

NATION 5
PRESS IS CRITICAL
PARTNER

MONEY 6
INSURANCE COVER ON BANK
DEPOSITS MAY GO UP

SPECIAL 7
CHAMPIONS
OF EARTH

SMALL TOWN
BOY WHO
BROKE ALL
SHACKLES

HYDERABAD, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2019; PAGES 12 ₹3

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Loco pilot succumbs to injuries

HYDERABAD: The MMTS loco pilot who had been hospitalised with multiple injuries post Monday's train mishap at the Kacheguda Railway Station succumbed while undergoing treatment late on Friday night.

The loco pilot, L Chandrashekar, who was badly injured in the train collision, breathed his last at 9:30 pm on Friday night due to internal sepsis, kidney failure, and subsequent cardiac arrest, hospital authorities said.

Chandrashekar was trapped in the driver's cabin after the MMTS service he was steering rammied into the Kurnool City-Secunderabad Hundry Intercity Express. National Disaster Response Force personnel had to use electric cutters to remove four layers of heavy metal and extricate him, almost eight hours after the mishap.

TikTok hits 1.5 bn downloads, India tops list

BEIJING: Social video app TikTok has reached 1.5 billion downloads worldwide on the App Store as well as Google Play and India leads the chart with 466.8 million or about 31 per cent of all unique installs.

In 2019, the app accumulated 614 million downloads -- six per cent more than it had last year, reported mobile intelligence firm Sensor Tower.

India has been a fast adopter in 2019, driving up 277.6 million downloads so far this year, or roughly 45 per cent of all global installs.

China generated the second largest amount of downloads with 45.5 million, or 7.4 per cent, while the US is No 3 with 37.6 million installs, or about 6 per cent, this year.

'Owaisi 2nd Zakir Naik': Babul Supriyo

SANSOL: Union Minister Babul Supriyo on Saturday called AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi "second Zakir Naik" over the Ayodhya issue that was recently decided by the Supreme Court.

"Asaduddin Owaisi is becoming the second Zakir Naik. If he speaks more than required, then we do have law and order problem in our country," Mr Supriyo told reporters in Ansoli in West Bengal. Zakir Naik is a controversial Islamic preacher, whose extradition from Malaysia is being sought by India on charges of money laundering and hate speech.

ELECTION EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

TRS, YSRCP made a bomb through electoral bonds

■ TRS and YSRCP got more than Rs 180 cr through donations

NAVEENA GHANATA
■ HYDERABAD

The ruling parties of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh made a bomb when it comes to finances for the 2018-19.

According to the 'Annual Audit Report for the Financial Year 2018-19' filed with the Election Commission in October, both the parties received funds totaling over Rs181 crore. In fact, a major chunk of the money came to both of them through electoral bonds. TRS party received Rs 182.67 crore through donations and contributions, including Rs 141.5 crore in the form of electoral bonds. Likewise, YSRCP received Rs 181 crore through donations and contributions, including Rs 99 crore in the form of electoral bonds.

The donations to TRS are significant, considering that last year the pink party only got Rs 3.3 crore in donations. In the previous financial year, TRS party had no electoral bonds or trusts. About Rs 16.5 crore came from electoral trusts. Donations to TRS from com-

'BOND' WITH THE BEST...

PARTY	DONATIONS	ELECTORAL BONDS	BANK BALANCE
TRS	Rs 182.67crore	Rs 141.5crore	Rs 158.9crore
YSRCP	Rs 181 crore	Rs 99 crore	Rs 138 cror



panies increased to Rs 14.81 crore, as against Rs 2 crore last year.

The YSRCP said that it received Rs 36.08 crore as donations from non-corporate entities, compared to Rs 11.7 crore in the previous financial year. Corporate entities donated Rs 18.15 crore compared to Rs 2.53 crore last year.

YSRCP paid Rs 37.57 crore to political consultancy Indian Political Action Committee (I-

PAC), founded by Prashant Kishor, as part of services extended for the recent Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha elections held in the state.

When it comes to election expenditure, TRS said it spent Rs 26.97 crore on advertisements and towards campaigning and public meeting expenses. YSRCP revealed in its 'Election Expenditure Statement' that as on date of the announce-

ment of the election, the party had a bank balance of Rs 74.3 lakh.

By the time the elections were completed, the party received a staggering Rs 221 crore in the form of donations. Out of this, YSRCP spent Rs 85.65 crore, which included Rs 9.72 crore on star campaigners and Rs 36.4 crore for advertisements in the media. Coincidentally, most of the money spent on advertisements, around Rs 24.67 crore, was given to Jagathi Publications, which is run by Jagan Mohan Reddy's family.

Another 1.03 crore was spent on publicity material, including posters, banners, badges, stickers, arches, cut-outs, hoardings, flags etc.

After its expenditure, the YSRCP said, it had a bank balance of Rs 138 crore. TRS has a bank balance of Rs 158.9 crore.

Meanwhile, the opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP), which also filed its election expenditure report, said that it spent a total of Rs 77 crore, including Rs 49 crore on advertisements in the media.

DOST DOST NA RAHA ...

End of bonhomie between AP and Telangana?

K VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

The much tom-tommed bonhomie between Telangana Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy seems to have ended, with AP submitting a counter affidavit in the Supreme Court seeking a directive to the Centre to reject the proposal of TS to accord 'national project' status to the Rs 80,000 crore Kaleswaram project.

That the relations between the two Telugu states had soured became clear some time back when Andhra Pradesh decided to take up the river linking project between Godavari and Penna rivers on its own land from Polavaram project to Penna River. In what was seen as tit for tat, the Telangana state decided to take up the river linking project on its own land from Seetharama project to Dindi project.

KCR, taken aback at AP's latest stance on Kaleswaram, has asked officials to prepare a strong counter for submission to the Supreme Court, it is understood. He is likely to also convene a high-level meeting

Both states start fighting again



KCR, taken aback at AP's latest stance on Kaleswaram, has asked officials to prepare a strong counter for submission to the Supreme Court, it is understood

with top irrigation officials next week to review the status of the project works and to find ways of clearing legal obstacles in speedy execution of his pet project.

The Telangana Chief Minister may implead certain states, including Odisha, as those affected by the Polavaram project.

KCR, who had described the attendance of Jagan at the inaugural of Kaleswaram as "historical development in the relations between two Telugu

states", was shocked by AP's affidavit on the Kaleswaram project by none other than Jagan. The AP Chief Minister had attended the Kaleswaram project inaugural programme along with his Irrigation Minister Anil Kumar Yadav and higher officials. Then Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis also participated in the programme.

What beats TS administration is the nature of objections raised by AP.

Continued on Page 4

Centre halts inter-state swap among TS and AP

DoPT no longer entertaining deputation pleas

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

For about five years after bifurcation, the Telugu-speaking states had a free run with regard to inter-state swapping of IAS and IPS officers. In fact, ignoring the Pratyush Sinha Committee's guidelines and the Centre's known position; Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have been exchanging officers at will.

It seems those days are over. As per sources, the Union government is against the swapping of cadre of G



Anantha Ramu from Andhra Pradesh to Telangana.

Raising an objection to the whims and fancies of the states over exchange of officials, the Government of India has reportedly made it clear that the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) would have the final say in the allo-

cation of state.

The Centre had to step in the present case because some overenthusiastic babus had incorrectly shown senior IAS officer JR Anand as an 'outsider' to AP, despite him being a native of Rajahmundry, while Anantha Ramu was assigned to AP state. The Andhra Pradesh state government had considered the contention of Anantha Ramu and even agreed to relieve him, but the Telangana government referred the case to DoPT.

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10 young women from AP not allowed to Sabarimala

PNS ■ SABARIMALA

At least ten young women from Andhra Pradesh, who arrived at Pamba on Saturday to offer prayers at the Lord Ayyappa temple here, were sent back, police said.

The women, in the 10-50 age group, were part of a 30-member group from Vijayawada.

"After they reached Pamba, police checked their identity cards and found that they



were in the barred age group and informed them about the current situation in Sabarimala. They did not proceed further," police said.

The Pamba base camp is at the foothills of Sabarimala, about 5 km from the shrine.

The Lord Ayyappa temple opened this evening for the two month long Mandala-Makaravilakku pilgrimage season. The state and temple precincts had witnessed protests by right wing outfits and BJP workers last year after the LDF government decided to implement the Supreme court's verdict of September 28, 2018 allowing women of all age groups to offer prayers at the shrine.

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Sunil Sharma

Declare strike illegal: Govt files affidavit in HC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The in-charge Managing Director of TSRTC Sunil Sharma on Saturday filed an additional affidavit before the Telangana High Court. In his affidavit, he alleged that leaders of the corporation's unions, with the connivance of opposition parties, have a clear motive of destabilising the state government by their ongoing strike. He also said that these union leaders were trying to send the entire corporation into further losses to protect their vested interests.

Referring to the decision of these union leaders to drop their main demand -- merger of the corporation with the state government -- "for now", he said that there was scope for the unions to raise the same demand at any time in the future and possibly destabilise the state government.

Continued on Page 2

RTC employees stage 'bus roko'; Aswathama begins indefinite fast

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Stepping up their stir, the striking employees of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) organised a bus roko at various places in the state on Saturday and a leader of the workmen began an indefinite fast in support of their demands.

The employees, who began their strike on October 5, stopped buses from plying as part of the bus roko protest.

The RTC workmen and also opposition activists continued rallies, sit-ins and other forms of protest.

The leader of the striking employees unions Aswathama Reddy claimed he was not allowed to undertake his fast at the unions office in the city and that he was confined to home by the police.

Reddy said he began an indefinite fast at his home.

Appealing to the workmen not to lose heart and not resort to extreme steps like committing suicides in view of the prolonged nature of the strike, he said the government should invite the unions for talks to resolve the issue.

The bus roko was peaceful and no major issue cropped anywhere, a senior police official said. Asked if any leaders



The employees, who began their strike on October 5, stopped buses from plying as part of the bus roko protest

were put under house arrest and on allegations of leaders that they were not allowed to undertake fast, he said some were advised and counselled with regard to the protests.

The Hyderabad city police imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPC around 500 metres of each of the bus depot and at Bus Bhavan in the city on Saturday.

No gathering of more than four people would be permitted at those places with the intention of organising bus roko, the city police said on Friday.

Continued on Page 4

Citizenship bill in Govt agenda for winter session

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Modi government is set to push for the passage of the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, a key BJP plank which is aimed at granting nationality to non-Muslim immigrants from neighbouring countries, in Parliament's Winter Session starting from Monday.

The government has listed the bill in its items of business for the session, official sources told news agency Press Trust of India.

The BJP-led NDA government had introduced the bill in its previous tenure as well but could not push it through due to vehement protests by opposition parties, which criticised the bill as discriminatory on religious grounds.

The bill had lapsed following the dissolution of the last Lok Sabha.

The legislation seeks to grant Indian citizenship to Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan if they have fled their respective country due to religious persecution.

There has been opposition to the bill in Assam and other northeastern states.

China army lands in Hong Kong

PNS ■ BEIJING

China on Saturday deployed its troops in Hong Kong for the first time since the unprecedented pro-democracy protests began in the former British colony more than five months ago over a proposed extradition law, with soldiers in plain clothes clearing the roadblocks. Soldiers from the Hong Kong Garrison of People's Liberation Army (PLA) -- the world's largest military -- have been deployed for the first time in more than five months of civil unrest in Hong Kong, as dozens marched from their Kowloon garrison to help clear roadblocks.

Politicians' hand in land disputes is causing headache to TRS leadership

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The palpable involvement of several politicians belonging to the pink party in land disputes has become a thorn in the flesh of TRS leadership.

Well aware of the never-ending land disputes across the state, Chief Minister K Chandrababu Naidu had set out to overhaul the Revenue Department by "purifying" land records and bringing a new revenue act to inter alia rid the department of graft.

Nonetheless, some leaders of the pink party have not flinched from settling or clearing land disputes by picking sides. Given that more and more names of TRS leaders are



surfacing in land disputes and alarmed at the spate of incidents involving revenue officials, the Chief Minister has reportedly asked all the MLAs of his party to stay away from land disputes.

Involvement of TRS leaders in land disputes is becoming a pain for the government.

Following the murder of Abdullahpurmet tahsildar K. Vijaya Reddy, several other land deals of questionable

authenticity have surfaced in which TRS leaders' name figure.

The name of TRS Ibrahimpatnam MLA Manchireddy Kishan Reddy figured in the land issues that resulted in Vijaya Reddy's murder. So, Chief Minister has informed the MLAs that in several parts of Telangana there are multiple claimants over the same chunk of land and therefore party leaders should not take sides.

Following KCR's instruction, MA&UD Minister K T Rama Rao on Saturday asked the Warangal Police to resolve a land dispute in which his name was dropped.

Continued on Page 2

Pawan's Delhi visit keeps politicians guessing

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan's sudden Delhi visit has created a sensation among political circles as the visit left politicians guessing on what could be the purpose of the visit, agenda and whom the Power Star is going to meet in nation's capital.

Jana Sena leaders, who are also ignorant of the purpose of the visit, would say that Power Star is going to meet some elders in Delhi. In the same breath, some of the leaders dismiss it as a private visit.

However, some others beg to differ. They suspect that there is more than what meets the eye. Pawan Kalyan, who is fighting pitched battles against the government, took person-



al attacks on him very seriously.

It may be recalled that Pawan had already gone on record stating that he would lodge a complaint with the Centre, if necessary, on the condition of the construction workers in the State, the state-of-affairs of construction of new state capital in Amarvati and personal vilification campaign against him.

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TODAY

ALMANAC
Month & Paksnam:
Kartik & Krishna Paksha
Panchangam
Tithi : Panchami: 06:22 pm
Nakshatram: Punarvasu 10:59 pm
Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)
Rahukalam: 04:12 pm - 05:36 pm
Yamagandam: 12:00 pm - 01:24 pm
Varjyam: 11:08 am - 12:43 pm
Gulika: 02:48 pm - 04:12 pm
Good Time: (to start any important work)
Amritakalam: 08:37 pm - 10:12 pm
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:38 am - 12:23 pm

HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Clear
Temp: 31/19
Humidity: 73%
Sunrise: 06:22
Sunset: 05:39
Current Weather Conditions
Updated November 16, 2019 5:00 PM

Stage set for revival of Beechupally oil mill

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy will plant oil palm plants on the premises of the Beechupally oil mill premises on Monday as part of the state government's efforts to revive the oil mill for the benefit of the oil palm growing farmers of Telangana.

Disclosing this here on Saturday, the Minister said that the stage has been set for reviving the oil mill which was closed in 2003. The National Dairy Development Corporation facilitated setting up of 200-ton oil mill and 100-ton solvent oil mills and 100-ton edible oil refinery. The Telangana State Oil fed owned Rs 26.03 crore, but reached a one-time settlement to pay Rs 8.44 crore, he said and as per the settlement terms the Oil Fed paid the first installment of Rs 4.22 crore. The oil mill at Beechupally started operations in 1990, but was closed down in June 2003 due to financial difficulties, he said recalling how he protested against the closure of the mill as the TRS leader. He said with the blessings of Chief Minister the stage has been set for revival of the oil mill.

TS schemes changed farmers' lives: Jagadish

PNS ■ SURYAPET

The State government has succeeded in making the farmers to go for cultivation with confidence by providing investment support, fertilizers and seeds in time, said Minister for Power G Jagadish Reddy here on Saturday.

He was speaking after distributing the cheques of Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak to the beneficiaries at Nagaram in the district. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bhima, introduced by the state government, have changed the lives of the farmers and their families in the state.

Neither the farmer had expected such schemes from the state government nor demanded by them. The Chief Minister, who was familiar with the problems of the farmers, had designed Rythu Bandhu, which was being implementing in only Telangana state in the country, he said.

He reminded that farmers of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana states were launching agitations for decades to save them from indebtedness and extend support to the agricul-



G Jagadish Reddy

Reminding that the TRS government has fulfilled its pre-poll promises of waiver of crop loans, Reddy said that the Chief Minister had come out with several schemes with the sole aim of helping farmers

ture sector. The political parties in these states have made pre-poll promises on their demands, but forgot after coming to power, he added.

Reminding that the TRS government has fulfilled its

pre-poll promises of waiver of crop loans, Reddy said that the Chief Minister had come out with several schemes with the sole aim of helping farmers so that they should not take loans to meet the expenditure of the

cultivation.

Investment support scheme Rythu Bandhu and supply of fertilizers and seeds to the farmers at the beginning of the crop season were a few of the initiatives of the state government in this regard, he maintained. The Chief Minister had a strong feeling that welfare of the farmers was major responsibility of the government, he maintained.

Stating that irrigation facility was key for agriculture, he said that the Chief Minister was also working with a mission to utilise the potential of water availability of Krishna and Godavari rivers whose water was going waste into ocean. The Chief Minister has himself designed irrigation projects for the purpose and created history by spending Rs 80,000 crore for Kaleshwaram Project in the last four years, he added. He said that the state government has also fulfilled its promise to bring Godavari water to Suryapet district through SRSP by October canal and provide irrigation facility to the farmers. Thungathurthy MLA Gadari Kishore and Joint Collector Sanjeeva Reddy also attended the programme.



Minister Indrakaran Reddy at a review meeting in Hyderabad on Saturday

Officials told to fast-track works on laying roads

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Forests, Environment and Endowments Indrakaran Reddy exhorted the officials of Roads and Buildings and Forests Departments to work with greater coordination to lay roads to remote villages. He was reviewing with officials on development of roads in Chennai and Bellampalli Assembly constituencies at his chambers in Aranya Bhavan here on Saturday.

MLAs of Chennai and Bellampalli explained the condition of roads in the two constituencies. They brought to the notice of the Minister how the forest officials have been objecting to widening of existing roads at many places.

The Minister stressed on extending laying of roads at a faster pace to all villages with-

“Road communications foster relations of people living in remote habitats with the outside world. Therefore, there should not be any delay in laying of roads to remote villages”

— INDRAKARAN REDDY, Minister for Forests

out violating any laws. The road communications foster relations of people living in remote habitats with the outside world. Therefore, there should not be any delay in laying of roads to remote villages linking the existing road network.

He said the government is committed to laying of roads to villages which have no road communication facilities. He wanted the R&B, Panchayat Raj and Forest department's officials to inspect the roads to ensure that they cause no harm to forests. He wanted the officials to conduct a compre-

hensive survey on those roads which are likely to receive objections from the Forest Departments and prepare maps with all technical details and bring them to the notice of the higher authorities.

Chief Conservator of Forests Vinod Kumar, divisional forest officers of Mancherla and Chennai Nagabushanam and Raja Rao and panchayat Raj officials and others took part in the review meeting. MLAs Balka Suman and Durgam Chinnayya, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests R Sobha and others took part in the meeting.

12,223 Indians died abroad in 2018-2019: RTI

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A whopping 12,223 Indian nationals have died in various foreign countries in 17 months between January 2018 and May 2019, according to an RTI reply given by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). This comes to a shocking average of 719 Indians per month or 23-24 per day, who have lost their lives in distant lands during the period under review, said Mumbai-based RTI activist Jatin Desai.

Desai said that he had actually filed a query with the Ministry of Home Affairs in October seeking the details of Indian nationals who have died in foreign prisons, and foreigners who have died in Indian jails during the 18-month period between January 2018 and June 2019.

However, the query was transferred to the Ministry of External Affairs from where T. Ajungla Jamir, Director (CPV) and CPIO, sent a reply to Desai last week mentioning the

“Surprisingly, the MEA has no information on how many Indian prisoners have died in jails abroad in the said period. The MEA also does not have details of the number of foreigners perishing in Indian prisons during that period”

—JATIN DESAI, Mumbai-based RTI activist



prisons during that period,” Desai said.

Desai said that he now plans to file fresh RTI queries seeking the details of causes of deaths, whether the deceased were tourists, NRIs, business travellers or belonged to other categories, and if required follow up with other measures. “We also need to know in which countries they have died and whether they lost their lives due to some illnesses, accidents, attacks in foreign lands or sheer lack of medicare, and whether they were adequately insured or if they were granted compensation in case of unnatural deaths when their bodies were returned, etc.,” Desai said.

number of Indians who lost their lives abroad between January 2018 and May 2019.

“Surprisingly, the MEA has no information on how many Indian prisoners have died in jails abroad in the said period. The MEA also does not have details of the number of foreigners perishing in Indian

Sub-treasury officer in ACB net

PNS ■ WARANGAL

The Anti Corruption Bureau officials have caught a sub treasury officer and a senior auditor red handed while accepting bribe from a retired employee in Wardhannapet town of Warangal rural district on Saturday.

The officials raided the Sub treasury office in Wardhannapet responding to a complaint of retired Extension officer of Panchayath Raj Department Sriramulu on Saturday morning and caught the STO

Vikram and the auditor Naseha red handed while accepting Rs 15,000 as bribe.

The complainant accused that the STO demanded bribe for according permission to his pension for the past few days and was delaying the sanction of the pension.

Apparently, perturbed retired man went to the ACB and complained that he was thoroughly harassed by the Sub Treasury officer for bribe and went along with the sleuths to pay the bribe amount. The STO and auditor were taken into the custody.

Pawan's Delhi visit keeps politicians...

Continued from Page 1

Party sources dub his visit as an attempt to bring to the notice of Delhi the suicides of construction workers.

However, the party sources are maintaining stoic silence whose appointment Pawan Kalyan has sought in Delhi. But, they are quick to say that some crucial negotiations will take place in Delhi.

Meanwhile speculations are rife that he is likely to meet

Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He is also likely to meet BJP working president JP Nadda and one or two other leaders.

It may be recalled that Pawan had called on Narendra Modi in Ahmedabad prior to 2014 elections. Afterwards, he did not meet Modi except during the course of election campaign and some other occasions.

But, Pawan claims to have affection for Modi, who, he says, reciprocates the same.

For quite some time, Pawan Kalyan has been trying to secure Narendra Modi's appointment.

Meanwhile, the propaganda gained ground that Pawan left for Delhi as the PMO confirmed his appointment.

The party leaders are reading too much from the visit as they suspect that there will be unexpected changes in the State's political scenario soon after the return of Pawan Kalyan from Delhi.

Politicians' hand in land disputes is causing...

Continued from Page 1

In Warangal, about 30 men attacked a farmer P Vijender Reddy, who has been admitted to a hospital with a fractured rib and other injuries.

The farmer's son, P. Amarnath Reddy, tweeted to the TRS working president whose name figured, because "the attackers said they knew KTR

and several bigwigs in the government, including bureaucrats and police officials”.

incidents involving names of TRS leaders are grist to the mill of opposition parties. So, KCR is particular that even family members of politicians belonging to the pink party should stay clear of land disputes of any kind.

Keto diet may help you fight the flu

PNS ■ NEW YORK

A ketogenic diet, which includes meat, fish, poultry and non-starchy vegetables, may help combat the flu virus, suggests new research. This diet regimen activates a subset of T cells in the lungs not previously associated with the immune system's response to influenza, enhancing mucus production from airway cells that can effectively trap the virus, said the study published in the journal Science Immunology.

"This was a totally unexpected finding," said co-senior author Akiko Iwasaki, Professor at Yale University in the US. The researchers found that mice fed a ketogenic diet were better able to combat the



flu virus than mice fed food high in carbohydrates.

Specifically, the researchers found that the ketogenic diet

triggered the release of gamma delta T cells, immune system cells that produce mucus in the cell linings of the lung -- while

the high-carbohydrate diet did not. When mice were bred without the gene that codes for gamma delta T cells, the keto-

This diet regimen activates a subset of T cells in the lungs not previously associated with the immune system's response to influenza

genic diet provided no protection against the influenza virus. "This study shows that the way the body burns fat to produce ketone bodies from the food we eat can fuel the immune system to fight flu infection," said co-senior author Visha Deep Dixit, Professor at Yale University.

Declare strike illegal...

Continued from Page 1

Reiterating that the ongoing strike was illegal, he pointed out to the court that no notice of six weeks, as mandated under the Industrial Disputes Act-1847, was served upon the management by the unions of the corporation. He said that the non-service of the mandatory strike notice on the management would render the ongoing strike of the unions illegal as per the

same Act and did not warrant a formal declaration.

He also made it clear that the corporation was not in a position to fulfil the demands of the workers. He added that they would also not hold any kind of talks now with the employees unions. He urged the court to pass appropriate orders expeditiously to restore peace and harmony in the state. The case will come up for hearing next week before a division bench of the HC.

HYDERABAD BULLION RATES

GOLD
₹ 38,360 (10 gm)
₹ 100

SILVER
₹ 44,300 (1kg)
₹ 100

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG

Dressed/With Skin ₹173
Without Skin ₹196
Broiler at Farm ₹119

EGG RATES ₹/100

HYDERABAD 412
VIJAYAWADA 422
VISAKAHAPATNAM 412
RETAIL PRICE ₹4.17

TELANGANA STATE POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Telangana undertaking)

e-Procurement-Tender Notification-31

Tenders for Civil works are invited for Tender Nos. T170 to T173/2019/20 dated 11-11-2019 for 04 works *Tender Nos. Work situated in districts & Total ECV (Rs. In Lakhs) respectively as follows: T170 & 171 - Karimnagar - 2 - 7.30; T172&T173 - Ranga Reddy - 2-132.13. Schedule available in online from 13-11-2019 onwards. Last date/time for submission of bids for Tender Nos. T172 & T173 Dt. 27-11-19:05:00 PM. Further details can be seen at website @www.tender.telangana.gov.in

R.O.NO. 466/PP/CL-Agency/Adv/1/2019-20, dated 16-11-2019

Sd/- Managing Director

CRIME CORNER

Three held for selling alcohol illegally

The Habeeb Nagar police arrested three persons for illegally selling liquor and seized 209 bottles from their possession on Saturday. The arrested were identified as Racharla Sai Baba (42), M Balamani (55) and M Balakrishna (30). Police said that Sai Baba was illegally selling liquor at his residence near Katta Maisamma Temple, Aghapura without any valid licence. He confessed to buying alcohol bottles from Bhavani Wines, which is near Bhoiguda Kaman and then sells each bottle by charging Rs 30 extra on the MRP. Officials seized 14 MCDowell's bottles (90ml), 14 Officers choice bottles (180 ml) and 12 Downtown Bottles (180 ml) from his possession. Balamani and M Balakrishna were also illegally selling liquor at their residence at SD Nagar in Darussalam without any valid licence. Balakrishna confessed to bringing bottles from Bhavani Wines, which is near Darussalam, and charges Rs 20 extra on the MRP of every bottle he sells.

TSRTC driver attempts suicide

ATSRTC bus driver attempted suicide at Musheerabad depot on Saturday. According to the police, the driver was identified as Saidulu. According to eyewitness, Saidulu had come to the bus depot along with the protesting workers. He brought petrol in a bottle along with him and doused himself in it. When he was about to set himself ablaze, the employees foiled the bid.

Three burglars from Bihar detained

The Rachakonda police arrested three members of a seven-member burglary gang from Bihar here on Saturday for burgling a jewellery shop. The detained have been identified as 33-year-old Mohammed Shabaz, 28-year-old Mohammed Shahid and 25-year-old Mohammed Manzoor Alam. Police said that the gang members hail from Araria district in Bihar. The prime accused, Mohammed Shabaz, was arrested by the Araria police for thefts and illegal possession of arms. He was arrested and released on bail in 2015. "After being released from jail, he, along with Mohammed Shahid, Mohammed Manzoor Alam, Mohammed Kasim, Azam, Aftab Alam and Mehandi Azeem, came to Hyderabad and formed a gang and hatched a plan to burgle a jewellery shop. According to their plan, the gang committed three burglaries each in the limits of Kushaiguda, Keesara and Jawaharnagar Police Station limits. All the burglaries were committed in a span of 15 days," said Mahesh Bhagwat, CP, Rachakonda. With a view to prevent them from committing illegal activities and to preserve public order, the PD orders were invoked against three of them.

GHMC special cell to issue e-challans for civic offences

Move to check littering garbage, C&D waste, wall writing and wall poster

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

GHMC's Enforcement, Vigilance and Disaster Management (EV&DM) wing has created a portal Central Emergency Cell (CEC), where e-challans will be generated to impose penalties or fines to the offenders like throwing C&D waste, garbage, open urination etc.



The e-challan will have pre-filled form with categories of offence, and fine is levied automatically based on the nature of offence

The e-challan will have pre-filled form with categories of offence, and fine is levied automatically based on the nature of offence. The e-challan system will have details of violation with photos / videos and has many features like, contact less, foolproof, cannot be edited or deleted and cash less transaction. Once the challan is generated the copy is served to the offender and he/she has to pay the challan fee in the office or on line. Mayor, Bonthu Rammohan said, "as part of providing clean environment to the citizens one of the exercise is to check littering garbage, C&D waste, wall writing, wall poster, banner. GHMC has taken steps to levy fine to the offenders, through e-challan".

fee is paid, the system reminds the back log payments by blinking on the non-payment case after stipulated time allotted to that particular case.

Presently, the staff of EV&DM have access to this portal and by December, other GHMC officials can access. Efforts are being made to make it available to the citizens where they can upload the complaint.

Further elaborating on the e-challans, Director EV&DM Vishwajit Kampati said, "the system is developed in such a way that once e-challan is generated there is no scope to anyone to alter or edit or delete. Every precaution is taken in such a way that there is no scope for any type of allegation or discrepancies it also show the nature of violation, and area with latitudinal and longitudinal".

In a span of 30 days after introduction, 1,084 e-challans were served and till now 15% of served notices have paid penalties and GHMC collected to the tune of Rs 1.5 crore.

On enforcement subject, the Director informed that till now 1,823 notices were issued

on safety measures to comply fire safety measures to the Hospitals, schools, hostels etc. even after if they did not comply the billing counter and administrative department will be seized, he added. A total of 370 clinics and nursing homes are there according to the list furnished by the Health department.

A special drive will be conducted to remove all banners, flexis after that penalty will be levied to the un-authorised banners and flexis. EVDM has a total of 24 teams and it will increase to 65 in near future.



SK Joshi launches Para-sports academy in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Aditya Mehta Foundation (AMF), a non-profit organisation, that aids people with disabilities to pursue sports while providing self-sustenance, launched the state-of-the-art, 'Infinity Para-Sports Academy & Rehab Center', a first-of-its-kind charitable National para-sports rehabilitation and training academy in Asia, on Saturday at Shreeji Mehta Apartments, Begumpet. The facility was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Dr SK Joshi in the presence of Aditya Mehta, founder of the Aditya Mehta Foundation.

A charitable body, it will initially extend rehabilitation service followed by screening for the para-sports for persons with disability

by screening for the para-sports for persons with disability. Subsequently it will provide accommodation and food along with the basics to professional para-sports training at the boarding Academy.

"To help my own extended family of para-athletes, I always wanted to establish an academy and rehabilitation centre so that people with disabilities have a future in sports. Finally this dream has come true" says Aditya Mehta, the founder of the Aditya Mehta Foundation.

The foundation will be training Divyaangans from across the nation.

Ten young women from AP not allowed to Sabarimala

Continued from page 1

However, this year, even though the top court had not stayed its verdict on entry of young women into the shrine while posting various petitions on the matter to a larger bench, the government was exercising caution.

Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran has made it clear that Sabarimala was not a place for activists to display their activism and said the government would not encourage such women who want to visit the shrine for publicity. The Sabarimala temple opened on Saturday for a two-month Mandala Puja, amid tight security.

NEARING COMPLETION



Works on Durgam Cheruvu Cable Bridge progressing at brisk pace. On Saturday, the project team lifted 2 segments within a span of 2.5 hrs with 1 barge

Telugu Wikipedia to be developed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A conference on 'Wikipedia information availability and community development' was conducted at the IIIT-Hyderabad under the aegis of ITE& C Department and Wikipedia on the measures to be taken to increase Telugu information on Wikipedia. The discussion was based on the steps that should be taken up in five categories: Community development, information availability, training and awareness, technology and research.



but only about 0.5 to 2 per cent of them are in English, according to Wikipedia. He suggested that like Sweden, people should contribute to the development of Telugu information on Wikipedia. "Information from many different fields of Telangana State is available and after the formation of the State, the Department of Language and Culture has published many

books and allowed them to be included in the Wikipedia (free copy)", said Mamidi Harikrishna, Director, Department of Language and Culture. He added that the Department of Language and Culture is cooperating to ensure Telugu information is available on Wikipedia.

Telangana IT Department is working to increase Telugu usage in digital media platforms said Digital Media Director Nileep Konatham. Telangana IT Department will be a partner in all the activities that are going on to develop Telugu Wikipedia. Telugu Wikipedia administrators said that they are ready to conduct training seminars to create awareness on the need to focus on not only on the zodiac, but also on the information following the rules of Wikipedia.

PS to check power pilferage

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The energy department has created a special 'anti-power theft police station' in Siddipet district. The police station would take care of power pilferage cases booked under the purview of Siddipet district. A DSP-level police officer with 148-strong staff under his jurisdiction would supervise it. These police officials would work under the TS Genco limits. They would report to the Genco CMD and Chairman while discharging their duties.



A DSP-level police officer with 148-strong staff under his jurisdiction would supervise it. These police officials would work under the TS Genco limits

The principal secretary to government K. Ramakrishna Rao issued orders to this effect. "The government after careful examination of the proposal, hereby accords sanction for creation of one post of Inspector of police (civil) for Anti Theft Squad police station at Siddipet", says the order. All the 148 posts created for the purpose would be deputed from the police department.

The post shall be filled on deputation basis drawing personnel from the concerned local cadre of the Home Department. Apart from the DSP, the staff includes ten assistant commandant rank officers to be drawn from

Armed reserve and Telangana State Special police units, a Inspector(civil), 11 Inspectors(Reserve), one sub-inspector-Reserve(RSI), 13 sub-inspectors(civil), 36 head constables, 31 constables and 44 women constables, who will be deputed from civil and armed reserve wings of Telangana police.

MOSQUITO MENACE

To spite GHMC, Cong offers free fogging services

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a bid to control the mosquito menace, the Hyderabad City Congress Committee (HCCC) Minorities Department Chairman Sameer Waliullah informed that free fogging services would be provided in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad.



Sameer Waliullah, in a media statement on Saturday, said that the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation has failed to control the mosquito menace, which consequently resulted in outbreak of Dengue, Malaria and other vector borne diseases.

He said despite alarming rise in cases of Dengue and Malaria, the GHMC did not take up fogging operations across Hyderabad at a large scale. Therefore, he said it has been decided to conduct fog-

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation has failed to control the mosquito menace, which consequently resulted in outbreak of Dengue, Malaria and other vector borne diseases. — SAMEER WALIULLAH, Congress Leader

ical camps would be organised in different areas to provide free check up and medicines for Dengue and other viral diseases.

Sameer Waliullah said that the health conditions in Hyderabad have turned from bad to worse during this monsoon. The GHMC officials have been making tall claims of having taken up fogging and anti-larval operations in their limits. However, the number of vector-borne diseases reported in public and private hospitals have exposed that the civic authorities were either lying or did not do their job properly.

He said that the GHMC conducted fogging and anti-larval operations in a symbolic manner while neglecting the intensity of the situation.

He said that the GHMC should have been in active mode in view of extended monsoon season. Although there are no rains in the city since a few days, several cases of Dengue, Malaria and other viral diseases are still being reported. Therefore, he said anti-Dengue campaign should be taken up on mission mode and every citizen must be involved to control the menace. The Congress leader said

that the Dengue and other disease reported in the last 3-4 months had a huge impact on common man. While many lives were lost, common people, cumulatively, have spent crores of rupees on diagnosis and treatment in private hospitals. TRS Government took no measures to regulate pricing in private hospitals and they extorted huge amounts while taking advantage of fear psychosis. Since the GHMC authorities appeared in no mood to help the people, he said it has been decided to hire fogging machines in private capacity to engage in the battle against Dengue and other vector-borne disease. Sameer Waliullah has sought the cooperation of all the workers of Congress party and urged them to actively participate in the campaign.

GHMC takes cue from NDMC

Team of engineers visit Delhi to understand road maintenance practices in NDMC area

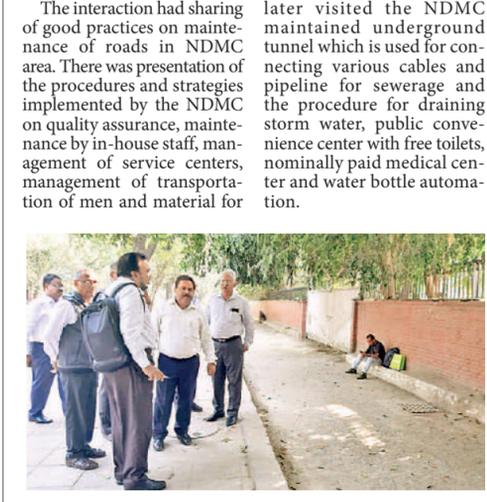
PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Engineers of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation headed to Delhi to understand the good practices followed for maintenance of roads in New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) area.

repairs and fixation and responding to the stagnation of water, defects if any. The team learnt about the criteria and procedures followed by the NDMC in permitting for cutting road to attend drainage, sewerage, electricity and communication lines. Accountability for restoration of road cutting is strictly followed. The NDMC is self-sufficient unit, the team of engineers from GHMC enquired on the sources of income and budget management to meet the citizens services. The team has also discussed the maintenance of colony roads, signage on roads, speed control mechanism, toilets, sanitary, open gyms, bus shelters.

Based on the Instructions from MA&UD Minister KT Rama Rao and Principal Secretary Arvind Kumar, the GHMC engineers on Saturday interacted with NDMC Chief engineer and other engineers to understand road maintenance practices in NDMC area under the chairmanship of Dr. Gaurav Uppal, Resident Commissioner in the conference hall, Telangana Bhavan, New Delhi.

The GHMC engineers have later visited the NDMC maintained underground tunnel which is used for connecting various cables and pipeline for sewerage and the procedure for draining storm water, public convenience center with free toilets, nominally paid medical center and water bottle automation.



GHMC engineers with the NDMC officials in New Delhi

Palla to be chief of Farmers' Coordination Committee

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao has decided to appoint MLC, TRS state general secretary Palle Rajeshwar Reddy as president of State Farmers' Coordination Committee. The Chief Minister on Saturday has instructed officials concerned to take up the appointment process of Rajeshwar Reddy as president of Farmers' Coordination Committee.



Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao with TRS state general secretary Palle Rajeshwar Reddy at Pragathi Bhavan in Hyderabad on Saturday

KCR FAST-TRACKS FILLING OF NOMINATED POSTS

The process of filling nominated posts has increased hopes among the TRS party leaders as the Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao announced MLC Palla Rajeshwar Reddy as the president of Farmers Coordination Committee on Saturday. The leaders are making all efforts to grab nominated posts. Some MLAs, who expected Minister berths kept all their hopes on the nominated posts. According to sources, KCR will fill the vacant nominated posts in a phased manner, as 90 per cent of the nominated posts were vacant. It is learnt that the Chief Minister is in thoughts that he will fill the nominated posts only after completion of Municipal elections. However, the Chief Minister had changed his idea and started filling the nominated posts selecting the leaders for suitable positions. Meanwhile, Chief Minister has put the speculations to rest by announcing Palla Rajeshwar Reddy's name for Farmers Coordination Committee. Earlier, speculations are rife that Nizamabad rural MLA Bajireddy Goverdhan will be given the post of Farmers Coordination Committee chairman. One of the party leaders stated that Bajireddy Goverdhan may be given another suitable position. The same party leader opined that loyalty to the party will be honored in giving nominated positions. He said that the Chief Minister will do justice to the loyal leaders by giving suitable positions. The announcement of Palla Rajeshwar Reddy's name as Farmers Coordination Committee president opened the gates for the enthusiastic leaders to put their efforts to achieve one nominated post. The Chief Minister already announced that he will do justice to the leaders participated in the Telangana movement. Padma Devender Reddy, S Madhusudhana Chary, Jupally Krishna Rao and Kadiyum Srihari and several others names were in the priority list.

The Chief Minister also instructed the officials concerned to complete the Farmers Dias cluster-wise. KCR is of the firm view that the Farmers Coordination Committees should be made into an organisation, which will help farmers from sowing the seeds to getting the minimum support price for their produce. Meanwhile, Palla Rajeshwar Reddy met the Chief Minister at Pragathi Bhavan and thanked the latter for taking a decision to appoint him as Farmers Coordination Committee president. On the occasion, the Chief Minister congratulated Palla and asked the latter to maintain Farmers Coordination Committees from village level to state level efficiently in a manner that the Committees have to stand by the farmers in all aspects.

Andhra tipplers make a beeline to TS villages

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
Sale of liquor in villages of Telangana bordering Andhra Pradesh have registered a three-fold increase as many from across the border cross over to Telangana to get tipsy. This phenomenon has been noticed in Suryapet and Khammam districts, which borders with the Andhra Pradesh.



Tipplers from villages bordering Andhra Pradesh with neighbouring Telangana are making a beeline to bars and wine shops in Telangana as liquor is costlier in AP compared to Telangana. Moreover, liquor shops remain shut sharp at 8 am, while those in Telangana remain opened for long hours. The prices of brands, which are hot favourites of middle classes and the poor are costlier in AP, compared to prices in Telangana, by at least Rs 40 per bottle. A quarter bottle of Mansion House brand liquor sells at Rs 110 in Telangana as against Rs 150 in AP. A full bottle of liquor costs Rs 450 in Telangana as against

Rs 610 in AP. A quarter bottle of Morpheus brandy is being sold at Rs 220 in Telangana, as against Rs 250 in AP. A full bottle of the same brand sells at Rs 820 in Telangana as against Rs 1,040 in AP. Cheap liquor sells between Rs 65-80 a bottle in Telangana as against Rs 100-120 in AP. Tipplers from Peddapuram, Jayanti, Alluru and Gudem Madhavaram of Veerulapadu mandal of Krishna district make a beeline to wine shops and bars in Yerrupalem and Meenavolu to get tipsy. Similarly, those belonging to Veerulapadu vil-

Tipplers from villages bordering Andhra Pradesh with neighbouring Telangana are making beeline to bars and wine shops in Telangana as liquor is costlier in AP compared to Telangana

Though there are two wine shops in Vatsavai, many travel to Bonakallu, just five km away. Some of them were found to be selling liquor bottles, bought in Telangana, in AP. The excise officials, in a raid, recovered 203 bottles on Friday and took one M Pati Malleswar of Chandarlapadu and Koppali Prakash Rao of Nawabpet. The excise officials have warned them against starting belt shops in villages.



BJP diverting attention from economic crisis: VH

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
Congress senior leader V Hanumantha Rao has said that the country's GDP fell down drastically due to the policies of BJP-led NDA government. He alleged that BJP's Demonetisation, GST and other economic policies thrown the nation's economy into doldrums, which was good during UPA regime. In a statement, VH alleged that the BJP-led NDA government is trying to divert the public attention from the economic crisis. He said that as per requirement and will of BJP and RSS, all the Youtube channels are showing comparison of Indian economy with that of Pakistan's economy, which infact should not even have been done, he said.

CLF wants only 'loyalist' to hold TPCC chief post

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
Congress Loyalists Forum has concluded that the party high command has to give TPCC president position to the party loyalist, if present TPCC chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy tenders resignation or the party removes him from the position.

The leaders also opined that the party senior leaders brought flying colors to the party in Maharashtra and Haryana and hence the party high command should not take the age as a barrier in selecting the next TPCC Chief, it is learnt

The leaders also opined that the party senior leaders brought flying colors to the party in Maharashtra and Haryana and hence the party high command should not take the age as a barrier in selecting the next TPCC Chief, it is learnt. Congress Loyalist Forum leaders - Marri Shashidhar Reddy, Sambani Chandrasekhar, M Kodanda Reddy, V Hanumanth Rao, B Kamalakar Rao, G Niranjan, A

Shyam Mohan attended the meeting. According to the seniors, they reviewed the present political situation in the context of expected changes in the state party organisation. It may be recalled that G Niranjan opined before the AICC general secretary Gulam Nabi Azad asked the party high command to make changes in Telangana Congress as frigidity prevailed on it, when he came to Hyderabad on 5 November.

Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme Ponnala questions CM's 'silence' on AP's affidavit

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
Congress senior leader and former Minister Ponnala Laxmaiah questioned Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao, who described Kaleshwaram project as a medicine for all diseases, to tell as to why he was not responding on the affidavit submitted by the Andhra Pradesh state in Supreme Court urging the Court not to accord national status to Kaleshwaram project.



KCR is confined to farm house, Pragathi Bhavan and public meetings and is leaving public issues to the wind as a dictator
— PONNALA LAXMAIAH
Former Minister

Ponnala stated that Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao and his counterpart YS Jagan Mohan Reddy knew that the Kaleshwaram project is an illegal one. KCR had spent Rs 11 lakh crore on Kaleshwaram project, which was supposed to be completed in Rs 35,000 crore. However, not a single drop came to the fields from Kaleshwaram project even after spending huge amounts, he pointed out. Ponnala, on Saturday at his residence, said that the KCR is stating that he will divert the Godavari water to Krishna and Nagarjunasagar and from there to Andhra Pradesh. This effort is nothing but an effort to loot the public exchequer, he alleged. "KCR spent Rs 20,000 crore on Palamuru-Ranareddy project. But not a single drop of water has flown to the fields. He slammed KCR, who earlier stated that he will not give water to Andhra Pradesh state, saying the same KCR is stating that he will give water to Andhra Pradesh state. "KCR is saying that he will give water to Andhra only to loot the public exchequer", he alleged. Ponnala questioned the Chief Minister to tell as to how the Central government will accord national status to the Kaleshwaram project as it redesigned the Pranahitha-Chevella project. "KCR is confined to farm house, Pragathi Bhavan and public meetings and leaving public issues to the wind as a dictator," he said. He said that the history will not forgive KCR. "The Congress has thrown a challenge several times at KCR for an open debate on projects," he said.

Jagan to grace Dec 13 AU alumni association meet

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM
Andhra University Vice-Chancellor Prof Prasad Reddy and president of AU alumni association Prof Beela Satyanarayana on Saturday announced that Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy will grace the Alumni association meeting to be held on December 13. Besides him, Tech Mahindra CEO CP Gurnani will also grace the occasion. The venue for the event would be the AU Convention Center on beach road and all past students of AU have been invited to take part in the event. He asked them to register their names through the AU website. They said that the AU alumni association will emerge as the biggest association in the country with a membership of over 80 lakh students who obtained degrees from the varsity. They said that the alumni



association would hereafter function as a charitable trust and former DGP Sambasiva Rao has been drafted into the trust. Because of the Alumni association, examination results declaration time has been drastically reduced to 25 days from the earlier six to seven months. Founder president of the association Grandhi Mallikarjuna Rao of the GMR group came forward to build a special hostel with 45 rooms, they said adding that the university has been striving to augment infrastructural amenities with the help of charitable public and donations from the past students.

Kodali Nani slams Naidu

PNS ■ AMARAVATI
Minister for Civil Supplies Kodali Nani on Saturday breathed fire on TDP national president N Chandrababu Naidu and warned him against shooting his tongue against CM YS Jaganmohan Reddy. He threatened to expose Chandrababu if he speaks nonsense about the CM. The people would slap Naidu by storming into his house if he were to continue his tirade against Jagan in this fashion, he said. He said that the YSRCP would not keep mum if TDP were to criticise YS Jaganmohan Reddy. The TDP would be stripped of its Opposition status and lodged in the store room of the YSRCP, at the snapping of fingers by Jaganmohan Reddy. CM Jaganmohan Reddy has certain principals and hence Naidu is allowed to enjoy the of Opposition leader status, he said.



Congress senior leaders K. Jana Reddy, V Hanumanth Rao, Ponnala Laxmaiah, Shabbir Ali, Damodara Raja Narsimha and others at a meeting in Hyderabad on Saturday

Centre halts inter-state swap among TS and AP

Continued from Page 1
About fortnight back, DoPT cleared the air over swapping state by rejecting the plea of Anantha Ramu as it would apparently affect the entire allocation process. Irrespective of Central Administrative Tribunal's (CAT) and state's decision, DoPT is no longer entertaining such pleas. With the Centre making its stance clear, the Andhra Pradesh State government last week posted 1990-batch IAS officer G Anantha Ramu as the head of the newly-created Department of Skills Development and Training for the implementation of the AP Employment of Local

A couple of years ago, the Hyderabad bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) quashed the allotment of Somesh Kumar to AP state and suggested that he be treated as a TS state officer

Candidates in the Industries/Factories Act, 2019. According to sources, in light of Anantha Ramu's case, the Centre is coming down heavily on states over inter-state change of IAS officers. Sources pointed out that Telangana had never raised an objection when the allocations were in their favour.

Still, whenever a state raises an objection or the Centre's approval is needed, the allocation decision lies in a limbo. Similar was the case with IAS officer Y SriLakshmi and Stephen Ravindra who wanted to switch to AP from Telangana. The Centre allegedly did not respond in favour of swapping the state, after which the IPS

officer had to resume duty as IGP West Zone. The inter-state deputations of All India Services officers have to be cleared by the ACC, which is chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A couple of years ago, the Hyderabad bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) quashed the allotment of Somesh Kumar to AP state and suggested that he be treated as a TS state officer. Following this decision, the Centre asked the Hyderabad High Court to reverse the CAT order and send back IAS officers Ronald Ross, S.S. Ravat, Amrapali Kata, Karuna Vakati, A Vani Prasad and Mallela Prasanthi to Andhra Pradesh, including G. Anantha Ramu.

RTC employees stage 'bus roko'...

Continued from Page 1
CPI MP from Kerala Binoy Viswam, who arrived here to have first hand information on the RTC strike, told reporters that he called on Raji Reddy, a RTC employees leader, at a city police station where the latter was taken. Reiterating his party's support to the RTC employees, Viswam said he would raise the issue in Parliament. In a barbarian way, they (TRS government) are trying to suppress the strike, he said. The TRS government showed absolute disregard for the peoples rights, democratic norms and principles of Constitution, he alleged.

'SADAK BANDH ON NOV 19'

Jagga Reddy plans to block Sangareddy-Mumbai highway

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
Congress MLA from Sangareddy T Jagga Reddy has announced that he will take up Sangareddy-Mumbai Highway 'Sadak Bandh' to make the RTC JAC's 'Sadak Bandh' programme on November 19 a huge success. It may be recalled that the RTC JAC has announced that it will blockade Hyderabad to Kodada Highway on November 19. However, Jagga Reddy said that he will stage Sangareddy-Mumbai highway road blockade following the directions of the TPCC chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy and senior leader V Hanumantha Rao.

State government is intentionally complicating the RTC strike. The people of the state would face troubles if RTC is privatised as private players would run the buses expecting only profits, he said



Speaking to the media at Assembly Media Hall here on Saturday, Jagga Reddy alleged that the state government is intentionally complicating the RTC strike, which has entered 43rd day on Saturday. However, the state government is intentionally adopting delaying tactics in regard to RTC strike. The people would face troubles if the corporation is privatised. The ticket prices will be affordable for the peo-

ple, if the corporation is under public sector. The people should not to think that the RTC issue only belongs to RTC employees. The people are facing lot of troubles in the states where the public transport system was privatised. "The people of the state would face hell troubles if RTC is privatised here as private operators run the buses expecting only benefits. The poor and the people who have no money cannot travel in RTC buses," he said asking the people to understand the RTC issue in this angle. He urged the people to extend their support to the RTC strike. Stating that he will blockade the Sangareddy-Mumbai highway on November 19, Jagga Reddy warned the government to solve the RTC issue immediately. He said that he will go to Delhi after November 20 to urge the party high command for the PCC Chief position. "I already posted my bio-data to the high command. I will work full time for the party if given PCC Chief position. I will not contest 2023 elections if given PCC Chief position," he said.

End of bonhomie between AP and Telangana?

Continued from Page 1
It is understood that the Andhra Pradesh government has placed before the court: "Telangana is going ahead with the construction of the Kaleshwaram project, which is prejudicial to the interests of inhabitants and farmers under the lower riparian projects of Andhra Pradesh and hence Kaleshwaram cannot be considered for declaration as nation-

al project. Telangana has taken up Kaleshwaram in the name of re-engineering. It has also communicated to the Central Water Commission its strong objections on the considerations of Kaleshwaram project in June 2018. Telangana is indiscriminately constructing new projects such as Palamuru-Ranga Reddy, Dindi, Baktha Ramadasu lift scheme with a total utilisation of more than 180 tmcft of water in Krishna basin and also projects

like Kaleshwaram, Seetharama lift irrigation scheme, Thupakulugudem with an utilisation of 450 tmcft of water, which will severely affect downstream farmers and inhabitants under the existing projects in AP". It may be recalled that in 2016, when N Chandrababu Naidu was the chief minister, a resolution was passed in the Assembly seeking Centre's intervention in irrigation projects being taken up by Telangana on

Godavari and Krishna rivers. Naidu then accused Telangana of violating the provisions of the AP Reorganisation Act by constructing new projects on the two rivers flowing through the Telugu-speaking states. Subsequently, Chandrababu Naidu and YS Jagan made comments on the Kaleshwaram project in the Assembly session in July 2019. However, at that time, Jagan showered praises on KCR for being magnanimous towards

Andhra Pradesh in agreeing to share Godavari water that would help stabilize huge ayacut under the Krishna River. The sudden change in the stance of Andhra Pradesh state with regard to the Kaleshwaram project is just the beginning of a fresh round of fights between the two states, say analysts. They point out that the two Telugu states have yet to settle several issues linked to the AP Reorganisation Act.

SHORT READS



Bhopal to get sex sorted semen production centre

BHOPAL: A sex sorted semen production centre will come up in Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh to enhance possibility of birth of female calves by 90 per cent, state Animal Husbandry Minister Lakhan Singh Yadav said on Saturday. The minister said the Central Semen Institute of the MP State Livestock and Poultry Development Corporation, located at Bhabhada in Bhopal, will set up this centre under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission. The centre will provide female embryos for free to increase the number of cattle of advanced breeds, he said. "This technology will increase by 90 per cent chances of the birth of a female calf. It will be set up at a cost of Rs 47.50 crore. The Centre would provide 60 per cent funding while the state government would put in the rest," Yadav said.



2 school-going sisters die as lorry hits bike

COIMBATORE: Two sisters were killed on the spot when the two-wheeler on which they were being taken to school by their father was involved in a head-on collision with a lorry here on Saturday, police said. Venkatesan was taking Gayathri (9), Keerthana (7) and his son (10) on his bike to school, when the collision occurred, the police said. Under the impact, the girls fell on the road, resulting in their instantaneous death, they said. While Venkatesan and his son, who were injured, were admitted to a nearby private hospital, the bodies of the girls were sent to the government hospital for a post-mortem, they said.



Dalit woman gang raped, thrashed in UP's Shamli

MUZAFFARNAGAR (UP): A 30-year-old Dalit woman was allegedly gang raped and beaten up by four men at Ahata Gos Garh village in Shamli district here, police said on Saturday. The incident took place on Thursday when the woman had gone to the fields to relieve herself. The men dragged her to a sugarcane field and took turns to rape her, they said, adding that the victim was also beaten up when she tried to resist. Three of the accused have been identified as Sachin, Sosing and Rohit while the third man is yet to be identified, said Sandeep Balyan, SHO, Thanabhawan police station, adding that all accused are absconding. A case has been registered under relevant statutory sections following a complaint by the victim's husband, he said. The victim has been sent for a medical examination, police said.

Press is critical partner in democracy: Kiran Bedi

PNS ■ PUDUCHERRY

Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi on Saturday said press is critical and an integral partner in democracy and helps enhance the image of the administration. Addressing the 'National Press Day' celebration organised at Raj Nivas, she said the administration was meant to serve the people who should also work with it.

Media acts as a bridge between the people and the administration and the media reports act as a vital input for the government to address the woes of the people, she said.

At the same time, she said, the press should carry only correct reports without derailing facts. Referring to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) setting up a branch in the Union Territory as a major development, Bedi said the Central government was serious about curbing corruption.



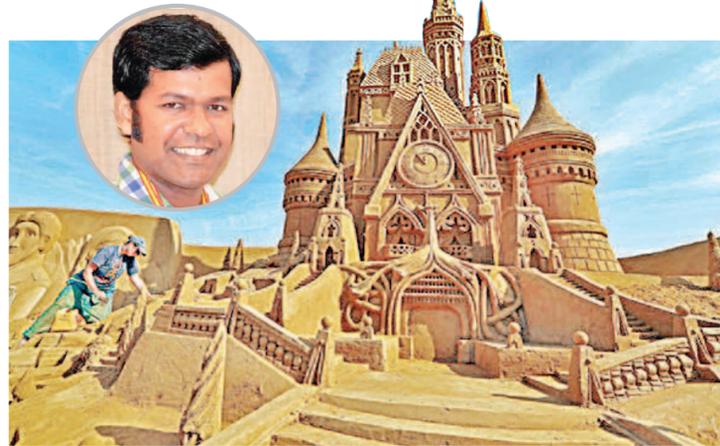
"Corruption will come down considerably and better service will be available to the common man in Puducherry," she said. She said her office had brought out a booklet entitled 'Good Practices' highlighting the implementation of schemes earmarked by the Centre for the Union Territory.

"Our work in Raj Nivas begins every day with the perusal of the reports in the day's newspapers and based on the issues in the reports, action was initiated by the departments concerned," she said. "An amazing change was already seen taking place because of follow-up action in the wake of media reports,"

Our work in Raj Nivas begins every day with the perusal of the reports in the day's newspapers and based on the issues in the reports, action was initiated by the departments concerned

— KIRAN BEDI, Puducherry Lieutenant Governor

she said and added that 'the Union Home Minister had already called for presentation by the administrator or Lt Governor of Union Territories on 'Good Practices' on Friday next. National Press Day is a vigilance day and is also a day of communication and accountability, the former IPS officer said and recalled how she felt the importance of press reports even from her school days.



Pattnaik becomes first Indian to win prestigious Italian award

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Acclaimed Indian sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik has been conferred the Italian Golden Sand Art Award, 2019 at a ceremony in Rome, becoming the first Indian to win the prestigious award for his contribution to sand art. Representing India at the International Scorrano Sand Nativity event held in Lecce from November 13 to 17, Pattnaik created a 10-foot high sand sculpture of Mahatma

Gandhi along with Russian artist Pavel Minilkov. "I have received the award on Friday from Vito Maraschio, the President of Promuovi International Scorrano Sand Nativity at a ceremony in Rome. Neeharika Singh, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Indian Embassy, was also present at the award ceremony," Pattnaik wrote on twitter.

There were eight sculptors from different countries who participated in this festival. "I feel very glad and hon-

oured to receive this prestigious award," said Pattnaik, who is also a Padma Shri awardee. Till now, Pattnaik has participated in more than 60 international sand art festivals and championships around the world and won many prizes for India. On Friday evening, he called on Indian Ambassador in Italy Reenat Sandhu who congratulated him on his achievements. The event was held under the patronage of the Puglia Region in South Italy.

GANDHIJI BOOKLET ROW

Odisha government terms it 'an inadvertent mistake'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Facing widespread criticism over an official booklet describing Mahatma Gandhi's death as an "accident", the Odisha government on Saturday said it was an inadvertent mistake and there was no intention to feed wrong information to the children or twist the sequence of events.

School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash came out with the government response to the controversy in the state Assembly following a direction from Speaker S N Patro in this regard on Friday.

Dash said the government has already withdrawn the booklet.

An official has been disengaged and two others have been asked to give explanation about the error, he added.

A two-page government booklet "Aama Bapuji: Eka Jhalaka" (Our Bapuji: A Glimpse) -- published on the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi -- presented a brief account of his teachings, works and links with Odisha, while also stating that he "died due to accidental reasons in a sudden sequence of



events on January 30, 1948 at Delhi's Birla House".

The matter triggered a row with political leaders and activists demanding an apology from Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and immediate measures to correct the "blunder".

The issue had created hue and cry in the assembly on Friday. Members cutting across party lines had expressed concern over the misleading facts on the Father of the Nation.

"There is no intention to give wrong information and mislead the children or twist the sequence of events. It was (mistake) unintentional," Dash said.

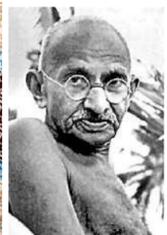
Necessary correction will be made in the booklet, it will be re-printed and circulated among the students within a month, the minister told the house.

Legislators of all the parties had on Friday felt sorry over the episode.

Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra had demanded an apology from the chief minister. The CLP leader also questioned the state government's motive behind the "misleading" information.

"I doubt the motive behind this misleading information on Gandhiji is because of the changed relationship between the (ruling) BJD and BJP. A section of BJP leaders are worshipping Nathuram Godse, who had killed Gandhiji," he had said in assembly on Friday.

"It appears that BJD has totally surrendered before BJP. Therefore this booklet could be part of the BJD-BJP secret alliance," Mishra said.



Maha equations change, Raut tweets about 'naya mausam'

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Amid the current political stalemate in Maharashtra, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Saturday cryptically said advent of "new weather" is letting him forget "old pain".

Politics in Maharashtra took an unexpected turn after the Shiv Sena walked away from its longtime ally BJP over sharing the chief ministerial post after Assembly results were declared on October 24. The two parties fell out after having contested the October 21 Assembly polls in alliance coming up with 161 seats together in the 288-member House.

At present, the Shiv Sena is in the process of working out a new equation with erstwhile rivals, NCP and Congress, as it tries to form government in the state.

"Yyaaron naye mausam ne ye ahsaan kiya hai. Yaad mujhe dard purane nahi aate (the new weather has done a favour, friends, I do not remember the old pain now)," Raut tweeted the lines of noted Urdu poet Bashir Badr, without naming anyone or any party.



Man-eater tiger captured in Corbett Reserve

PNS ■ RISHIKESH

A man-eater tiger, which had killed three forest guards in the Corbett Tiger Reserve area recently, was captured on Saturday from the forests of Tun Bhuji, close to the Dhikala zone of the reserve.

The tiger had killed two guards in Tun Bhuji and another

in Khinanauli forests close to the reserve in recent months. The latest incident had occurred on August 16. The big cat was caged on Friday after being tranquillised, chief wildlife warden Rajiv Bhartari said. Corbett authorities are yet to decide whether the tiger should be released into the wild or kept in a zoo.

Bengal to set up two detention centres for arrested foreigners

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The West Bengal government will soon set up two detention centres to house foreign nationals arrested on various criminal charges, and this move has "absolutely no connection" with the NRC, a state minister said on Saturday. The Mamata Banerjee-led state government has already finalised a piece of land in New Town area, West Bengal Correctional Services Minister Ujjwal Biswas said.

The process of scouting for land in Bongaon in North 24 Parganas district for the second detention centre is also underway, Biswas said.

He said an existing government building in Bongaon



could be converted as the second camp to temporarily house the foreign nationals, till the piece of land is identified.

"These detention camps are being constructed adhering to Supreme Court directives, according to which foreign nationals under trial and those convicted should not be kept with local inmates," he said. "This has absolutely no con-

nection with the NRC. Please don't link it to NRC," the minister added. Biswas also cited a 2014 directive of the central government, which asked all states to set up at least one detention centre for illegal immigrants and foreign nationals awaiting deportation after completion of their sentence.

Most of these foreign nationals belong to African countries, sources in the correctional department said. "Till now, the foreign nationals arrested for criminal activities are housed along with local inmates. But, we have observed that this creates problems due to different cultures and languages, and the situation becomes quite difficult for us to handle," Biswas said.



Exhibition showcases Indo-French ties of 18th century

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A new Indo-French exhibition here opens a historical window into the lives of 12 Indian rulers and their French-speaking officers from 1750-1850.

Drawing from the archives of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris and the National Museum here, the collaborative exhibition, "Rajas, Nawabs and Firangees, Treasures from the French and the Indian archives (1750-1850)," opened on Friday.

The exhibition has put on showcase unseen manuscripts, paintings and artefacts that offer glimpses of the Indian court life, through the eyes of French-speaking officers - few of which acquired high military positions and were endowed with jagirs.

Organised by Alliance française de Delhi, the United Service Institution of India, and the National Museum, the exhibits, curated by Samuel Berthet, are contextualized within the rise of British East India Company over the sub-

continent, and the successive defeats of the army of the French East India Company at its hands. Portraits of 12 duos of French officers and their Indian rulers from erstwhile courts in present day Kerala, Punjab, Bengal, Awadh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Poona, Hyderabad and Madurai mark the first section of the exhibition.

The second part shows a selection of the wide collection of Indian sacred texts preserved in the Bibliothèque Nationale, the French National Library. Apart from various aspects of Hinduism, the collection holds manuscripts related to Islam, Buddhism, Tantrism, Jainism and also the ancient religion of the Parsis.

The exhibition's third section explores the rich and complex theme of Firangee paintings in the light of the French experience, and answers how foreigners projected themselves during their sojourn in the East, and how were they represented by indigenous miniature artists.

GOOD GOVERNANCE MEET

J-K, Ladakh to be models of administrative excellence

PNS ■ HJAMMU

A two-day conference on 'replication of good governance practices in Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh' concluded here on Saturday with a pledge to develop the two regions as models of administrative excellence.

The conference, which was participated by officials from 19 states and four UTs, resolved to make sustained efforts to create a transparent, accountable and people-centric administration in the UTs of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.



The unanimously adopted 'Sushasan Sankalp' (good governance oath) resolved to repli-

cate the innovations and best practices in successful national governance initiatives,

The conference, in which officials from 19 states and four UTs participated, resolved to make sustained efforts to create a transparent, accountable and people-centric administration in the UTs of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh

including digital governance and citizen-centric grievance redressal. The conference was inaugurated by Union Minister Jitendra Singh here on Friday in the presence of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir G C Murmu, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public

Grievances secretary C Chandramouli, J&K Chief Secretary B V R Subrahmanyam and others.

During the valedictory session, the conference unanimously adopted the 'Sushasan Sankalp' after intensive deliberations during the sessions held over two days, an official

spokesman said. He said the conference resolved that the Centre and the participating state governments and the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh would collaborate to develop the new UTs as models of administrative excellence using digital technologies in the implementation of welfare programmes.

The conference also resolved to promote capacity building and personnel administration by formulating mid-career training programmes and specific need-based training programmes for officials, the spokesman said.

CAPSULE



Protests erupt in Iran after petrol price hike

TEHRAN: Sporadic protests erupted in cities across Iran, state news agency IRNA said on Saturday, a day after the government announced a surprise decision to ration petrol and hike its price. The demonstrations on Friday night were "severe" in Sirjan in central Iran as "people attacked a fuel storage warehouse in the city and tried to set fire to it," the news agency reported. But police intervened to prevent them. IRNA said "scattered" protests also broke out in other cities including Mashhad, Birjand, Ahvaz, Gachsaran, Abadan, Khoramshahr, Mahshahr, Shiraz and Bandar Abbas. They were mostly limited to blocking traffic and were over by midnight, it added. Iran imposed petrol rationing and raised pump prices by at least 50 percent on Friday, saying the move was aimed at helping citizens in need with cash handouts.



Anil resigns as director of Reliance Communications

NEW DELHI: Anil Ambani has resigned as director of Reliance Communications, the debt-ridden company said in a filing on Saturday. According to the filing, Ambani along with Chhaya Virani, Ryna Karani, Manjari Kacker, Suresh Rangachar have resigned as directors of RCom. "Your good office may also note that Shri Manikantan V., has also tendered his resignation as a director and Chief Financial Officer of the Company earlier. The aforementioned resignations shall be put up to the committee of creditors of the Company for their consideration," the filing added. RCom, which is currently going through insolvency process, has posted a consolidated loss of Rs 30,142 crore for July-September 2019 due to provisioning for liabilities after the Supreme Court ruling on statutory dues.



Rajasthan constitutes export promotion council

JAIPUR: The Rajasthan government has constituted export promotion and coordination councils to address bottlenecks and boost shipments from the state. The Industries Department on Friday issued a notification for the formation of the Rajasthan Export Promotion Coordination Council. It will coordinate between various industrial organisations, exporters and respective departments of the state government to remove the bottlenecks in exports. In addition, a notification has also been issued to constitute the Rajasthan Export Promotion Council as a representative body of exporters, export-related persons, companies, institutions and industrial organisations. With the formation of these two councils, the export of various commodities, handicrafts, gems, jewelry and agricultural products from Rajasthan and tourism business will get new momentum. According to an official statement, the state chief secretary will head the 19-member Export Promotion Coordination Council.

OVERCOME ISSUES, GET INDIA INTO RCEP: SINGAPORE MINISTER

PNS ■ SINGAPORE

A senior Singapore minister has expressed hope that outstanding issues with India can be overcome by other countries to get the large South Asian market into the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

"We hope that India and the other 15 countries can overcome the outstanding issues so that India can come on board eventually. We look forward to the region, including India, moving ahead together as one," Singapore's Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security, Teo Chee Hean, said on Saturday.

During the recent ASEAN meeting in Bangkok, India did not reach an agreement on negotiations to sign the multi-lateral free trade agreement RCEP, while 15 countries — China, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Australia and ASEAN members -- agreed to ink the



During the recent ASEAN meeting in Bangkok, India did not reach an agreement on negotiations to sign the multi-lateral free trade agreement RCEP, while 15 countries — China, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Australia and ASEAN members -- agreed to ink the pact.

India remains concerned that the China-dominated RCEP would be disadvantageous to its farmers and MSMEs. Addressing the fourth edition of the South Asian

Diaspora Convention, Teo elaborated on India and ASEAN trade pacts, pointing out, "We already have the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area (AIFTA), which came into effect in 2010. But there is more potential."

Teo added that India and Singapore are also exploring linking "our national single window platforms to facilitate cross-border exchange of trade information digitally". He cited the

example of India's RuPay and Singapore's NETS, a tie-up launched last year to facilitate cross-border payments.

Among other cooperation between the two countries, Teo noted Singapore's Sembcorp Marine Rigs and Floaters having recently collaborated with Shapoorji Pallonji of India and Malaysia's Bumi Armada to convert a very large crude carrier (VLCC) into a floating production, storage and offloading (FPSO) unit. To be deployed on the east coast of India, the project will produce up to 90,000 barrels of oil per day and help meet India's significant energy needs. While these examples were listed for furthering South Asian-Singapore ties, Teo called for further strengthening of connectivity. One key area is infrastructure, which provides the sinews for development and growth — power, water, sanitation, telecommunications, roads, railways, ports and airports, he said.

Insurance cover on Bank deposits may go up

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government is considering proposals on raising insurance cover on bank deposits from the current Rs. 1 lakh and regulating multi-state cooperative banks, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Friday. The new legislations in this regard will be brought during the winter session of Parliament starting Monday, she added. At present, bank depositors get an insurance cover of Rs. 1 lakh on their amount by the Deposit Insurance And Credit Guarantee Corporation.

"I will be going to Cabinet to increase the insurance limit from current Rs. 1 lakh on deposit in banks and if the Cabinet approves it, we will move it in the upcoming winter session of Parliament," Ms Sitharaman said at a media interaction.

Ms Sitharaman, however, did not mention what the new insurance limit would be.

Deposit insurance is a protection cover against losses accruing to bank deposits.

In 1993, the cover was raised from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 1 lakh.

In September this year, the central bank imposed restric-



Nirmala Sitharaman

I will be going to Cabinet to increase the insurance limit from current Rs. 1 lakh on deposit in banks and if the Cabinet approves it, we will move it in the upcoming winter session of Parliament

— SITHARAMAN
Finance Minister

tions on the Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank citing major financial irregularities.

Putting the co-operative bank under its lens, the RBI barred PMC Bank from renewing or granting any loans, or making investments without its prior approval.

United joins Southwest, American in new 737 MAX delay

AFP ■ NEW YORK

United Airlines said Friday it pushed back its expected date for Boeing's 737 MAX aircraft to return to service, following similar announcements by rivals Southwest and American Airlines.

The US air carrier now says it expects flights to resume on March 4, 2020, two months later than a previous estimate, implying the cancellation of thousands of scheduled flights.

The top-selling Boeing jets have been grounded since March of this year following the second of two crashes which left 346 people dead.

Boeing has faced stumbling blocks in its efforts to win global regulators' approval for proposed fixes to the aircraft and get the planes flying again.

In statement, United said it was working to minimize disruptions for the flying public, rescheduling flights or making other offers.

"We have cooperated fully with the FAA's independent review of the MAX aircraft, and we won't put our customers and employees on that plane until regulators make their own independent assessment that it is safe to do so," it said. Boeing says



In statement, United said it was working to minimize disruptions for the flying public, rescheduling flights or making other offers

it hopes to get regulatory approval for a return to service before the end of this year but has delayed its estimate for the resumption of commercial flights until January, to allow for changes to pilot training.

Southwest, the world's biggest buyer of 737 MAX jets, with 34 of them in its fleet at the time of the grounding in March, said

earlier this month it now expects a return to service on March 6, 2020.

American Airlines, which purchased 24 of the jets, said it expected its 737 MAX jets to fly again on March 5.

The Southwest pilots union on Wednesday denounced what it said was Boeing's pressure on regulators to speed up authorization for the 737 MAX's return to service.

"Boeing is increasingly publicizing that they may have to shut down their production line due to running out of room to store completed MAX aircraft," the statement said.

"There is some concern that this is simply another tactic" to speed up the return to service and push some costs back on to operators, it added.

Flexible workplace demand to jump 5-times

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Demand for flexible workspace in India is estimated to jump five times by 2025 to 130-140 million sq ft, accounting for one-third of global coworking inventory, according to a report by property consultant Cushman & Wakefield (C&W).

The global real estate consultant released its report "Redefining future workplaces" at Workplace Trend Conclave held here on Friday.

"The phenomenon of coworking has been the proverbial storm in the teacup for commercial real estate in India," the report said.



India is one of the largest flexible workplace markets in the world, the NYSE-listed consultant said.

"The rise of millennials has

led to the existence of a strong start-up and entrepreneurial culture. They need a workplace that inspires innovation and ideas, offers flexibility in terms

There are 1,000 operational coworking centres, with a capacity of over 4 lakh seats, across top six cities — Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad and Chennai

of timings and location, while being integrated with technology for communication and collaboration," said Anshul Jain, Country Head & Managing Director-India, C&W.

The consultant has estimated the global flexible workspace inventory at about 125 million sq ft, of which nearly 27 million sq ft is located in India.

There are 1,000 operational coworking centres, with a capacity of over 4 lakh seats, across top six cities -- Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad and Chennai.

The number of flexible space operators has risen from single digits to about 350 over the last 3-4 years.

"Flex space is likely to grow to 130-140 million sq ft by 2025, with India accounting for nearly one third of the global coworking inventory," the report said.

Centre to push MSME exports: Gadkari

PNS ■ NAGPUR

The government is working on two policies to increase MSME exports and bring down imports by encouraging local production, Union MSME and Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Saturday.

While addressing the gathering at Small Micro Enterprise (SME) conference at Nagpur, Gadkari mentioned that the MSME sector has 29 per cent contribution in country's growth and 48 per cent of export is done through MSMEs. Similarly, about 10-11 crore jobs have been created in MSMEs. "The government is working on two policies. Firstly

on the industries which are into export business - how to support and increase their export," the minister said. The leather industry has a total turnover of Rs 1,40,000 crore of which Rs 80,000 crore to Rs 90,000 crore is domestic and around Rs 45,000-50,000 crore is from export.

"I have suggested them on working on modernisation, upgradation, product designing and how to reduce the cost of production and improve quality, so that our share increases in the international market. We are working on a policy on how to strengthen export business," Gadkari said.

Exports decline 1.11%; trade at US \$ 18 bn

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's exports contracted for the third month in a row in October by 1.11 per cent to USD 26.38 billion mainly on account of a significant dip in shipments of petroleum, carpet, leather products, rice and tea.

Imports too declined by 16.31 per cent -- the steepest fall in more than three years -- to USD 37.39 billion in October, narrowing the trade deficit to USD 11 billion, according to the government data released on Friday.

This is the steepest decline in imports since July 2016 when the inward shipments had declined by 19 per cent.

Gold imports increased by about 5 per cent to USD 1.84 billion in the month.

The trade deficit stood at USD 18 billion in October 2018.

Out of the 30 key sectors, as many as 18 segments showed negative growth in exports dur-



ing the month under review.

Shipments of petroleum goods, carpet, leather products, rice and tea contracted by 14.6 per cent, 17 per cent, 7.6 per cent, 29.5 per cent and 6.16 per cent respectively.

The country's outbound shipments have remained subdued so far this year. It may have a bearing on the overall economic growth, which fell to over six-year low of 5 per cent in the first

quarter of the current fiscal. Industrial output declined by 4.3 per cent in September due to poor performance by manufacturing, power generation and mining sectors.

The outbound shipments contracted by 6 per cent in August and 6.57 per cent in September.

In October, oil imports declined by 31.74 per cent to USD 9.63 billion, and non-oil



World Bank submits plan for Kolkata logistics

PNS ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra on Saturday said the World Bank has prepared and submitted a conceptual master plan for development of logistics infrastructure within the city metropolitan area.

He said that the proposed master plan would entail a project cost of around USD 300 million to be funded by the World Bank. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of CII Logistics Colloquium here, Mitra said, "World Bank has submitted a master plan to the state on logistics infrastructure in and around Kolkata metropolitan area."

A meeting will take place soon, he said, adding that the World Bank has also expressed its interest of 12.58 per cent in 2018-19 against the national growth of around 5.5 per cent. The minister said the private sector is expected to generate employment for around 1.26 lakh people by investing in logistics infrastructure in the state.



Finance Minister Amit Mitra

times after the Mamata Banerjee-led government came to power in the state in 2011.

"From Rs 1,758 crore in 2011, the (state) government's spending on infrastructure has been increased to Rs 9,553 crore in 2018", he said.

Mitra said the increased spending on infrastructure had helped the state to register "a SGDP growth of 12.58 per cent in 2018-19 against the national growth of around 5.5 per cent". The minister said the private sector is expected to generate employment for around 1.26 lakh people by investing in logistics infrastructure in the state.

NCAER: Q2 GDP growth may decline to 4.9%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The country's GDP growth is likely to decline to 4.9 per cent in the second quarter of this fiscal due to sustained slowdown in virtually all the sectors, economic think-tank NCAER said on Saturday.

India's economy grew at 5 per cent in the first quarter of 2019-20 — the slowest pace in over six years. For the full fiscal 2019-20, the Delhi-based National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has pegged GDP growth at 4.9 per cent as against 6.8 per cent in 2018-19. Going forward, NCAER said the monetary policy measures are unlikely to revive growth at this juncture and suggested providing fiscal stimulus, which too can be challenging unless it can be financed through better revenue generation.

"Whether the growth deceleration may be bottoming out or not, we will know in next two weeks based on the Q2 growth figures of the government. However, the current poor growth is mainly due to a demand problem. It can be addressed through fiscal measures," NCAER Distinguished Fellow Sudipto Mundle told PTI on the sidelines of its event on 'Mid-year review of the economy'.

Emphasising that the focus should be on fiscal measures, Mundle said there is a need to pump up expenditure without pushing up the fiscal deficit.

There are ways of doing it, he said, adding, "We have a



Emphasising that the focus should be on fiscal measures, Mundle said there is a need to pump up expenditure without pushing up the fiscal deficit

bold leader. There is a huge fiscal space which has not been used. It is myth that some say there is no fiscal space."

Mundle said that revenue foregone is 5 per cent of the country's GDP and about 1.5 per cent of GDP is locked up as excess appropriation of the budget which has not been spent. Even the government is not paying the bills, he said.

"So, there is a lot of fiscal space, but you need take tough measures. First of all, we need to reduce expenditures on indirect tax custom duties. There was no need to reduce corporate tax. Are companies investing after that? This makes the position worse," he added.

Shipments of petroleum goods, carpet, leather products, rice and tea contracted by 14.6%, 17%, 7.6%, 29.5 per cent and 6.16% respectively

imports fell by 9.19 per cent to USD 27.76 billion.

Cumulatively, during April-October 2019, exports were down 2.21 per cent to USD 185.95 billion while imports contracted by 8.37 per cent to USD 280.67 billion.

Trade deficit during the period narrowed to USD 94.72 billion as against USD 116.15 billion in April-October 2018-19.

Meanwhile, an RBI release showed that services export for October 2019 stood at USD 17.22 billion while imports were at USD 10.92 billion.

Services exports in September 2019 were USD 17.54 billion (Rs 1,25,090.78 crore) registering a

positive growth of 7.05 per cent in dollar terms, vis-à-vis September 2018.

Services imports in September 2019 were USD 11.10 billion (Rs 79,151.87 crore) registering a positive growth of 11.56 per cent in dollar terms, vis-à-vis September 2018. Ludhiana-based exporter S C Ralhan called for the immediate release of foreign trade policy by the government to arrest the downfall.

"Government should immediately announce foreign trade policy. If it will be delayed, the government would not be able to control the damage," Ralhan said.

CHAMPIONS OF EARTH

SHALINI SAKSENA met up with saviours of Nature at the recent Earth Hero Awards held in Delhi, to bring you stories of inspiration and good work that they are doing to leave a better world for future generations

JALAL-UD-DIN BABA, J&K, Award Category: Inspire

He was in Class VI and would watch as his parents exploited the Wular Lake in Bandipora district in J&K for whatever that the lake was able to give — fish and water chestnuts. It was then that Baba decided that when he was old enough, he would do everything that was possible to give back what his parents had taken from the lake that is the lifeline for the people living in the area.

Baba, who has been awarded the Inspire award by RBS Earth Heroes Awards for his commitment to filmmaking in environment, water, climate change, livelihood, forests and glaciers tells you that he is from a village Bandipora which standard on the banks of the Wular Lake, the largest fresh water lake in Asia with an area of 272 sq km.

"I was born on the banks of this river with bounties of this lake like water chestnuts, *nadru* (lotus root), fish and sometimes even sand extraction. The Wular water run in my blood. It was always in my mind to give it back to the mother which nurtured me. This pulled me towards Nature. I started small. I would go on my own to collect trash that would collect on the banks. Sometimes, I would pull my friends as well. My activism was a reaction to what I had seen my parents do to the lake," Baba explains.

He tells you that the lake feeds eight lakh people. "Yet, they don't understand the importance of what it means to have clean fresh water," Baba says who is also a guest faculty and trainer at media departments, schools, colleges and universities across the country.

He conducts science and green filmmaking workshops, lectures, hands-on training and screenings. He has won more than 19 national and international awards from India, the US, China, Australia, France, Spain and Bangladesh, besides official acknowledgements, nominations and citations across the country. His flair for storytelling has empaneled him as a science communicator and resource person with Vigyan Prasar, Department of Science and Technology.

"To begin with, I would tell stories, tell the fishermen how necessary the lake is for the people of the region. I would write articles and hold debates on how we were poisoning the waters. I told people what to do and what not to do. There are 42



The Wular lake attracts thousands of migratory birds. The area can become an eco-tourism spot and provide an alternative means for earning. But the exploitation over the years has had a devastating effect on the biodiversity

other water bodies around this lake that feed the locals. I would tell people not throw waste and faecal matter into the lake because this water is then recycled, cleaned and finds its way into our taps for us to drink. Then there is the fish, *nadru* and even water chestnut. The fish eat what we throw in the waters and we in turn eat that fish. We eat *nadru* and water chestnuts too. We are not only damaging the environment, what we are eating is damaging our bodies as well. But I found

that the impact that I was hoping for never came. That is when I decided to turn towards digital medium and armed myself with a camera to tell my story," Baba recalls.

His film on what the Wular means to the locals is as dramatic as it can get. It is told from the eyes of a 13-year-old rag picker, Bilal Ahmad Dar who lives on its banks and what the lake means to him. The reason he has to eke out a livelihood is because he lost his father to cancer when he was six. And the reason for cancer? The toxic Wular lake. I made a hero of this boy. I targeted school children, I find that they are most open to ideas, yet our environment is at its worst today. This means that we are doing something wrong in our education system," the 47-year-old tells you.

He has been conferred with the Inspire Award for his work as an individual (journalist/filmmaker/artist) or institution who has influenced thought or inspired action on wildlife conservation, natural resource management, and environmental protection through their creative expression.

"We are not teaching the importance of what the ecology and environment means to us. I show my films. I sometimes scare them by telling them the story of Dar. They understand the importance of Wular today," Baba says.

The reason why Wular is dying? The lake is at the large part of the Valley — North. "Even the affluence from South Kashmir is emptied into the lake. The lake starts from Shehnag travels to Lidar which meets Jhelum. This water carrying silt as well. Through Jhelum, the affluence and silt empties into Wular which is like a river and a lake. The lake becomes a reservoir. All the more reason why there is need to protect it and not throw trash into it. The lake attracts thousands of migratory birds. The area can become an eco-tourism spot besides what is already being done. It can provide an alternative means to earning for the locals. But the exploitation over the years has had a devastating effect on the biodiversity. Some of it is still left. There is time. Kashmir is dependent on Nature. We don't have industries; we don't have railways. We only have waters and lakes. If we lose Wular, we will lose everything including the Dal Lake in Srinagar," Baba says.

S SATHISH, Tamil Nadu, Award Category: Save The Species

S Sathish is a forest range officer at Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Tamil Nadu. This is the first Marine National Park in South-east Asia. After completing his BSc in Forestry and then doing Environmental Science, Sathish is now pursuing his doctorate in Marine Biology. His interest in Nature and preserving the species took root after he had completed his one-and-a-half years of training in Hyderabad, Telangana. He tells you that his posting in Gulf of Mannar was more like a punishment.

"Most forest rangers consider a posting here as a punishment because the working style in Marine National Park is very different from what one would do or find in a Tiger reserve. Nobody wants to work in a marine environment. People who come in this job have a different view of what the job entails. Working with marine animals is different as the nature and style of working here is different. One has to love the sea in order to love the work that comes with the territory. Once you fall in love with marine life, there is no walking away from this," Sathish says.

The lack of awareness when it comes to dealing with marine life is what deters young forest rangers to work in this area. "We don't have much information about marine animals. I studied Forestry for four years in BSc, two years of Environmental Science and one-and-a-half years of training and yet before I joined the National Park at Gulf of Mannar, I too didn't have much knowledge. This field is kind of nightmare since it is new for everyone. Then there is the fact that the park borders Sri Lanka. Working here was an eye-opener for me," Sathish tells you.

Even though the National Park has a rich wildlife, what is an unexplored world is marine life and there is so much that the sea has to offer. "There are sea cucumbers, sharks, whales, sea horses



and beautiful corals. Since the park is at the border, sea cucumber and sea horses are tradable items. People eat them but luckily not in India. The challenge was to stop trade in these marine animals. Over 100 people were apprehended. I even targeted kingpins," Sathish says.

Going after such people meant that Sathish and his wife's life is always under threat. He tells you that since he has been posted there, not a single day has gone by when the two of them roamed the area freely. His wife doesn't allow him to go alone anywhere. Recalling a recent incident, he tells you how his driver was beaten black and blue just because he drives Sathish around. They wanted Sathish to slow down in his work. Fake cases of Human Rights violation are filed against him regularly. But this has not slowed him down.

Once Sathish joined, his first priority was to think of things that could be taken up on a priority basis. "What we have under the sea is just as important for the ecosystem. Sea cow or dugong and sea turtles are endangered here. Dugong was being hunted for its meat. Its meat is a delicacy and sells for ₹1,000 per kg. When I took over, there were only 150 dugongs left in Gulf of Mannar," Sathish says.

lect all the plastic settled at the bottom," Sathish explains.

This is no the only work that Sathish is known for in the area when he took over the National Park back in 2016. He regularly gives talks to school children telling them about the importance of marine life in general and sea turtles, dugong and sea cucumber in particular. And it was his commitment to the conservation of sea cucumber, in the coastal stretch of Mandapam and Ramnad Wildlife Range, that Sathish was awarded the Save the Species award by RBS Earth Heroes Awards.

"I tell the fishermen that their livelihood is dependent on what the sea gives them. If they abuse the sea, soon there won't be anything left for them to sell and eat. I tell them that these endangered species are important for the other fish to survive. If sea cucumber disappears, their income will also disappear. Sea cucumber cleans the sea bed. This is something that the fishermen understand since the area has seen a drop in the amount of the fish coming in. The impact is that today, even if a dugong gets caught in the nets, it is set free. This has led to an increase in their number. As for sea turtles, if they would get caught in the net, their flippers would be cut off and turtle would be thrown back. But today, people protect them after they have understood the role each marine animal plays," Sathish says.

His work related to dugong is just as innovative. An app has been created — Save the Dugong. "The fisherman, with the help of this app needs to click the picture; it will give us the GPS sighting and help us track the movement. In return we pay ₹10,000. While the money is nowhere near the money they would earn if they killed the animal, the idea of seeing a dugong has caught on and the species number is on the rise. We are now in the process of trying to bring this area as dugong conservation area," Sathish says.

What we have under the sea is just as important for the eco-system. Dugong and sea turtles are endangered here. Dugong was being hunted for its meat. Its meat is a delicacy and sells for ₹1,000 per kg

He tells you that there 56 marine animals in the Gulf his primary work in with sea cucumbers. For this, the Forest Department bought scuba equipment after he and his team members learnt how to scuba dive. In fact, he and his eight-team are the only team in the Department who know how to scuba dive.

"There was a reason why we learnt how to scuba dive. There are 10,000 boats that ply in this region. There is so much plastic that is thrown in the sea. These settle at the bottom and cover the coral reef they would suffocate and die. This in turn would affect other marine animals living in the coral reefs. One a week we dive and col-

BHOLU ABRAR KHAN, Bharatpur, Award Category: Green Warrior

He was all of 12 when he would spend his days chasing birds at Keoladeo Ghana National Park at Bharatpur. His father was a chef at one of the resort's where ornithologists and birdwatcher would come and visit from time to time. One such person who piqued Bhola's interest was Dr Salim Ali who used to frequent the park to ring the birds. Bhola attributes much of his love and knowledge of birds to this man.

"Dr Ali used to come to the park often. Once I met him. He asked me if I would be interested in helping me. I was 12, had lot of energy and free time since I wasn't going to school. I would spend hours chasing birds and looking for them. He was the one who taught me the names and how to identify them. Those which I couldn't identify, I would look at it with care and come back and describe the bird in detail. Dr Ali would then tell me the name. I would go patrolling with the staff even as a kid. I

would go to count nests and help ring the birds," the 65-year-old who retired as forest ranger with the park, recalls.

However, Dr Ali had a strict rule. The only way that Bhola could help was that he had to compulsorily go to school. The young Bhola had no option but to comply. Unfortunately, he could not complete his graduation. In 1976, family pressure forced him to get married. "Those days one simply followed what the family said. I was in second year and sitting in the exam hall when I had to leave. The baarat was at the doorstep. I got caught up with married life and never had the opportunity to go back to complete it," Bhola recounts who had joined the park as a forester.

But it didn't deter him from working with the birds. He got a job with the park, learnt how to conduct bird census camps and to handle birds safely. He monitored the park daily and reported issues around encroachment, poaching, animal diseases and unruly visitors who would disturb the

birds. His thorough knowledge meant that guides would come to him to take lessons on how to identify a particular bird — whether it was migratory, a resident bird or a resident migratory. He has taught MSc student who came to learn about the birds. He has taught young forest officers who would be posted at the park. He has taught school students who would visit the park by showing them a presentation, the peculiarities of a bird and how to spot them in the wild.

He regales you with stories. He tells you how he was the one who had spotted a hissing cat. "Once, as a kid I spotted a cat. But I didn't know its name. But I studied the way it looked. I ran back and informed the office. When they saw the animal, they were surprised to see a hissing cat. Nobody knew that it was in the park," Bhola tells you.

He tells you how back in the 80s and 90s people would through the park to see



the Siberian crane. Unfortunately, the fighting in Afghanistan in the 90s proved to be fatal to this majestic bird that would rest in Afghanistan. He tells you how rampant killing of this exotic looking bird meant that Keoladeo lost one of its prized possessions. But he tells you that back in

1985, a Russian had ringed a baby Siberian bird. The bird was spotted in the park in 1986 with its parents after flying for 8,000 km.

"The then park director called the person who had tagged the bird. It was then that there are three kinds of population each has a different destination. The central population that comes to Bharatpur, the western population that goes to Iran and eastern population that goes to China where their numbers are large.

There were other challenges as well. Water is a big issue. The Gambhir river that used to feed the Bharatpur wetland, no longer is an option since the construction of the dam. "There was a time when thousands of birds used to come to the park. There was plenty of food back then. But after the dam was built, the part lost its supply of water. The option was to feed the park from the Chambal river. The water from this river that feeds the city is collected some 17 km away in a flood con-

trol drain. But this water lacks natural food. There is bound to be a decline in the bird population. But during good monsoons, there is plenty of food and the bird population thrives," Bhola tells you.

He opines that there is need to ensure that Bharatpur remain a wetland to attract birds. "The town has no other industry. The entire population is depended on tourist who come here. If the water disappears, the birds disappear, the tourists will as well. At present, the park in world heritage site. But the park can lose its status. What will we do then? The Government is doing its best and park officials are doing their best to deal with the situation since there is so much more awareness about wildlife today," Bhola says.

He tells you his life started with the bird and will end among the birds. His children too are wildlife photographers. "I too am a photographer. Many of my photos have found way into many magazines," Bhola tells you.

the pioneer agenda

Don't take yourself too seriously. Know when to laugh at yourself, and find a way to laugh at obstacles that inevitably present themselves
— Halle Berry



FROM THE INSIDE

Mystic pillars of a great king
The two pillars with edicts near Bihar-Nepal border tell the tale of Ashoka and his conquest through Buddhism

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Leading a virtuous life
Guru Nanak's spiritual beliefs and practices were transformational and cut across the lines of religion



FROM THE KEHWA KHANAS TO THE SOCIALS

What do millennials want from restaurants in India? Do they appreciate quality, instead of chatpata, “buzzing” flavours? The answers lie in the history of restaurant retail in India and cultural habits of how people eat different foods at home and in restaurants, writes ANOOTHY VISHAL in her book, *Business on a Platter: What Makes Restaurants Sizzle or Fizzle Out*. But first, a taste of history... An edited excerpt:

If professional chefs run restaurants today, history has come a full circle. In medieval India, the moneyed nobility employed the highest-paid chefs and not the *bazaar* chefs who cooked the common man's *chaat*, kebabs and breads. Several accounts of Lucknow, including the early 20th-century *Guzishta Lucknow* by Abdul Halim Sharar, talk of highly paid *rikabdars*, or professional cooks, who specialised in unique dishes that left their diners amazed.

Shaikh Fida Ali was a *rikabdar* during the reign of Wajid Ali Shah, the last nawab of Awadh. He once placed a transparent lampshade on a table before a British dignitary. He placed a lit candle inside the lampshade, then blew it out, broke what appeared to be the glass of the shade and started eating it. 'It was later learnt that the entire lampshade was made out of sugar candy,' wrote Aslam Mahmud, an old *Lucknowallah* and bureaucrat, in his superbly researched *Awadh Symphony*, which talks about life under the nawabs. Centuries before molecular gastronomy began to beguile us with its presentations, the *rikabdars* were already practising food as an art form.

Restaurant cooks, on the other hand, traditionally didn't know how to cook these nuanced dishes, and restaurant cooking has therefore always been distinct from home cooking in India. This fact is crucial to any understanding of the country's food- and restaurant-scape. For the first time, really, in the history of food retail in India, we are at a point where at least some restaurant food cooked by chefs is being considered more evolved and more desirable than home food. Experience-led dining that was confined to moneyed homes (as opposed to restaurants that were more functional and catered to mass needs) has only relatively recently shifted out of that private zone and into a public, social one.

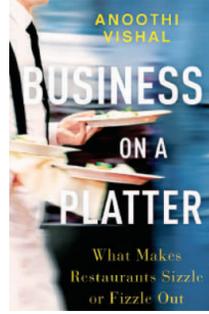
After the British assumed power in India and Mughal might was lost, cooks who had till then laboured in the kitchens of aristocrats found themselves out of work. Some of them found work with new employers but discovered that these new sahibs and brown sahibs of the Raj did not understand the elite art. Chef Mujeeb-ur-Rehman, a well-known chef from Lucknow popular for his high-end wedding catering, tells me this delicious story behind the popular Lucknow idiom, 'Yeh moonh aur masoor ki dal', used to be dismissive about someone.

According to him, a chef who found employment after having served a nawab for a long time asked his new employer what he would like to eat that day. The employer told him to make something simple like *masoor dal*. The chef in turn handed the employer a long list of ingredients to be bought for the preparation, looking at which the employer's face fell and he complained of the expense. The cook walked out, scoffing, 'Yeh moonh aur masoor ki dal' (loosely translated as 'How can you, with this face, appreciate my *masoor dal*').

Used to a lavish, no-expense-spared way of cooking, the talented cooks must have been at a loose end. Some of them and their descendants set up small restaurants where they refashioned the elaborate and exquisite foods of their former masters as bites for common men. *Qormas* (hitherto cooked only within homes, *nihari* being the street dish), *dal* and *pulaos* were thus tweaked to become part of Mughlai menus at a few restaurants in cities such as Delhi, Calcutta, Lahore and Lucknow.

We find an example of this kind of shift in the story of Karim's, the iconic Mughlai restaurant in Delhi. According to his descendants' retelling of their restaurant's history, in 1913, Haji Karimuddin set up Karim Hotel in Gali Kababian near Jama Masjid, contending he was serving the 'food of royals to the common man'. Haji Karimuddin traced his ancestry to a family of Mughal cooks in Shahjahanabad that had to flee the capital after the last Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar II, was exiled. The family relocated to Meerut. However, when India came under the British crown and the Delhi Durbar was being held in 1911, Karimuddin moved back to the city with the idea of opening a small restaurant to take advantage of the crowd that would be descending on the city for the *darbar*. Karim Hotel in the beginning served just *aloo gosht*, a home-style gravy of meat and potatoes, and *dal* to its patrons. The food was meant to be a substitute for home food.

In Calcutta, another cosmopolitan melting pot, dishes of Mughal origin were reinvented by small restaurants to cater to the needs of workers and daily-wage earners. Anadi Cabin on Esplanade is reputed to be almost a hundred years old. It has been around most certainly since before Partition, and remains unchanged till today, including in its use of the same iron *tawa* on which the cook shallow-fries Mughlai *porotas* (the Bengali term for *paranths*), a beloved Calcutta street snack and Anadi's signature dish.



MANY OF THESE EARLY RESTAURANTS THUS CAME UP AS BUSINESSES THAT WERE SEEKING NOT TO PROVIDE RECREATION BUT INSTEAD TO CATER TO A NEED FOR CHEAP, FILLING MEALS AS PEOPLE MOVED FROM VILLAGES AND SMALLER TOWNS TO THE CITIES TO WORK FOR THEIR COLONIAL MASTERS

The tiny restaurant turns out 400 *porotas* from 20 kg of four daily in a kitchen visible to all. The *porotas* could be covered in duck egg (which were considered vegetarian by traditional meat-eating Hindu Bengalis who did not prefer chicken) or chicken egg, filled with *keema*, folded and shallow-fried. These *keema porotas* are an innovation often credited to this restaurant. Mughlai *paranths* almost certainly existed in Lucknow and Awadhi homes before Wajid Ali's exile to Calcutta along with cooks who brought Nawabi dishes to the City of Joy. The simple egg-coated Mughlai *parantha* of Awadh, made with many layers or *parat*, underwent a metamorphosis to become the *keema*-filled substantial snack of Calcutta, which could be picked up easily and eaten on the go by daily-wage earners in the new city.

Many of these early restaurants thus came up as businesses that were seeking not to provide recreation but instead to cater to a need for cheap, filling meals as people moved from villages and smaller towns to the cities to work for their colonial masters. However, colonialism in India brought with it more upscale restaurant and leisure experiences, catering to the elite.

The first passenger train in India started running between Bombay and Thane in April 1853, pulled by three steam engines Sahib, Sindh and Sultan on a 34 km broad-gauge line. As British India's rail network grew and the railways began to cover longer distances (Bombay to the capital in Calcutta was a much publicised route for first-class tourists), there was need for refreshments and restaurants en route.

Several British or Anglo-Indian travellers' accounts speak of impeccable crockery, turbaned waiters and formal service, and food that was fairly similar all across the railways — thick soups, cutlets and bread and butter. It was, however, only Europeans or Anglo-Indian travellers who were entitled to travel in first-class carriages, and who could enjoy the catering in the dining cars. Conditions in the third class, in which the bulk of Indians travelled, were terrible. A 1929 *Times of India* report said that the Great Indian Peninsular Railways was trying out a separate dining car for Indians: 'It would probably not have allowed the third class passengers who made up the bulk of travellers, and who had to either eat food they had brought or buy at station halts on the way.'

Since the catering was primarily for Europeans, European-inspired dishes started

appearing on the menus in these restaurants along the rail network — things like chops, cutlets, omelettes, tea and custard. These dishes would eventually get absorbed as restaurant and club food in India, and we continue to eat some of this 'continental' food even today. The crockery and cutlery used were of the highest quality and the service by liveried waiters was impeccable, in keeping with the expectations of the sahibs of the Raj. Even after India became independent, upscale dining would imitate this pattern of deferential service.

While the dining cars were available only to first-class European travellers, from 1901, separate refreshment rooms for Indians started appearing at a few stations. This resulted in the emergence of other dishes that are now part of old-fashioned or nostalgic restaurant food centred around the Raj — for instance, the railway mutton curry (which clearly was never a single recipe) or the egg curry.

Till much after Independence, railway refreshment rooms were thought to be fairly high-standard restaurants, and railway catering would be relied upon for banqueting needs when dignitaries visited. My grandfather, who was in the catering division of the Northern Railways for some time in the 1970s, had amusing stories of catering to the Nehru-Gandhis — delicious anecdotes that we savoured as all restaurateur tales must be.

But not all history is appetizing. The history of restaurants in India is fraught with caste and religious segregation — one reason that may have prevented a food retail boom earlier in the country's history. Once they started catering to Indians, railway refreshment rooms were segregated not just as those meant only for Europeans but also as those meant for Hindus versus Muslims. Even water from taps in the railway stations was marked Hindu or Muslim in British India. There were 'pure' Hindu meals cooked by brahmins, and those offering Muslim food like *qorma*, *kebab* and *pulao*.

In the south, similarly, vegetarian brahmin hotels and 'military hotels' serving meat (with the suffix 'Hindu' added to signify that no beef or pork was served, though mutton was) came up as well as Udupi restaurants serving 'pure veg' food run by brahmins from the region, to cater to students and officers who worked in the Madras Presidency.



Lauriya Nandangarh and Araraj Ashoka:

THE MYSTIC PILLARS THAT UNVEILED A GREAT KING

The decoding of the two Ashokan pillars with edicts near Bihar-Nepal border in the 18th century tells the tale of how India first came to know of the existence of Ashoka and his conquest through Buddhism, writes SOMEN SENGUPTA

A major unpardonable pitfall of India's pre-Islamic era was its apathy of recording political chronology in a systematic way. On top of that, non-stop destruction of its monuments, architecture, literature and centre of cultures thereafter in the hands of Islamic invaders from 12th century, a major part of Indian history was once deleted, fragmented, obscured and finally fictionalised with legend and folklore.

From 18th century onward, when European traders started exploring the country, they were astonished to see several archaeological ruins prevailing under massive dilapidation in isolated places, attracting no attention from common people.

India of that time was a country with little sense of heritage of its pre-Islamic era, though the country's civilization dates back 5000 years. This was a matter of great perplexity to Europeans who were clearly excited to find amazing archaeological relics, one after another, with mind blowing engineering marvel and excellent craftsmanship. However, none of those seemed to connect with any ready reference of written history.

For instance, in 1616, an Englishman named Thomas Coryat found an eccentric monolithic stone pillar at Delhi's Firoz Shah Kotla. The pillar had some mystic inscription written in an unknown language. The thrill of this discovery was extended when on July 30, 1670, inside a pestilential jungle frequented by wild animals in Bihar near the Nepal border, John Marshal (not to be confused by famous John Marshal of ASI) found a similar circular sand stone pillar with mysterious edicts on its body. The pillar had a beautiful stone lion seated on an abacus crowned on its top as capital.

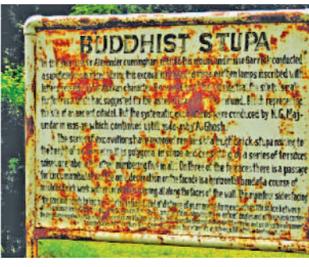
From the local people, John came to understand that this amazing engineering marvel was called "Bhim ka lathi" or the walking stick of Bhima, a character of Hindu epic Mahabharata. The place, where this pillar was found, was 23 km from Bettiah town.

The place was then known as Mathia and today is known as Lauriya Nandangarh. Lauriya in local language means stick. The two major victories against two Indian rulers — one in 1757 in Bengal and another in 1799 in Mysore — cemented the position on East India Company in political theatre of India. They become the ruler in almost every sense over a vast geography. This attracted many Europeans to India in the next 200 years. Many of them were ordinary office bearers and yet they proved to be extraordinary researchers with an acute interest in India's history. In next 100 years or so, some of them gave Indian history a new insight with their exceptional hard work and outstanding academic brilliance.

By the end of 18th century, many such mysterious stone pillars and rock stones with edict written on them in an unknown language were found from Peshawar to Mysore. European officials working in India, and having keen interest in oriental history, were excited to discover a new light of wisdom in these mystic pillars. Groping in the dark, many of them speculated these as conquests of some victorious king, or boundary pillars of dominions, or edicts of religious nature. The widest speculation was that these were secret codes of Greek treasures once owned by Alexander. However, these were soon discarded with the logic that the pillars were found in places like Delhi, Allahabad and Bihar, where Greek never could invade.

In November of 1780, Charles Wilkins sent a report to the Asiatic Society of Bengal about a finding of another mysterious decapitated pillar with similar alphabets carved on its surface at Buddal in north Bihar. This place was 28 km from Bettiah town, now known as Lauriya Araraj. This pillar, though not found with a capital, created more excitement as its edicts were more prominent and bold.

In 1783, Thomas Law, collector of Gaya district drew sketches of both the pillars and sent a report to William Jones in Calcutta.



The report heading read: "A short Account of Two Pillars to the North of Patna". In March 1814, while marching with 34th Regiment of East India Company to take part in Anglo-Nepal war, Lieutenant J Horris saw Lauriya Araraj pillar and drew some important sketches.

Now two stone pillars — one with a lion capital on top and another broken at top, found in north Bihar near Nepal border with mysterious inscriptions on them — started to rouse curiosity of the antiquarians. Such inscriptions on similar kind of pillars found in Delhi and Allahabad were already being discussed. More people started exploring the places with an objective to decode the language. It was clear that the mystery would only be unfolded once the edicts were decoded.

At the beginning of 19th century, James Prinsep, a young man came to Calcutta to join Calcutta mint. Out of sheer passion, he started serving Asiatic Society of Bengal as journal editor. The journal was a class by itself and very popular across the world. Soon Prinsep built a fantastic network with people across India who started sharing information and documents with him on every single archaeological findings. Prinsep was confident enough to think that a new chapter of history would be uncovered if the edicts written on the pillar could be decoded.

After years of hard work, in 1837,

Prinsep managed to decode the script of the edict and opened the doors of knowledge to India's glorious past that remained hidden for so long.

In 1820, Brian Hodgson, a British resident in the royal court of Kathmandu, sent a copy of the inscription on Lauriya Nandangarh pillar edict to Calcutta. This document was reported lost. Prinsep and Hodgson started frequent correspondence and soon became good friends, though it is assumed that they never met. Hodgson again sent him the copy of the inscription that he once found in Lauriya Nandangarh and in October 1834, he sent him an eye copy of Lauriya Araraj pillar edict.

Now armed with the information pertaining to all the four edicts, Prinsep managed to decode a name — "Devanamapiya Piyadasi" — that seemed to appear in all edicts. Meanwhile, a discovery of an ancient book by someone in Sri Lanka at almost the same time revealed that "Devanamapiya Piyadasi" meant — "The beloved to the God and his name was Ashoka". Overnight, India got a colossal king whose transformation to a humanist after accepting Buddhism was known and the name Ashoka became a cult chapter of history.

Once the language was decoded, it was easy to understand that these pillars were not victory monuments, but a new and effective way of communication. Much to their astonishment, it was found that these were a public declaration of a king to come forward in acceptance of Buddhism and his transformation.

Discovery of the existence of Ashoka, the emperor, and his gargantuan contribution to spread Buddhism across the world delivered a master stroke. The language decoded by Prinsep was Prakrit, written in Brahmi script. This newly found script was named as Ashoka Brahmi. This was the first and biggest tangible evidence of Ashoka, India's greatest king ever.

Out of these two pillars, the crown-less pillar of Lauriya Araraj, erected in 349 BC

is a marvelous piece of art. Known as "Stambha Dharma", the pillar is well polished and 37.9 feet in height. The diameter of the base is 41.8 inches and weighs nearly 34 to 40 tonnes.

The pillar at Lauriya Nandangarh is majestic and perhaps the second best specimen of Mauryan architecture with animal capital after Rampurva's grounded pillars.

The pillar at Lauriya Nandangarh is a single block polished sandstone with an excellent lion capital built in black stone. The lion built in a seated position on a circular abacus of arched bell is covered with lotus petals. The circular abacus of Lauriya Nandangarh lion is again decorated with image of geese. The face of the lion is broken due to vandalism. In design, it is very similar to that of the lion capital which was later found in Rampurva in 1876 by Archie Carlyle, inside the deep forest of Tarai. Rampurva lion capital is now preserved in Indian Museum of Calcutta.

The six edicts in a single block found on the pillar of Lauriya Araraj, revealed Ashoka the beloved of the God's declaration of Buddhist teachings of morality through kindness shown to all subjects and animals. It also talks about the restriction of animal slaughter. However, in both the pillars found in Bihar, nowhere do the edicts talk about Ashoka's conquest of Kalinga and his repent. This is very interesting to note.

The lion capital found on Ashoka pillar of Lauriya Nandangarh is one of the oldest samples of Indian stone sculptures, influenced by Persian archaeology, whereas the discovery of Ashoka Brahmi is the first tangible evidence of Buddhism that finally cemented the existence of Shakyamani Buddha as a human being and discarded the theory of him being a mythological figure as per many Hindu legends.

Two kilometres from Nandangarh Ashoka pillar, another archaeological wonder was discovered in 1862 by Alexander Cunningham — a huge mound of 15 stu-

pas made of mud, yellow clay and brick in three levels in the shape of polygonal with three flights of stairs. The 26 metre high structure has a circumference of 460 metres and the dome is missing. It is imagined that when intact, this would be one of the biggest stupa of India built in 300 BC.

Cunningham did very little excavation and later, Henry Garrick did a great job of excavating more mounds. In 1905, T Block did further excavation and found a gold leaf, a female statue and a small deposit of burnt human bones with charcoal. These findings are common with Buddhist stupa where bone remains of Buddha are said to be found. However, till now, no solid evidence has been found that tells us who these remains belonged to. Many think that this was a pre-Mauryan structure and may be a vedic burial ground. Nani Gopal Majumdar and Amalendu Ghosh, who excavated the site from 1935 to 1939, are of an opinion that this stupa is very similar to the Buddhist stupa found at Piprahkot on UP-Nepal border.

Cut to present, it is sad to note that two hundred years ago, when this site lay undiscovered inside a dense forest with no human habitation around, a group of Europeans risked their lives to uncover the hidden treasures of India, uncovering a glorious part of our history, our present generation attaches no value to these findings.

Today, Bettiah is a dusty, overpopulated and unplanned town, situated very close to the Nepal border. The locals hold no pride in India's rich history. Marks of vandalism are clear on the pillars and unrestricted entry is palpable. Bettiah now has Americanised pizza restaurants, which get over crowded every evening, whereas it's a struggle to get the auto drivers to take you, or for that matter even seek directions, to Lauriya Nandangarh or Araraj.

It is sad indeed that we never knew our heritage back then two centuries ago, and today, it seems we still haven't learnt the lesson to protect it.

FROM PAGE 08

From the Kehwa Khanas to the Socials

Restaurants like The New Woodland Hotel came up in the Madras Presidency, and can be credited as popularising the Udupi-style food that continues to thrive today. Woodland, as it was popularly called, was set up in 1938 by K. Krishna Rao, a man from a poor family of priests from near Mangalore. Its customers then were primarily brahmins who worked for the government, or upper-caste religious travellers who were vegetarians. As we can see, for so much of their history, restaurants in India were not the inclusive businesses we see them as today.

Partition changed much of that. It rent India's social fabric in more ways than we can imagine. It unleashed bloody, religious violence, but with the old order being torn apart, space for the new was created. For the first time, as I argued in a 2017 article, we got eateries that catered newly invented restaurant food to all manners of people — rich and poor, Hindu and Muslim. Butter chicken, dal makhani and naan became the first restaurant foods to escape the

tag of religious identity. Refugees from Punjab had arrived with less than nothing in Delhi. They brought with them a hardy spirit of survival and enterprise, but also one very important tool — the tandoor. A clay oven used to bake bread in villages, the tandoor made its foray into Delhi with refugees carrying memories of the sanjha chulha (the common village oven used to bake breads for all households) into this new harsh city where they had to fashion life afresh.

In 1947, an enterprising refugee from Peshawar, Kundan Lal Gujral, opened a restaurant called Moti Mahal in Delhi's Daryaganj area, in a building that had suffered badly during the rioting. Here, he set up a tandoor, in which the restaurant baked naan, a bread popular in old Peshawar eateries, and eventually chicken. The fowl was not a meat



that Delhi was familiar with or fond of. 'Neither Hindus nor Muslims ate it, and initially there was some resistance to tandoori chicken,' says Anil Chandra, one of Moti Mahal's early patrons.

As food historian K.T. Acharya notes in his authoritative *Indian Food: A Historical Companion*, the chicken, as a scavenger, was thought to be 'unclean', and since the oldest of times, there has been resistance among brahmins and other upper-caste Hindus to eating its meat. Delhi and Uttar Pradesh's composite culture meant that these biases were ingrained in upper-class Muslim culinary cultures too.

Goat meat was prized and Mughlai dishes like shabdegh, sikeen qormas, gola and dil (heart) ke kebab, that required much dexterity, were made of goat meat within homes by specialist cooks for weddings and special functions.

Specialist cooks like Hakim in old Delhi, whom old-timers told me about for my article for the Wire, and restaurants like Flora cooked these and catered to shaukeen, gastronomically indulgent Dilliwallahs, both Muslims and meat-eating Hindus like the Kayasths. This courtly culture, however, waned after Partition as the Muslim elite moved away and refugees poured in.

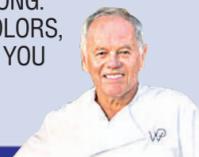
The new tandoori chicken was India's original fast food. Simply done and fresh. Moti Mahal also takes the credit for inventing butter chicken: tandoori chicken pieces dunked in a tomato, yoghurt and butter laden sauce, and perhaps India's most famous restaurant creation.

The advent of this new kind of food served by Punjabi restaurateurs was to have a big impact on restaurant food everywhere in the

country. In Delhi, restaurants such as Kwality, which had come up around the time of World War II and served ice cream and simple continental eats to American soldiers posted in Delhi, gradually incorporated this new Punjabi food into their menus. Other similar restaurants came up, also run by migrants, serving bold Punjabi flavours with tomato and cream, dishes that had been concocted within restaurants, and dishes such as pindi chana (a style of dry chickpeas popular in Rawalpindi) that came to Delhi and have been part of the city's most famous street dish since then — chole bhature.

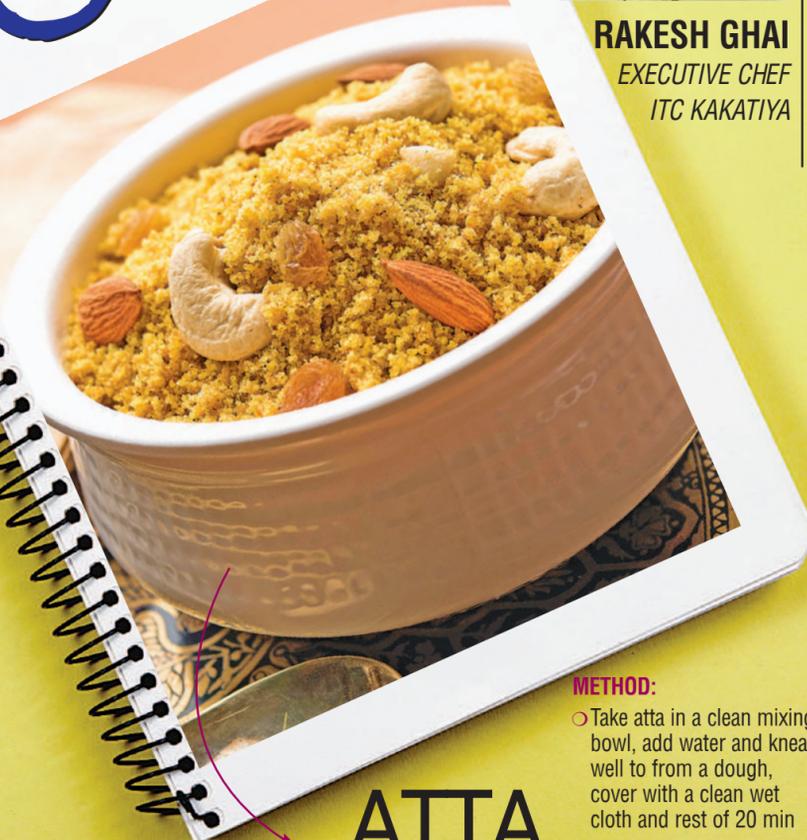
Excerpted with permission from *Business on a Platter: What Makes Restaurants Sizzle or Fizzle Out*, Anoothi Vishal, Hachette India, ₹550

COOKING IS LIKE PAINTING OR WRITING A SONG. JUST AS THERE ARE ONLY SO MANY NOTES OR COLORS, THERE ARE ONLY SO MANY FLAVORS - IT'S HOW YOU COMBINE THEM THAT SETS YOU APART. — WOLFGANG PUCK



WHOLESOME FOOD

Rotis/ chapattis and parathas are one of the most popular items consumed across the country that are made out of whole wheat flour. The use of whole wheat flour is not limited to bread or snacks. It can be transformed into lip-smacking desserts. We bring to you three desserts that can be made with whole wheat flour



RAKESH GHAI
EXECUTIVE CHEF
ITC KAKATIYA

ATTA CHURMA

INGREDIENTS	QUANTITY
ATTA	250 GM
GHEE	500 GM
SUGAR	200 GM
GREEN CARDAMOM	1 TSP
SAFFRON	½ GM
ALMOND	10 GM
PISTACHIO	10 GM
CASHEW NUT	10 GM

- METHOD:**
- Take atta in a clean mixing bowl, add water and knead well to form a dough, cover with a clean wet cloth and rest of 20 min
 - Portion the dough into small balls (20 gm)
 - Heat ghee in a frying pan (not very hot) and deep fry the balls on low heat till light brown.
 - Allow to cool and then break into pieces
 - Coarsely grind the pieces in a grinder and then add powdered sugar, sliced dry fruits, saffron and ghee on top of the mixture.
 - Mix it well and serve churma with ghee

BOBBATLU



INGREDIENTS	QUANTITY
ATTA	200 GM
GHEE	50 GM
CHANA DAL	250 GM
JAGGERY	250 GM
GHEE	250 GM
SAFFRON	½ GM
GREEN CARDAMOM	2 GM

- PREPARATION METHOD: STUFFING:**
- Boil chana dal/ Bengal gram until fully cooked without making mushy. Drain off the excess water.
 - Mash thoroughly and make a paste of the mixture.
 - Heat ghee in frying pan add the gram paste to it, cook till light brown on slow flame, allow to cool.
 - Add jaggery, cardamom powder & saffron to the dal mixture.
 - Cook until mixture is thick and forms a mass.
- DOUGH:**
- Take Atta in a clean mixing bowl, add water & knead well to form dough, cover with a clean wet cloth and rest of 20 min
 - Portion the dough into small roundels (20gm) and roll the ball into puri
 - Stuff the puri with the mixture and roll the puri to get the desired size
 - Heat a pan and toast it on both sides until you see golden spots
 - Smear ghee over the hot bobbatu and serve hot

WHEAT HALWA



INGREDIENTS	QUANTITY
ATTA	2 CUPS
SUGAR	1.25 CUPS
CASHEW POWDER	2 TBSP
RAISINS	1 TBSP
CARDAMOM	1/2 TSP
GHEE	1.5 CUPS

- PREPARATION METHOD:**
- In a heated saucepan add one cup of ghee
 - To this add atta
 - Stir with a spoon till the atta and ghee mix well
 - Add the remaining half a cup of ghee to this mixture
 - Roast on low heat and keep mixing till the texture is smooth and not crumbly
 - Now add the sugar along with the water
 - Continue to stir the mixture on low heat till the colour of the mixture turns from light to a darker shade of brown
 - Add the cardamom powder followed by cashew nuts and raisins
 - Mix till there are no lumps and the dried fruits are uniformly spread across the halwa
 - Serve it hot in a bowl and garnish it with some crushed pistachios

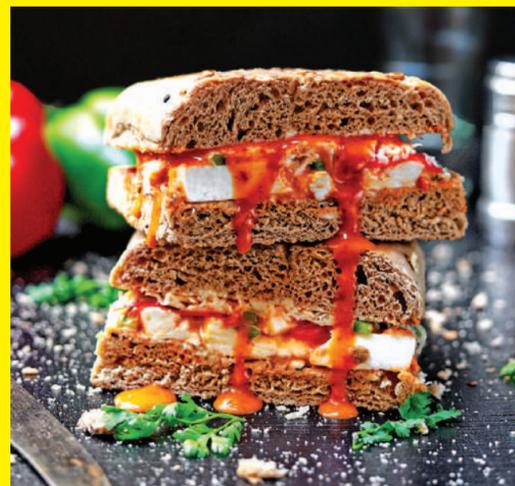
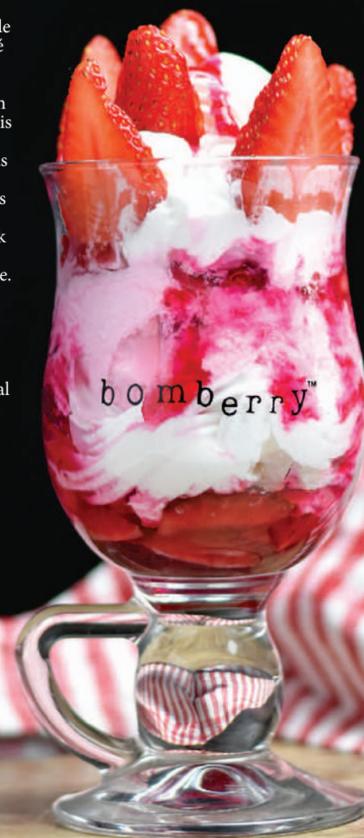
BERRY BERRY all the way

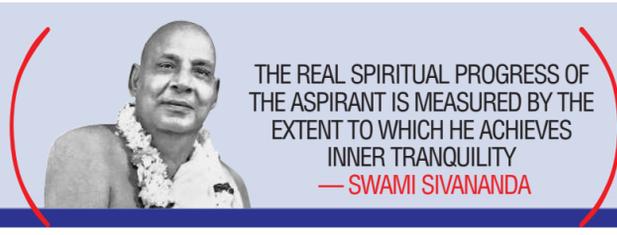
Hyderabad is never idle when it comes to food. The heavy feasts of the main course are always complemented by the relaxing light heartedness of desserts made from fresh fruit. Bomberry Café is one such place, reports ARUN DANIEL YELLAMATY

If you love mulberries and strawberries and have been looking for an exclusive café which serves fresh food and beverages made out of these fruits, then your search must end at the newly opened Bomberry Café, a place which makes a great effort to bring a bit of Mahabaleshwar to Hyderabad. This new café located at Jubilee Hills is a tiny cozy space with colourful interiors that will brighten you up as soon as you enter the berry land. Speaking about why he decided to bring this Bombay-based joint to Hyderabad, Nishanth, the store's founder, says, "I never liked strawberries until the day I visited the Bombay store. I loved what they did with the strawberries and this concept is new to

Hyderabad and I wanted to bring it to our people." Sharing on some of the must-have items at the café, he says, "Starting from seasonal creams, the must-try is the 'Bomberry Strawberry Cream', this is served in a long glass and divided into three unique layers — the first layer is cream, then comes the strawberry ice cream, and the final layer is fresh cream with a lot of strawberry pieces." The creameries turn out to be tall glasses of fruit, fresh cream, and ice cream. The fruit and ice cream hit the spot. They also have it made with strawberries, mulberries, gooseberries, and raspberries brought fresh from a farm. Bomberry Café does not just serve the sweet tooth. Next up is an Exotic Veg Pesto Panini, toast-

ed with zucchini mushrooms, peppers, and basil. The multi-grain bread is delicious and made exclusively for the café. The café has a good collection of sandwiches too, a must-try being the Nutella and strawberry sandwich for which you will surely visit this place again. Bomberry is most appealing as an unlikely health café, but the smoothie bowls topped with oats and goji berries are a thing of beauty. The café also serves thick shakes, frankies, fritters and healthy smoothie bowls and more. Overall the café is a great addition to the list of food joints we have; the highlight being its affordable prices especially considering that they placed in Jubilee Hills Road No. 36. A meal for two would cost anywhere around Rs 400.





YOUR WEEK AHEAD



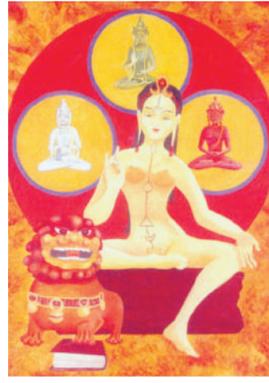
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

It is advisable to start the week with a resolution to live a healthy and enjoyable life. This is possible through regularising your routine and disciplining your senses. Yoga, exercise, and nutritious diet will be important for you. Your career shows a good indication this week and you will experience a sudden financial gain out of the blue. The change is positive, the business will grow and those with jobs can expect promotions, increment or the desired transfer. Some of you may travel abroad for project work. Relationship wise, some of you may receive a message of love or a marriage proposal. Singles, chances of finding someone special is indicated for you. Married couples may go on a pleasure trip and their bonding will become stronger.

Lucky number 39
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

You will do anything to achieve good health. You should decide whether you want to follow your mind or your heart. The first approach would be to scrutinise your innermost needs and expectations. Your career may be at a standstill and you may feel stagnated. This is the time to make cordial relations with your senior authorities. Your positive outlook towards life will keep you motivated and open doors to new opportunities. In terms of wealth, the result will be discouraging. Hard earned money will be spent on expenses and you will be left with no money in hand. Relationship wise, you are trustworthy and reliable. Singles will get a message of love. Romance with a desired partner is on the cards. Your commitment and loyalty will strengthen your relationship.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Tuesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

You need to find a positive environment where you can relax. You are likely to encounter mental conflict and nervousness that may cause your BP to fluctuate. Focus on balancing your untamed energy. A disciplined lifestyle, balanced diet, regular medical checkup and exercise are unavoidable. Stay away from arguments and aggression. In career, you will prove yourself trustworthy. Those who have their own business will enjoy financial gains. For those in a job, favour of a senior will boost their confidence. Your amicable behaviour and communication will work in your favour. In the matters of love and emotions, you may feel blessed. People will like you for your affectionate and romantic nature. You will be concerned about the feelings of others around you.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

Healthwise, this week is good. You will feel an abundant flow of energy and creativity. A female influence, either your mother or spouse, will help you meet the needs of your health and be the motivating factor to maintain a balance between physical and mental levels. You may slow down in your career as you are under the constant scrutiny of competitors and rivals. You will feel restricted. Your addiction to alcohol, overspending or unhealthy relationship may become a hurdle in the path of success. Shield yourself from all these negativities. In love, you need to accept and surrender to your present circumstances. It is advisable to leave instant temptation of gratification for the higher cause. Singles wait for some time before committing to a relationship.

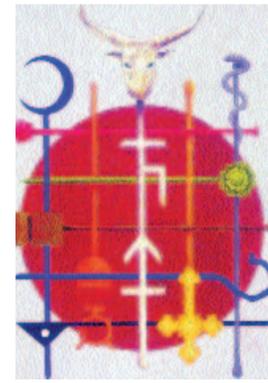
Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you are full of energy, creativity and positive energy. Your health will be good. You need to utilise this energy in constructive pursuits. Make sure you maintain balance within yourself. On the career front, you will prove to be a genuine leader. You will win hearts with your kind and honest nature. Support from someone from opposite sex will help you achieve your desired goals. Those who are appearing for an interview or competitive exams this week, success is assured. In matters of love, you have to be a little careful. You should respect and understand the feelings of your partner. You can achieve success in a relationship by showing generosity. Presenting a gift to your partner may create the magic and strengthen your love.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Tuesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week you are filled with positive energy. Recovery from illness and leading a healthy life are indicated. An emotional issue concerning the care or treatment of someone close will be discussed. Follow a healthy routine like physical exercise and a balanced diet to stay fit. Career-wise, this is the best week. You will get an opportunity to change your destiny. You need to be positive and spontaneous. You will win the trust of your seniors. Promotion is likely. There could be a new beginning such as a new job, or a new residence. In terms of love life, a manifestation of desire, good fortune, and contentment are on the cards. Some of you might plan for a date or a romantic trip. Married couples may have a mutual understanding.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Pastel Green
Lucky day Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

In order to maintain good health, you need to derive positive energy from the five elements. You will feel highly ignited and need to adopt a balanced approach to life. Control your cravings and keep your anger in check. At work, you are meticulous and hard-working. You are willing to learn new skills, and techniques. Your dedication and focus will work in your favour. Financially, there is a need to bring change in your lifestyle to increase overall gratification. The best part is that you are committed to getting those changes done. You will be lucky in love and have a high level of emotional contentment. You will see the perfection all around you and experience the emotionally fulfilling situation. Joy and happiness are within your reach.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week you will enjoy good health, vigour and stamina. You will not only be able to care for yourself but for your family as well. You will take a rock-solid resolution for a healthy family, and will leave no stone unturned to achieve your goal. On the career front, you must maintain a practical approach and need to take some important decisions in regards to your work. There are high chances of you being emotionally blackmailed at the workplace. A female counterpart may play a significant role in enhancing your career. You will experience one-sided love. Have a lot of patience and strength. Otherwise, you will lose your mental peace. Those in a committed relationship may have to stay apart on account of important responsibilities. Married couples, you will have a mutual understanding.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Navy Blue
Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you will be surrounded by anxiety and tension. You are extremely worried about the future. This will cause tension. Health issues like headache, insomnia, or BP may trouble you. You should not allow negative emotions like fear, frustration and uncertainty to immobilise you. Focus on your present. On the career front, stay away from flatterers as you may be deceived by inaccurate information. You may face frequent mood swings and insecurity. Hidden forces at play may unravel your success. The good part is that you are positive and know how to control the situation. In your love life, you will feel strong and established. You are balanced and caring towards your partner. Love relations may turn into a marriage.

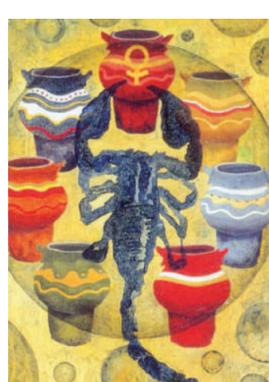
Lucky number 31
Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Thursday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week, it is important that you look after your health. A visit to a doctor is a must. Be open and discuss all matters because appropriate medical advice and treatment is the need of the hour. Your spiritualism and faith in God is good and will help you have a peaceful personality. You have good news waiting on the career front. This can either be a promotion or a salary hike. Due to a sudden change, you may get transferred to a desired place. Your perseverance and hard work will pay you well. In love, you may be deceived or feel disheartened. You are forced to sacrifice or surrender to be with your partner. This is not the right time to start a relationship or have high expectations from an existing relationship.

Lucky number 28
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

In the matters of health, the change is for good. Your positive outlook will bring further improvement. Mental tension and fatigue due to the fast moving life will go away and you will feel relaxed. Physical exercise and being with nature will be best for you. In your career, you are likely to find new job opportunities with better prospects. Those who have appeared for competitive exams, success is assured. A good news in terms of promotion or salary hike is on the cards. Your hard working and goal oriented attitude will pay you well. Friendship with juniors will bring you benefits. In love, your orthodox nature will lead to separation and leave you disheartened. Leave the old school thinking and form a modern outlook towards your partner.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week you will be moody and irritated. This may cause concern for your physical health. You need to control the wild aspect of your mind and trust your instincts. Walk the path of enlightenment and stay focused. In career, you need to take action towards developing your greater good. You will be able to confront any unfinished business in your life, clear up any misunderstanding. Extra hard work is needed before you see results. Give your best efforts, the rewards are assured. The abundance of happiness is in store for you in terms of a relationship. Balance and stability in love are on the cards. Unmarried people may get marriage proposals. You will be soful, passionate, and romantic and will leave no stone to make your partner happy.

Lucky number 29
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Tuesday

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Guru Nanak's guide to leading a virtuous life

Guru Nanak's spiritual beliefs and practices were profoundly transformational and cut across the lines of religion, writes DALER AASHNA DEOL in her book, *A Gift of Grace*. The world celebrated the 550th birth anniversary of the first Sikh guru on November 12. An excerpt:

Guru Nanak divides our spiritual path into five distinct stages: moral living and rightful actions, search for divine knowledge, spiritual unfoldment, divine grace, and the final entry into the realm of Eternal Truth. Each stage is unique and vital. These stages appear as part of a sequence, and it is not possible for us to bypass any of these steps. For example, moral living is a precondition for the search of divine knowledge. A person who leads a morally decadent life will inevitably see no need to search for experiences of any kind, let alone spiritual knowledge. Also, our spirit cannot unfold unless we have accumulated sufficient spiritual energy during the first two stages. Any movement from this point onward is possible only when we receive divine grace, which is not our right but a 'reward' for good deeds. Leading a virtuous life is the very foundation of our spiritual quest. To go any further on the spiritual path, we need to make truthful and moral living an essential part of our life. It is only through such living that we make ourselves worthy of God's compassion and grace.

Growing up in a world where money can buy more comforts than it was possible at any other time in human history, how can we agree on a set of values and behaviours that would provide a reliable guide to a virtuous life? We need to acknowledge that there are some things which are moral, ethical, doable, and right under any circumstances. We may have a difference of opinion on whether it is moral to charge interest. But there should be no controversy on things like violence, falsehood, and exploitation of the poor and helpless. We need to identify some core values based on themes that cut across societal and cultural boundaries. The seven core values, based on Guru Nanak's teachings, are:

Non-violence Avoiding violence that hurts the innocent, kills, or insults (in the form of rape or other degrading actions) the victim, mass killings of innocent people in a war or a political conflict.

Truth Letting reality appear in its purest form, separating facts from opinions, not using falsehood of any kind to deceive other people, treating honest living as a sacred obligation.



Love Showing sympathy and compassion for a victim of oppression, having a sense of justice, keeping a charitable spirit, sharing one's wealth and good fortune with the poor and the needy.

Virtue The pursuit of highest personal morality in one's daily life, respecting the honour and integrity of one's partner, taking responsibility for one's children, catering to their material, emotional, and intellectual needs, caring for the needs of elders in the family.

Communitarianism Being a good citizen, participating in electoral processes, raising voice against misdeeds of those in authority, using public office for public good, protecting the natural environment, giving one's employer a fair share of one's time, talent, and ability.

Equality Treating all people as equal despite differences of colour, race, gender, or ethnic origins, respecting cultural and spiritual traditions of other people.

Theism Having faith in the unbounded love, mercy, and compassion of the Creator for all things and all beings. It is not an attempt to define a new morality. It has not been easy for moral philosophers, who have struggled with these issues over the ages.

We can look at various opinions, or what our belief system has to say about these matters, but, in the end, we need to have an objective look at how we are coping with difficult moral and ethical choices in our life. This freedom for self-evaluation is not a blank cheque, meaning whatever serves our needs or purposes is acceptable. We need to cultivate, in the words of Albert Einstein, a moral attitude in and towards life based on the totality of our being-body, mind, and soul. Not doing this selfevaluation in a seriously mindful way would indicate our reluctance to follow a spiritual path.

A Gift of Grace: The Essence of Guru Nanak's Spirituality, written by Daler Aashna Deol is published by Niyogi Books

SMALL TOWN BOY WHO BROKE ALL SHACKLES

In a free-wheeling interview, Phanindra Sama — Chief Innovation Officer of Telangana — talks to **NAVEENA GHANATE** about his journey, from becoming an entrepreneur to an investor, and now from CIO to entrepreneur again. From unscrewing tape-recorder in his childhood to setting up redBus.in as a side project, he shares his passion and bucket list, while recalling how KTR had to convince him to be the Chief Innovation Officer, among many others



QUICK BITES

- FAVORITE MOVIE** – DDLJ
- DREAM JOB** – A job where self actualisation happens.
- WHO DO YOU ADMIRE MOST** – JRD Tata
- FAVORITE HOBBY** – Love reading books
- BIGGEST ADDICTION** – Thinking
- FAVORITE SPOT IN TELANGANA** – My village where I spent my childhood
- FAVORITE GETAWAY** – Nainital
- FAVORITE FOOD** – Biryani
- WHICH TV SERIES YOU WATCH** – None, no time for Netflix
- FAVORITE BOOK AS CHILD** – Chacha Chowdhary and Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* as a college student
- FAVORITE BEVERAGE** – Hyderabad Irani chai
- DO YOU HAVE PETS** – No my wife doesn't allow. We have a small pond with a school of fishes, that's the highest level we are allowed to have
- SONGS YOU HEAR** – Kishore Kumar songs in college. Not particularly playing anything
- LANGUAGES YOU SPEAK** – Hindi, Telugu, English
- LAST FILM** – Dear Comrade
- WHAT MAKES YOU SAD** – Unproductive day.
- THING YOU COULD CHANGE ABOUT YOURSELF** – I should be able to accept people who are not like me.

Mechanic at home

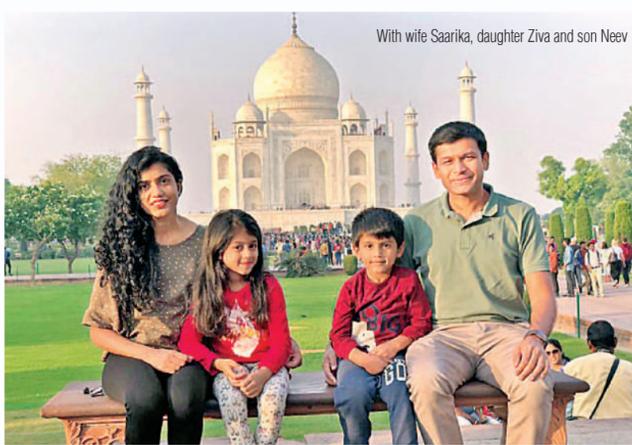
I was born in a farming family in Tadpakal in Nizamabad and have an elder brother. As a child I was fascinated by the magic of electricity and would unscrew and screw tape-recorders to see how things worked. I was known for screwing and unscrewing things and relatives would call me a mechanic. I used to dismantle bikes and bicycles too. My elder cousin gifted me a small electronic kit when I was in Class VIII, which had a soldering gun and a few screw drivers. That way my family and cousins encouraged me. I did new things like making a doll stand on a speaker and would then call it a dancing doll as the speaker would vibrate and the doll would move.

Never knew IIT existed

I was born on August 15, 1980 and my mother wanted me to do something for the country. As my parents wanted me to go to an English medium school, they put me in a hostel during kindergarten itself as my village only had Telugu medium schools. From Class II, I was staying with my uncle in Nirmal and later did high school in Hyderabad. I studied my Intermediate in Vignana and really loved my college days. My math got so strong because I had great math teacher. I was in the first section where we got really good teachers. I was the state topper in Intermediate and got into BITS Pilani. I had no idea of the existence of IIT and didn't know that one must write an exam for it.

Ragging helped me take up photography

I was the first from my family to get into Bits and my family and relatives were so happy. One of my cousins gave me a used Nike or Reebok sports shoe as it would help me fit in, in college. Once a senior picked me up during ragging and asked 'Branded shoe



With wife Saarika, daughter Ziva and son Neev

pehenke style maar rahe ho' (Are you wearing branded shoes to make a style statement?). Incidentally, he was from Nizamabad and was part of the Department of Photography. He got me into this extra-curricular activity and I was happy that ragging happened and I took up photography. It almost defined my life at BITS.

Bengaluru became home

After I completed my engineering, I got two offers from Noida and Hyderabad. The company was taking care of employees well and had a five-day week policy. But I was very enthusiastic to get a chip out. I spoke to my classmates who were working in IT and designing chips. I too was tempted to join IT, so I shifted to Bengaluru and started working there. Since 2004, I call Bengaluru my home.

Uncle had to approve redBus

RedBus was a side project I launched while working after I couldn't book tickets during Diwali. One advantage for me was that I didn't have to send my salary back home as nobody was dependent on it. Some of my friends hurried into buying homes and were burdened with EMIs. To start redBus, I didn't take a rupee from parents and it started out as a not-for-profit. It didn't matter to my family as I was working. Later, I told my mom about redBus. She had no clue and asked me to check with my uncle. My uncle who took care of me during school, was the most educated. He was entrepreneurial too and let me do it. Taking positive decisions like joining Bits had helped my family trust me.

In-laws thought I was into illegal business

The company started when I was 25 and I got married at 29. Ten years ago, there was no startup culture. There were apprehensions over the business I was doing. We were selling bus tickets, that too for private operators. There was hesitation and my wife's family even thought that it was an illegal

business. My father-in-law is a self-made person, so he has a lot of respect for people who work hard and do something on their own. He had a different outlook and instantly gave his daughter Saarika to me. I now have two kids —daughter Ziva and son Neev.

redBus could've gone down in one day

There are several ups and downs in business. An unfortunate incident occurred in Diwali 2012 when one private bus burnt to ashes due to fire crackers. About 50 passengers died of which 50 per cent were redBus customers. The government was cutting down on private operators and cancelled many buses. They wanted this to stop completely which meant that our business would go down in a single day. It was a very difficult situation. There was a lot of chaos and I didn't know

Giving excuses to KTR

Though I was in a mood to try out different things, the CIO role was an absolute no-no as logistically it won't work out. My whole social life like family, house and friends circle was in Bengaluru and I couldn't move to Hyderabad. I explained to KTR garu the reason I couldn't take it up, with the main hindrance being location. But he said 'It's okay. Nowadays you don't have to be present physically and can work from anywhere'. Whatever excuse I gave was struck down by him. At the end of it all I felt guilty for wasting his time. One impressive thing about KTR garu is that he used to come to Bengaluru and ask both big and small companies to come to Telangana. He also asked me to launch my next startup in Telangana.

what was happening. Sometimes the office in Chennai would get ransacked and money would be stolen. Sometimes some bus operators would point a gun at us. I would classify them as funny incidents because I don't think they threatened our lives.

Taking a 5-year break

One thing I wanted to do after leaving redBus, was take a 5-year break and do things that I did not get the opportunity to do. My break started in 2014 and ended in 2019. I did a course in theater about three years back. I wanted to expose myself to different things as innovation happens when different things intersect. It will add to my diversity. Even the Chief Innovation Officer role is something like that. It was still my break period and the CIO role was probably something I will not get to do later. The only way to work for the government was to write IAS exams or be a politician and I could do neither.

Wearing same clothes for nine years

During my break I did four fellowships and the first one was about sustainability in Sweden. I would take a metro or public transport as sustainable environments have influenced me since childhood. Even in college or government meetings, I will be the last one to come out of the room and switch off all the lights. I still wear clothes that are over 9-years-old. I have cousins who give me their clothes. That's the only complaint my wife has. I feel this is sustainable. Most of my clothes are altered as I've grown. My wife says it's ugly, but I say it is sustainable. When you buy new clothes, there is so much of wastage involved. I don't have an ego and I want to tell everyone that it is a good thing to do for Mother Nature. I don't shop at all.

Hyderabad needs biz mafia

Hyderabad needs a business mafia like what Chennai and Bengaluru got through Flipkart, redBus or Zoho. Mafia was coined by a journalist when many people came out of Paypal and started large companies that helped each other. They were called Paypal mafia. If you were part of the growth story, you will feel you are similar and start a company. They all go and start companies and the whole eco-system starts building. Even in Hyderabad, we have this pharma ecosystem through IDPL. Every pharma company founder can be traced back to IDPL or Dr Reddys. We need a flagship company in Hyderabad to create a mafia.

Want to die empty

I am currently influenced by the book *Die Empty*. The gist of it is that when you die, you should not let your ideas die with you. In my five-year break I got many ideas and decided that I will not look at the market size or profitability, but just proceed with ideas that make sense. I explored various things — like getting back to entrepreneurship, becoming an investor or VC, making a social impact by forming a foundation, continue working for the government, do my PhD and so on. In the end I started a charitable foundation called Kakatiya Sandbox along with Raju Reddy in Nizamabad. It runs 14 programmes and employs 80 people. It has been running well for the last 5-6 years.

Five Indian students winners in Oxford Big Read's Asian segment

Indian students struck it big in the Asian segment of the Oxford Big Read (OBR), claiming five of the nine awards at stake, the organisers announced here on Saturday.

The Indian students claimed top honours in all the three categories the competition was conducted in.

Four of the five Indian students are from Nagpur and one from Madurai. Two students from China and one each from Malaysia and Pakistan were among other winners.

The reading competition for primary and secondary school students that aims to motivate them to improve their English reading skills, creativity and original thinking, saw 6,000 students from the four countries, including 300 from 20 schools across India.

"Oxford Big Read is unique from other reading competitions as it requires students to participate in activities based on their age. The activities include designing book jackets, creative story writing and writing book reviews," an OUP statement said.



Commenting on the competition, M. Gnana Sundari, Principal, Sri Aurobindo Mira Universal School, Madurai, said: "The Oxford Big Read is an excellent contest for students and creates in them a love for reading. Writing book reviews help students engage more deeply with what they are reading and also it is a great way to develop their vocabulary."

The Oxford Big Read competition will be organized for schools across India, and students can participate in three

The Indian students cited are:

- Level 1 (classes 1 to 3):** B.R. Nimeesha, Sri Aurobindo Mira Universal School, Madurai (Winner).
- Level 2 (classes 4-6):** Ananya Sheorey, The CDS School, Nagpur (Winner); Saara Sen, Centre Point School, Wardhaman Nagar, Nagpur (First Runner Up).
- Level 3 (classes 7-9):** Neha Chhajed, Bhavan's BP Vidya Mandir, Nagpur (Winner); Sama S. Jahagirdar, Bhavan's BP Vidya Mandir, Nagpur (First Runner Up).

The other students cited:

- Level 1:** Chen Wellin, Jiang Guangnai Memorial Primary Sschool, Liwan District, Guangzhou, (China) (First Runner Up); Li Yijian, Vanke Kindergarten, (China) (Special Commendation).
- Level 2:** Faith Liang, Eagles Grammar International School, Subang Jaya, Selangor (Malaysia) (Special Commendation).
- Level 3:** Adil Hasan, Siddeeq Public School, Islamabad (Special Commendation).

participation and engagement in Oxford Big Read Asia. This competition provides students with an opportunity to augment the ambit of their reading and also demonstrate their literary and creative skills. He added "we believe that early age interest in reading and writing is fundamental to ensuring better learning outcomes in young learners."

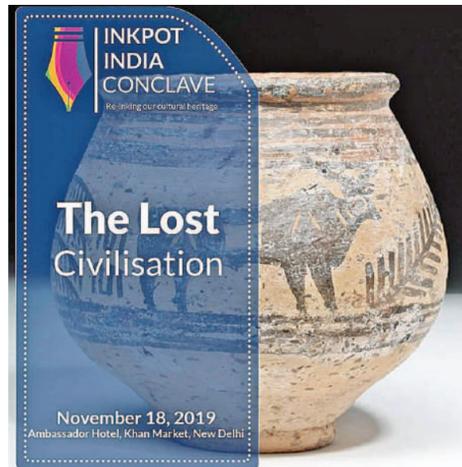
Inkpot India Conclave on November 18

New Delhi, The one-day Inkpot India Conclave will take place on November 18 at the Taj Ambassador Hotel in the national capital. The event will witness sessions getting flagged off with Shobha De talking about the evolving literary landscape with Sanjoy Roy.

Designers Ritu Kumar and Rohit Bal will dwell on art and design, while Jaya Jaitley and Ritu Beri will talk about branding India. Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor will preside over the valedictory session as the chief guest.

The inaugural session will feature Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State, Ministry of Culture (independent charge); Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for PMO; Delhi BJP chief Shyam Jaju, National Vice President, BJP; Akhilesh Mishra, Director General, ICCR; and Sachidanand Joshi, MS, IGNCA. The conclave will also witness belly dancer Eshan Hilal and illusionist Karan Singh in action apart from forums like Ishq Urdu.

"Inkpot is an ideology. The



Inkpot is an ideology. The deep roots of India's culture lie in its traditions, art, food, science, lifestyles and architecture. This is what we strive to celebrate and cherish

SIMAR MALHOTRA, Founder, Inkpot India Conclave

deep roots of India's culture lie in its traditions, art, food, science, lifestyles and architecture. This is what we strive to

celebrate and cherish," said author Simar Malhotra, Founder, Inkpot India Conclave.