

**NATION 5**  
MP SEEKS LAW TO REVEAL  
DETAILS OF FOREIGN TRIPS

**MONEY 6**  
1L WORKERS IN AUTO  
IND LOST JOBS TILL JULY

**SPECIAL 7**  
WHISPER TO  
YOUR DOG

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**HYDERABAD**

VIJAYAWADA, SUNDAY DECEMBER 8, 2019; PAGES 12 ₹3



KALVAKUNTLA  
FAMILY'S  
'SANTOSHAM'

12



# sunday pioneer

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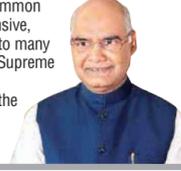
## GOOGLE MAPS MAY SOON SHOW WELL-LIT PATHS FOR NIGHT SAFETY

**CALIFORNIA:** To help you walk home safely, Google Maps is reportedly planning on adding a new feature to its service to highlight brightly lit streets. As discovered by XDA Developers, the new feature called "Lighting" will help users identify streets that are brightly lit. The feature will highlight those streets with good lighting with a yellow colour highlight to help users avoid streets with poor or no lighting. The feature was discovered in an APK teardown of the beta version of the app. It is unclear if Google will make it live in the public version. It is expected that the feature will be piloted in India first where women's safety is a national-level issue.



## JUDICIAL PROCESS BEYOND REACH OF POOR: PRESIDENT

**JODHPUR:** President Ram Nath Kovind here on Saturday expressed concern over access to justice, saying the judicial process has gone beyond the reach of the common man. "The judicial process has become expensive, even beyond the reach of common man due to many reasons, especially in the high court and the Supreme Court where it has become impossible for common litigants," the president said during the inauguration of the newly constructed Rajasthan High Court building.



## RAHUL SAYS 'INDIA THE RAPE CAPITAL OF WORLD'

**WAYANAD:** Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said on Saturday that the prevailing situation in the country, according to international media, is such that India has become the rape capital of the world. "Many questions are being asked abroad on why women and children are not safe in India. In Uttar Pradesh even when a legislator is involved in a rape case, the Prime Minister has not yet spoken a word about it. Today the situation is such that India has become the rape capital of the world," said Gandhi.



## HORNBILL FESTIVAL IS THE AMBASSADOR OF NAGALAND: SINGH

**KOHIMA:** Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday said Nagaland has become the ambassador of North East region to the whole of India through the Hornbill Festival. Singh who visited the Hornbill festival ground here congratulated the Nagaland government for successfully hosting the festival for 20 years. The Hornbill festival is held every year from December 1 to 10. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given highest priority towards the development of North East region by visiting the North East more than 30 times.



**CAPSULE**

**POLICE WING'S CYBER MITRA BAGS NATIONAL AWARD**

**VIJAYAWADA:** The AP Police department has bagged the national award for its Cyber Mitra initiative. AP Police Tech Services DIG Paul Raj received the Data Security Council of India (DSCI) Excellence Award - 2019 at a function in New Delhi. Paul Raj said the Cyber Mitra project, with 'Security for women in cyber space' as its motto' under the supervision of DGP Gautam Sawang has been yielding good results. He said so far 400 cybercrime cases were solved under the programme. The objective of the initiative taken up as part of the Community-Led Action Programme by Police (CLAPP) is to make women feel comfortable with registering various sorts of complaints without coming to a police station. While problems pertaining to eve-teasing, stalking, dowry harassment, adultery, etc will be handled by Mahila Mitra wing, Cyber Mitra will address issues related to cyber space.

## Justice can't be instant, says Chief Justice Bobde

It loses character if it becomes revenge: CJI

**PNS ■ JODHPUR**

Chief Justice of India Sharad Arvind Bobde said on Saturday that justice can never become instant, and it loses its character if it becomes revenge.

The Chief Justice's remarks gain significance in the backdrop of "encounter" killings of four persons accused of rape-murder of a veterinarian by Telangana police. The police have faced criticism from various sections, although people at large have hailed the "punishment".

While inaugurating a new building of the Rajasthan High Court, the Chief Justice said, "Recent events in the country have sparked an old debate with new vigour. There is no doubt that criminal justice system must reconsider its position, reconsider its attitude towards time, towards laxity and towards the eventual time it takes to dispose of a criminal matter.

"But I don't think justice can ever be, and ought to be, instant. Justice must never take the form of revenge. I believe justice loses its character of justice if it becomes revenge."

The CJI said, "There is a need in the judiciary to invoke self-correcting measures, whether those measures should be publicised can be a matter of debate. But I believe the institution must correct itself as indeed it did during the much-criticised press conference (in 2018)".

The CJI was apparently referring to a press conference by four senior judges of the Supreme Court in January 2018, accusing then CJI Dipak Misra of violating conventions and allowing the executive to interfere in court affairs. All the four judges have since retired.

"We have to devise methods for speeding up litigation. There are laws which provide for free litigation mediation and I take this opportunity to say why we should not have compulsory free litigation mediation across all district courts.

**“I don't think justice can ever be, and ought to be, instant. Justice must never take the form of revenge. I believe justice loses its character of justice if it becomes revenge”**

**—SHARAD ARVIND BOBDE**  
Chief Justice of India



## 'WE WANT ENCOUNTER'

Kin of victims of other incidents demand encounter death for accused

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

The killing of four accused in gruesome gang-rape and murder of a woman veterinarian by the police near Hyderabad has not only been hailed by many but it has triggered demands for similar "punishment" to perpetrators of other heinous crimes in the country.

Families of at least five victims of rape and murder in different parts of Telangana demanded that the perpetrators be killed like the four who were gunned down by the police in an "encounter" on Friday near Shadnagar town.

The strongest demand came from Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district where a man allegedly raped and killed three girls during last four years.

Relatives of the victims and other residents of Hajipur village staged a sit-in to demand that Srinivas Reddy be eliminated in "encounter". They alleged that police were not doing enough to ensure early conviction.

The village was rocked by the serial rapes and killings in April this year. During the investigation into a missing case of 16-year-old school girl, shocking facts had come to light. The girl's body was recovered from a well on a field belonging to the accused near the village. The accused confessed to raping and killing the girl. The interrogation of the accused revealed that he had also raped and killed two more girls. The body of a 20-year-old student, who had gone missing in March, was recovered from the same well. The accused confessed to the rape and murder of 11-year-old girl in another village Mysireddypalli in the same district in 2015.

**Continued on Page 3**



**COPS DEPLOYED TO CONTROL ONION BUYERS**

**Visakhapatnam:** The long queues that were seen post demonetisation are back, but this time, people are not trying to withdraw cash from banks or ATMs but to buy onions being sold at subsidised rates at Rythu Bazaars. For some, the situation has become so desperate that the police department has deployed personnel to prevent any untoward incident.

The Police department has deployed at least five constables, including women constables, at each Rythu-Bazaar in Vizag region to regulate the queues of consumers and prevent possible stampedes during the sale of onions at Rs 25 per kg.

**Continued on Page 3**

## AP raises bus fares by up to 20 ps/km

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

State transport minister Perni Venkatramiah on Saturday announced the decision of the government to raise APSRTC bus fares.

The minister said that Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy and the APSRTC Board have approved the hike in ticket fares for Palle Velugu and city services by 10 paise per km and 20 paise per km for other services.

The fares have been raised for the first time after 2015. Addressing a press conference here, the minister said the state-owned public transport company, which was merged with the Transport Department of the state government recently, is bogged down due to losses accumulated over the last few years.

He said APSRTC had incurred losses to the tune of Rs 6,735 crore. Of this, debts amount to Rs 2,995 crore and pending arrears from various agencies total Rs 3,740 crore.

The transport minister said the diesel price was Rs 50 in 2015 and now has risen to Rs 75. Payment of salaries as per the Pay Revision Commission's recommendation has become a difficult task for the government.

The Corporation's annual loss remains stable at Rs 1,200 crore with about Rs 100 crore loss being recorded every month.

The present situation is such that the Corporation is likely to go bankrupt, the minister said. APSRTC chairman Krishna Babu said the bus fares were increased only to shore up the revenue of the Corporation.

He said there was no plan to increase the number of hired buses and disclosed that tenders are being invited for renewal of lease of the old ones.



## Govt cancels Rs 3.10-crore work on CM's residences

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

The Andhra Pradesh government has cancelled the proposed work worth Rs 3.10 crore on the residences of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy after the opposition attacked him over the alleged lavish and wasteful expenditure.

Principal secretary to Transport, roads and buildings department M T Krishna Babu late Friday night issued formal orders cancelling the work sanctioned in the last two months.

Last month, the government issued an order sanctioning Rs 39 lakh for providing furniture at the Chief Minister's camp residence at Tadepalli here.

Another Rs 73 lakh was sanctioned for installation of aluminum doors and windows and miscellaneous works. A sum of Rs 1.2 crore was sanctioned towards annual maintenance of the camp residence. Another Rs 22.50 lakh was sanctioned for making alleged temporary arrangements like mobile toilets, coolers, PVC rainproof pagodas surrounding the camp residence.

For Jagan's residence at Lotus Pond in Hyderabad, Rs 24.50 lakh was sanctioned for providing security arrangements.

The main opposition attacked the Chief Minister



Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy

## 'Save me, I don't want to die'

**Unnao rape victim's last words**

**Rape victim dies, netizens bay for another 'encounter'**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

"Save me, I don't want to die, I want to see them hang to death". These are the last words of the 23-year-old rape victim from Uttar Pradesh's Unnao district to her family members and doctors before she died on Friday late night in a Delhi hospital.

She was declared dead at 11.40 p.m. after she could not survive cardiac arrest at Safdarjung Hospital. "She was in pain. She had been pleading to save her," said a senior doctor from the hospital.

The victim was air-lifted to Delhi from Lucknow and admitted to the Safdarjung Hospital after she was set on fire allegedly by five persons,

**RELATED REPORTS ON PAGE 4**



(File photo)

**TODAY**

**ALMANAC**

**Month & Paksham:** Margashirsha & Shukla Paksha

Panchangam

**Tithi :** Ekadashi: 08:29 am

**Nakshatram:** Ashwini: 03:31 am (Next Day)

**Time to Avoid:** (Bad time to start any important work)

**Rahukalam:** 04:15 pm - 05:37 pm

**Yamagandam:** 12:07 pm - 01:30 pm

**Variyam:** 11:10 pm - 12:55 am

**Gulika:** 02:52 am - 04:15 pm

**Good Time:** (to start any important work)

**Anritakalam:** 07:42 pm - 09:26 pm

**Abhijit Muhurtham:** 11:45 am - 12:29 pm

**VIJAYAWADA WEATHER**

**Forecast:** Partly cloudy

**Temp:** 31/21

**Humidity:** 73%

**Sunrise:** 06:33

**Sunset:** 05:41

**Current Weather Conditions**

Updated December 07, 2019 5:00 PM

## I-T rate cut under consideration: FM

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said the government is working on more steps, including rationalisation of personal income tax rates, to revive the sagging economy.

The GDP growth slowed down to more than six-year low of 4.5 per cent in the second quarter of the current fiscal from 5 per cent recorded in the first quarter.

The government has taken several measures during August and September to boost the economy, she said at the HT Leadership Summit here.

Besides, she said, the public sector banks have disbursed nearly Rs 5 lakh crore without compromising on prudential norms in the last two months to boost consumption in the hinterland.

"So there are ways in which for giving stimulus for consumption. We are adopting a direct method and also the method through which we are spending on infrastructure, whose spillover can go to core industries labour and so on," she said.

Asked if there could be more measures announced to bolster economic activity, she said, "If I say yes, it will be when and if I say yes it's also going to be back to me saying are you not too close to the budget. So I don't want to say yes although I am wishing I can say. At the same time, I will not say no, because we are working on more."

When asked if the government is considering rationalisation of the personal income tax rate for putting more money in the hands of people, the Finance Minister said, "One among many things that we are thinking of."

Following the reduction in corporate tax in September, there has been a growing demand for a slash in the personal income tax to buttress consumption.

**Continued on Page 3**



**The GDP growth slowed down to more than six-year low of 4.5 per cent in the second quarter of the current fiscal from 5 per cent recorded in the first quarter**

## NHRC commences probe into encounter killings

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

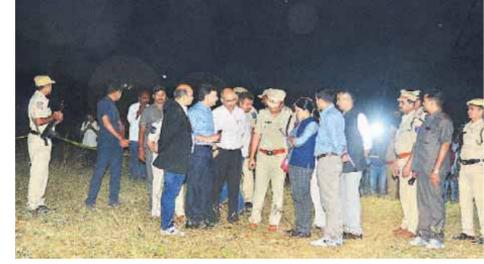
A fact-finding team of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) arrive in Telangana on Saturday to launch a probe into the killing of all the four accused in a woman veterinarian's gang rape and murder case by the police in an alleged 'encounter' on Friday.

A two-member team is likely to first visit Chatanpally near Shadnagar town, about 50 km from Hyderabad, where the police gunned down the accused in the alleged exchange of fire.

Sources said the team will inspect the scene of the 'encounter' for an on-the-spot investigation. It is likely to gather details of the police officers involved. The team will then visit the government-run hospital where the bodies of the four accused were preserved after autopsy late Friday.

The NHRC on Friday took cognizance of the incident and ordered an inquiry. The human rights body said that the encounter was a matter of concern and needed to be probed carefully.

**Continued on Page 3**



Members of the National Human Rights Commission inspect the site of the alleged encounter in which the four rape-murder accused were shot dead.

CAPSULE



Businessman's donation to SVPT

**VIJAYAWADA:** Tirupati-based businessman K Bhaskar Rao, along with his son Trilok, donated Rs 10 lakh to Sri Venkateswara Pranadanam Trust (SVPT) on Saturday. The donor handed over the DD for the same to TTD Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singhal and Additional Executive Officer AV Dharma Reddy at Matrusri Tarigonda Vengamamba Annprasadam Complex (MTVAC) in Tirumala.

Special trains to clear extra rush

**VIJAYAWADA:** In order to clear extra rush of passengers, six special trains will run between Jaipur - Renigunta - Jaipur, the South Central Railways said on Saturday. Accordingly, Train No. 09715 Jaipur - Renigunta Special train will depart from Jaipur at 9:40 pm on December 13, 20 and 27, 2019 (Fridays) and reach Renigunta at 1:35 pm the following day. In the return direction, Train No. 09716 Renigunta - Jaipur Special train will depart from Renigunta at 8:30 pm on December 16, 23 and 30 (Mondays) and reach Jaipur at 12:20 pm on the second day. En route, these special trains will stop at Durgapur, Sawai Madhopur, Kota Jn, Ramganj Mandi, Bhawani Mandi, Nagda Jn, Ujjain, Shujalpur, Bhopal, Itarsi, Betul, Amla Jn, Narkher, New Amravati, Wardha Jn, Balharshah, Warangal, Vijayawada, Tenali, Ongole, Nellore and Gudur Stations in both the directions. The Special trains will consist of AC II Tier, AC III Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second Class Coaches. Meanwhile, the SCR announced that Train No 56503/56504\* Bengaluru Cantt- Vijayawada-Bengaluru Cantt passenger has been cancelled from December 7, 2019 to December 14, 2019 due to yard remodelling works at Bayyappanhalli Yard on South Western Railway.

# Authority sets a fresh deadline for NAD flyover

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

After running behind schedule by almost a year, the Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA) has now set a target of July 2020 to complete all components of the project, including the proposed rail-over-bridge, as a part of the project.

It may be recalled that the VMRDA had entrusted the responsibility of construction of the multi-grade separator (flyover) at the busy NAD Junction of the city to a private bidder on November 18, 2017. And the bidder was supposed to complete the project in 24 months as per the contract.

The project work got delayed by 330 days. Sand scarcity, traffic diversion issues, change in designs of the project at the suggestion of the NIT-Warangal after the launch of the works and delay in getting permission for the rail-over-bridge are some of



the factors affected the progress of the project works.

The NAD Junction is an intersection of NH-16 and the arterial road of Gopalapatnam-Marripalem. According to VMRDA officials, the project was initially contemplated with arms of Gopalapatnam - Marripalem along the existing service roads, leaving the Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) lane uninterrupted. But subsequently, the upper rotary arms have been relocated in line with

the BRTS traffic lanes. As a result, finalisation of the design drawings has been delayed. This is now affecting the other components of the project.

They also added that the sub-soil strata of the foundation of the project are heterogeneous and thereby they need further exploration in ascertaining the safe bearing capacity of the foundation soil. This is also interrupting the diversion and manoeuvrability of the live traffic.

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# Governor exhorts farmers to switch over to natural farming

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Of late, people are going back to basics due to pollution, as it posing a threat to their health. Be it organic products, vegetables, beauty products or eatables, people are lapping them up, as they are considered healthy. Hence, leaders and influential are creating awareness among people not only on the use of organic produce, but also on organic farming on various platforms.

Toeing their line, Governor Biswa Bushan Harichandan said that "the food we eat is turning toxic due to excessive use of chemicals. This has resulted in turning our focus to natural agriculture."

Addressing a function organised by Seva Bharat here on Saturday, the Governor lauded the organisation for its services to people. He cited several examples of dangers posed by pollution in the



Governor Biswa Bushan Harichandan

country and stressed the need for growing plants for the survival of mankind.

Farmers, who attended the event, said that there is 20 per cent improvement in the quality and quantity in the natural farming method. He stressed the need for reforms in cultivation of crops and called upon farmers to switch to natural farming methods.

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Pariipurana Swamy from Kakinada was also present.

# Martial arts must for women's safety: Vasireddy

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh State Women's Commission (APSWC) chairperson Vasireddy Padma stressed the need for every woman to learn martial arts like karate to protect themselves.

Inaugurating the 10th YSR Memorial Karate Tournament here on Saturday, she said in certain situations people would not get any external support. "That is the time when we should use our body as a weapon to protect ourselves," she said.

Padma said she would discuss with the government the issue of self-defence training for women and see to it that steps are taken in that direction. She expressed her happiness over karate being included in the Olympics-2021. On



the Disha issue, Padma said women are afraid of venturing into the streets after the sensational rape and murder incident. Some justice was done to the Disha's family through the encounter. Film actor Suman and Deputy CM Pushpa Srivalli were also present.

Andhra Pradesh State Women's Commission (APSWC) Chairperson Vasireddy Padma said she would discuss with the government the issue of self-defence training for women and see to it that steps are taken in that direction

On the Disha issue, Padma said women are afraid of venturing into the streets after the sensational rape and murder incident. Some justice was done to the Disha's family through the encounter, she said

# Mob attacks man acquitted of rape in Kerala

PNS ■ PALAKKAD

A man acquitted of rape in the infamous Walayar rape and murder case was attacked by a mob here on Saturday. He was admitted to a hospital after he suffered injuries on his face, police said. M Madhu was the third accused in the rape and murder of an 11-year-old girl at Walayar near here in January 2017, but in October this year he was let off by the court for want of evidence.

According to an eyewitness, Madhu got into a heated argument with a few people over the recent shooting incident in Hyderabad where four rape and murder accused were killed in a police encounter. The argument turned violent and he was beaten up badly, which led to injuries on his face.

Madhu's mother alleged that attackers were BJP activists. Police said they were yet to identify the attackers. An investigation is on.



Ch. Jhansi Lakshmi, K. Anjali Sarvani, N. Anusha

# 3 Andhra eves in India A, B cricket teams

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Three Andhra women players have been selected for India-A (one player) and India-B (two players) for participation in Under-23 Women's T20 Challenger Trophy-2019 to be held at Puducherry from December 11 to 15. They are Ch Jhansi Lakshmi India - A, N Anusha and K Anjali Sarvani - India - B.

Both India-A and India-B are finalised by the National Selection Committee based

on the performance in the League, Super League and Knock-out stages of the tournament, which just concluded on Thursday at Puducherry. "Three of our women players getting into India-A & B teams is a proud moment for all of us at Andhra Cricket Association (ACA) and this selection will inspire many more ACA women players to continuously perform well and reach greater heights," said V Durga Prasad, Secretary, ACA.

# 'Annadanam has highest virtue among all charities'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Among all the forms of charity, Annadanam is considered as an act of highest virtue, said TTD Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singhal.

The Executive Officer took part in the Ayudha Puja performed at Matrusri Tarigonda Vengamamba Annprasadam Complex (MTVAC) at Tirumala on Saturday, along with Additional EO AV Dharma Reddy.

Later, speaking to media persons, describing "Annadanam as Mahadanam", the Executive Officer said the Annprasadam wing of TTD has been offering incredible service to pilgrims from the past several decades. "Everyday donations are pouring in to the Sri Venkateswara Annprasadam Trust and at present we have Rs 1,350 crore in the Corpus. During last year, donations to the tune of Rs 141 crore were given to APT out of which Rs 79 crore accumulated as interest income. The total expenditure on Annprasadam



TTD EO Anil Kumar Singhal takes part in the Ayudha Puja performed at Matrusri Tarigonda Vengamamba Annprasadam Complex at Tirumala on Saturday

during last year is Rs 99.90 crore. That means, in another two or three years, the Annprasadam wing will become self-reliant as we can spend from the interest amount itself", he observed.

Adding further, the Executive Officer said at present during normal days, Annprasadam is being served to one lakh pilgrims and during peak and

occasion days over 1.5 lakh pilgrims were served with Annprasadam. Every day, we are receiving six to seven tonnes of vegetables and with the special initiative taken up by Additional EO AV Dharma Reddy, now in the last two months even the Annprasadam received about 55 tonnes rice as donation," he

added. "I congratulate the staff, Srivari Seva volunteers, who are doing impeccable services to the multitude of pilgrims especially in the distribution of Annprasadam during most important occasions like Garuda Seva, Ratha Saphthami, summer vacation and Vaikuntha Ekadasi," the Executive Officer said. Deputy Executive Officer Nagaraju, Catering Officer GLN Shastry, EE Jagadishwar Reddy, VGO Manohar and other Annprasadam staff, Srivari Seva volunteers were also present.

## FORMER MINISTER OFFERS A DAY DONATION

Former Minister Dr DL Ravindra Reddy offered a day donation i.e; Rs 30 lakh to SVAT to serve breakfast, meals and dinner to pilgrims at Matrusri Tarigonda Vengamamba Annprasadam Complex (MTVAC) in Tirumala on Saturday. The senior politician has also served annprasadam to devotees at MTVAC.

# Andaman & Nicobar police station adjudged best in the country

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A police station on Andaman & Nicobar Islands has been adjudged as the country's best performing police station out of 15,579 police stations for the year 2019.

The Aberdeen police station in Andaman district tops the list of the country's top 10 police stations released on Friday by the Central government.

Police stations in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh have bagged the second and third spots, respectively, on the list. With a police station figuring at second position and another at the 10th position, Madhya Pradesh enjoys the distinction of having two police stations in this year's top 10 list.

Police stations located in Tamil Nadu, Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Telangana and Rajasthan have



also made it to the top 10 list for 2019. Majority of the police stations are located in rural areas and small towns.

The ranking was derived through a combination of data analysis, direct observation and public feedback. The ranking process involved shortlisting the finalists from among the best performing police stations in each State on the basis of addressing property related offences, crimes against women

and crimes against weaker sections.

The annual ranking of police stations helps provide insights into the functioning of the force. It also offers crucial inputs for the formulation of public policy from the internal security perspective. The extensive use of CCTNS database, along with on ground survey by a third party agency, have ensured objectivity of the exercise. This year, all the States

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and Union Territories have participated in the process.

# 82% Indians believe tech enhancing work environment: Survey

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Smart technology has already transformed the workplace, and it is now helping to create more diverse work environments, as a new study on Thursday revealed that 82 per cent Indians believe that technology is enhancing work environment and providing access to better jobs and opportunities.

A new study conducted by Lenovo, surveyed over 15,000 individuals from around the globe, including the US, Mexico, Brazil, China, India, Japan, the UK, Germany, France and Italy, and found that employees share many positive opinions

around the world regarding technology and its role in the workplace, such as its ability to improve job opportunities and job quality.

"Millennials & Gen-Z comprise -- 60 per cent of the workforce and expect their employers to provide them seamless access to cutting-edge technology. At Lenovo, our vision is to provide smarter technology for all," said Rahul Agarwal, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, Lenovo PCSD India.

"Lenovo is well positioned to meet the demands of the new-age workforce and enable 'smarter workplaces'," Agarwal said. The study revealed that 73 per cent

respondents in India believe tech helps people like them get good jobs and enhance careers.

Worldwide, 56 per cent strongly believe tech is making it easier to advance to the next career level: this rang most true among workers in India (85 per cent), Mexico (74 per cent) and Brazil (72 per cent), the study said.

The survey also showed that 83 per cent of employees from India are happy for artificial intelligence (AI) to take over the 'boring' parts of their jobs, as compared to 52 per cent respondents globally. This includes tasks such as paperwork, timesheets and invoices, cleaning and organising and note taking.



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# Encounter solves many problems but creates new ones too

Rarely have such a large number of people come out on the streets to celebrate the death of accused as they did when four lorry workers accused of gang-raping and murdering Disha were shot dead by police.

Rarer still is people showering policepersons with petals and showing sweets into their mouths like welcoming a victorious army on its return.

Not even after the hanging of Ajmal Kasab, the Pakistani terrorist involved in the 2008 Mumbai attack, nor after the judicial execution of Afzal Guru, who masterminded the assault on Parliament in 2001, did one witness such scenes. The capital punishment was treated as their comeuppance for waging war against India. The only comparable

instance was another extra-judicial killing, also under the supervision of then Warangal SP VC Sajjanar in December 2008. People felt sufficiently avenged after three youth who threw acid on two girls were shot dead in Warangal. Sajjanar, now Cyberabad Police Commissioner, became an overnight hero as the acid attack had shaken the collective conscience of the nation.

Disha's murder caused greater outrage as there was dismay over the endless delay in carrying out the death sentence against the killers of Nirbhaya in Delhi. The instant justice meted out by police to her killers became a cause for joy. In a sharp reminder to all those rejoicing, Chief Justice of India SA Bobde remarked that justice cannot be instant; it cannot be revenge either. The dramatic elimination of

**People felt sufficiently avenged after three youth who threw acid on two girls were shot dead in Warangal. Sajjanar, now Cyberabad Police Commissioner, became an overnight hero as the acid attack had shaken the collective conscience of the nation**

the quartet has, however, provided an instant relief to the government against public anger. Tough questions are bound to be asked by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) about loopholes in the police version of the encounter and, perhaps, by the Telangana High Court and Supreme Court. Answering them may be not that difficult, when weighed against the windfall of benefits accruing from the retributive justice.

Firstly, Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Naidu has turned a favourite of the masses. He has again proven to be master of the art of turning an adversity into an opportunity. Look how he earned praise by announcing unexpected bonanza to the TSRTC staff, a far cry from the wrath he attracted for accusing them of conspiring to destabilise his government.

In Disha's case too, he was vilified for spending time on attending weddings instead of



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

visiting her distraught parents. The Chatanpalli encounter changed all that. One minister described KCR as a man with 56-inch chest while people danced on the streets of Karimnagar carrying his cut-outs.

Police too have much to rejoice about. The situation has

come a long way from the time when the department drew flak for failure to patrol isolated places, for giving more importance to VIP security than citizens' safety, and when three policemen were suspended for refusing to register the complaint by Disha's family.

This love affair may last only till the next incident as public memory is short. Police in Andhra Pradesh was under the spotlight in the 1970s for allegedly staging fake encounters against Left-wing extremists during Jagann Vengal Rao's rule and earlier. A committee headed by Justice V Bhargava was appointed to inquire into these encounters but quit mid-way because of dilatory tactics by police.

Beyond doubt, police have unfettered right to counter with full force, including killing, when persons charged

with grave offences, attempt to attack them or even run away.

But how can a posse of ten trained policemen allow an opportunity to criminals to snatch weapons and fire back at them in a dangerous environment. The weapons were in an unlocked position, meaning they were primed and policemen ready for any eventuality.

Once the euphoria dies down, many questions need to be answered about the entire ecosystem. Won't police be emboldened to resort to extrajudicial measures when mobs begin setting new standards for dispensing justice? Why isn't the government held responsible for not appointing more judges when the judiciary is blamed for backlogs? The Bihar High Court recently slammed the government for the pendency of 2 lakh prohibition related cases due to

absence of sufficient number of courts.

Any discussion on the negative impact of pornography and drunkenness on women's safety isn't treated with seriousness. There are an excessive number of liquor shops in Hyderabad making the streets unsafe for women. Likewise, shops line the highways in brazen violation of the Supreme Court's orders posing a threat to life and limb.

The last few weeks have seen an unacceptably high number of rapes in India, a country rated as the most dangerous place for women. KCR has to tackle this problem expeditiously in Telangana. Good governance means adopting a magnanimous approach towards societal problems. It does not mean an attitude of doling out something only at one's whims.

## Former MLA Beeda Masthan Rao joins YSRCP

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

In yet another setback to the beleaguered TDP, former MLA Beeda Masthan Rao joined the ruling YSRCP in the presence of party president and Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy at Tadepalli on Saturday.

He was welcomed into the YSRCP fold with a scarf of party colours by Jagan in the presence of party general secretary V Vijayasai Reddy, MP M Prabhakar Reddy and minister Arvind Kumar Yadav among others.

"I am impressed with the policies and administration of Jaganmohan Reddy and have joined the party as I see that the Chief Minister is the future," Masthan Rao said, upon joining the party.

The welfare schemes being implemented by the Chief Minister are very helpful to the poorer sections of the society and in a small span of six months, he has implemented 80 per cent of his poll promises and he is treating the party manifesto as a holy book, the former MLA said.

Referring to local issues, Masthan Rao said that he has no personal rancor with any leader and would work on the party lines to strengthen it further.

## 'Jagan going to Delhi only to push personal agenda'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In a significant development on Saturday, leaders of three parties - TDP's former minister Yanamala Ramakrishudu, BJP State president Kanna Lakshminarayana and CPI State secretary K Ramakrishna - shot off letters to Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy on separate issues.

Yanamala alleged that Jagan had failed to get Union Home Minister Amit Shah's appointment as he was seeking a personal favour vis-à-vis his CBI court case. "Jagan has been seeking discharge petitions and exemption from personal appearance in court, so Amit Shah refused to give audience to the Chief Minister," Yanamala said.

He said that the Chief Minister was going to Delhi only to push his personal agenda and not to seek fulfillment of the promises made to the state in the AP Reorganisation Act. "This is the reason why Jagan's Delhi tours are not getting any attention," Yanamala felt.

He said that the noose was tightening around Jagan in FEMA and money laundering cases. The YSRCP president is afraid of punishment as the judgment day is drawing closer, the TDP senior leader



**TDP's former minister Yanamala Ramakrishudu, BJP State president Kanna Lakshminarayana and CPI State secretary K Ramakrishna - shot off letters to Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy on separate issues**

opined. He alleged that the Chief Minister was avoiding court hearing under some pretext or the other only to delay the disposal of cases. "He had skipped hearing on three Fridays," he said.

Shifting his focus to agriculture, Yanamala said no crop is getting MSP. The price of groundnut has come down to Rs 4,000 per quintal from Rs 8,200 per quintal. The government is not focusing on paddy purchase, he alleged.

Stating that the previous TDP government had completed 60 per cent to 80 per cent of construction of the residential complexes in Amaravati, Yanamala wondered why the incumbent government was not taking the initiative to complete the remaining works.

The present government is announcing various schemes with panchayat elections in mind, but it is not implementing any of them, he alleged.

In another letter written to the Chief M, BJP AP president Kanna Lakshminarayana asked Jagan to tell the people of the state about the status of the data theft case.

Kanna asked the Chief Minister why his government had failed to interrogate IT Grids owner Ashok who was responsible for the theft of personal details of seven crore people. Asking the government to explain why it is indifferent to protection of privacy of individuals, Kanna demanded that all the accused in IT Grids case be arrested.

Meanwhile, CPI state secretary K Ramakrishna, in yet

another letter to the Chief Minister, said many years have elapsed since cases were registered after the sensational murder of Ayesha Meera in AP and Nirbhaya in Delhi. However, justice was yet to be done in these cases, he pointed out.

Ramakrishna demanded that the government take steps to prevent atrocities against women and girl students. Awareness should be created among women to sport GPS-equipped watches and lockets. The police department should keep a constant watch on those having criminal history, he said.

Ramakrishna said fast courts should be set up to ensure that the culprits in various cases are convicted within 60 days.

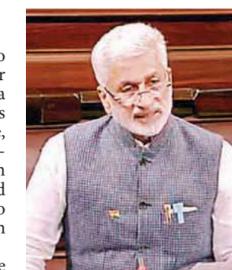
## Action if anybody crosses party line: Vijayasai Reddy

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Reacting sharply to Venkatagiri MLA and former minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy's statement that mafia is ruling the roost in Nellore, YSRCP national general secretary V Vijayasai Reddy on Saturday said that action would be taken against anyone who speaks against the party line on any issue.

Addressing the media here on Saturday, Vijayasai Reddy asserted that no mafia was operating after YS Jaganmohan Reddy took charge as the Chief Minister. He said if anybody has any doubts over any issue, he was free to meet the party president and seek clarification.

Vijayasai Reddy made it clear that party leaders were not allowed to talk about internal issues in the open. "Action will be taken against anyone by it Vijayasai Reddy, Subba Reddy or anybody else if they



go against the party line," the senior leader warned.

The YSRCP MP said discipline was as important as loyalty to the party. Minister for Water Resources P Anil Kumar Yadav said there were no differences among YSRCP leaders in Nellore district. "I do not know why Anam Ramanarayana Reddy had said that mafia was ruling Nellore district. For all of us, Jaganmohan Reddy is our only leader. Ramanarayana Reddy might be referring to the situation during the previous TDP government," he added

might be referring to the situation during the previous TDP government," he added. Anil Kumar said various leaders were being attracted towards YSRCP as it is committed to the welfare of Backward Classes. He said most of the 23 TDP MLAs would join YSRCP if the party removes the condition of resignation from the Assembly.

## Cops deployed to control onion buyers

Continued from Page 1

With the price of onions drastically increased in the retail markets across Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam district in North Andhra Pradesh, a large number of consumers are seen standing in the long queues for hours from early morning for the past few days just to get just one kg onions at subsidised rate of Rs 25 per kg.

Since the onion stock at the Rythu Bazaars is not enough to meet the demand and not all consumers are confident of getting the prized vegetable, they are violating the queue norm, fighting each other, jostling for space to move forward.

"It is very difficult to regulate consumers. We have had stampede-like situations, with people pushing each other to buy the subsidised onions. We have requested the police department to deploy constables to control the crowd,"



said MK Rao, Assistant Director, Marketing, Horticulture department.

In the retail market in Vizag, the Maharashtra variety of onions is being sold at Rs 180 per kg while the Kurnool variety is being sold at Rs 120 per kg.

"For me it is very difficult to shell out Rs 120 for a kg of onions. I have no option except standing in the

queue for hours for buy onion for my family at Rs 25 per kg," said T Anil Kumar, a resident of Vizag city.

"Despite our repeated requests to follow the queue line, some consumers are anxious not to lose out on buying the subsidised onions and break the rules and create stampede-like situations at Rythu Bazaars," said a police constable on condition of anonymity.

## 'We want encounter'

Continued from Page 1

The investigations also revealed that the 27-year-old accused, a lift mechanic, was also involved in the murder of a woman in Kurnool town of neighbouring Andhra Pradesh in 2016. Angry villagers of Hajipur had set ablaze Srinivas Reddy's house. They staged protests demanding stringent punishment to the accused. Senior officials had visited the village to demanding and assured the people that they will ensure harshest punishment to the guilty. The accused is currently lodged in Nalgonda Jail.

Meanwhile, families of two women who were raped and killed last month also demanded that the perpetrators be killed like the accused in Hyderabad gang-rape and murder case.

People in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district took to street, demanding death for the guilty

in the rape and murder of a Dalit woman. The 19-year-old married woman was killed after sexual assault on November 25. Three men were arrested in the case.

People also observed a shutdown in parts of the district on Saturday, demanding that the guilty be immediately hanged. Protestors staged sit-in and raised slogans of 'We want justice'. In Warangal, family of a teenager who was raped and killed by her boyfriend also demanded that justice be done to them by killing the perpetrator in the same manner as accused in Hyderabad case was shot dead.

The 19-year-old student was raped and killed by her boyfriend on her birthday on November 27, the same day when the veterinarian was gang-raped and killed by four persons at Shamshabad on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

## I-T rate cut under consideration: FM

Continued from Page 1

In the biggest reduction in 28 years, the government in September slashed corporate tax rates up to 10 percentage points as it looked to pull the economy out of a six-year low growth with a Rs 1.45 lakh crore tax break.

Base corporate tax for existing companies has been reduced to 22 per cent from 30 per cent, and to 15 per cent from 25 per cent for new manufacturing firms incorporated after October 1, 2019, and starting operations before March 31, 2023.

Assuring that there will be no harassment of taxpayers, Sitharaman said the intent of the government is to further simplify taxation systems including removal of exemption. Citing the example of corporate tax, she said, "From now on, they're moving towards a greater simplified and exemption free. Therefore, has harassment-free therefore subjective interpretation free taxation regime."

Besides, she said the govern-

ment has introduced faceless assessment of direct tax and soon this will be introduced in indirect tax to eliminate harassment.

On the Goods and Services Tax (GST) the Finance Minister said, the rate structure will have to be decided by the GST Council. Eventually, the rates have to be rationalised and the entire tax system has to be simplified, she added.

"One, the tax per se, is getting complicated because of this unstructured bringing down of rates. Another, it's also getting complicated because you want to be sure that you're doing everything correct, but ending up asking for so much more information in a technology-driven system. People just get fed up of wanting to give so much information. So, we have problems in both the hands," she said.

With regards to apprehension raised on the genuineness of data, the Finance Minister said, "There's no doubt, we need to bring credibility back to the data."

## NHRC to begin probe into encounter killings

Continued from Page 1

It asked Director General (Investigation) to immediately send a team for a fact-finding and on-the-spot investigation. The team of the Investigation Division of the Commission will be headed by a Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP).

The human rights body also felt that the police personnel were not properly alert and prepared for any untoward activity by the accused on the spot, which resulted in death of all four. "The deceased had been arrested by the police during the investigation and a judgment in the matter by the competent court was yet to be pronounced. If, the arrested persons were actually guilty, they were to be punished as per law pursuant to the directions of the competent court," the NHRC said. Police claimed that the accused attacked the police personnel and two of them even snatched weapons and opened fire, forcing the police to retaliate.

## Naval officer's daughter missing case gets silent burial

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

While the encounter of the accused in the Disha rape and murder case has caught the nation's attention, the case of a civil engineer and daughter of a naval officer, Sadhana Pandey, who went missing from Visakhapatnam Railway station in 2012 has gradually vanished from public memory.

According to police sources, the case has been closed because of lack of evidence.

Sadhana, daughter of Harischandra Pandey, had completed her B.Tech (Civil Engineering) in Vizag in 2012 when her father was posted in Eastern Naval Command. Later, she joined a private con-



struction company in the city as civil engineer. When her father moved to Mumbai in 2012 after his retirement, she stayed back in the city to pursue her career, staying at a hostel in Seethamdhara area.

On September 24, 2012, she had informed the management of the construction company that her father had met with an accident in Mumbai and she had to rush home. However, she never reached

Mumbai and has been missing since that day. Sadhana's father Harischandra, upon calling the hostel management, was informed that she left for home stating that there was urgency.

Giving up hopes of finding Sadhana after a lengthy search, Harischandra registered a case in February 2013, at Dwaraka Zone police station where a missing person case was filed.

Following pressure from Defence ministry, the Dwaraka police made frantic search for the woman. After Harischandra left for Mumbai and began working for a private company, the intensity of the search diminished as there was no pressure on the police from any quarter.

A senior police officer said that a suspect, Rambhir Singh, underwent lie detector test but nothing came out of it. He later sought relief from the High Court.

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy will lay the foundation stone and inaugurate civic amenity development projects worth Rs 1,300 crore of the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) and Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA) on December 13.

While the proposed works of the VMRDA are estimated to cost Rs 360 crore, the GVMC works Rs 930 crore. Jagan will launch all these works from Kailasagiri Hilltop Park before attending the Andhra University alumni meet as the chief guest.

Speaking to the media here at the GVMC office on Saturday,



GVMC Commissioner G Srijana said that the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation will spend about Rs 200 crore on the road and drain works. "Each zone will get a swimming pool and a new park. About 70 km long new drains will be developed. About Rs 25 crore will be spent on the repair

works of road and drainage, which were damaged during the recent heavy rains," said Srijana.

The Commissioner further added that the Chief Minister will lay a foundation stone for the facilitator of RK beach under the Andhra Pradesh Disaster Recovery Project with the World Bank funds.

"Shore protection will be the focal point of the Rs 109 crore project. On the other hand, the GVMC got about Rs 52 crore from the French Development Agency for the development of the municipal schools of the city," said Srijana.

Srijana added that the Asian Development Bank will fund about Rs 9.5 crore for the rejuvenation of the Mudasarlova Park.

CLIMATE TALKS

# 'India will work to protect its long-term interests'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is participating with a constructive outlook at the Madrid climate talks and will work to protect its long-term development interests, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said on Saturday.

Before leaving for the UN-hosted climate negotiations in the Spanish city, Javadekar enumerated India's efforts in mitigating the effects of climate change and said the country "is leading from the front in climate action".

"PM was the first to propose Solar Alliance and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure," he said. "India's ambitious renewable energy programme of 450 GW has attracted world attention as it is the largest renewable programme in the world."

Javadekar said India has reduced its emission intensity by 22 per cent over 2005 and it is one of the few countries which



had increased tree cover in and outside the forest.

On Nov 27, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved India's negotiating stand at the 25th Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Madrid, Spain.

COP-25, which started on

Dec 2 and concludes on Dec 13, is an important conference on climate change as countries prepare to move from pre-2020 period under the Kyoto Protocol to post-2020 period under the Paris Agreement. Officials say India's approach will be guided by principles and provisions of UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, particularly the principles of Equity and Common But Differentiated

Responsibilities and Respective Capability (CBDR-RC).

In Sep, during the Climate Action Summit convened by the UN secretary-general, Prime Minister Modi had announced India's plan on scaling up of renewable energy target to 450 GW and called for responsible action by all on the principles of equity and CBDR-RC.

India has been leading the world in pursuit of solar energy capacity. It has also emphasized that developed countries should take lead in taking ambitious actions and fulfil their climate finance commitments of mobilizing USD 100 billion per annum by 2020.

At the climate talks, India will stress on the need to fulfil pre-2020 commitments by developed countries and that pre-2020 implementation gaps should not present an additional burden to developing countries in the post-2020 period.

## Woman pours liquid on daughter to demand justice for Unnao victim

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A woman poured suspected inflammable liquid on her minor daughter outside Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital on Saturday afternoon while demanding justice for the Unnao victim, police said. The incident occurred nearly an hour after the Unnao gang rape-and-murder victim's body was taken to her village in Uttar Pradesh from Safdarjung after a post-mortem. When media persons were speaking to the nearby people, the woman came there shouting "we want justice" and immediately poured what is suspected to be an inflammable substance on her minor daughter, sources said. However, the police saved the girl and took the woman along with them. The woman said she was traumatised by the recent Unnao rape-and-murder case and came to the Safdarjung Hospital after hearing about her death, a senior officer said, adding that they had sent the liquid to check its property. On Thursday, the rape victim from Uttar Pradesh's Unnao district was airlifted to Delhi and admitted to the Hospital after she was set on fire by five people.



## 'Save me, I don't want to die'

PNS ■ UNNAO

In a series of tweets, Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi quoted the last word of the Unnao rape victim and said, "I pray to God to give courage to the Unnao victim's family in this hour of grief. It is a failure of all of us that we could not give her justice. Socially, we are all guilty, but it also shows the hollowness of law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh."

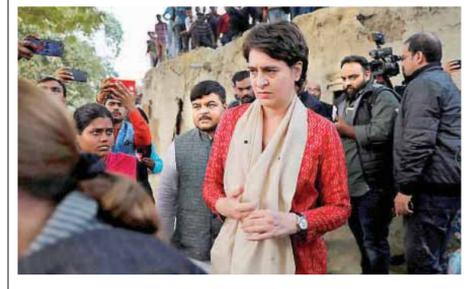
Priyanka Gandhi, who is also in-charge of the eastern Uttar Pradesh slammed the Yogi Adityanath government and said, "Keeping in mind the previous incident of Unnao, why the government did not give immediate protection to the victim? What action was taken on the officer who refused to register the FIR? On atrocities against women what steps government has taken to stop such incidents in UP?"

The victim was attacked outside the Sindapur village in Unnao when she was on her way to a court in Rae

Bareilly to attend a hearing in the rape case. She was abducted by the five men Harishankar Trivedi, Ram Kishore Trivedi, Umesh Bajpai, Shivam and Shubham Trivedi. She was beaten, stabbed and burnt and was left to die. However, she stood up and walked up to a kilometre to a person who was working outside a house and sought help. She made a call to the police herself.

She was rushed to a nearby hospital from where she was referred to the civil hospital in Lucknow where she was admitted in a plastic surgery burn unit. The victim's statement was recorded there.

In her statement, she named all the five accused and narrated the ordeal. Out of the five persons, including two who were accused in the rape case, the Unnao rape survivor named, two have been arrested, the UP police said. She said that the accused Shivam and Shubham Trivedi had abducted and raped her and video-graphed the act.



## Centre agrees to include 3 Odisha airports under UDAN scheme

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Centre has agreed to include three airports in Odisha under the regional connectivity scheme, officials said on Saturday. The decision in this regard was taken at a meeting between Civil Aviation Secretary Pradeep Singh Kharola and Odisha Chief Secretary A K Tripathy on Friday. "Discussion held yesterday with the visiting civil aviation secretary, Jaypore, Rourkela and Utkela will go again to the next round of UDAN scheme. There is inbuilt subsidy support to the state government along with Centre in this initiative," Tripathy said.

## Judges' presser last year self-correcting measure: CJI

PNS ■ JODHPUR

Chief Justice of India S A Bobde here on Saturday said the press conference held by four senior most judges of the apex court last year was just a self-corrective measure.

In an unprecedented move, Justices J Chelameswar, Ranjan Gogoi, M B Lokur and Kurien Joseph-- had on January 12, 2018, held a press conference, saying the situation in the top court was "not in order" and many "less than desirable" things had taken place.

Ranjan Gogoi later in the year had succeeded the then chief justice of India Dipak Mishra.

"I believe the institution (judiciary) must correct itself and indeed it did during the time when the much-criticised press conference was held. It was nothing more than a self-corrective measure and I do not wish to justify it," Justice Bobde said during the inauguration of a new building



S A Bobde

of the Rajasthan High Court here.

The CJI further said, "All judges were eminent and Justice (Ranjan) Gogoi in particular showed great competence and led the judiciary from the front."

He stressed as an institution, the judiciary must remain committed to making justice accessible to people by strengthening the existing avenues and evolving newer means to achieve an affordable, quick and satisfactory settlement of disputes. At the same time, we must be aware of the changes and perception about

the judiciary, the CJI said.

He said recent events in the country had sparked off an old debate with new vigour, where there was no doubt that the criminal justice system must reconsider its position and attitude towards the time it took to dispose of a criminal matter.

"Justice is never ought to be instant. Justice must never ever take the form of revenge. I believe justice loses its character when it becomes revenge. There is a need in the judiciary to invoke self-correcting measures but whether or not they should be publicised is a matter of debate," he said.

"We have to devise methods for not only speeding up litigation but all together preventing it. There are laws which provide for pre-litigation mediation," he said, adding that there was a need to consider compulsory pre-litigation mediation. Surprisingly, no courses were available for conferring a degree or diploma in mediation, he said.

## 'Another daughter has lost her life awaiting justice'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday condoled the "heart-wrenching" death of the Unnao rape victim who was set ablaze and said another daughter has lost her life while awaiting justice. The rape victim, who was airlifted to a Delhi hospital after she was set ablaze allegedly by five persons, including two men accused of raping her, died on Friday night.

"The saddening and heart-wrenching death of the innocent daughter of Unnao, that has shamed humanity, has left me angered and stunned. Another daughter has lost her life while awaiting justice and security," Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

"In this hour of grief, I express my condolences to the victim's family," he tweeted with the hashtag 'Beti Ko Nyay Do'.

## Woman killed as car driven by 'drunk' man hits her, three held

PNS ■ MUMBAI

A 19-year-old woman pedestrian was killed after she was hit by a car allegedly being driven by a drunk man at Chunabhatti here, police said on Saturday.

The mishap occurred at Duavji Keni Road near Swadeshi Mills on Friday evening, police said. The driver and one more person in the car, who were under the influence of liquor at the time of the incident, have been arrested along with the owner of the vehicle, an official said.

"The victim, Archana Parthe, was walking towards her home when the vehicle hit her after its driver lost control over it. The woman suffered grievous injuries in the incident. She was rushed to a hospital, but declared dead on



arrival," he said. After the accident, the accused driver-Dhiraj Kadam (28) and Akshay Mahagade (28)- tried to escape from the spot.

However, people who had gathered at the site, caught them and handed over to the police. "We found that both of them were so drunk that they were not even able to walk properly," the official said. The

owner of the car, Kunal Gamare (32), was also arrested later, he added. The accused have been booked under IPC sections 304 (2) (punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 279 (rash driving or riding on a public way), 34 (common intention) and under various provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act.

## NRI businessman charged after August 5 under PSA released for three months

PNS ■ AGRA

Dr Mubeen Shah, a Non Resident Indian businessman detained in the aftermath of the August 5 crackdown on political leaders and businessmen in Jammu and Kashmir, was "temporarily released" on Saturday.

Shah, who is based out of Malaysia, walked out of the Agra Central Jail and was received by his brother Niyaz, who had been fighting in the Supreme Court to seek his release.

Refusing to talk to the media citing that the case was sub-judice, Niyaz drove away with his brother, Mubeen, who was detained on August 7 and immediately shifted to the central jail in Agra.

The release order issued by



Home Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir union territory said "...the government hereby orders the temporary release of Dr Mubeen Shah...presently under detention... from December 7, 2019 to March 6, 2020 subject to the conditions laid down in the bond".

Shah "shall surrender before district magistrate Srinagar on March 7, 2020 at 11 AM after

Refusing to talk to the media citing that the case was sub-judice, Niyaz drove away with his brother, Mubeen, who was detained on August 7 and immediately shifted to the central jail in Agra

which have the potential of endangering peace or is prejudicial to the maintenance of public order during the period of my temporary release".

Shah is among the host of politicians, social activists and businessmen detained after August 5, when the Centre withdrew special status to the erstwhile state and also bifurcated it into two union territories -- Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

He is possibly the first person charged under the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA) who has been released by the union territory administration without any such directions from the court.

Shah's family had approached the Supreme Court seeking quashing of the PSA. After hearing in the matter

began, the Jammu and Kashmir administration, finding itself on the back foot, had assured that they would release Mubeen Shah. The case is listed for hearing again on December 9.

Shah was released under sub-section 2 of section 20 of the PSA, which allows the government to release a person at any time for any specified period either without conditions or upon such conditions specified in the direction as that person accepts and may at any time time cancel his release.

"In directing the release of any person, the government may require him to enter into a bond with or without sureties for the due observance of the condition specified in the directions," the Act says.

## Global stars to enliven Delhi Comic Con from Dec 20

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Famous national and international artists, stand-up comedians, and, cosplay competitions will get the national capital buzzing at the 9th edition of Delhi Comic Con here.

The pop culture extravaganza is all set to unravel a roller coaster ride for the city's fandom community at the NSIC Grounds, Okhla from December 20.

Highlighting the event will be Melbourne-based digital artist Kode Abdo aka #Bosslogic; illustrator Chad Hardin, who works for DC Comics and Harley Quinn series; and Asian-American artist/designer Bernard Chang, who has illustrated books for Marvel and DC Comics, including X-Men, Deadpool,

Superman, and Wonder Woman.

Joining them at the show will be leading Indian comic book publishers, illustrators and writers like Abhijeet Kini, creator of "Angry Maushi"; Vivek Goel, creator of "Aghori" series; Sumit Kumar (Bakarmax), and creators of immensely popular Indian webcomics like Sailesh Gopalan (Brown Paperbag Comics), Bhagya Mathew (Awkwerrrd).

"Organising Comic Con in Delhi will always be close to my heart as we did our inaugural show in the city nine years ago. The city has the most enthusiastic comic book fans and cosplayers, who take this celebration of their beloved fandoms very seriously.

"This year we have some special guests, new launches, and



experiential zones. This year, we wanted to align our Cosplay competitions to international formats, and we have introduced two new formats of cosplaying, which will certainly delight the city's fans," Jatin

Varma, founder, Comic Con India, said.

The three-day event will introduce new cosplay formats with a total prize pool of Rs 4 lac this year. The contest, organised in two categories,

"Organising Comic Con in Delhi will always be close to my heart as we did our inaugural show in the city nine years ago. The city has the most enthusiastic comic book fans and cosplayers, who take this celebration of their beloved fandoms very seriously

will give out prizes worth Rs 2 Lac each day of the show.

The first category, 'Indian Championship of Cosplay 2019 Delhi Qualifier', will see participants compete online, thereafter, pre-selected participants will go

through a stage display session and compete on 3 parameters - needlework, FX and armor.

Each day, the winners of the Delhi qualifier round will not only win awards but also qualify to participate in the 'Indian Championship of Cosplay 2020'.

The second contest format, 'Delhi Comic Con Cosplay Contest 2019', will see participants compete against each other on the Arena stage. The event will also witness live performances by popular music artist Beatboxer Ish, dance performing crew MISBA, mentalist Karan Singh, comedian Abish Mathew, Rahul Dua, and Sumiara Sheikh. The New Delhi edition will come to an end on December 22.

## Heavy fog disrupts flight operations at Srinagar airport

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

Nine flights were cancelled at the Srinagar airport due to low visibility as a thick layer of fog engulfed most parts of the Kashmir Valley on Saturday morning, officials said.

The visibility at the airport was around 600 metres only, an official of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) said, adding the operations would resume once the visibility improves.

"The flight operations have been severely affected at the Srinagar airport and no flight has landed here because of the poor visibility caused by the heavy fog," the official said.

He said, nine flights have

been cancelled for the day out of the total 25. The fog also disrupted the air traffic to and fro Srinagar as no flight operations took place because of the poor visibility, the AAI official added.

The city experienced the coldest night of the season so far recording a low of minus 3.6 degrees Celsius, an official of the Meteorological Department here said.

He said the heavy fog affected the visibility, causing problems to the people, especially motorists. The MeT official said the valley is undergoing intense cold condition as the mercury dipped several degrees below the normal for this part of the season.

SHORT READS



### AAP MLA alleges her car followed by some persons while returning home

LUDHIANA (PUNJAB): An Aam Aadmi Party legislator in Punjab alleged on Saturday that some persons followed her in a vehicle in a possible bid to attack her. According to Saravjit Kaur Manuke, the MLA from Jagraon in Ludhiana district, a car followed her vehicle on Friday night and tried to hit it from behind. The car was being driven rashly in a zigzag manner on the highway, said Manuke, who was accompanied by her husband and was returning to Jagraon from Ludhiana city after taking part in a debate on a TV channel. "We saved ourselves by driving our vehicle into the police station at Chaukiman. There were four-five people in the car that was following us," she said. Manuke said they informed the senior superintendent of police (SSP) of the Ludhiana Rural Police district about the entire episode. Mullanpur Deputy Superintendent of Police G S Bains said the suspects had been identified and an investigation was on.



### Police officer dies of heart attack while on duty

RANCHI: A police officer died of a heart attack while on election duty in East Singhbhum district on Saturday, police said. Assistant sub-inspector Harish Chandra Giri, 44, was on duty at booth number 234 under Panchando cluster in Barsole under Ghatsila sub-division of the district when he suffered the heart attack, Baharagoda police station in-charge Rajdhan Singh said. Giri was taken to a nearby health centre where doctors declared him dead, Singh said, he hails from Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh.

SHORT READS



IED defused by security forces in J-K's Kupwara

**SRINAGAR:** Security forces on Saturday recovered and defused an improvised explosive device (IED) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, police said. The IED was found by a "road-opening party" in the morning on a highway in the Warpora-Handwara area in the north Kashmir district, a police official said. The bomb disposal squad reached the spot and seized the IED that was later defused, the official said.

Man found dead near Botanical Garden in Howrah

Howrah, Dec 7 (PTI) A man was found dead on a roadside in the Botanical Garden area of the city on Saturday, police said. The man, identified as Rajesh Kr Show, was a tippler, they said. He was found lying unconscious near a drain in B Garden Lane, following which he was sent to the Howrah Sadar Hospital, the police said. Doctors at the hospital declared him "brought dead", they added. Officials said no injury marks were found on the body, and they suspect no foul play.

Sanitation has become people's movement: Rajnath

**NEW DELHI:** Hailing 'Swachh Bharat Mission', Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said that sanitation has become a people's movement in the country. Addressing an event in Delhi Cantonment area here, Rajnath said children have become the ambassadors of 'Swachhta' (cleanliness). He also flagged off a special plogging awareness drive and said people have understood the downside of using plastics.



# MP seeks law to make MPs reveal details of foreign trips

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the BJP often targeting the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his "secret" foreign travels, a ruling party member has pitched for a law to make it mandatory for MPs to disclose the details of their overseas trips, including sources of funding and expenses incurred.



BJP Member of Parliament G V L Narasimha Rao has introduced a private member's bill, the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, in Rajya Sabha, asserting that as public representatives MPs must make complete disclosure about their foreign travels, including those undertaken in their personal capacity.

"Foreign hospitality received in any manner from foreign governments or institutions must also be disclosed to the Chairman of Rajya Sabha or the Speaker of Lok Sabha as the case may be besides seeking prior permission from the Central government as per section 9 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act," the bill says.

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— G V L NARASIMHA, BJP Member of Parliament

Rao noted that lawmakers were issued guidelines in 2017 about sharing details of their foreign visits, including the ones in personal capacity, and

the Parliament Affairs Ministry in July 2019 reiterated them through a communication. However, most MPs have not adhered to the advisory in the absence of a statutory

requirement, he noted, as he underlined the need for a law in this regard.

"MPs are important public functionaries and transparency about their functioning, sources of their income and expenses is necessary to demonstrate their financial integrity. From time-to-time, Parliament has enacted legislation and framed rules to ensure that those elected to Parliament uphold the cherished ideal," he said.

Though private member's bills are rarely passed, a discussion on the proposed legislation will allow BJP members to attack the Congress as the ruling party has time and again attacked its leader Rahul Gandhi for his "secret" foreign trips.

In October this year, the party at a press conference questioned his "frequent" foreign visits and the "secrecy" about them, asking if he was involved in some secret operation. It has argued that his foreign visits are a matter of public interest as he is a public representative.



# PM Modi attends top police officials' conference in Pune

PNS ■ PUNE

The National Conference of Directors General and Inspectors General of Police is underway in Pune with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in attendance on Saturday.

The three-day conference, which began on Friday, will conclude on Sunday.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval are also attending the conference.

Before heading to the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) for the conference, Modi attended the Armed Forces Flag Day programme at the Raj Bhavan, dis-

**Before heading to the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) for the conference, Modi attended the Armed Forces Flag Day programme at the Raj Bhavan, district officials said**

trict officials said. He also met the widow and daughter of major Kunal Gosavi, who was killed in the Nagrota terror attack in 2016, they said.

"The DGP/IGP conference is underway in Pune. Top police officials from all over India are attending this meet," the Prime Minister's Office

(PMO) said in a tweet. The prime minister released a 57-minute video featuring Armed Forces Flag Day on Twitter saying, "On Armed Forces Flag Day we salute the indomitable courage of our forces and their families. I also urge you to contribute the welfare of our forces."

# Taken on joyride, 5-year-old raped by auto-rickshaw driver

PNS ■ DARBHANGA (BIHAR)

A five-year-old girl was sexually assaulted by an auto-rickshaw driver who beckoned her to accompany him for a joyride and dumped her at a secluded spot, battered and bruised, police said here on Saturday.

The incident took place in Kharua More locality of Sadar police station area late Friday night and the girl, who fell unconscious following the sexual assault, was undergoing treatment at a hospital while the accused has been arrested, said Babu Ram, Senior Superintendent of Police.

He said the girl was playing along with another three-year-old close to the place where the three-wheeler was parked and then they got onto the vehicle.

Sahni started the vehicle, telling the girls that he would take them for a joyride but soon dropped the three-year-old at a nearby spot before raping the survivor at a secluded place, the officer said.

The incident, coming close on the heels of charred bodies

**Sahni started the vehicle, telling the girls that he would take them for a joyride but soon dropped the three-year-old at a nearby spot before raping the survivor at a secluded place, the officer said**



of unidentified woman, dumped after suspected rape and murder, being recovered in Buxar and Samastipur districts earlier this week, sparked outrage.

While Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi evaded queries from journalists in

Patna on the incident, RJD leaders Lalu Prasad, Rabri Devi and Tejashwi Yadav vented their ire at the senior BJP leader, as well as Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for rising incidence of crimes against women. Prasad, who is in Ranchi serving sentences in fodder scam cases, shared the video clip of the deputy CM refusing to answer queries with a suggestive caption — "Sush-ill Modi".

Rabri Devi, his wife, and Tejashwi Yadav - the younger son - tweeted accusing the state government of shielding culprits of the Muzaffarpur shelter home sex scandal, which they claimed, has emboldened those with a proclivity to engage in sexual crimes.

## UNNAO RAPE CASE

### Victim's death shameful, hope UP gov't hangs culprits: Kejriwal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday called the death of the rape victim from Unnao "shameful" for every Indian and said he hoped that the Uttar Pradesh government will hang the culprits "to set an example" for the society. The rape victim, who was airlifted to a Delhi hospital after she was set ablaze allegedly by five persons, including two men accused of raping her, died on Friday night.

"The death of Unnao's daughter is shameful for every Indian. God give courage to the family of the victim. The whole country is standing with them in this fight. I hope that the UP government will soon complete the judicial process and hang our daughter's killers that will set an example for the whole society," Kejriwal said in a tweet in Hindi.

# 'No response from Mamata's office on requests for dialogue'

PNS ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday said that all attempts to reach out to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee were exhausted as there was no response from her office regarding his requests for a dialogue.

Stating that a chief minister should be in regular communication with the governor, Dhankhar said he was still hopeful about a positive response from Banerjee.

"@MamataOfficial. As Governor after exhausting back channels I engaged in outreach to CM by publicly invit-

ing her to Discussions and Dialogue at her chosen place, time, date as this the only constitutional way," Dhankhar said in a tweet. "CM sd (should) not be uncommunicated to Gov.

Am sure there wd (would) b +ve (positive) response," he added.

The governor, who has been at loggerheads with the Mamata Banerjee government over several issues, is being blamed by the ruling

TMC for delaying clearance of pending bills leading to an abrupt two-day adjournment of the state assembly earlier this week, opening a new front for hostilities.

# Cops 'abruptly withdraw' security to retired HC judge

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The Kerala police on Saturday "abruptly withdrew" security provided to retired High Court judge Justice B Kemal Pasha, who had been vocal against the CPI(M)-led LDF government's 'failure' in handling various cases, sources said here. Justice Kemal Pasha said four armed police guards deputed for his personal security were withdrawn by the government.

When contacted, he told PTI, "The decision was taken at the Home Secretary level on Friday. The police personnel left me ending their service today (Saturday)."

The retired judge noted that the security was withdrawn "abruptly" at a time when he was facing threat from Islamic States terror operatives in Kerala.

# Over 400 youths from J-K inducted into Army

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

Over 400 freshly-trained youths from Jammu and Kashmir were on Saturday recruited into the Army at a passing-out-parade here, the first such parade of the force after the erstwhile state became the Union territory.

The passing-out-parade of the soldiers, belonging to different areas of Jammu and Kashmir, was conducted at the regimental centre of Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAKLI) at Rangreth in the outskirts of the city here, an Army official said.

The parade, which was reviewed by the General Officer Commanding (GoC) of Srinagar-based Chinar Corps, Lt Gen KJS Dhillon, was attended by hundreds of parents and relatives of the young soldiers.

The official said, "404 young soldiers from Jammu and



Kashmir were recruited into the Army's Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAKLI) regiment after completing one year strenuous training."

Congratulating the new recruits, Lt Gen Dhillon impressed upon selfless service towards the nation.

Later, the corps commander felicitated Ilyas Ahmad, an honorary Captain of the

JAKLI who has retired from the service but continues to work for the betterment of the people.

"Avalanche rescue is Ahmad's specialty. He has been awarded two Sena medals, has been awarded commendation card by the Chief of Army Staff five times. He is a very brave jawan hailing from Tangdhar Kupwara," Lt Gen Dhillon said.

## CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

### Maya urges SC to take suo motu cognizance of rising incidents

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

BSP chief Mayawati on Saturday urged the Supreme Court to take suo motu cognizance of the growing incidents of crime against women and direct the Centre to take prompt steps for effectively checking them.

Launching a scathing attack on the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh, she said incidents of rape, murder and molestation are taking place all over the country, but in UP, such cases have been "excessive".

"It is a matter of deep regret that during the past few years, especially since the BJP government has come to power, women are not safe. This is not the only incident, in UP I said it yesterday also that there is not a day when there is not an incident of rape and murder, attempt to rape or molestation," Mayawati said at a press conference here. "They



are taking place all over the country but in UP, such cases have been excessive. My party believes that till the state governments do not deal with the criminal elements promptly and sternly they cannot be checked," she said. Mayawati's remarks came after the death of Unnao rape victim in a Delhi hospital. The 23-year-old woman was set afire by five men, including her two alleged rapists, on

Thursday morning when she was going to Rae Bareilly to attend a court hearing in the case filed by her. One of the two men accused of raping her last year was granted bail about 10 days ago. The other man had been on the run. All the five men involved in the Thursday attack have been arrested. "If the Supreme Court take note of the growing cases of crime against women on its own and direct the Centre to take action, I think then it (Centre) would come into action mode," the BSP chief said. "Parliament is in session and the Central government need to take cognizance of these cases and frame strict law for controlling it, but the Centre does not seem to be in action mode. My party wants the Supreme Court to take it seriously. First Hyderabad and now in Unnao, such cases have been taking place continuously," she said.



# Night temp continues to drop in J-K, Ladakh

● At minus 25.4 deg C, Drass coldest

PNS ■ JAMMU

The night temperature continued to trend downward in Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh as Drass remained the coldest place in the region recording minus 25.4 degrees Celsius, a Meteorological Department official said on Saturday.

Srinagar experienced its coldest night in the season so far with the mercury falling 0.6 degree Celsius to settle at a low of minus 3.6 degrees Celsius, three notches below the normal.

The MeT official said the night temperature is likely to improve in the coming days due to a Western Disturbance which is likely to hit the two Union Territories on Wednesday, bringing another spell of snow and rains.

He said Drass in Kargil district of Ladakh was the coldest recorded place in the region with a night temperature of minus 25.4 degrees Celsius against the previous night's 24.3 degrees Celsius. Leh town, also in Ladakh,

was reeling at a minimum of 15.9 degrees Celsius, the official added. Foggy conditions engulfed most parts of Kashmir, including Srinagar, as the Sun remained hidden behind the clouds in the morning, the official said.

He said the minimum temperature in Jammu and Kashmir's winter capital Jammu marked a slight dip and settled at 8.5 degrees Celsius, two notches below season's average.

Pahalgam hill resort in south Kashmir was the coldest recorded place in the valley with a low of minus 5.9 degrees Celsius followed by the famous ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir at minus 5.6 degrees Celsius, the official said.

Katra, which serves as the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Vaishno Devi shrine in Reasi district of Jammu region, recorded a low of 8.7 degrees Celsius, the official said, adding Bhadarwah township of Doda district was, however, the coldest recorded place in the region with a minimum of 1.4 degrees Celsius.

# GFP leader submits 'secret' report to PM on Goa drugs nexus

PNS ■ PANAJI

A Goa Forward Party (GFP) leader and former state minister on Saturday claimed that he has submitted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi a "secret" report on the drugs nexus, in which he has named several politicians and policemen.

Talking to reporters, GFP MLA Vinod Paliencar said he submitted the report to Modi last week.

"I have submitted a secret report to the PM. I cannot disclose the contents of the report, but I have named politicians

**I have submitted a secret report to the PM. I cannot disclose the contents of the report, but I have named politicians and police involved in the drug nexus, says Vinod Paliencar**

and police involved in the drug nexus," he said. "Local police inspectors and sub-inspectors are hand-in-gloves with the drug peddlers. Narcotic trade is on the rise in Goa with the blessings of politicians and police," he alleged.

In the last couple of months,

several drug seizures involving foreigners, were made in the state, he said.

Paliencar, who was state Water Resources Minister, was dropped from the cabinet by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant along with GFP chief Vijai Sardesai and MLA Jayesh

Salgaonkar in July this year following the induction of 10 Congress MLAs.

He also demanded a ban on the upcoming Sunburn Electronic Dance Music Festival.

The Goa government has given 'in-principle' approval for hosting Sunburn Klassique EDM festival in the coastal belt of Vagator in North Goa between December 27 and 29.

"The government should promote classical music and not trance music. This trance music, to which the youth is getting attracted, is the music of demons," he said.



RIPPLE EFFECT

# One lakh workers in auto parts industry lost jobs till July

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The crisis in the Indian automobile industry has had its ripple effect on the auto component industry with most automobile manufacturers imposing a self-reduction of production by around 15-20%. As a result, the manufacturers and suppliers of components to these manufacturers have also had to cut down their production. The end result of this is the auto component industry is seeing shedding of over 100,000 temporary jobs till July this year.

CAPSULE



### NTPC signs term loan of Rs 5,000 cr with SBI

**NEW DELHI:** Power generation company NTPC on Saturday said it has signed a term loan agreement for Rs 5,000 crore with State Bank of India (SBI). The loan facility has been extended at an interest rate linked to 3-month MCLR (marginal cost of funds-based lending rate) of the bank and has a door-to-door tenure of 15 years, NTPC said in a statement. The loan will be utilised to part finance the capital expenditure of NTPC, it said.



### BANK FRAUD ED attaches Rs 34 cr assets of Gujarat company

**NEW DELHI:** Assets worth over Rs 34 crore of a Gujarat-based firm have been attached under the anti-money laundering law in connection with an alleged bank fraud case, the Enforcement Directorate said on Saturday. The Enforcement Directorate probe pertains to Biotar Industries Limited and its managing director, Rajesh M Kapadia, and others, which is also being investigated by the Gujarat police and the Central Bureau of Investigation. Probe revealed that the accused had "misappropriated" funds to the tune of about Rs 250 crore by preparing bogus bills and invoices during 2007-2009, the ED said in a statement. "Arif Ismailbhai Memon, owner of KGN Group of companies, was instrumental in preparing the circular paper transactions for transferring proceeds of crime in connivance with Rajesh Kapadia and others," it said. By adopting fraudulent methods, Memon parked the proceeds of crime of about Rs 62 crore in the accounts of the KGN Group companies, it alleged.



### Gaurs Group to invest Rs 750 cr in new project

**NEW DELHI:** Realty firm Gaurs Group on Saturday said it will invest Rs 750 crore over the next three years to develop a commercial project in Greater Noida. The company will develop 12 lakh sq ft area in the project 'Gaur World Street'. It will be mixed use commercial project comprising office and retail space as well as hotel, a company statement said. The project cost is estimated at around Rs 750 crore, it added. Gaurs Group has recently completed the construction of 'Gaur City Mall' comprising 15 lakh sq ft area with an investment of Rs 750 crore in Greater Noida. It expects to earn a rental income of around Rs 75 crore annually from this project. Gaurs has already developed 'Gaur Central Mall' at Raj Nagar District Centre in Ghaziabad.

maker, Maruti Suzuki, a majority of components follow a just-in-time delivery to the assembly line. The production plans are conveyed the previous day to the component suppliers. This means when the production is down in the Maruti car plant, the component units will also remain without work. They would also not pile up inventory without knowing what the production plan is going to be.

The details have been shared by the trade body, the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA). The association says

**The details have been shared by the trade body, the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association. The association says the combined turnover of its members declined in the six-month period**

the combined turnover of its members declined in the six-month period, April to September, this year to Rs 1.79 lakh crore against Rs 1.99 lakh crore for the same period of the previous year, a drop of 10.1%. The only saving grace for the

industry has been that the figures for export and sales to the replacement market have shown a marginal increase. Exports were at Rs 51,397 crore and the aftermarket segment grew to Rs 35,096 crore. These represent an increase of 2.7% and 4% respec-

tively from the previous year's figures. The ACMA has tried to quantify the notional loss in investment in the component sector too. They say if the industry had registered a growth of 10%, it would have attracted an investment of around \$2 billion, which now stands lost.

The automobile industry in the country is currently making large scale changes to be in compliance with the BS-VI emission norms. This has meant an investment of up to Rs 90,000 crore. It is reported that this amount includes the components sector contribution of

around Rs 35,000 crore. Coming at a lean sales season, the industry is virtually crippled as far as the finances are concerned. Many of the component makers are in the MSME segment.

The industry is hoping the government will intervene and prevent a total catastrophe.

Another demand from the ACMA is to rationalise the GST. There are two slabs at which the components are taxed, 18% and 28%. The industry wants this to be made one level, 18%. The industry says this is leading to grey market operations in the replacement market.



## OPEC agrees on oil output cuts after much 'brain squeezing'

PNS ■ VIENNA

The powerful OPEC group of oil producers and its allies reached a deal Friday to cut production by 500,000 barrels per day in a bid to stem prices which have been under pressure from abundant reserves and weak global economic growth.

Friday's so-called OPEC+ meeting included Russia, the world's second-largest oil producer and not a member of the cartel.

It ended with a deal for a cut effective as of January 1 which sets an output target 1.7 million barrels per day lower than October 2018 levels, with Saudi Arabia and Russia making almost half the additional reductions between them.

In a surprise move, the bloc also announced that several participating countries, "mainly Saudi Arabia", would make additional voluntary cuts bringing the overall cut to more than 2.1 million barrels per day.

World oil prices surged in response, with US benchmark WTI and its European counterpart Brent both rising two per cent in an initial reaction before settling down at levels around 1.3 per cent higher on the day in the late European afternoon. On Thursday, a meeting of



**In a surprise move, the bloc also announced that several participating countries, 'mainly Saudi Arabia', would make additional voluntary cuts bringing the overall cut to more than 2.1 mn barrels per day**

OPEC ministers had run late into the evening without a deal. Saudi Oil Minister Prince Abdelaziz Ben Salman, who was at his first meeting in the post, said first-day talks lasting six hours saw delegations "labouring...until 11 o'clock in the evening, squashing their

heads, squeezing their brains" in search of an agreement.

Iraqi Oil Minister Thamer Ghadban told reporters Friday that "what will happen during the first quarter (of 2020) will be assessed during an extraordinary meeting" of OPEC and its partners in early March.

He held out the prospect that the cuts could even be extended until the end of 2020 but that it was "too early to say now". Earlier, Prince Abdulaziz hinted at Saudi irritation that not all countries have been sticking to the production quotas agreed under the current deal. While Saudi Arabia has voluntarily pumped below its quota other producers — including Russia, Iraq and Nigeria — had been exceeding theirs. "Like religion, if you are a believer you have to practice, without practice you are a non-believer," Prince Abdulaziz said, stressing the importance of "further conformity" if OPEC were to achieve its goals.

Analyst David Madden at Markets.com said that "the usual infighting of OPEC continues, as the Saudis call for greater compliance with the group target, while the likes of Iraq have been overproducing".

Saudi Arabia in particular has an interest in underpinning crude prices in the wake of its initial public offer (IPO) of shares in state-owned oil giant Aramco. The group, which alone accounts for around 10 per cent of the world's crude oil, said Thursday it had raised USD 25.6 billion in the world's biggest stock sale ever.

## Soft Bank sister firm to invest \$4 bn in renewable energy in Gujarat

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

SB Energy, a sister company of Soft Bank of Japan, has announced that it will invest USD 4 billion or Rs 30,000 crore in renewable energy sector in Gujarat, a state government release said on Friday.

The announcement was made at a meeting between chief minister Vijay Rupani and Executive Chairman of SB Energy Manoj Kohli.

The investment will be in solar energy, wind energy and other unconventional renewable energy sources, it said. The present installed capacity of renewable energy in Gujarat is 8,885 MW and the state government aims to ramp it up to 30,000 MW by 2022.

"Of this 30,000 MW, 20,000 MW will be used in the state while another 10,000 MW will be given to other states. SB Energy's announcement of investing 4 billion US dollars will go a long way in achieving the target," the release said. Rupani, on Friday, also inaugurated a Global Business Services Centre of Bank of America at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (Gift-City) in Gandhinagar.

Chief Operations Officer of Bank of America, Catherine Bessant, said it started its operations in India in 2004, and this was its fifth unit after Hyderabad, Mumbai, Guragaon and Chennai.



## Nepal SBI posts 13% growth in net profit for FY19

PNS ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal SBI Bank, a subsidiary of State Bank of India, has posted a Rs 229.25 crore net profit for 2018-19, registering a growth of 13.29 per cent.

The bank mobilised total deposit of Rs 9,792.45 crore and extended loans and advances of Rs 8,864.47 crore at the closing of the year, according to a statement issued by the bank ahead of its Annual General Meeting.

Speaking at a press briefing, Nepal SBI Managing Director Anukul Bhatnagar said that the banking sector of Nepal should jointly fight against possible cyber attack as leakage of information of one bank could jeopardize the performance of the entire banking system. The bank has decided to distribute 16.84 per cent bonus including 6 per cent bonus share and 10.84 per cent cash dividends from the last year's profit and accumulated profits of the past, he informed.

## Netflix looking to export content from India with Rs 3 K cr investment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Online video streaming platform Netflix is looking to develop premium content in India and distribute it globally, its Chief Executive Officer Reed Hastings said on Friday.

He said that a reason for investing in India is stable regulatory regime and allowing self-regulation for over-the-top players such as Netflix. "So many great storytellers are there in India. We are just investing in using those and exporting. Internet does many things but one of them allows Indian content to be shared around the world," Hastings said. He was speaking at a panel discussion organised by his company with Bollywood actress Huma Qureshi.

He said the company is investing Rs 3,000 crore to develop content, and Indian content is being watched around the world.

"We have had successes of



Laila and Sacred Games all around. A cute little one is Mighty Little Bhim -- that's great Indian little character. Now, we have made a little series which is subscribed and being watched by 27 million households," Hastings said.

He said Mighty Little Bhim is being watched across Brazil, Canada and other countries.

"Such an opportunity here to be like the UK. The UK exports tremendous amount of content. What we are trying to invest here. It has been in movies but premium series like Laila and Sacred Games have been under development," Hasting said.

## Bharti Airtel to gain at cost of Vodafone Idea: brokerages

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom czar Sunil Bharti Mittal-led Bharti Airtel may consolidate its position at the expense of Vodafone Idea Ltd as it has better balance sheet strength to deal with the eventuality of having to pay statutory dues in case the Supreme Court rejects their review petitions, brokerages said. Airtel and Vodafone

Idea have filed separate petitions in the Supreme Court seeking review of the October 24 order of the apex court that held them liable to pay statutory dues for past 14 years after including non-telecom revenue in their annual adjusted gross revenues (AGR). The dues totalling Rs 1.47 lakh crore for the industry are to be paid within three months of the order.

"The liabilities are large at USD 4.8 billion for Airtel and USD 5 billion for Vodafone

**Airtel and Vodafone Idea have filed separate petitions in the Supreme Court seeking review of the October 24 order of the apex court that held them liable to pay statutory dues for past 14 years after including non-telecom revenue in their annual adjusted gross revenues**



Idea, and if the Supreme Court were to dismiss the review petition causing the entire liabilities to devolve, it would be a negative development for Airtel but even more serious for Vodafone Idea which may find it difficult to fund these liabilities before January 24, 2020," Morgan Stanley said in a report.

This, it said, "could potentially lead to further market share consolidation in the industry thereby strengthen-

ing Airtel's positioning in the industry." The two firms have been lobbying together with the government for relief on payment of the statutory liabilities.

Bharti Airtel's board has already approved raising USD 3 bn through a combination of equity (USD 2 bn) and debt (USD 1 bn).

"In our view, this fundraise is primarily to take care of the worst-case outcome wherein the entire AGR dues become payable," it said. "However, if part of the AGR liabilities were to be waived and/or were paid over a period of time, then the company could use the proceeds for repayment of existing debt. In either case, we see Airtel's balance sheet strength as a differentiating factor in the industry."

## Godrej Agrovet hopeful of achieving 14-15% revenue growth

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Diversified agro-business company Godrej Agrovet Ltd on Friday said it is optimistic of achieving at least 14 to 15 per cent growth in its revenue during the current fiscal, amid economic slowdown in the country. The company is also expecting to record 17 to 18 per cent growth in its net profit during the fiscal 2019-20, an official said.

"Last fiscal, we had grown by about 10 per cent to Rs 5,900 crore. We are aiming at Rs 7,000 crore topline but optimistic of achieving at least 14-15 per cent growth in revenue in the current financial year," Godrej Agrovet managing director B S Yadav said here. He said revenue growth is expected due to price

hike of our products as input costs have increased and better performance of

some verticals. The company will continue to make capital expenditure of Rs 250-300 crore for another three years with a focus on few verticals like animal feeds, agro-chemicals and value-added dairy.

"The company is expecting better profit margin. Growth of profit before tax (PBT) will be 7-8 per cent and net profit growth at 17-18 per cent (due to decline in corporate tax)," he said.

He was in the city to launch imported crop protection chemical "Hanabi" to prevent from red spider mite prevalent in the tea gardens of east and north-east region. Yadav said the company sees a lot of potential in exporting agro-chemicals as India has become more competitive than China.



## US agency implements H-1B electronic registration process

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

The US has completed implementation of H-1B electronic registration process for the 2021 cap season and the petitions for the most sought after work visa among Indian IT professionals will be accepted from April 1 next year, the country's immigration agency has announced.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows the US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. The technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS),



the federal agency mandated with task of approving such applications, on Friday announced that it had completed the process to implement the H-1B electronic registration process for the 2021

cap season. The companies applying for H-1B visas for foreign workers for the fiscal year 2021 would have to register online and pay a processing fee of USD 10. The USCIS would start

**The electronic registration process will dramatically streamline processing by reducing paperwork and data exchange, and will provide an overall cost savings to petitioning employers**

accepting the H-1B petitions from April 1, 2020 for the next fiscal year. "The electronic registration process will dramatically streamline processing by reducing paperwork and data exchange, and will provide an overall cost savings to petitioning employers," the USCIS said.

Under this new process, employers seeking H-1B workers subject to the cap, or their authorized representatives, will

complete a registration process that requires only basic information about their company and each requested worker.

The USCIS will open an initial registration period from March 1 to March 20, 2020. The H-1B random selection process, if needed, will then be run on those electronic registrations. Only those with selected registrations will be eligible to file H-1B cap-subject petitions, according to a

media report. "By streamlining the H-1B cap selection process with a new electronic registration system, USCIS is creating cost savings and efficiencies for petitioners and the agency, as only those selected will now be required to submit a full petition," said USCIS Deputy Director Mark Koumans.

"The agency completed a successful pilot testing phase, which included sessions with industry representatives, and implementation of the registration system will further the goal of modernizing USCIS from a paper-based to an online-filing agency," he said.

USCIS will post step-by-step instructions informing registrants how to complete the registration process on its website along with key dates and

timelines as the initial registration period nears. The federal agency will also conduct public engagements and other outreach activities to ensure registrants and interested parties are familiar with the new registration system, it said.

The USCIS may determine if it is necessary to continue accepting registrations, or open an additional registration period, if it does not receive enough registrations and subsequent petitions projected to reach the numerical allocations, it added.

The H1B visa has an annual numerical limit cap of 65,000 visas each fiscal year as mandated by the Congress. The first 20,000 petitions filed on behalf of beneficiaries with a US master's degree or higher are exempt from the cap.



Shirin Merchant at a dog training workshop in Delhi

# WHISPER TO YOUR DOG

Unruly, unhappy and aggressive pets can be a problem not just for the pet parents but also those around. SHALINI SAKSENA speaks with SHIRIN MERCHANT, the pet shrink, who busts myths and tells you how to understand what dogs are saying

"Hello, is this the dog shrink?" the caller on the other end of the line demanded.

"Yes," dog shrink replied.

"You have to help me," the lady stated matter-of-factly. "Fendi is guarding the refrigerator and won't let us open it. If anyone goes close he gets very angry".

"Is there any reason he would need to guard it?" the shrink probed, her years of experience telling her that Fendi was the dog and not a visiting cousin.

It's his caviar. He loves it and doesn't want to share it with us."

A week after Fendi's owner called me, the shrink got another call.

"Hello, is this the dog shrink?" the lady drawled.

"Yes," the shrink sighed, knowing exactly who it was.

"We won't be needing your help," she said dismissively. "We have solved the problem."

"That's great!" the shrink replied, wondering what novel method of training they used to solve the problem. "What did you do?"

"It's simple," she said. "We bought him his own refrigerator. Now Fendi guards his own fridge and leaves ours alone. You may cancel our appointment. Thank you and good night."

She was born into a family that had dogs. She grew up along with them. She has always loved animals, especially dogs. When she was in her early 20s, she met her mentor John Rogerson, who had come to India for a workshop. When she attended this session, with her pet, realising that it would change her life. She loved the session so much that she ended up meeting Rogerson, went to England to study and when she came back to India, she started her practice. Meet the country's dog shrink — Shirin Merchant.

What is a pet shrink or a dog behaviourist and how what he does is different from a vet? "Just like in the human world there are different professions, the same is true in the animal world. There is a dog nutritionist, a physiotherapist, a dog trainer and a vet who treats the animals and then there is the behaviourist. A behaviourist is a person who acts as a bridge between the pet and the humans and reduces the gap that exists between the species. He helps you to understand your pet and the problem the human is facing. A number of times the humans and the dog faces problems because they can't understand each other. Very often the pet parents have a problem because they can't understand what the dog wants since they don't speak dog language and the canine can't express what he is feeling since it is a dog. A behaviourist bridges the gap by explaining the canine behaviour and how to work around the problems to the pet parents. Typical issues that are faced by humans when it comes to their dog includes urinating inappropriately, destruction, fear and depression to name a few. He is a kind of a dog psychologist," Merchant explains.

She tells you that even though humans have been keeping pets for centuries, yet the need for a pet behaviourist has gone up. There is a reason for the same. "For centuries, we have been keeping dogs; for centuries villagers have been keeping dogs in the country. If one were to see villager with a dog, the pet will come when called, takes the cattle to the pastures, comes when it is hungry, walks for kilometers with the owner and doesn't need a leash. Yet the animal is the happiest. If you talk to a villager and mention trainer and behaviourist, he would have a blank look and want to know what the work would entail and that it is the most ridiculous profession under the sun. Today,

in the urban set-up, there are far more trainers and behaviourists than ever before. Yet we have more dogs that are abandoned and put up for adoption due to the pet's behaviour than ever before. This means that as pet parents, we are doing something that is seriously wrong.

"One of the reasons partly is why we keep a dog, to begin with. In the past, when people kept a dog, they were ready for it. Today, people keep a dog on a whim. 'I have a big house, let me keep a dog.' 'My child is lonely, let me get a dog.' 'I want a bigger and fancier breed than my neighbour'. Research shows that we spend more time while looking for a car that we will buy and probably have only for three-four years than on an animal which will stay with them for more than 15 years. People don't give it much thought. They get the dog on a flimsy reason. Then they realise that the pet is far more of a responsibility. When they realise they can't cope and that is when the dog is put up for adoption. Also, there are so many people around them and they feel that they can be roped in to look after the dog," Merchant says.

Let's take the Husky. She tells you that there is a need to choose the right breed as well and this is not applicable to India. Everyone wants to keep a foreign dog. This is truer in the Indian scenario. Everyone wants an exotic looking dog. There is no denying that is a beautiful looking dog. "But it is not fit for the Indian weather. It is not just the coat. The Husky has a double coat to protect it from the freezing temperatures. I see the Husky from the point of view of what it was made to do. It was not bred to sit at home and taken for two walks on a leash. The Husky was made to pull the sleigh in the freezing temperature. If one can't give the environment in which it was supposed to be, there is a difference between a dog thriving and a dog surviving. When we choose a breed, we must choose what suits our environment and lifestyle. When people say that they want to keep a Dalmatian, I tell them no. The animal was made to run. The dog loves to run. It won't die, if it doesn't run, but then again the survive and thrive rule applies here as well," Merchant says.

She opines that one of the reasons why some dogs act up is because they don't get the environment that they are genetically bred for.



She tells you that people make the wrong choice when it comes to choosing the dog; they do so on the basis of how they look. "Some people say they want a small dog and keep a Beagle. But they forgot that the breed is a hound and needs twice the amount of mental exercise than most other dogs. We often refer to a dog having the best life ever since all he ever does is go for walks, eating, sleeping and having a little playtime. We have to understand that just because it is sleeping it is lucky. Dogs don't want this. These are working dogs and want to do something with their mind. When we don't give it this, it is just lying around. We don't give the dog a purpose to wake up everyday. Just like we plan our day," Merchant says.

If one has a dog, they already know what it loves. Take the dog for a drive, take it to meet the person they love. Day after, take it for an ice cream. Play a different game. This will make it want to wake up every day wanting to know what it will be doing that day. But don't do things that are not viable since they pet will be with you for years and years.

"Labradors love to swim. Take it to a place where they can do the same. Take the dog for a trek as a surprise. One can change the direction of the walk. Small things, just like we have in our lives that keeps us going. Not all pets requires the same kind of commitment. However, one has to be breed specific for certain dos and don'ts. If one has a sedentary lifestyle don't keep a dog that needs exercise. If you work from 8 am to 8 pm, don't get a dog at all. Dogs don't need a designer bed or a fancy home or money or aroma therapy baths. They need time from us, they want to play with us. The biggest do is give them time. Teach them manners, how to behave in the society and train it in a way that doesn't take away the trust it has put in you," Merchant says.

She doesn't agree that a dog should not be trained. Just like we teach a child to behave, they same way, we need to train the pet. "It is our responsibility to teach our pet manners. In order to train the pet, it has to be reward-based than aggressive tactics," Merchant says who doesn't mind when she is called the dog shrink.

She busts some myths. She tells you that it is not necessary for a dog to choose just one master and be loyal to him. "It is not true that a dog is loyal to just one person. If there are seven-eight, it depends who are invest-

ed in the dog's life. If all are invested, it will respond to all alike. But if there is only one person who feeds him, plays with him and trains him, it will be more invested in that person. The best part is that it doesn't affect the psyche of the dog. They are social animals and love to be with a larger group," Merchant says.

She tells you that aggression in dogs is due to certain situations since dogs are social animals. She tells you that Doberman is not necessarily an aggressive dog. It depends on his genetic make-up and how he has been trained. "I know and have come across many Dobermans who are the friendliest of the lot," Merchant says.

She points out that dogs don't always understand everything that the human says. "They have been conditioned in a manner where they can pick up body language. They don't pick up just words, but cues and gestures as well and therefore some times they will come and nuzzle the human if the human is sad. But not all dogs will do the same, it may care less," Merchant says.

She points out that since each dog has its personality traits, there are certain points that one can pick up to understand what the dog wants or is feeling. "There are certain signs that one can pick up when the dog is stressed. Sleeping a lot, sniffing the ground, licking its paws, refusing to eat, yawning a lot, panting, hyper-active behaviour. These are some of the signs that one change in a dog's life. Look for situations that cause stress and then eliminate them," Merchant says.

In over two decades that Merchant has been a behaviourist, there was a case that was tough to handle. But it was more because of the human rather than the dog.

"A young girl had called saying that the dog had bitten off her face, her lip and the part of the thumb. Over the phone, the situation didn't sound very encouraging. But the lady kept insisting so I agreed to meet her. As we went through the consult. I found that the only time that the dog would bite was when the young person would hug the pet and disturb it when it was sleeping. The next week, the dog bit the girl again. I told her that she needed to change her behaviour. 'But she looks so cute while asleep' she said. Thankfully, daughter had got her mother who put her foot down. Luckily the daughter changed her behaviour and all was well, Merchant says.

THERE ARE CERTAIN SIGNS THAT ONE CAN PICK UP WHEN THE DOG IS STRESSED. SLEEPING A LOT, SNIFFING THE GROUND, LICKING ITS PAWS, REFUSING TO EAT, YAWING A LOT, PANTING AND HYPER-ACTIVE BEHAVIOUR. LOOK FOR SITUATIONS THAT CAUSE STRESS AND ELIMINATE THEM



## WANT TO LEARN DOG LANGUAGE? HERE'S HOW



### Professional Canine, Trainer Course

Have you always loved dogs and dreamed of a career working with them? This extensive course can help you turn your passion for pets into a profession.

### Professional Canine Behaviour Course

Have you ever wanted to help dogs that are struggling with fear, separation anxiety, toileting issues or even wondered what a dog's bark means? This course will teach you how to understand

canine behaviour better and how to help pet parents struggling with behaviour issues.

### Therapy Dog Course

Dogs have a way of cheering up anyone who is sad. If you have always wanted to spread some tail

wagging sunshine in this world, then Therapy Dog work maybe the happiest and most fulfilling work you will ever find in this world!

### Kenneling and Pet-sitting Course

Starting a dog kennel requires more than a place and an

affinity for dogs. A good kennel owner must have intricate knowledge of canine behaviour too. If you want to be known as the kennel that has the happiest, stress free dogs then this course will help you achieve that.

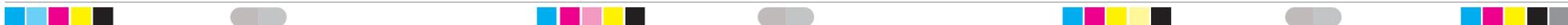
### Advanced Canine Aggression Course

Dog aggression is one of main problems faced by pet parents and dog behaviourists around the world. If you would like to understand and help biting dogs, then this course will show you

how to do it.

### Understand Your Dog's Behaviour, Online Course

Want to learn dog training and behaviour from us but cannot travel? Online courses help you gain the knowledge.



# the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE



**SHOW TIME**  
90ML is unapologetic  
but responsible

10

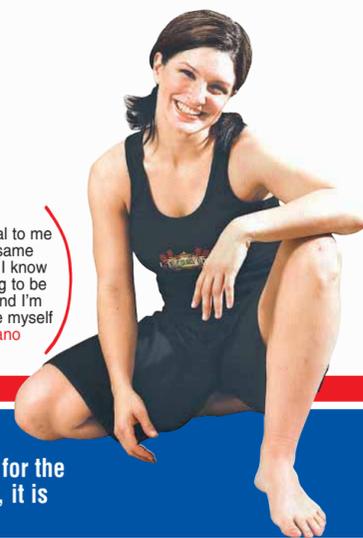


11

**Be the one in control**

Instead of seeking God's help for the fulfillment of your aspirations, it is better take charge of yourself

It's a very big deal to me to remain the same person because I know all of this is going to be gone one day and I'm just going to have myself  
— Gina Carano



## FOOD TRENDS 2020

# MINDFUL EATING, ghar ka khaana continue to rule

With the rapid proliferation of the F&B business across the country, millions of dollars riding on food enterprises, and several million people dependent on it for their livelihood, finding one's way through the maze of taste is serious business, writes RUSHINA MUNSHAW-GHILDIAL, as she maps the trends for an annual food trends report for 2020

The year 2019 was a year of unprecedented growth and digital disruption for the food industry. Digital technology drove how we ate all the time. It was the year in which more Indians ate more food "not" cooked in their homes than ever before! Whether you wanted Pizza, Biryani or Gobhi Manchurian, or a regional favourite such as Rajasthani Lal Maas, Naga Pork or the Gujarati Undhiyu, getting food from a home chef's kitchen was easier than it has ever been, thanks to digital technology!

Even the way we eat at home changed — the culture of passing down recipes from one generation to the next is being replaced by online recipe sharing, consumer facing apps, DIY videos, and more.

Therefore, in a country where Mumbai responds to regional pop-ups enthusiastically while Delhi is nonchalant about the idea, and Indore is expanding its culinary wings while Kolkata is looking back at its culinary traditions, it's quite a challenge for businesses to identify concepts that have potential to succeed across our inherent diversity.

In such a scenario, food businesses can benefit from a resource that monitors changes in business and consumer expectations, identifies underlying themes that drive these changes, and helps separate the fads from the trends.

Over the past three years, I have found that putting together the annual Godrej Food Trends report requires everything from data analytics to pure intuition on the part of our core team. As a forecaster of trends, it is important that the report is able to differentiate fads from trends. The key distinction between the two is that while trends have the potential to exert long-term influence on the market, a fad is usually isolated, coming and going quickly.

Trends, therefore, don't exist in isolation. They are a sum of many things, often including altered classics, and can have much longer life cycles, sometimes being around for years, or even decades.

One of my favourite examples is our return to our roots. Over the last two iterations of the report, we described a growing movement of self-discovery in the Indian food industry. This desire to learn more about our diverse culinary culture and traditions began in 2018 with an initial exploration into Indian regional cuisines. In 2019, we went beyond the broad strokes of regional cuisines and took a deep dive into the micro-cuisines of India. We saw an explosion of conversations, events, products and dining experiences inspired by micro-cuisines from specific sub-regions, communities, and even family kitchens of India.

This inspired exploration into home kitchens brought the true custodians of Indian cuisine into the limelight as the food industry connected with nanis, dadis, mothers or home chefs as SMEs (Subject Matter Experts), or sources of inspiration and knowledge of our rich culinary diversity. This in turn drove a re-discovery of traditional ingredients, as ordinary vegetables became the new exotic and gharelu greens such as kele ke phool, bathua, tendli, lauki and tinda featured prominently on restaurant menus. Let me tell you, this trend has not shown no signs of ebbing. It continues to play in 2020.

That said, I must admit we don't always get it all right. While we are on target in a majority of cases, sometimes trends don't play out as anticipated. For instance, in 2019, we heard a lot of talk about millets driving a discovery of other indigenous grains, celebrated as a climate-smart choice for farmers and consumers, but

THIS DESIRE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR DIVERSE CULINARY CULTURE AND TRADITIONS BEGAN IN 2018 WITH AN INITIAL EXPLORATION INTO INDIAN REGIONAL CUISINES. IN 2019, WE WENT BEYOND THE BROAD STROKES OF REGIONAL CUISINES AND TOOK A DEEP DIVE INTO THE MICRO-CUISINES OF INDIA. THE TREND CONTINUES TO PLAY IN 2020



to see a proliferation of desi flavours in everything from small plates to cocktails, and even desserts in 2020!

This trend did not map out as expected. The consumption of indigenous grains hasn't grown as significantly as the noise would suggest. What happened to all that hype? Do chefs and media influencers not put their money where their mouth is?

To answer all those questions, as we usher in the report's third year, the 2020 edition points at some interesting big trends (organised alphabetically) for the coming year:

**Continued commitment to provenance and mindful eating.** Powered by the growing demand for sustainable practices, consumers will continue to make active choices that help minimise their carbon footprint by supporting local/artisanal producers and eating seasonally.

**Deeper exploration of South-East Asian flavours.** In 2020, the restaurant industry will offer diners a greater variety of South-East Asian flavours through deeper explorations of the popular cuisines, along with specialist menus from previously unexplored regional and ethnic cuisines from the region.

**Emergence of the neighbourhood 'foodpreneur'.** The growing demand for fresh, healthy, hygienic and familiar ghar ka khaana, combined with the convenience of digital communications and payment platforms, will encourage many more traditional, regional and community cooks to start mini-enterprises from their home kitchens, offering limited daily specials to small communities of their fans.

**Keeping it real.** Fueled by an ever-growing consumer demand for authenticity, 2020 will see a growth of dining experiences designed around real issues, real people, real ingredients, and real stories!

**Longing for ghar-ka-khana.** The decline in daily cooking at home, because of changing social dynamics and attitudes towards cooking, will see nostalgic diners ordering food that reminds them of their own ghar-ka-khana, more often than ever before!

**No-compromise convenience cooking.** A discerning consumer of 2020, experimenting with the latest health fads and lifestyle diets, can look forward to many more options for quickly and conveniently assembling personalised meals at home, with little or no compromises to their choices.

**Proliferation of desi flavours.** As an outcome of the persistent demand for all things indigenous, consumers should expect

**Return to traditional fats.** The growing appreciation of the significance of our choice of cooking medium will inspire more consumers in 2020 to go with desi ghee and cold-pressed local seed oils over other options.

**Rise of the culinary explorer.** An evolving sense of social, financial and cultural independence among young people will drive a greater demand for aspirational, novel, and even exotic travel and dining experiences. These experiences will be inspired by exciting new cuisines from within and outside the country.

**Revival of culinary traditions.** Riding the ongoing wave of deeper exploration and discovery of our culinary heritage, food businesses and restaurants will find exciting new ways of packaging traditional food wisdom, knowledge, cookware, cooking techniques and food preparation methods to make it suitable for the demands of the modern dining experience.

"When it comes to food, Indians have always preferred ghar-ka-khana," says Sujit Patil, Vice President and Head, Corporate Brand and Communications, Godrej Industries Limited and associate companies, reviewing the key findings.

"The growth of technology is also shaping what we eat. It is not only giving a big boost to the food processing industry, but also enabling home chefs to become 'foodpreneurs'."

For Patil, as he says it, what is "heart-warming" about the findings is that they point to "the emergence of the neighbourhood foodpreneur" in 2020, parallel to the revival of culinary traditions and a proliferation of

desi flavours in everything, from small plates to cocktails, and even desserts. The emerging future happily rides on the past.

In fact, as you delve deeper, you will find that 2020 will continue to be the year of discovery and it will see us immersing deeper into our culinary diversity than ever before! The food industry will continue to draw inspiration from the home kitchen. Indian ingredients and flavours will dominate conversations, menus, beverages and even our desserts.

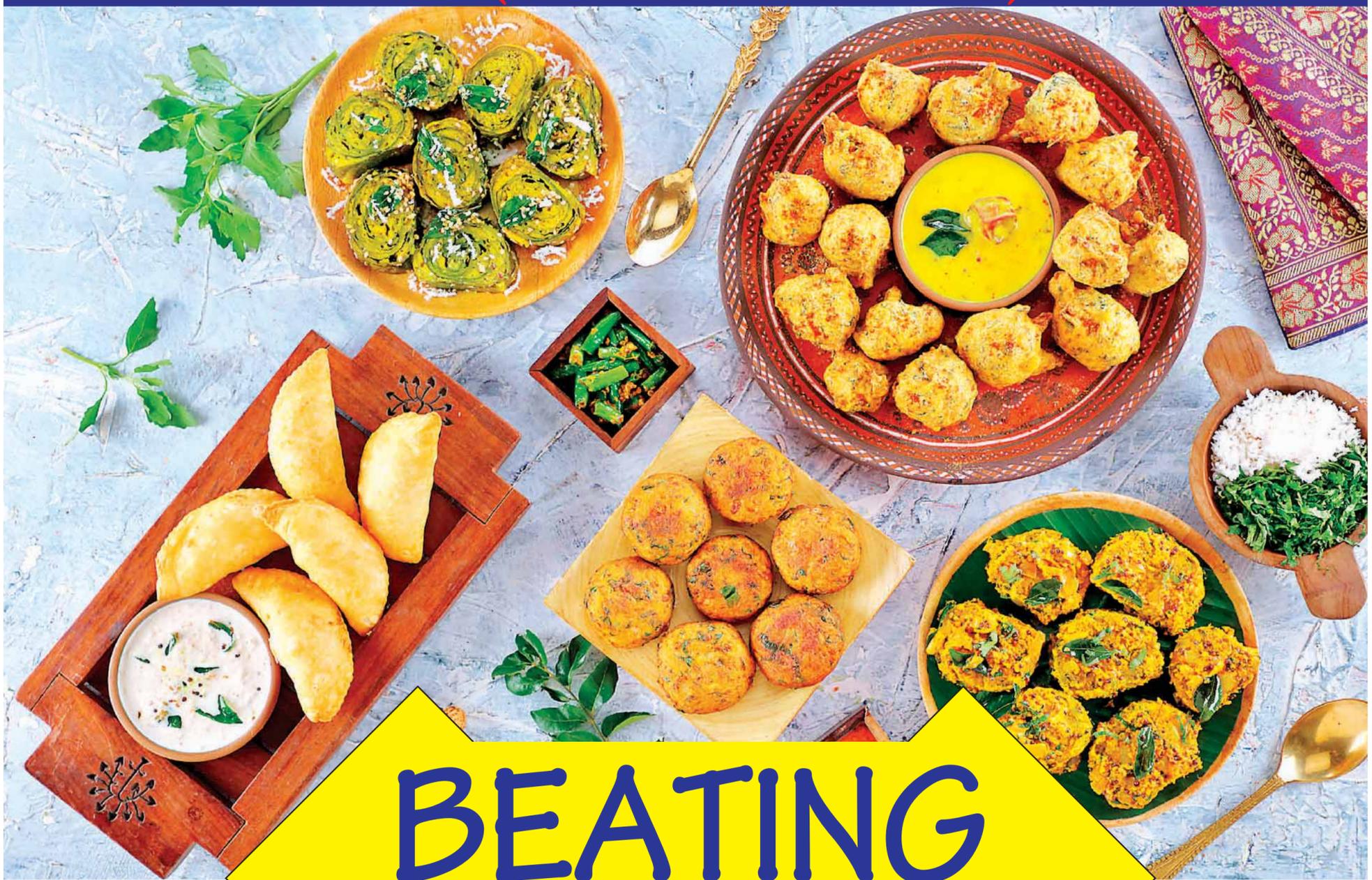
The year ahead will continue to reveal newer facets of the power of digital disruption. Every aspect of the industry will galvanise to deliver what consumers want and work to meet their needs. In an era of consumer hyper choice, the food producer will have to do more to stand out and seamlessly deliver exceptional service while at the same time ensuring food variety, quality and integrity, transparency and sustainability.

— The author is a food writer and Managing Director, A Perfect Bite Consulting LLP. She has authored the Godrej Food Trends Report since its inception in 2018





SARSON DA SAAG IS IDEALLY TO BE EATEN WITH MAKAI KI ROTI, JAGGERY AND WHITE BUTTER. IT CAN BE COOLED AND STORED IN THE REFRIGERATOR FOR 2 TO 3 DAYS. IT CAN ALSO BE AN EXCELLENT TOPPING ON A CRISPY TOASTED SLICE OF GARLIC BAGUETTE WITH SOME JAGGERY AND WHITE BUTTER TOPPING



# BEATING WINTER BLUES

## ADADIYA PAK

### INGREDIENTS:

- \* Urad dal Atta (Coarse) — 150 gms
- \* Channa Dal Atta — 150 gms
- \* Mix Dry Fruits — 100 gms
- \* Gondh — 100 gms
- \* Khus Khus — 25 gms
- \* Milk — 3 tbsp
- \* Sugar — 250 gms
- \* Ghee — 250 gms
- \* Saunth powder — 50 gms

### METHOD:

- \* Take 2 cups split black gram flour (urad dal flour should be coarse like suji, make sure it's not in powder foam).
- \* In a large bowl, add milk and ¼ cup clarified butter to the flour and mix thoroughly.
- \* After half hour, sieve this flour by pressing mildly. Set aside.
- \* In a heavy bottomed pan, heat the clarified butter and fry edible gum on high flame. Set aside.
- \* Chopped edible gum uneven and make coarsely powder using a mortar.
- \* Add flour and poppy seeds to clarified butter and roast it on a low flame stirring continuously till light brown or until 25 to 35 minutes.
- \* Once it is browned, add finely chopped edible gum.
- \* Mix well and turn off the flame. Let it cool for 10 to 15 minutes.
- \* Add in saunth powder and sugar.
- \* Spread it on a square or round plate, garnish with almonds. Cool 3 to 4 hours and cut it in desired shapes or can even be made into laddoos.



Winter is here and there's nothing better than traditional dishes to gorge on. Below are a few dishes by Khandani Rajdhani that will make your tummy go warm with delight. Below mentioned recipes include Adadiya Pak, Sarson da Saag, Surti Undhiyu.

## SURTI UNDHIYU

### INGREDIENTS GRINDING MASALA

- \* Garlic — ½ cup
- \* Coconut (without the dark skin) — ½ cup
- \* Raw peanuts — 1 tbsp
- \* Corriander Fresh — 6 tbsp
- \* **MIXING MASALA:**
- \* Green chilli paste — 1 tbsp
- \* Ginger paste — 1 tbsp
- \* Garlic paste — 1 tsp
- \* Haldi powder — 1 tsp
- \* Dhania powder — 1 tsp
- \* Jeera powder — 1 tsp
- \* Garam masala powder — 1 tsp
- \* Ajwain — 1 tsp
- \* Salt to taste
- \* Dry coconut
- \* White til — 1 tbsp
- \* Sugar — 1 tbsp
- \* Hing — 1 tsp
- \* Green garlic chives — 100 gms
- \* **VEGETABLES:**
- \* Shakarkand — 100 gms
- \* Peeled potato — 200 gms
- \* Purple yam (Ratalu) — 150 gms
- \* Eggplant — 4
- \* Raw banana — 1 pcs (Cut into 6 pcs)
- \* Surti papdi — 500 gms
- \* Green peas — 100 gms
- \* **TADKA:**
- \* Oil — 4 tbsp
- \* Garlic paste — 1 Tsp
- \* Hing — 1 Tsp
- \* Ajwain — 1 Tsp
- \* Green Chilli paste — 1 tsp
- \* **METHIMUTHIYA:**
- \* Fresh methi — 2 cups
- \* Green chilli paste — 2 tsp
- \* Ginger paste — 1 and 1/2 tsp
- \* Garlic paste — 1 tsp
- \* Salt — 1 tsp
- \* White til — 1 tbsp
- \* Hing — ½ Tsp
- \* Haldi powder — 1 tsp
- \* Sugar — 1.5 tsp
- \* Curd — 1 tbsp
- \* Besan — 1 Cup
- \* Atta Kar Kara — ½ cup
- \* Maida — ½ Cup



### METHOD :

- \* Take all the grinding masala and grind to a coarse consistency.
- \* Mix all the mixing masala to the coarsely ground masala with one part of the green garlic chives and chopped coriander.
- \* Cut potato, yam, sweet potato, raw banana (with skin) into 1 inch size pieces.
- \* Slit the banana and egg plant and stuff with the masala.
- \* Take oil in the cooker and add all the tadka ingredients and sauté. Add beans, stuffed vegetables and Methi Muthiya and pour some water over all vegetables.
- \* Cook for four whistles.
- \* Remove onto the serving plate and garnish with left over green garlic chives and chopped coriander.

### INGREDIENTS:

- \* Sarson ka Saag — 4 bunches
- \* Spinach — 2 bunches
- \* Bathua — 1 bunch
- \* Green Chillies — 2-3 no's
- \* Makaika atta — 1 cup

### TADKA INGREDIENTS:

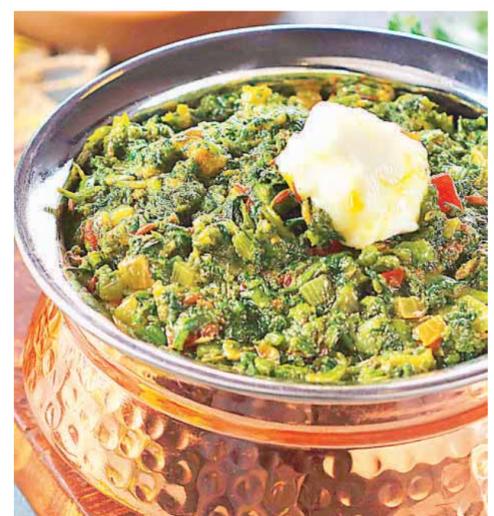
- \* Ghee — 3 tbsp
- \* Ginger finely chopped — 2 tbsp
- \* Green chilli — 3 tbsp
- \* Onion finely chopped — 2-3 no's

### Serving:

- White butter — 1 tbsp

### METHOD:

- \* Chop all green leafy vegetables finely and rinse thoroughly in running water.
- \* Chop the onion, ginger and green chillies finely.
- \* Take a cooking pot with lid and add about 500 ml of water and bring it to boil.
- \* Add all of the chopped greens and 1 part of the green chillies to the boiling water, cover the lid and cook the greens for about 15 to 20 min on slow flame.
- \* Remove the cooking pot off the flame and add the Makai atta in batches and keep mashing the cooked greens till all the Makai atta is dissolved in the greens.
- \* Take ghee in another pot and add ginger, green chillies and onion and sauté till the onions are translucent and soft.
- \* Add entire green mixture to this tadka and cook for another 15 to 20 min.
- \* Add salt and season the whole mixture.
- \* Serve hot with big dollop of white butter on top.





INSIDE EDGE 2 IS MORE CONNING IN NATURE AND THAT RAISES THE FUN QUOTIENT. IT'S AN ENJOYABLE COMMENTARY WITHOUT BEING HEAVY ON SENSES. IT SHOULD BE ON YOUR BINGE WATCH LIST.

KEDAR  
HYDERABAD

In *90ML*, a movie about alcoholism, Rao Ramesh, while watching a movie that features a drunk Chiranjeevi on TV, answers a fundamental question that everybody at one point of time would have asked: If a person is an alcoholic does that automatically make him or her a bad person?

This is the question that Devadas (Kartikeya) is forced to confront throughout the film. Devadas suffers from a congenital 'fatal alcoholic syndrome' that requires him to drink 90ML of alcohol three times a day, without which he will perspire substantially, grow weak and die within minutes. The movie doesn't try to explain the science behind this disorder as it is more about how the society treats an alcoholic.

The debate on alcohol holds the film together, to the extent that it almost feels like an extension of the cautionary message about tobacco and alcohol shown in the beginning of each movie. Though the posters of the movie — showing Kartikeya pouring alcohol into a plant — drew flak for glamorising alcoholism, the movie by and large explores the demerits within the limitations of commercial potboiler.

The fast-paced screenplay, relentlessly, pits Devadas against his dependence on alcohol for his survival and the consequences from that need. Even though he is an MBA gold medallist, with a heart of gold that saves people from time to time, he struggles finding a job, wooing a girl or even registering himself as a good citizen in the eyes of the law.

The character of Devadas is fleshed out enough to show us his struggle and acceptance

# 90ML is unapologetic BUT RESPONSIBLE

with his condition. His character is better understood in light of his antagonist, John Wik (Ravi Kishan). In order to elevate the hero beyond the role of a regular alcoholic, John is also shown as an alcoholic but with a different reaction to the addiction.

John is rich and spoilt and indulges in alcoholism without regret. Ravi Kishan, through his over-the-top acting and inappropriate gender fluid attire, brings out the madness of a true anti-social lonely alcoholic. Whereas Devadas, on the other hand, is poor but self aware. He knows that his life-threatening disorder is not an excuse for him to behave irresponsibly. Even when he hides his 'addiction' from the leading lady, Suvasana (Neha Solanki), he is unapologetic because he knows, more than others, that he wishes he didn't have this condition.

Both alcoholics clash over Suvasana which forms the climax of the movie. Staying true to their characters, while John wants to cheat through his alcoholism to get the girl, Devadas is ready to

forgo of his 'addiction' for the girl even if it means to kill himself. The film lies bare various faces of an alcoholic through these two primary characters.

Suvasana, along with her family, plays an important foil to the hero in showing how even our closest people fail to understand the horrors of alcoholism. The family also provides light slapstick entertainment that is peppered throughout the movie. Their clash with John Wik's goons (Raghu Karumanchi and Prabhakar) bring peals of laughter. Brief cameos of Posani Krishna Murali, as the Father at a church and Ali, as the head of a rehabilitation centre, also keep the film on a light-hearted note. Even

Kartikeya's comic timing and playful nature elevates his onscreen persona.

A dark topic such as this is portrayed on screen without preaching and amid the tropes that are common to big budget Telugu movies. Director Sekhar Reddy Yerra, doesn't fail to make Kartikeya larger-than-life through dust-raising, concrete-cracking fight sequences among some slow motion walk cycles.

The BGM given by Anup Rubens highlights the masala elements further, but the numerable songs drag the pace of the movie. Same is the case with the dubbing that is out-of-sync in

many places. Even the first song of the film that plays *90ML* on a loop might get stuck inside the head of a real alcoholic who loves his forbidden path. The primary strength of the movie lies in the editing and screenplay that doesn't divert the audience's attention from the exploration of alcoholism while at the same time keeping the energy constant in the film. Even with all its good intentions, the film ends without giving a solution and worse gives a wrong impression. The larger issue that it addresses stays unresolved. Suvasana brings Devadas back from the dead and embraces him and his addiction wholeheartedly. She also takes up drinking along with him and the credits roll.

**CAST:**  
Kartikeya,  
Neha Solanki,  
Ravi Kishan,  
Rao Ramesh,  
Raghu Karumanchi and  
Prabhakar  
**DIRECTOR:**  
Sekhar Reddy Yerra

## VERDICT:

The writers of *90ML* walked a thin line. They tried their best not to glorify alcoholism while at the same time keep the audience entertained with the story of an alcoholic and his struggles. It is worth at least a watch for its attempt to portrayal of addiction in a mainstream Telugu film.

**Rating: 2.5**



## Panipat has its moments

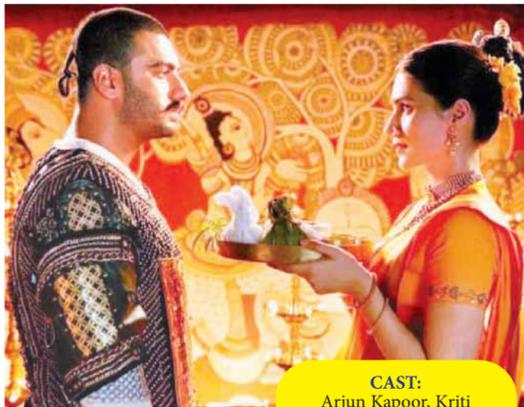
History tells you Ahmad Shah Abdali was a ruthless conqueror and shrewd battle strategist. He led a marauding Afghan army into India thrice, plundering all that crossed his path and leaving a trail of red in the waters of the Yamuna on each occasion. History tells you Abdali was 39 or 40 when he fought the third Battle of Panipat.

In Ashutosh Gowariker's *Panipat*, a 60-year-old Sanjay Dutt plays out Abdali as a man without menace, an invader who almost seems apologetic all through for arriving in India and unsettling its peace. The Afghans he leads in the film are a bunch of cowards who scamper from the battlefield when cornered.

Bollywood history, of course, is normally written by its screenwriters to serve a very different purpose than enlightening viewers with authentic facts. It's often about accommodating facts in a way that they narrate what we wish might have happened.

Gowariker's *Panipat* dutifully follows that dictat, painting protagonists in black and white. At a rumoured budget of around Rs 70 crore, and returning after the triple blunders of *What's Your Rashee?*, *Khelein Hum Jee Jaan Se* and *Mohenjo Daro* over the past 10 years, the filmmaker perhaps had to play it safe with his latest.

*Panipat* in this context was always bound to draw a comparison. Gowariker has delved into history before. So, does the film scale *Jodhaa Akbar* class, or is it more of *Mohenjo Daro*? Well, *Panipat* falls short of the *Jodhaa Akbar* magic. For one,



**CAST:**  
Arjun Kapoor, Kriti Sanon, Sanjay Dutt, Zeenat Aman;

**DIRECTION:**  
Ashutosh Gowariker;

**RATING**  
\*\*\*

Gowariker's latest misses the magic of AR Rahman's music. Also, that film had the advantages of the Hrithik-Aishwarya chemistry and a solid script. *Panipat* lacks edge in these areas. However, Gowariker's latest is not an abysmal apology as *Mohenjo Daro* either. Qualitatively, *Panipat* stands somewhere between *Jodhaa Akbar* and *Mohenjo Daro*.

To reiterate the gist, Gowariker's new film is set in the 18th century. The Marathas reign over most parts of the subcontinent. The Mughal sultanate invites the Afghan invader Ahmad Shah Abdali to Delhi, in order to demolish the Maratha might. As news arrives that Abdali is on his way to India for a third time, the Maratha Peshwa (Mohnish Behl) orders Sadashiv Rao Bhau (Arjun Kapoor, effective in most parts) to march northwards and thwart Abdali's arrival at any cost. This sets the stage for the Third Battle of Panipat on

January 14, 1761.

A historical drama for the screen rests on three primary factors. First it needs engaging storytelling. Second, the film needs to effectively build the aura of the era it portrays - through look, costumes, music and other props. Finally, the genre banks on strong characters, which need to be essayed with assuredness by the cast.

As far as storytelling goes, Gowariker has collaborated with three writers (Chandrashekhara Dhalavikar, Ranjeet Bahadur and Aditya Rawal) to set up the saga. There are the essential bursts of drama, minimal romance, some dialogues (Ashok Chakradhar

worth the rage, and sleekly filmed battle action. The film, however, could have done with tighter storytelling, especially in the early parts. The screenplay is just about adequate as it sets up a slow-moving first half, which heads into the spectacular but predictable war climax.

For the lay audience who won't nitpick about historical accuracy, the film is a visually stunning reconstruct of the past, brought alive by imaginative cinematography (CK Muraliedharan). The war sequences (Abbas Ali Moghul) aren't extraordinary but these maintain ample drama, mixing facts and fiction.

Gowariker has always excelled in creating those little moments while setting up human relationship drama, amid the ambitious vision his films ride. *Lagaan*, *Swades*, *Jodhaa Akbar*, even a *Khelein Hum Jee Jaan Se*, would bear testimony. Such moments also often prop up the efforts of his cast.

While on the cast, in *Panipat* where the narrative essentially moves towards setting up the stage for the big boys to flaunt their swashbuckling wartime machismo, it is interesting to see how Kriti Sanon manages to shine above the male cast. She is Sadashiv's wife Parvati Bai, and she scores despite limited footage, with the few scenes worth note that the screenplay accords to her.

Overall, Ashutosh Gowariker's latest has its moments. It is spectacular historical fiction riding some good performances, and likeable for the way it salutes valour. The impact could have been stronger with more imaginative storytelling.

— IANS

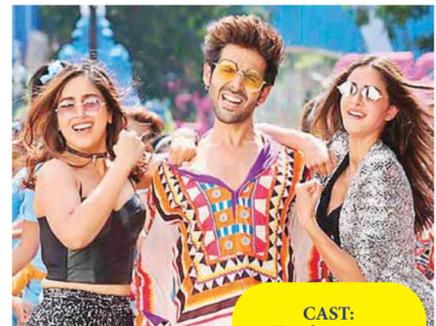
## Pati Patni Aur Woh works well as a one-time watch

The interesting thing about the reimagined *Pati Patni Aur Woh* is its setting. Version 2019 is based in smalltown Kanpur, and it narrates the story of a middle-class couple in that city. In BR Chopra's 1978 original, the protagonists belonged to the middle-class too, but they lived in Bombay.

It seems pertinent how, 41 years on, this remake picks the plot's extramarital core from the megapolis and puts it right in the centre of smalltown India, which is learning to openly discuss sex, fidelity, virginity and marriage (the idea is wittily underlined in the opening scenes, where the hero asks his prospective bride her hobbies and she replies: *Humein sex karna pasand hai*).

At a time when remakes, reboots and recreations have become the norm, writer-director Mudassar Aziz's reorganising of a BR Chopra comedy classic to woo new-age viewers would seem like an ambitious idea. His credibility lies in the fact that his version holds its own.

For those who may not be familiar with Chopra's 1978 film, it is a comedy of errors centred on the extramarital fling of a middle-aged man (played impeccably by Sanjeev Kumar). Aziz retains that basic idea in his 2019 redux, but changes every-



**CAST:**  
Kartik Aaryan,  
Bhumi Pednekar,  
Ananya Panday,  
Aparshakti Khurana;

**DIRECTION:**  
Mudassar Aziz

thing else in the new film, including key plot points, character details, plot progression and a lot of what happens towards the end. Like its original, and despite acquiring a new-age irreverent edge, *Pati Patni Aur Woh* manages to stay funny without losing out on decency, despite moving dangerously close to the domain of political incorrectness.

Kartik Aaryan makes an amusing Chintu Tyagi, hero of the piece. He has been papa's boy for most parts and, after topping his engineering exam, has landed a cushy government job, just as dad wanted. Time now to wed, declare his parents, and soon, he finds a perfect arranged match in physics teacher Vedika (Bhumi Pednekar).

The marriage is blissful till Tapasya Singh (Ananya Panday) from Delhi arrives in Chintu's life. He

won't cheat on his wife, but Chintu finds the idea of spending a lot of 'fun time' with the gorgeous Tapasya too tempting to resist.

He starts lying to Vedika, in order to spend more and more time with Tapasya, and the situation only gets more complicated for Chintu.

Although funny for most parts, Aziz cannot resist the odd moment of melodrama. Such sequences slow down the story and also break the rhythm of humour. Overall, however, this is enjoyable fare. Maintaining a simple, straight narrative that does not delve deep into relationship complexities, Aziz's screenplay lets the

cast have a field day. Kartik Aaryan is fast emerging as one of the most bankable comic heroes of GenNow Bollywood. As Chintu Tyagi, he once again plays out the believable and hurried Indian male with aplomb. His transition from the bumbler with a goofy laugh to a man stylish enough to be spotted at Tapasya's side is gradual and effortless.

Bhumi Pednekar as the *patni* Vedika gets an interesting twist towards the end, which changes much of the climax, giving the reworked story a contemporary edge. Comparatively, Ananya Panday as Tapasya, *woh* of the tale, banks wholly on screen presence to rise above her archetypal character. For a two-film old, Ananya does admirably.

The showstealer here, however, is Aparshakti Khurana. Essaying Chintu's buddy and colleague Fahim, Aparshakti was reimagining Asrani's inimitable Abdul Karim Durrani from the 1978 original. In every sense, writer-director Aziz hit the casting bullseye with Aparshakti. The actor gets the funniest lines and scenes - and pulls them off with gusto.

*Pati Patni Aur Woh* works well as a one-time watch. The reboot has its funny moments, and it works mainly for its cast. — IANS



TO GO FROM MORTAL TO BUDDHA, YOU HAVE TO PUT AN END TO KARMA, NURTURE YOUR AWARENESS, AND ACCEPT WHAT LIFE BRINGS  
— BODHIDHARMA



## YOUR WEEK AHEAD

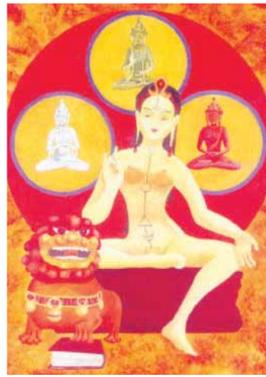
MADHU KOTIYA



### ARIES March 21-April 19

The week looks good for you. Your health is likely to take a turn for the better. You will be in a cheerful and positive mood. Mostly, you are very conscious of health and devote a good time in looking after your well-being. There are things that you can actively do to groom yourself — taking a massage, going for spa and joining a gym is on the card. Career-wise, you are sparking with new ideas. Promotion or starting a new project/job is likely to happen. Your productive level will be very high and being efficient will pay off. Your submissive attitude will play a great role in enhancing your career this week. Your relationship with your family is going strong. You may need to do what it takes to find balance in your personal and professional life.

**Lucky number 13**  
**Lucky colour Maroon**  
**Lucky day Wednesday**



### LEO July 23-Aug 22

Living in the moment and to listen to your body is the first condition to being in a state of good health. Temptations, confusions and disorganisation will disorder. You are overwhelmed and this energy carries the warning that you need to focus. On the career front, you have all the means and ability to achieve your goals. So aim high and you will go far. A new connection at the workplace could prove in your favour this week. Those looking for employment, you are going to find it very soon. You may expect a job call from a distant city, travel is likely. You need to be a little careful in money matters this week. Relationship wise, an existing relationship is going to take a turn for the better. Singles, a new relationship is likely to appear soon.

**Lucky number 12**  
**Lucky colour Brown**  
**Lucky day Thursday**



### SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week you will be all charged up and ready for action. Good news is in the offing. When you have a positive self-image, you value and respect your body. You will feel good about living a healthy and balanced lifestyle. Pamper yourself with spa and grooming. On the professional front, now is the time to go independent. Do your homework well. You have the resources and you can make your business work. Make sure to put in the time and effort it requires. Your determination, perseverance are your greatest assets which will take you ahead in your career. On the personal front, it is never too late to change any pattern of behaviour, and with enough effort, you can change the way you think, feel, and act.

**Lucky number 11**  
**Lucky colour Golden**  
**Lucky day Monday**



### TAURUS April 20-May 20

You need some quick changes in your routine as the situation has changed and you have to fulfill the needs of the present state that you are in. Expectant mothers may need to undergo a medical examination to clear some doubts for a stress-free time ahead. Be honest with yourselves and review what best action should be taken. On the career front, those seeking a job, know that you have the skill set to find it. If you're already employed, and there is room for upward mobility. Do not hesitate to negotiate for what you are worth. If there is no room for a raise then you should give serious thought to finding something with high scope. On the personal front, things will speed up in the relationship. There may be good news of childbirth, conception, marriage or engagement.

**Lucky number 7**  
**Lucky colour White**  
**Lucky day Monday**



### VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You would be in the pink of your health this week. This will be a time of peace, joy, and prosperity for you and to deepen your spiritual growth. Celebrate these good feelings and share them with your friends and loved ones in whatever way you can. On the career front, if you are seeking employment, you will be hired into a new position that tests your skills and is demanding. Those who are already employed may be saddled with far more responsibility. Don't hesitate to request assistance from supervisors with prioritising. You have the knowledge, strength, and inspiration needed to meet your challenges. On a personal level, you are enthusiastic and very romantic in your relations. If you are single, it's very likely that a new romance is on the horizon.

**Lucky number 10**  
**Lucky colour Yellow**  
**Lucky day Sunday**



### CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week things are likely to go well. You will feel loved, cared for, and content. This is a good time to enjoy good health. Air, water, fire, earth, and ether (space) the balance of these five elements in life will make life worth living. You are likely to be a motivator and inspiring for many. You need a well-deserved rest and relaxation, after a hectic work schedule that has had you busy. On the career front, a sudden hike in salary or reputation is foreseen. There may be switch over of job, promotion in the existing job, transfer or some different portfolio is assigned which could turn out to be in your favour. On the personal front, you may plan a vacation with your partner to an exotic place. The time flies with happy note leaving you rejuvenated and rejoiced.

**Lucky number 20**  
**Lucky colour Grey**  
**Lucky day Friday**



### GEMINI May 21-June 20

Stress may cause health problems. Pay attention to diet, exercise and sleep. Stay positive. You will find depth and wisdom in solitude. You may look at a new belief system in search of the meaning of life. On the career front, you will share cordial relations with colleagues, friends and even seniors this week. For those in business, this is a good time to bring in desirable changes. Be a good listener, trust your instincts and connect with your innermost desires. This is also a good time to start a new venture/project. On the personal front, you will make new friends and a friendship may turn into a loving relationship. You will reach a good understanding with others. Make a deeper commitment in love to strengthen the bond.

**Lucky number 2**  
**Lucky colour Green**  
**Lucky day Friday**



### LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Hectic work schedule and day to day challenges could take a toll on your health. Take time out for yourself. You need to bring balance in your professional and personal life. Time management and discipline is the first bet to beat the fast pace of life. Professionally, anxiety, fear and tension could bring your efficiency down. There is a fear of lay off, office politics and survival in the rat race. Keep all your financial documents up to date. You may be questioned or interrogated in this week. A key decision will work as a foundation on which the rest of your life may be set. Relationship wise, you are working with your heart and not the mind. Those who are committed, there are chances that things are not moving smoothly. You will realise that it is better to move away from an unhealthy relationship.

**Lucky number 16**  
**Lucky colour Orange**  
**Lucky day Tuesday**



### AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Those who are having physical problems, remember that things do not always have to be the way they are right now. Pay attention to diet, exercise, and make time for rest. A trusted health counsellor can get you moving along the right course. Career-wise, this is the time when many projects are realised, especially those that are profitable to you. Business dealings will be fruitful. If you are in self-made business or job, people will evaluate your work and accept your views and products. Those who are in export and import business are likely to engage in good networking this week. On the personal front, this is the time for completion. You have worked hard, and you deserve all the accolades that are coming your way.

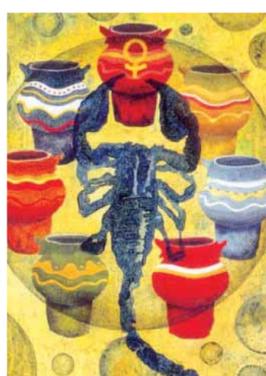
**Lucky number 3**  
**Lucky colour Sky Blue**  
**Lucky day Thursday**



### CANCER June 21-July 22

You will put an end to certain bad habits that you may be harbouring. Expect some distress as you make this transition. Physical exercise is important, but do not overdo it. You will find some spiritual truths that hold promise and are beneficial for you. Professionally, you may be moving to a new position or a new set of responsibilities. You will be optimistic, upbeat, and hopeful about your future. You are likely to be able to pay off debts and perhaps, share your wealth with those less fortunate. On the personal front, it would be good to strike a balance with yourself. You are passionate and energetic and have a charming persona. Love is in the air. A fiery affair or new relationship is on the cards.

**Lucky number 8**  
**Lucky colour Red**  
**Lucky day Saturday**



### SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Your health will be good this week and mood elated. Your determination and will power will give you strength and put you in the right direction where you can live a disciplined life. Avoid alcohol, junk and spicy food. Routine exercises, morning walk and planned diet will work wonders for you. Career-wise, this is a rewarding week. It is the right time to get close to an influential person. You could establish your strength in your career. If you are in partnership business, there are fair chances that you will all work for selfless motives. People will listen to you and respect your views. On the personal front, some arguments, conflicts may cause bitterness in your existing relationship. Your aggression, anger will take a toll. You need to relax and think with a cool mind.

**Lucky number 5**  
**Lucky colour Indigo**  
**Lucky day Saturday**



### PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This is a good week for your emotional and physical well-being. Your positive approach to things will be of great help. Those waiting for test results, know that the news will be good. You are getting ready to enter new realms in your spiritual exploration. This is a good week career-wise and with your charm and intelligence you will realise all your ambitions. You need a break and some perspective. Perhaps the time has come to start looking for another position. Your psychological insight is excellent and you can better understand what motivate others and what their needs are. However, this is not a good time for investments. You will find stability in existing relations. Those close to you are full of concern and love; it would be wise to enjoy the moment.

**Lucky number 9**  
**Lucky colour Magenta**  
**Lucky day Sunday**

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# God helps those who help themselves

I am God loving. I pray every morning before I set out for work, and again before I retire for the day. Yet, my life has gone through unwanted twists and turns every now and then. Why have my prayers gone unheard so far? What am I lacking? Tell me, what corrections do I need to make. When does my life stabilise? With these questions in mind, someone recently sought my guidance.

Well, God or no God, how does it matter? If at all there is a God, He would be involuntarily doing His rounds. He doesn't need our seeking or prompting for coming into play. He, in His own glory would be available in equal proportion to all and sundry. It, therefore, becomes difficult to digest that he would selectively listen to your prayers and grant wishes to your asking. Even if there is no God, how does it matter. For, life will still continue to move on. So, instead of looking for seeking God's help, somewhere out at a distance, for fulfillment of desires, better take charge of yourself, and consciously try to get better empowered.

Having said that, let me make it clear that the relevance of the concept of

God still holds good. Even if He doesn't grant your wishes, pursuing the belief does certainly help firm up your own faith element. That helps you carry on the task in hand in all strength. Also, it keeps you centred.

But all said and done, at the end of the day, you need to take charge of yourself, and consciously works towards the desired destination. Know it in clear terms that life as such doesn't have an easy go. In a world, where everyone is born unique, each manifesting varying mind-traits and desire-trends, it becomes a natural breeding ground for conflict of perceptions and interests. Evidently, therefore, you are bound to contend with competing interests and contrarian forces. Braving all such challenges ahead intelligently, you need to put in wholesome quality efforts to score success. That, however, would not come about, unless you consciously identify and acknowledge your inherent fault lines, address them, and also optimise your potential. But, for which, you will fail to put in your best foot forward. Also, you need to keep an eye on prevailing environmental conditions to intelligently sail through all odds com-



ing in the way.

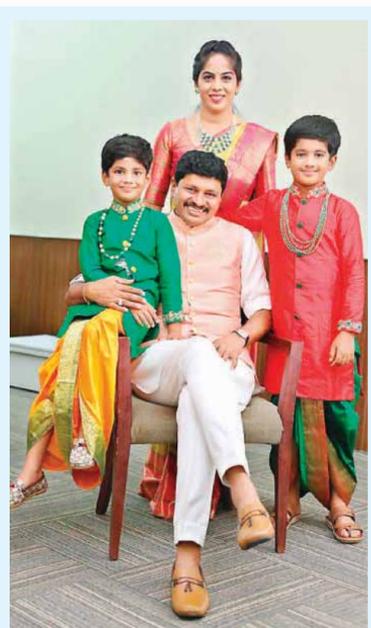
That makes it incumbent upon you to live consciously. You have so far gone ahead with the usual flow of life, carrying the hope that being a believer, God will help you sail through. So, you have gone through intermittent bouts of success and failures. It's time now to make you aware of your potential and weaknesses. Jupiter firmly placed in the *lagna* makes you a well-meaning and creative person. The *lagna* lord Mars in the 3rd house grants you with the courage necessary to spiritedly carry on the task in hand. Moon, well aligned to Uranus points to your innovative, inventive, and insightful mind, worth coming out with out of box independent ideas. Moon again, placed favourably to Mercury grants you with excellent communicative skills.

Your habits and attitudes, however, often play spoil sport with your strength side. Your *lagna* sign Aries makes you aggressive, impulsive, impatient, intolerant, and domineering, who may not like to play a second fiddle to any. You carry the tendency to jump into action without applying proper forethoughts, and with obvious consequences. It's only when you land into problem that you are forced to apply your mind when you may emerge

as the best crisis manager also. Moon occupying Sagittarius sign makes you undiplomatic and tactless. Mars well aligned to Uranus makes you self-willed and overconfident, but its opposition to Moon, and also ill-disposed off to the Sun, makes you temperamental, angry and irritable person. You may flare up on the slightest provocation, when you may temporarily lose all sense of reasons and direction. The Sun opposite Saturn brings in a sense of fear and insecurity, which in turn, brings in a sense of inertia. So, often your initiatives as also response to a situation gets delayed, and with obvious consequences. If that would not be enough, the Sun placed adverse to Jupiter brings in a swaggering ego, which binds you to self-defined beliefs and perceptions, not open to look beyond for a reality check either. It becomes difficult for you to digest, if ever things don't move on your expected lines, when you get unnerved beyond due. And the result is there to see.

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  
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Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com

# KALVAKUNTULA FAMILY'S 'SANTOSHAM'



With wife Rohini and children Ishaan and Sheryaan

## Thankful to my wife

My wife supports me a lot and I am thankful to her from the bottom of my heart. Sometimes it will be like 6-7 days after which I will see my kids. They crib naturally. Thanks to technology, I do video calls to make sure they know I am here. I have two sons - Ishaan is studying in 6th class and Sheryaan 3rd class. I don't want to be a strict father, because I spend less time with them. For the 2 hours they meet me, I don't want to appear as villain by controlling them. In a year, once or twice I go out for vacation and enjoy a lot as it is precious time. Kavitha, I and two friends - 4 families go together on vacations.



With sister Soumya

## Green Challenge

I had an idea to take up a plantation drive by challenging 3 people, but I never thought it will come this long way. About 5 crore saplings have been planted in 1 year and 8 months, but I don't want to go into numbers. Even for my birthday, I started selfie with sapling challenge. Every plant is addition to nature. There is need to protect the plant and when it is challenged, there will be consciousness to protect it. There will be inspiration for others and awareness. I am working towards developing forest at Kesara.



With sapling planted as part of Green Challenge

Sharing his innermost thoughts about his life in the company of the Kalvakuntla family for the first time to a national newspaper, Rajya Sabha member Joganapally Santosh Kumar tells *The Pioneer* that he has been along with CM K Chandrasekhar Rao, whom he endearingly calls 'Peddananna'. He reveals how he attended on KCR who had undergone surgery after a fall in bathroom; why he calls Kavitha 'Akka', though she is younger to him; and why he always obeys 'Annayya' KTR, his roommate in Pune when they were doing MBA. In an exclusive interview to *Naveena Ghanate*, he speaks about his childhood, dream of becoming a doctor, and the new lease of life he got when he was in Class X.

## My village doesn't exist

I really miss the days in my village in Kodurupaka. Those were golden days. After Mid-Manair project came, my village was submerged. We can build homes, villages, schools, but those emotions...we cannot get them back. People think village is about homes and roads, but it is not that; it is emotion and the attachment around the places that I roamed as child. My education revolved in my village, Karimnagar and Hyderabad. I am a sincere student, even now I am sincere. I wake up at 5:30 am and my life with Peddananna (CM K Chandrasekhar Rao) starts around 6:15 am and, until he sleeps, I work. I was kind of average student so I used to get scolding from my father and beatings from his brother (baba). My mother is Shasikala and father Ravinder Rao was into farming and politics at village level like acting sarpanch and upa-sarpanch.

## Was ragged by siblings

I was the soft target among siblings and used to get ragged often. The other three are smarter than me. Even though Kavitha and Soumya are younger to me; I call them Akka because they are in bigger positions. People will also think I am young (laughs). We used to play a lot in holidays. My Annayya (K T Rama Rao) is a hilarious person and since he is 'Annayya' whatever he says, we have to do, we are the younger ones. He would tell me to go buy a note book. He used to read Chandamma stories and one day decided that he will write a story. He would narrate and I would write. I don't remember what stories we wrote, but it was fun, he narrating and me sincerely writing. On May 17, when we were doing the first rally to Karimnagar, KTR called me and heard the entire speech live on call. At that time, it even cost money to get incoming calls. After some days, Harish garu joined. He was bava, so we would be playful with him.

## I almost lost life in 10th class

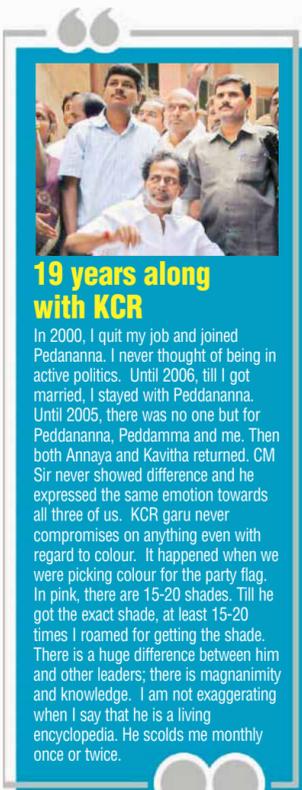
I was suffering from lower abdominal pain, which became very serious in my tenth standard. Peddananna's mother recognized that my stomach pain was related to appendix and I was rushed to Niloufer Hospital. The surgery was scheduled a day after I was hospitalized. But the appendix burst and was slowly spreading in other body parts. My surgery was scheduled at 2 pm and Peddananna came at around 6 in the morning. He was MLA by then and got my operation rescheduled to 8 am; otherwise, I would have gone. Those 4-5 hours saved my life, because by then the appendix burst and slowly started poisoning my body. After a 4-hour surgery, cleaning of the intestines, doctors could save me. I was in hospital for 29 days.

## Wanted to be doctor

I was neither a front-bencher nor a back-bencher, but I was part of the herd mentality. I wanted to be a doctor and do some service, but I couldn't because I was an average student. It was a dream as doctors are treated almost equivalent to God. It is a nice profession and we can really serve people. In Intermediate, I picked Bi PC in Magadarshi College, then took up BZC in Karimnagar for degree, and then went to Pune for doing MBA from the V K Patil Institute.

## Pune brought change

Annayya (KT Rama Rao) and I were



## 19 years along with KCR

In 2000, I quit my job and joined Pedananna. I never thought of being in active politics. Until 2006, till I got married, I stayed with Peddananna. Until 2005, there was no one but for Peddananna, Peddamma and me. Then both Annayya and Kavitha returned. CM Sir never showed difference and he expressed the same emotion towards all three of us. KCR garu never compromises on anything even with regard to colour. It happened when we were picking colour for the party flag. In pink, there are 15-20 shades. Till he got the exact shade, at least 15-20 times I roamed for getting the shade. There is a huge difference between him and other leaders; there is magnanimity and knowledge. I am not exaggerating when I say that he is a living encyclopedia. He scolds me monthly once or twice.

staying together in Pune and those were wonderful days. Pune was not my choice. My family sent me there, because a few of my cousins studied there in previous batches. Pune was the turning point for me because till then my life was going in a monotonous way, and after that it completely changed. Pune is a place where we can learn from various people and which gave national exposure. Almost people from every part of the country, every state are present there. We learnt about their languages, cultures and we used to mingle. I picked MBA because at that time it had good opportunities and in the evening time, I used to do a course in Personnel Management. I have two Master's degrees: Masters in Personnel Management and Masters in Business Administration.

## 9/11 changed my career path

After completing masters, I worked for 1 year and 8 months in two companies, Amtrex airconditioners and Carrier airconditioners. I had the opportunity to stay in Hyderabad for eight months during which time I used to work from Pedannanna's home. To become regional manager, I had to go to Bengaluru. It was around 2000, when everybody, including Annayya, Kavitha and my sister Soumya, left for the US. Nobody was here and I underwent training in testing tools, which had good demand then, so I could go to US. I did a course and applied for visa and exactly then 9/11 incident happened. Immediately visa norms became stringent and my visa was not processed. Then Pedannanna said, 'Leave all this, be with us, if all of you leave for the US, who will take care of us'. My career, in

short, was from visa rejection to my Peddananna getting me a diplomatic passport by making me Member of Parliament (smirks). We don't need visa for 94-95 countries.

## Wife took 3 hours to accept me

Ours was totally an arranged marriage. My wife Rohini knew me, as we were family friends, but she didn't accept at first instance. We met at Birla Mandir; Kavitha, my sister, Srinivas Reddy (then my friend who now MLC), two others accompanied. I said 'I have no issues marrying you and I pointedly asked her: 'What do you think?' She said 'I will ask my mother and tell later'. Around 6 pm we met and till 9 pm, there was no confirmation. My friends were worried and said that it would be humiliating, if she rejects. I said it is okay, if she rejects; we cannot force her to accept, and I was prepared. Around 9 pm, they confirmed and those 3 hours we were tensed, especially my friends.

## Emotional moment with Peddananna

When Peddananna was fasting, I was alongside him and emotional. It was a tough situation. I had a very personal moment, which makes me emotional to this day. When Peddananna was Union minister, he fell in bathroom and underwent a surgery. For 1-2 months, I was with him for most of the time, serving him. One fine day, around 10:30-11 pm in the night, he asked me 'Am I bothering you too much? Am I taking too much of your time? Am I hindrance to your future?' I said it is an opportunity Peddananna. He is my future. These moments make me emotional and teary.

## Will write book Chaya to paya

Peddananna told me about making me MP about 2-3 months before and only Peddamma and I knew about his thought. When I was going to take oath, my eyes were filled with tears. I want to bring out my journey with Peddananna in a book form. I have started working and will definitely bring out one. To work with someone like CM KCR, it is very different. My experience with KCR is longest and the book would begin from situations just before the formation of party. Agitation and politics will be part of it and situations and hard



KTR (Left), Santosh (Right)

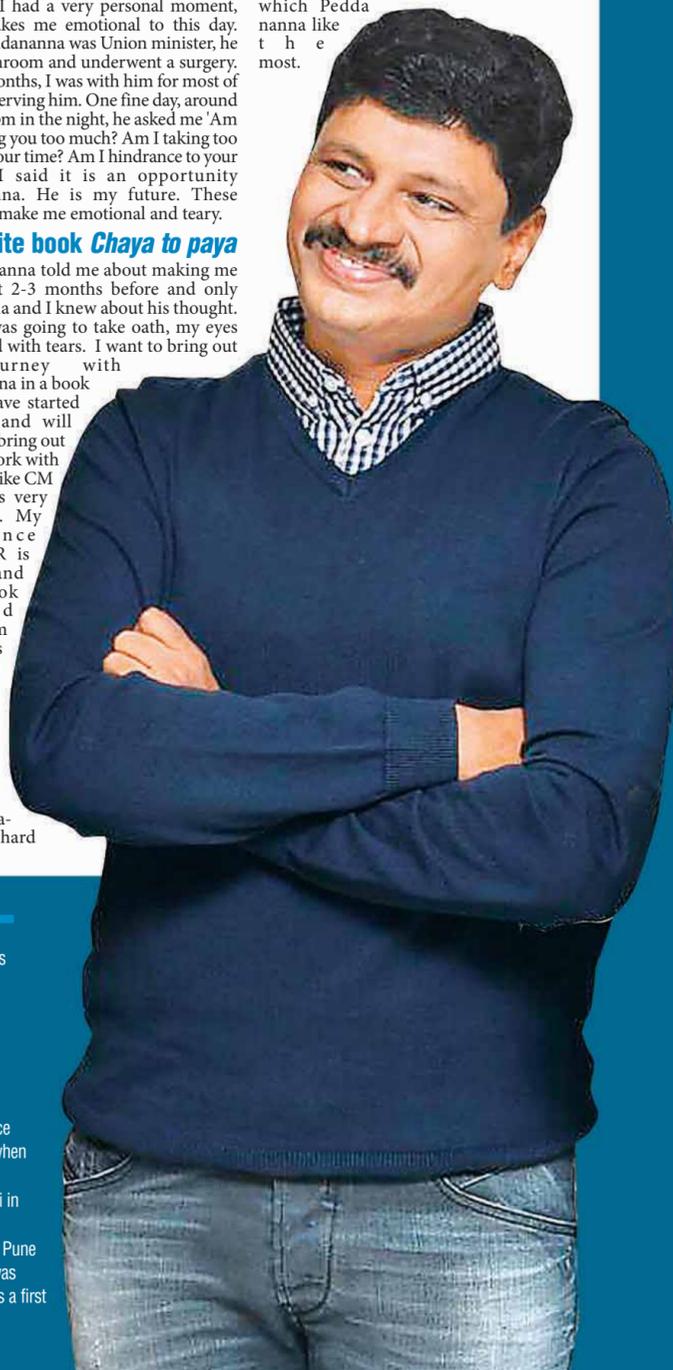


Kavitha KTR and Santosh as Kids



(L) KCR and his wife Shobha (R) Father Ravinder Rao, Mother Shasikala

situations. I thought the title would be 'My experience with experienced' but then also I thought 'Chaya to paya'. It starts with Peddananna drinking tea in the morning and his meal and ends with paya soup, which Peddanna like the most.



## QUICK BITES

**Favourite actor:** Amitabh Bachchan in Bollywood, Akkineni Nagarjuna in Tollywood and now Mahesh Babu  
**Favourite actress:** it keeps changing  
**Food:** Chicken (with less oil)  
**Singer you like:** S P Balasubramanyam  
**Song you hear the most:** Tolisari mimmalni choosindi modalu from movie Srivariki Premalekha  
**Are you religious:** Not completely. Being with Peddananna it increased  
**What are you scared of:** Snakes  
**What do you watch on TV:** Zabardasth  
**What brand of clothes:** Hugo Boss. I am trying to look good. Pedannanna

says when in public appearance is important.  
**Compliment you get most often:** I keep smiling  
**Best advice you got:** When I became MP, my Annayya (KTR) said, life will be a little different, don't change and try to be same.  
**Words to describe:** Be cool and be patient  
**Favorite holiday destination:** the Maldives  
**Biggest addiction:** I am addicted to KCR  
**What impresses you the most:** Sincerity

**Weakness:** When I witness bad situation, I become emotional  
**Quote:** Be good  
**Last time you were emotional:** When I visited Devnar Blind School  
**Do you cook:** I cooked once pappucharu and chicken when I was newly married  
**Fav sportsmen:** Virat Kohli in cricket.  
**Happiest moment:** In my Pune days, when Peddananna was going to be minister. It was a first in family