seem like a perfect subject in new-age Bollywood, where the priority lately has been on bankrolling female-centric projects.

However, *Mardaani 2* does not make any attempt to explore the world of the victims. The film starts on a chilling note, but soon turns into formulaic suspense drama, where the rape-and-murder text is a mere, albeit taut, device to carry forward the cop-and-killer plot. The

narrative is simplistic enough to let supercop Shivani engage in a cat-and-mouse chase with the antagonist.

Credibly, the villain of the piece is an enigma, imagined as a juvenile. The character reminds us how newspaper headlines regularly hit us with the cold revelation that most arrested rapists in India are aged in their twenties or lesser. Young TV actor Vishal Jethwa does a fine job, he leaves a sinister impact.

A supporting cast of mostly unfamiliar faces works perfectly in complementing Rani's tailormade, towering presence. While on Rani, if the *Mardaani* films are customised for her, she has perfected the act of mixing Shivani's aggressive attitude with the character's vulnerable streak.

*Mardaani 2* counts for the way the film strives to leave a pertinent societal comment. Only, it could have done so with more imagination.



CSAST:  
Rani Mukerji, Vishal Jethwa, Shruti Bapna, Rajesh Sharma  
DIRECTION:  
Gopi Puthran  
RATING:  
3 stars



LETTING GO MEANS TO COME TO THE REALISATION THAT SOME PEOPLE ARE A PART OF YOUR HISTORY, BUT NOT A PART OF YOUR DESTINY —STEVE MARABOLI

**YOUR WEEK AHEAD**

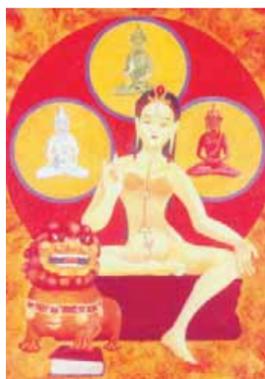
MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

You need to manage your stress level in order to stay in good health. Face your problems rather than avoid them. Those looking for spiritual healing, ensure you get adequate rest. Avoid temptations or addictions; otherwise you may face health hazards. Your dream job may come your way. Your accomplishments will make your peers look bad. That's mostly their problem, but don't be obnoxious about it. Some of you may attain a position where you can exert power and authority. Control your temper when dealing with subordinates at workplace. You may feel the negative vibes in the relationship as well. Conflict with near and dear ones is predicted. Think calmly and carefully about the person you are in a relationship with, before you react.

Lucky number 9  
Lucky colour Black  
Lucky day Wednesday



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

You will witness a complete change in your health. Those suffering from serious ailments will be surprised by the unexpected changes such as improvement in their test results. A disciplined and controlled lifestyle is always welcome. Curb your craving for sweet and fried food. On the career front, be careful of the source you are making money with. An unfair deal to get quick success might put you in legal action. Be cautious, as this is the time when you can use your power in a negative way. On the relationship front, your love life seems to be going very well. Those who are committed, a strong relationship that is mutually supportive and beneficial will bring you happiness. Singles, this is a good time to meet new people.

Lucky number 18  
Lucky colour Brown  
Lucky day Friday



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

Health may cause worry this week. Those awaiting test results, need to stay calm as there is nothing much you can do. Relax, things are not as bad as you fear. You will experience a spiritual strength that will help you gain good health. Connect with deeper joy and love for living. It is advised you do breathing exercises and meditation now. On the work front, you may feel stagnated. You don't have to stay in a situation that is unhealthy for you. Those who wish to pursue higher studies and simultaneously work may go ahead. Love life looks promising. Singles, a new and very positive, romance is on the horizon. Just, don't get carried away. Keep your balance and perspective. Those in a committed relationship will enjoy a new level of understanding.

Lucky number 22  
Lucky colour Red  
Lucky day Friday



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

Confusion about a medical test/result is foreseen. Go for a second opinion. Any health changes are likely to take place slowly. This may be for the best, regardless of how fast you would like things to move. Take things one day at a time and note small changes. Professionally, you can win any situation with your skill and intelligence. Your logical and analytical skills will help you to overcome any difficulties. This is the right time to appear for an interview, or write a competitive exam. Your writing and communication skills could give you an extra edge over others. Relationship wise there could be explosive arguments with the near and dear ones. This is not the time to look for love as you may take wrong decisions. Existing relations could suffer due to misunderstanding.

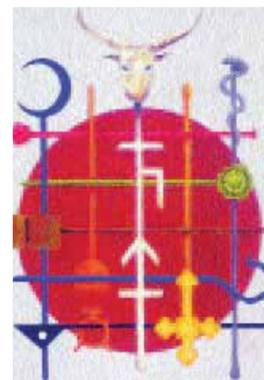
Lucky number 33  
Lucky colour White  
Lucky day Wednesday



**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

Confront your dark side. This is a good time to explore your fears, limitations, and unhealthy attachments. Additions and indulging in material pleasures in order to forget about your worries are foreseen. Be aware and avoid falling into any material traps. Career-wise, beginning of a project is indicated in which a great deal of creative energy will be invested. This is the time when you need emotional support to go forward in life. Try to meet your immediate demands at the workplace with maturity and sensitivity. On the love front, you may get hyper on small things with the people who matter to you. Your mind will empower your heart and emotions will take a back seat. Remember words speak louder than action.

Lucky number 12  
Lucky colour Mustard  
Lucky day Saturday



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

Stay grounded to do justice to your body this week. It is important you take rest and relax. Stay away from spicy and junk food. You may experience stress due to certain unavoidable factors. Stay calm and avoid anger or aggression. Release your frustration to express it rather than keep it to yourself. Professionally, you will find stability after a long time. Those who are looking for a job change, you need to disconnect yourself with the current company. People sitting for an interview or a competitive examination will be successful. Any pending work needs to be completed now. Relationship wise, this is a highly emotional time. Situations can instantly become heated or uncomfortable. Take a break if you need to. Don't hurry to end or to begin a relationship.

Lucky number 15  
Lucky colour Purple  
Lucky day Wednesday



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

This week your health regime will move to the next level and so will your maturity and intelligence. You will not think twice before spending money on health. Your views in terms of health are conventional and practical and will pay you rich dividends. On the career front, clear communication will bring changes in your work life. Travel to a foreign land on account of the job is likely. Your initiatives blend with your people skill. Explore and see where it takes you. Your finances will improve considerably and you may plan a deal in property. On the romantic front, this week you are all charged and lovable. Online love messages will revive your energy and passion. Singles may find a suitable partner or get marriage proposals.

Lucky number 9  
Lucky colour Yellow  
Lucky day Thursday



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

Those dealing with a health problem, need to look for treatments beyond your family doctor. What you need is a vacation or a change of environment. Focus on your dreams. You are likely to find spiritual answers that will help you a lot. On the career front, new opportunities will tempt you. New projects, deals or assignment could be signed this week. Those in business would be able to increase their networking and convert them into benefits. Securing a big deal is on the cards. At a personal level, new friendships or bonding is likely to turn into a loving relationship for you. An existing relationship will become more intense. If someone is interested in you, give him/her a chance. This relationship could be just what you are looking for.

Lucky number 23  
Lucky colour Green  
Lucky day Sunday



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

This week your health will be good. You are in the right place, doing the right thing. You are likely to achieve what you have wished for. The week holds new beginnings that naturally emerge out of the accomplished cycle. To balance your energies, avoid rich food and oversleep. Work life may not be very satisfactory. You may feel uncomfortable at your work place. Your seniors may feel that you are not putting your 100 per cent effort into a project or task. Your honest nature may fetch you a suspension or some kind of displeasure. Avoid any kind of investment or a new deal in business/property. Those in love may face conflict and difficult phase. However, a balanced approach will work in your favour.

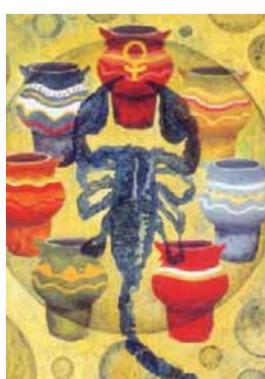
Lucky number 11  
Lucky colour Golden  
Lucky day Tuesday



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

Your perseverance and hard work on the health front will bear results. Your self-confidence will draw people to you like a magnet. Those who are worried about health need to relax. Things are not as bad as you fear. There is an underlying, spiritual strength that will sustain your health. Career-wise good news is on the cards. You are likely to use your power and leadership for the benefit of others. Success in the project is foreseen. Those who are looking for a transfer, or job change, should approach an authoritative person to help you in your endeavour. On the love front, doubts about a relationship may nag you. This is the time to be very clear about what you want out of life and your relationships and accordingly, plan your actions.

Lucky number 10  
Lucky colour Blue  
Lucky day Tuesday



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

You will enjoy good health. This week there will be occasions when three generations of the family will get together. The youngsters may receive a gift in form ancestral property, it could be money or invaluable advice. On the career front, your insight and mental clarity will generate good results. This is a good time to act and achieve your target. Be alert as new opportunities will knock at the door. You are likely to get promoted. Draw upon your creativity and mental ability for making more money. In love life, relations will blossom and may materialise into marriage. You will feel at ease with your spouse/partner, and take important decisions with regard to your family. This is a good week for family reunions and to bask in the bliss of love and relations.

Lucky number 5  
Lucky colour Dark Grey/ Grey  
Lucky day Saturday



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

Change is inevitable. You will seek spiritual answers that have eluded you for some time. This week you will experience high energy and self-confidence. You may plan a vacation or time out in nature. Someone new and exciting will make a move in your direction. Be prepared for a surprise. Relax as everything is under control. Career-wise you will be exerting yourself for a job change. Those in arts fields could collaborate for the first time on a project that will give a boost to your career. Good opportunities are coming your way. Promote your ideas. Make sure to seek intelligent advice before accepting an invitation. Romance is likely to bloom this week. Extension in the family, the birth of child or news of conception is indicated.

Lucky number 13  
Lucky colour Magenta  
Lucky day Monday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331



# Correct your own weaknesses

It is in human nature to improve one's lot, which tempts one to look towards a better tomorrow. So, invariably we begin life with high hopes and aspirations. Accordingly, we set our dream destination. Dreams are necessary for reaching heights one is capable of, as they serve a focus to reach an objective. Since time immemorial the Moon fascinated and evoked man's curiosity, seen every day — yet unknown. A longing to know and understand it, led scientists to send man on the Moon. Yet, not everybody's dreams get fulfilled. Non-realisation often brings in frustrating experiences. Why? Are we so helplessly fated? Not really, provided we optimally use our indwelling empowerment tools. Remember, we are all born carrying limitless potential, which if unfolded would know no limits. The paradox, however, is that major part of our mind-power remains untapped, as it remains clouded by lot of inherent limitations. Truth be told — ordinary mortals are hardly able to use five to seven percent of their mind power. The irony, however, is that even this, if judiciously used, can enable one to negotiate life with relative ease and comfort. Bear in mind; even people like

Einstein are said to have used just 10 to 14 percent of their mind-power to create history. You need to strive to unfold your full potential. It may then spontaneously lead you through. You may then discriminate between 'What you want' and 'What is worth' before you take any call. Also, you would be able to put forward your best foot. So, the real challenge is to overcome limitations of our mind and expand its outreach. The way forward is to get into self-search mode. The process helps identify, acknowledge and then rise above the limitations of mind. It is pertinent to note here that we seldom remain conscious about invoking one's most profound empowerment tool — *Buddhi* (the faculty of discriminate intelligence) — before jumping into action. Not to say anything about getting over the limitation of mind. And *buddhi* won't come into play by itself. Consequently, we blindly submit ourselves to indwelling desire trends, coming as they may with karmic imprints carried over from the past. We neither try to figure out whether the desires pursued are worth it or not, nor do we care whether we are geared up for the



purpose. When we meet failure, either we try to shift the blame on others, or our destiny. Truth, however, remains that we do not strive sufficiently to unfold the immense power within. So said Swami Vivekananda: "The history of the world is the history of few men who had faith in themselves. Faith calls out divinity within. You can do anything. You fail because you have not sufficiently strived to unfold immense power within." Here is the case of someone, who came asking the other day: "Sir, since last year, I am having a tough time both in terms of career as well as my personal life. I get lot of offers but at the last moment, they all fizzle out. I am afraid, those envious of me have been playing foul with my life. My wife is self-centric and is least bothered about my sensibilities and concerns. The worst is she discourages me from pursuing spirituality. When do you think the situation may change?" Don't try to rationalise peculiar beliefs you carry, coming as it may with Jupiter ill-disposed off to Neptune. Before blaming others, better identify, acknowledge, and address your own fault lines, and things will change sooner than later. Look at your astrological

pointers. You are born in Aries *lagna*, with its lord Mars, erratic *Rahu* and the Sun firmly placed in *lagna bhava* itself. That makes you, impulsive, aggressive, arrogant, irritable, intolerant, and impatient. You wish to live in a demanding mode, expecting from all others to follow your dictates. You have the tendency to jump into action without applying proper forethought. If that would not be enough, both the luminaries, the Sun and Moon as well as Mercury, all locked in adverse formation to Uranus, makes you self-willed, tactless, eccentric, and opinionated. Mercury ill-disposed off to Saturn and Moon, brings in a rigid one-track mind, and makes you resentful of others. Moon placed adverse to Saturn brings in a negative mindset. Also, you would be jealous and over critical of others. Let me add here that the calling of spirituality is to first set the thought process right, which doesn't anyway reflect in your conduct. It means you are simply hallucinating over your illusionary perceptions. The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Write to him at G-102, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110 025 Tel: 91-11-49848475/9818037273 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com

# THIS OFFICER SERVES IN LORD'S NAME



Front row daughter-in-law Keerthi, daughter Aparna, wife Sowmya  
back row LV Subramanyam with son Aditya

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary **LV Subramanyam**, whose is known for his integrity and devotion to Lord Venkateswara in a tête-à-tête with **Naveena Ghanate**, charts his journey from a village in Krishna district to becoming an IAS officer, getting embroiled in a CBI case, his undying love for music, and family as emotional prop, among many others

**Playful child**

I was born in Maripalem village of Nagayalanka mandal in Krishna district and soon moved to Visakhapatnam. I am the eldest son in the family and have two siblings, younger brother and sister. My father served as Professor of English in Andhra University. The early part of my schooling was in Kotak Salesian School. Later I went to Vishaka Tutorial College for Matriculation and thereafter to Mrs A V N College for Intermediate. Subsequently I moved to Bengaluru and went to Sri Satya Sai College, where I did Bachelor of Arts course, and Bengaluru University, where I pursued my Master's in Political Science. As a child, I was always playful and grew up with increasing interest in sports and cultural activities. Although I was active in the classroom, I wasn't good in writing the exams. I used to be a



good singer and I continue singing to this day. (Carnatic vocalist) Mangalampalli Balamurali Krishna is my all-time favorite and I invariably listen to him at least 2-3 days in a week.

**Father is role model**

I have always admired my father LSR Krishna Shastry. He is my role model. He was very close to his students and they had great love for him. They would bring to him for review some of the poems written by them. For a young professor, correcting poems wouldn't give great pleasure; yet, he used to actively do it. My father took to music in a very serious way. He picked up the nuances very well and used to discuss subjects at length with accomplished performers.

**Dad's reply changed outlook**

One incident changed the course of my life. I knew I wasn't doing well in academics. One of my father's classmates visited us soon after my Intermediate results were out. Luckily, I had just passed the exam. When I went to serve him some coffee, my father's friend said, "He must have done very well in Intermediate because he is your son. Naturally, your son must have done very well". I was petrified. I then looked at my father, wondering how he would respond. Without batting an eyelid, my father said, "It's alright, he is doing okay. Nothing great, but nothing to worry". At that time it occurred to me that if only I had done well in the exam, my father would have been proud of me and would have replied his friend differently. Somewhere something struck a chord; later on I started feeling that I should do better. I never looked back and from the time I joined Satya Sai College, I always got first class. Later I was topper in Bangalore University and even clinched a gold medal.

**Was aiming at become teacher**

My choice was Economics; yet, in my BA second year, I didn't score good marks in the subject for some strange reason. So, I got into History and Political Science. Soon I started thinking about settling down as a lecturer in Whitefield College. For, our Political Science teacher, though a great individual, due to his Kannada background, could not teach us well. I picked Political Science and meanwhile became a teacher. I was aiming to get into teacher's position (laughs). The Principal offered me a job and I taught for about four months when there was a leave vacancy. I started teaching 3rd year students. Soon 2nd year students wanted me to take class on the Constitution. Later, even 1st year students wanted me to take class on the principles of Political Science. I got engaged in more and more classes, though I was only a part-time lecturer.

**Foresaw rise of TDP**

I went to JNU and never imagined that my M Phil topic would become the talk of the town. By May 1982, N T Rama Rao had started Telugu Desam Party and made early foray into politics. In August 1982, the topic I chose was "TDP: Case study of regional political party". I was picked in Political Science Department; they wanted me to defend the topic, along with a synopsis of "Why TDP?" That is, a group of teachers sit there and they rip you apart (laughs). Their refrain was: "How can you talk about a 'party' that started just 3 months ago?" I was well-prepared and argued with them. I told them how Andhras are very regional in their thinking and quite parochial. They love their culture strongly and language very intimately.

After long deliberations, senior professors agreed and said: "It's your fate; you are deciding on a topic like this, which may not be of importance at all and N T Rama Rao may just vanish". They were very critical of me. I registered my topic in the month of August. In November 1982, N T Rama Rao won a huge majority and formed the government. I became a kind of celebrity because they thought I foresaw the rise of TDP.

**IAS was father's dream**

I wanted to do PhD from Andhra University. My father asked me to take the Civil Services examination. I somehow told him in a pessimistic manner that I would-

after 12 am in the night. Prior to that, the temple doors were closed symbolically at 2.45 am and reopened at 3 am. One of the priests expressed their anguish that the lamp is burning very bright close to the Lord. "When I touch the Lord, his body is steaming hot". He came out crying and said that we are not giving rest. Similarly, we revived the practice of *Pavritotsavam* in Govindrajawamy temple. We built temples in tribal areas upon the local people's requests in areas where conversions were going on. We took up a new project 'Srinivasa Kalyanam' and in a year we did 100 *kalyanams* to have more peace and happiness as there was lot of unrest in society.

forward. In the entire case, I never deviated from the rule book. I have always written to the government and taken orders from the government. I don't know why we encounter such situations. Perhaps, I have done something in my previous birth.

**Job helped me experiment with my home**

During my initial days in HMWS&SB, I was a little worried whether I could deliver as it was a technical job. But I could pick up the nuances very well. During my stint in the AP State Housing Co-operation I felt a bit worried as it was about engineering. We brought new technologies to the fore, especially some ancient ones. Like the Arch Foundation, for which you don't have to lay full foundation. You go for air trap walls, where-in you build walls, keeping two bricks next to each other, so there is air cavity in there. I built my house in that way; it captures some air and is cooler by 2-3 degrees. Housing job helped me experiment with my home.

**Children would counsel me**

My wife Soumya is a post graduate in Mathematics. It was an arranged marriage. She is homemaker, but she taught for some time as a teacher. I have a son and a daughter. After my daughter finished her Class X, she became Maths teacher and worked for 4-5 years. My son Aditya is now running a startup and is coming out with some product of his own. He is married to architect wife Keerthi who does a lot of interior architecture. My daughter Aparna is married to Nikhil in Mumbai who works for an MNC. I would be chief guest at the Sports Day function of my children's schools. My children would counsel me against giving a long lecture. 'Don't create problem for us, our friends would make fun for us, they used to say.



LV Subramanyam with son-in-law Nikhil Raghavendra daughter Aparna, wife Sowmya

n't qualify for these exams and that 'I am not cut out for that'. My father didn't like my response. He wanted me to become an IAS officer. I started preparing, only to realise my father's dream. I stood second in state (undi-

At Parvatipuram, I did a lot of work for health, education and horticulture departments. I built 50 check-dams and 300-400 wells we dug up in the upper reaches. I promoted education of tribals and made them teachers.

**Couldn't work in Delhi**

Twice I considered going on Central deputation. Once when I tried to join as Joint Secretary, there was delay in the empanelment process. When the delay happened, I started developing alternative ideas. I then thought I must complete my job as EO TTD and then go to Delhi. I got an opportunity as EO in 2011. Soon after, I got embroiled in a CBI case. Even before I could look this way or that, seven years have passed by. I got stuck because of that. Even after the case was dropped in January 2018, I sent a letter to Government of India explaining how I couldn't go there. They started telling me that as I had not worked earlier in Delhi, it could be a problem. Then Cabinet Secretary told me: "Why you don't you become CS in your own state; that'll be vindication of the truth you have stood for". Then I stopped chasing Delhi.

**CBI case filed on son's wedding day**

On the day of my son's marriage, CBI filed a case on Emaar land deals. It came as a shock. My family was a little worried and anxious. They didn't lose confidence in me. At home, there was some kind of nagging pain. We got along well and moved

**Passionate about badminton, prayers**

At one point of time, I used to play badminton very passionately. I stopped it recently; hopefully I will resume it soon. I used to play for 45 minutes to 1hour. I do my prayers everyday passionately. Work part is very intensive actually. I really believe that if I don't speak the truth I will be punished. I also understand that if I do something wrong, my children would be punished and my family would have to pay for it.



Wife Sowmya, daughter Aparna, son Aditya and daughter-in-law Keerthi

**Naxals thought I was a mad man**

In Mahbubnagar, we had many problems from naxalites. Then CM Channa Reddy gave permission for Naxalites to come overground and do activities like Praja Courts in villages. Then there was some confrontation with the naxalite groups. But, at that time the Naxalites felt that I was a mad guy who doesn't understand the philosophy. All along, I was sincere to my job. I started adult literacy programme "Akshara Kiranam". I used to go to villages and have night halts for conducting these programmes. Naxalites used to come there. people used to oppose them and tell them that the Collector was there to serve them.

vided AP) and my father was extremely delighted. I didn't continue my M.Phil thesis on TDP as my guide Dr Sudipta Kaviraj said: "You got into Civil Services and today TDP is holding the ground in Andhra Pradesh. With your rank, you will be allotted to Andhra Pradesh cadre. It doesn't do you good, if you get M.Phil degree on the same political party. You'll be branded and I will not advise you to continue with it. Sometime later in future; if you still have the inclination, you can submit your dissertation." I couldn't complete it ever and I never wanted to be branded. As a civil servant, one always needs to keep political parties at an arm's length.

**Gave 'rest' to Tirumala Balaji**

The defining moments of my life came during my roles as EO of TTD for two years and chief of ITDA Parvatipuram for three years. As EO TTD, we revived some good practices. We initiated closing the doors

**QUICK BITES**

**Favourite food:** South Indian food, Andhra food with less spice  
**Favourite colour:** Blue  
**Holiday destination:** I didn't develop anything as such, most of the time my children complain that I end up going to pilgrimage and convert it into a 'holiday'  
**Languages you speak:** Telugu, English, Kannada and Hindi

**First thing you do when you wake up:** I am a traditional guy, I say my prayers and wish my family good luck  
**Addiction:** I love music, I can spend hours myself just listening to music  
**TV series you watched recently:** The Family Man  
**Genre of books you read:** Philosophy, sometimes general reading

**Are you emotional person:** I am a quiet, emotional person. I try to avoid such situations while at work.  
**Who buys you clothes:** My wife and these days even my daughter buys clothes  
**Compliment you get most often:** People say that I am always with a smile  
**What was the best advice given to you:** Several of my seniors told me 'Don't react, let it pass'  
**Describe yourself:** I choose to be humble  
**Define happiness:** It is a state of mind

**How often do you get angry:** Over a period of time, frequency has come down  
**When do you get angry:** Clash of expectations from somebody  
**Two things you could change about yourself:** I would've been more conscious of my daily exercise and have developed good computer knowledge.  
**Your strength:** I stick to fundamentals  
**Favourite politician:** Since we shouldn't talk of current politicians, I liked behavior of Kotla Vijayabhaskhar Reddy and Janardhan Reddy - simple, straight and objective

