

NATION 4
PRESS IS CRITICAL PARTNER**MONEY 5**
INSURANCE COVER ON BANK DEPOSITS MAY GO UP**SPECIAL 7**
CHAMPIONS OF EARTH**Established 1864**
Published From
VIJAYAWADA DELHI LUCKNOW
BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN
HYDERABAD

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

SMALL TOWN BOY WHO BROKE ALL SHACKLES

12



Sunday pioneer



www.dailypioneer.com

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 27.6 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 percent, while the US is No 3 with 37.6 million installs, or about 6 per cent, this year.

Punters go on the rampage at Bangalore turf club

BENGALURU: Punters went berserk at the Bangalore Turf Club and vandalised equipment seeking refund of their money after three horses stumbled and their jockeys fell down.

The incident took place on Friday evening.

The rest of the races of the winter session has been suspended, a turf manager said.

A police officer told PTI on Saturday that it all started when one of the horses in the race stumbled and broke its leg.

Two other horses in the race too stumbled after colliding with the injured horse, he said.

This resulted in injury to three jockeys, the official said.

'Owaisi is second 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 Ansalsol 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.

TODAY**ALMANAC**

Month & Paksham:
Kartik & Krishna Paksha
Panchangam

Tithi : Pancharati: 06:22 pm
Nakshatram: Puranavasi 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

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Clear
Temp: 33/22
Humidity: 78%
Sunrise: 06:22
Sunset: 05:39
Current Weather Conditions
Updated November 16, 2019 5:00 PM

ELECTION EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

YSRCP GOT RS 181 CR DONATIONS, 99 CR IN BONDS

- Rs 85 cr spent on campaign, paid Rs 37 cr to I-PAC for consultancy
- TDP spent a total of Rs 77 cr, including Rs 49 cr on advertisements

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ruling YSRCP party in its 'Annual Audit Report for the Financial Year 2018-19', which was also filed with the Election Commission last month, said that it had received a total of Rs 181 crore through donations and contributions. The major chunk of money, around Rs 99 crore came through electoral bonds.

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.

Of which, YSRCP has paid Rs 37.57 crore (37,57,68,96) to political consultancy Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC), founded by Prashant Kishor, as part of services extended for the Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha elections.

By the time the elections were



tions held in the state earlier this year.

The party revealed this, in an 'Election Expenditure Statement' that it filed with the Election Commission.

The 'Election Expenditure Statement' filed by the YSRCP also showed that on the date of the announcement of the election, the party had a bank balance of Rs 74,32,449 (74 lakh).

Coincidentally, most of the money spent on advertisements

completed, the party had received a staggering Rs 221 crore (221,58,52,225) in the form of donations.

Out of this, it spent Rs 85 crore (85,65,18,694), which included Rs 9.72 crore (9,72,21,777) on star campaigners and Rs 36 crore (36,44,34,267) for advertisements in the media.

After its expenditure, the YSRCP said that it had a bank balance of Rs 138 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 out of which Rs 49 crore spent in advertisements in the media.

The party revealed this, in an 'Election Expenditure Statement' that it filed with the Election Commission

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-Makaravillakku 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.

Devaswom Minister Kadakkampally 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.

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 Kadakkampally 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.

Police were deployed on Eluru-Duggirala route.

The court here has granted bail to Chintamaneni in 18 cases. It may be recalled that he was arrested on September 11. He spent behind the bars for 66 days before getting released on bail on Saturday.

Chintamaneni released on bail

PNS ■ ELURU

TDP leader and former MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar was released on bail from the jail here on Saturday.

Party activists and followers accorded him a warm welcome upon his release. However, police imposed restrictions on his followers asking them not to take out rallies near the jail.

Notices have been served on his followers to this extent.

Police were deployed on Eluru-Duggirala route.

The court here has granted bail to Chintamaneni in 18 cases. It may be recalled that he was arrested on September 11. He spent behind the bars for 66 days before getting released on bail on Saturday.

Opportunities otherwise, sons of the soil living on foreign shores would face difficulty, he averred.

Due to English medium education many from Telugu States have occupied top positions on distant lands, he said, however, hastened to add that Telugu is needed for children to address their mother 'Amma'. He said, "Mother tongue is like our mother."

The 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.

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.

Continued on Page 3

TV actress says junior artiste raped her

PNS ■ MUMBAI



A television actress, who has appeared in shows like "Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki", "Des Mein Nikla Hoga Chand" and "Nach Baliye", has reportedly accused a junior artiste of raping her in a hotel room. She has further alleged that she subsequently became pregnant.

Vineet Verma, the junior artist who has been accused of

sexual assault, hails from Yamunanagar in Haryana.

Police in Yamunanagar told

IANS that his mobile has been switched off since a case was registered against him and his parents on November 12.

Acting on the complaint of the actress, the case was registered at a woman police station of Yamunanagar.

The Mumbai-based actress became friends with the junior artiste in October this year. She has claimed that the junior artist drugged her in a hotel

room in Yamunanagar before raping her.

When she discovered that she was pregnant, she reportedly asked him to marry her but he refused.

According to reports, Verma's family has been supportive of him. The actress has alleged that his family is aware of all that has happened but is refusing to help her in any way.

Continued on Page 3

Rs 150 crore kickbacks paid to key leader in previous regime: sources

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



The Income-Tax department has caught an important leader of the TDP regime red-handed for having awarded contract to a reputed contracting agency to execute the new capital works in Amaravati after accepting kickbacks to the tune of Rs 150 crore from it, disclosed an IT officer on condition of anonymity.

Three agencies were awarded contracts to execute works worth Rs 2,652 crore, the important leader received kick-

backs from one of the agencies. Documentary evidence to this effect has been found, the IT officer said.

The IT department could lay its hands on the evidence during the recent nation-wide IT raids. When officials went through the records thor-

oughly, one of the agencies mentioned in a ledger that it had paid Rs 150 crore towards kickbacks to an important leader, he confirmed.

It may be recalled that IT raids were carried out on the

Continued on Page 3

Cattle smuggling on the rise in north Andhra

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM



Cattle smuggling has emerged as a new challenge for police in north Andhra comprising Vizag, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts.

Some of the organised groups from Odisha and Karnataka were involved in smuggling cattle to Karnataka, Telangana and certain areas in Andhra Pradesh.

cattle were injured after a container truck in which the cattle were being transported overturned near Sileru in Vizag Agency a couple of weeks ago.

Sub-Inspector of Sileru Police Station A Neela Kanta Rao said that the driver and assistant driver of the container truck fled the spot after the vehicle overturned. Two persons, who were inside the container, along with the cattle died.

"We investigated the case based on the vehicle registration number of the container truck and found that the cattle were being transported to Karnataka illegally from parts of north Andhra," Rao added.



CAPSULE



Roja launches Swachh Nagari campaign

VIJAYAWADA: Nagari YSRCP MLA and APIC Chairman RK Roja has declared a fight against plastic use and launched the 'Swachh Nagari' campaign in her constituency. The MLA is taking innovative steps in protecting the environment and preventing the use of plastic. She gave a call to remove the hazardous plastic from all municipal wards and villages under the Nagari Assembly segment. Through a Facebook post, she called upon the people to bring one kg of plastic and take kg rice, which went viral on social media. This programme was launched on November 17 (Roja's birthday) and continues till Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy's birthday (December 21) with the slogan 'No plastic, New Nagari'.

'Laksha Kumkumarchana' at Padmavathi temple

VIJAYAWADA: As part of annual Karthika Brahmotsavams of Sri Padmavathi Ammavari temple, Tiruchanoor, 'Laksha Kumkumarchana' will be performed on November 22. Interested couple could participate in the holy event with Rs 1,116 ticket and beget one 'uttamam', blouse, two laddus and blessings. Tickets would be sold at current booking counters on first come first served basis. In view of Brahmotsavams, the TTD plans to perform Koil Alwar Thirumanjanam on November 19. The TTD has cancelled all Arjita Sevas for the day.

TTD all set for Karthika Vanabhojanam today

VIJAYAWADA: The TTD is all set to observe Karthika Vanabhojanam on November 17 at Paruveta Mandapam. On the special occasion, the TTD will organise a mass community dining programme in the lush green forests of Seshachalam, covered with gooseberry trees at Paruveta Mandapam. Before this mass dining programme, special Snapanam Tirumana will be performed to the processional deities of Lord Sri Malayappa Swamy and His two consorts Sridevi and Bhudevi. There will also be a rendition of Annamacharya Sankeertans and Harikatha Parayanam on the occasion. Devotees and locals will take part in huge numbers in the community dining programme, which is unique in the month of Karthika.



VIJAYAWADA BULLION RATES

GOLD	₹ 38,360 (10 gm)
₹ 100 ↓	
SILVER	₹ 44,300 (1kg)
₹ 100 ↓	

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG

Dressed/With Skin ₹157
Without Skin ₹178
Broiler at Farm ₹108

EGG RATES ₹/100

HYDERABAD 412
VIJAYAWADA 426
VISAKHAPATNAM 420
RETAIL PRICE ₹4.26

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchase of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Araku gets back its glitter as flowers bloom

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The golden yellowish Niger flower (Valisili in Telugu), one of the most favourite backdrops to take snaps for tourists during the winter season in the picturesque Araku Valley in Vizag Agency back to bloom after a gap of two years.

Tribals farmers incurred losses by growing the Niger oil seed crop due to root parasite called as Cuscuta (Dodder) in local parlance Bangarutiga in the past.

Majority of the Niger farmers moved to other crops. The Niger flowers disappeared during the winter season in the past two years.

Thanks to the suggestions and support of the scientists from Hyderabad-based Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research (IIOR) of ICAR and Sanjivani, an NGO, farmers grown Niger crop again and made Araku Valley yellow with their flowers this year.

P Devullu, Secretary of Sanjivani, said that they distributed over 500 kg seeds (chemical treated seeds) to tribal



farmers. This year, the crop is very good as the presence of the parasite is minimal, he added.

Last year, they visited Araku Valley during the peak winter season. But, they failed to find the golden yellowish Niger flowers and returned with pale and dull. This year, they found Niger flowers bloom in Araku Valley and they are happy,

says S Sangeetha, a resident of Vizag city.

Niger, botanical name Guizotia abyssinica, is an erect,

stout, branched annual herb, grown for its edible oil and seed. The Niger oil seeds are widely used for manufacturing of cosmetics and also paintings in the country said scientist SN Sudhakar Babu of IIOR.

The golden yellow flowers in winter season in Araku, Paderu and a few other areas in Vizag Agency were the major attraction and drawn visitors from parts of the country. Compared to previous years, the area under cultivation of Niger has increased this year, said a tourist guide K Rajasekhar.

Though Niger is not cash-rich crop, it is replenishing the

Tribal farmers incurred losses by growing the Niger oil seed crop due to root parasite called as 'Cuscuta' (Dodder) in local parlance 'Bangarutiga' in the past

Majority of the Niger farmers moved to other crops. Niger flowers disappeared during the winter season in the past two years

The golden yellow flowers in winter season in Araku, Paderu and a few other areas in Vizag Agency were the major attraction and drawn visitors from parts of the country. Compared to previous years, the area under cultivation of Niger has increased this year, said a tourist guide K Rajasekhar.

Tourists have been clicking selfies with the background of the golden yellowish Niger flowers in Araku Valley during the current tourist season.

Though Niger is not cash-rich crop, it is replenishing the

tribal culture and economy. Niger flowers are one of the major attractions in Araku Valley for drawing the visitors from West Bengal, Odisha and parts of Andhra Pradesh, said Ch Suresh Kumar Padal, a resident of Vizag Agency.



Students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidyavihar making orphans at a Home to cut the cake as a part of their service in Visakhapatnam

Girl students render service to needy, elderly persons

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Budding students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidyavihar (SSSV) visited needy and senior citizens residing at various welfare houses in the city presenting various food items and material required in their daily chores.

Inspired by the message 'Love All-Serve All', 'Help Ever-Hurt Never' of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, girl students rendered service to the needy apart from shining in academics.

They offered blankets, books, pens, pencils, clothes, rice, lentils, biscuits, cakes, bread, fruits and toiletry items to the inmates of Generation Yuva at Birla Junction and Vanaprastam Old Age Home at Madhavadarha

Girl students spent quality time with the elderly residents of the Vanaprastam Old Age Home. Inmates of the ashram blessed the students for their selfless service and for showering their love on them.

time with the elderly residents of the Vanaprastam Old Age Home. Inmates of the ashram blessed the students for their selfless service and for showering their love on them.

These service activities are being rendered as part of the ensuing 94th birth celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Baba and will continue till November 18.



Students speaking to elderly persons at an Old Age Home

Krishna Das offers to quit politics if graft charges proved

PNS ■ SRIKAKULAM



Minister Dharmana Krishna Das on Saturday created a sensation by offering to quit politics forever provided anyone proves that he had indulged in corruption.

He dared whether the TDP leaders are ready to accept the challenge. He challenged them to substantiate the allegations levelled against him.

As part of Sand Week celebrations, the minister inaugurated a sand reach at Kallepalli

in Srikakulam district. Refuting allegations levelled against him by the TDP, the

minister breathed fire on the TDP for looting the public by setting up of Janmabhoomi Committees. Opposition leaders are levelling allegations against the government unable to digest that Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy is implementing welfare schemes and development programmes.

It may be recalled that the TDP released a charge-sheet against 67 YSRCP leaders accusing them of smuggling sand in 13 districts. The names of Tammineni Sitaram,

Dharmana Prasada Rao, Botsa Satyanarayana, Jakkampudi Raja, Parthasaradhi, Samineni Udayabhanu, Kodali Nani, Mopidevi Venkataramana, Mekapati Rajamohan Reddy, Buggana Rajendranath, Topuduri Prakash Reddy, Roja and Peddi Reddy figured in the charge-sheet. Besides these leaders, their followers were also accused of indulging in sand smuggling. Minister Krishna Das responded as his name also figured in the charge-sheet.

Keto diet may help you fight flu

IANS ■ 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.

"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.

carbohydrate diet did not.

When mice were bred without the gene that codes for gamma delta T cells, the ketogenic diet provided no protection against the influenza virus.

"The big change in the new manual, which was not revised for over 14 years, are the utility charges (electricity and water charges), which students did not pay for so far, but will have to do so now - by paying actual. Service charge (sanitation, main-

tenance, cook and mess helper) was nil all these years, but has now been revised to Rs 1,700 per month, which the administration has said is based on an estimated amount as per actual.

The big change in the new manual, which was not revised for over 14 years, are the utility charges (electricity and water charges), which students did not pay for so far, but will have to do so now - by paying actual. Service charge (sanitation, main-

Rally to promote child rights

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM



Oakridge International School, Visakhapatnam, students are creating awareness on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

In all, 150 students and their teachers, along with parents, participated in a rally, which was started from Kalimatha temple passed through YMCA and the Beach Road.

Students enthusiastically raised slogans related to child rights, while some of the students hold placards that depicted slogans eliminating child labour to discrimination against children.

Each section is preparing action plan and awareness campaign related to each of the 54 Articles of the UNCRC.

At the end of the rally, students of various classes performed a mime, flash mob, while some delivered speeches and others rendered songs, which were well received by the morning strollers and general public on the Beach Road.

Students will collaborate with Nord Anglia Schools in 29 countries on the Global Campus online portal to discuss and contribute their thoughts about child rights.

Many parents spoke on the occasion about the importance of spreading awareness on child rights among the people. Oakridge

students enthusiastically raised slogans related to child rights, while some of the students held placards that depicted slogans eliminating child labour to discrimination against children.

At the end of the rally, students of various classes performed a mime, flash mob, while some delivered speeches and others rendered songs, which were well received by the morning strollers and general public on the Beach Road.

Students were sensitised about children employed as household labourers, who are deprived of schooling, parents also urged students to do their part in providing basic education to these children in their free time.

inating discrimination and child labour. Students were sensitised about children employed as household labourers, who are deprived of schooling, parents also urged students to do their part in providing basic education to these children in their free time.

JNU'S LONG TRYST WITH FREEBIES

Students, administration lock horns over hike in room rent

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



In any of the cheapest areas in south Delhi, renting an unfurnished room set with livable conditions would cost around Rs 8,000 to Rs 10,000 per month for a person, but if you are a student of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) you might just get the room for as little as Rs 20 per month - and if you are willing to share space with another person, then room rent would be Rs 10 a month, with furniture and utilities included.

The university is located in south Delhi. Up ahead is Vasant Vihar, a coveted address for country's rich and famous. A short distance away is glitzy malls.

Though the JNU administration has now decided to hike prices and bring up the rent to Rs 300 and Rs 600 respectively for double sharing and single rooms, the move has brought the varsity back on the boil, as students believe this is an unjustified hike.

Some other updates in the manual, which was not revised for over 14 years are the utility charges (electricity and water charges), which students did not pay for so far, but will have to do so now - by paying actual. Service charge (sanitation, main-

tenance, cook and mess helper) was nil all these years, but has now been revised to Rs 1,700 per month, which the administration has said is based on an estimated amount as per actual.

"They claim that the students have to pay about Rs 30,000 to Rs 35,000 annually but according to our calculations the amount will rise to about Rs 70,000 to Rs one lakh annually," N. Sat Balaji, AISA member and former President of Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union said.

Balaji did not comment on how the figure was arrived at. The JNU administration is firm on its stand and has refused to roll back the hike, as they claim it is "completely justified" and there had been no revision over 14 years.

"How can you expect to live on the same rent as you were living 14 years ago? Are the electricity rates same? Does your food cost the same? Or do sanitation workers charge the

same amount as salary?" a senior official in the JNU administration said.

The Democratic Students' Federation (DSF) which has been active in JNU politics has made calculations to show that those occupying single-seaters will face a 411 per cent hike and those in double-seaters 374 per cent hike. From the second year onwards, the DSF says those occupying single-seaters will have to pay 999 per cent more and those in double-seaters 911 per cent more as compared to the earlier hostel charges.

The DSF said that if the fee hike was implemented, a large number of students would have to leave the university.

On Monday when the Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu and Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' were in the university to attend its convocation ceremony, thousands of students gathered outside the venue and blocked the road to protest against the hike in hostel charges.

The agitating students confined the Union Minister along

with various other alumni in the building for about five hours and the minister could only be escorted out after senior Delhi Police officers reached the spot and escorted the minister and Vice Chancellor Mamidala Jagadeesh Kumar out of the All India Council for Technical Education hall (AICTE hall) where the convocation ceremony was being held.

Established by an act of Parliament in 1966, JNU came into existence in 1969 and is financed by the University Grants Commission (UGC), which comes under the Union Ministry of Human Resources Development.

The varsity was ranked number one in the country by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with a Grade Point of 3.91 (on a scale of 4) and was ranked No 3 among all universities in the country by the National Institutional Ranking Framework, Government of India, in 2016 and No 2 in 2017. JNU also received the Best University Award from the President of India in 2017



CAPSULE

Naidu presents cheque for Rs 1 lakh to RTC worker's widow

G RAVI KIRAN
■ VIJAYAWADA

Political leaders at the helm chalk out plans to be in power for many terms, but their fate is decided by the people. Hence, the leaders strive for the uplift of the poor and other sections with various schemes in order to keep their vote bank intact.

Apart from that some leaders, who are enjoying the power, sketch plans to weaken the opposition and encourage defections. Some would succeed in their plans without attracting defection laws, while some others not.

Vallabhaneni Vamsi's episode has exposed the fact that Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has modified his policy on defections.

It may be recalled that he said in the Assembly that any MLA defects from any party has to be suspended from the Assembly and a fresh election in that constituency should be conducted.

Technically, if an MLA joins other party, leaving the party from which he has elected, it will be a defection.



defection, but if he supports the ruling party without joining it, he can continue as an MLA, that is the new perspective evolved now.

The Chief Minister has changed his strategy after poaching of TDP MLAs. But now, he is reportedly changing his plans accordingly.

Technically, if an MLA joins another party, leaving the party from which he has elected, it will come under

Now, the YSRCP is applying a remedy for it. The TDP MLA will quit the party and will not join the YSRCP, but he will support the government from outside. The MLA will not submit his resignation to the Speaker, so that there will be no scope for a fresh election in that constituency.

One of the YSRCP MLAs said: "We will go for local body elections in January 2020 and if we win the polls. Then we will go for fresh elections in the constituencies wherever TDP MLAs resign and join our party."

It seems that the TDP has got wind of the YSRCP plot. MLC Buddha Venkanna said: "Jaganmohan Reddy spoke about ethics before coming to the power. But now, everybody is aware what is happening. He is not dare enough to face the elections now. Therefore, he is following the strategy of not allowing the defected MLAs resign to their posts as of now.

■ The Chief Minister has changed his strategy after poaching of TDP MLAs. But now, he is reportedly changing his plans accordingly

■ After gauging the pulse of the people in local body polls, the government may ask the defected MLAs to quit and contest on the YSRCP ticket

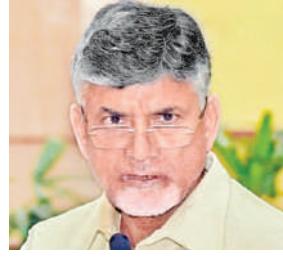
■ Technically, if an MLA joins other party, leaving the party from which he has elected, it will be a defection. Now, the YSRCP is applying a remedy for it. The TDP MLA will quit the party and will not join the YSRCP, but he will support the government from outside. The MLA will not submit his resignation to the Speaker, so that there will be no scope for a fresh election in that constituency

He may go for it after some time, whenever he gets the confidence of winning the bypoll. But, I don't think that situation will arise as the government has lost the confidence of people within six months."

But, YSRCP leaders said that they are not walking in the footsteps of the TDP. It had made defected MLAs as ministers directly. Nobody objected to it. We will not do that. Only after being elected on the YSRCP ticket, they would offer posts to them.

Naidu flayed for trying to whip up religious sentiments

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA



Minister for Endowments Vellappalli Srinivas lambasted TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu for indulging in mud-slinging against the government. Addressing the media here on Saturday, along with MLA Malladi Vishnu, he lashed out at Naidu and Pawan Kalyan for attributing religion to Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy.

Brushing aside the baseless propaganda of TDP and Jana Sena touching upon religious issues, the YRSPCP has said that it was a blatant move to divert people's attention from the path breaking programmes the Chief Minister has been taking up.

Parties have been trying to whip up religious passions to gain political mileage unable to digest the growing popularity of the Chief Minister, he added.

He alleged that they have been raising issues with religious sentiments and are trying to tarnish the image of the Chief Minister, but they will fail in their efforts. It is unfortunate that Opposition leader N Chandrababu Naidu and Jana Sena leader Pawan Kalyan are trying to ignite religious sentiments by making false allegations against the government and the Chief Minister.

They said that the Alumni Association would hereafter function as a charitable trust and former DGP Sambasiva Rao has been included in the trust.

Founder president of the association Grandhi Mallikarjuna Rao of the GMR Group came forward to construct a special hostel with 45 rooms, they said adding that the university has been striving to augment amenities with the help of charitable public and donations from the past students.

Brushing aside the baseless propaganda of TDP and Jana Sena touching upon religious issues, the YRSPCP has said that it was a blatant move to divert people's attention from the path breaking programmes the Chief Minister has been taking up.

He said "Chandrababu is losing grip over his party as 15 of the 23 MLAs have absconded from his sand deeksha and even MPs knocking at other party doors and he is making irrelevant allegations against the Chief Minister. It was only to divert the attention of the people from the development works that were being taken up by the government".

Meanwhile, YSRCP MLA Malladi Vishnu said the Chief Minister was doing all that was possible to uphold religious traditions like priests being granted hereditary rights by enacting the GO No 76 and Rs 234 crore being granted by the government for the maintenance of temples.

mittee and a new temple had been constructed there. He said the government would not hesitate to take criminal action against those who make such false allegations.

With reference to the allegation that a temple was demolished in Guntur, he said alternative land was already provided to the temple com-

Citizenship bill in Govt agenda for winter session

Continued from Page 1

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. Student organisations, political parties and socio-cultural bodies have been protesting on the grounds that it seeks to grant nationality to non-Muslims, mostly Hindus, who have come into India up to December 31, 2014, thereby increasing the deadline from 1971 as per the Assam Accord.

The BJP has insisted that minorities, of whom Hindus are in overwhelming numbers, from these countries should be granted Indian citizenship.

The Winter Session of Parliament is scheduled to be held between November 18 and December 13.

CPI demands govt to withdraw GO on media

PNS ■ ANANTPUR

CPI state unit secretary Ramakrishna has alleged that attempts are being made to bury democracy in the State and quoted the example of the State government releasing the controversial government order No. 2430 asking the media not to publish negative stories against the government.

On Saturday, he stated that Jaganmohan Reddy spoke against print media and democracy on the very day of taking oath as the Chief Minister.

He pledged his full support to journalists in their struggle against the controversial GO.

He noted that ministers in the Cabinet hurled out threats to the MSOs and ensured that airing of ABN-Andhra Jyoti channel was prohibited. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

On Saturday, he stated that Jaganmohan Reddy spoke against print media and democracy on the very day of taking oath as the Chief Minister.

He pledged his full support to journalists in their struggle against the controversial GO.

He noted that ministers in the Cabinet hurled out threats to the MSOs and ensured that airing of ABN-Andhra Jyoti channel was prohibited. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

On Saturday, he stated that Jaganmohan Reddy spoke against print media and democracy on the very day of taking oath as the Chief Minister.

He pledged his full support to journalists in their struggle against the controversial GO.

He noted that ministers in the Cabinet hurled out threats to the MSOs and ensured that airing of ABN-Andhra Jyoti channel was prohibited. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

On Saturday, he stated that Jaganmohan Reddy spoke against print media and democracy on the very day of taking oath as the Chief Minister.

He pledged his full support to journalists in their struggle against the controversial GO.

He noted that ministers in the Cabinet hurled out threats to the MSOs and ensured that airing of ABN-Andhra Jyoti channel was prohibited. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

On Saturday, he stated that Jaganmohan Reddy spoke against print media and democracy on the very day of taking oath as the Chief Minister.

He pledged his full support to journalists in their struggle against the controversial GO.

He noted that ministers in the Cabinet hurled out threats to the MSOs and ensured that airing of ABN-Andhra Jyoti channel was prohibited. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

On Saturday, he stated that Jaganmohan Reddy spoke against print media and democracy on the very day of taking oath as the Chief Minister.

He pledged his full support to journalists in their struggle against the controversial GO.

He noted that ministers in the Cabinet hurled out threats to the MSOs and ensured that airing of ABN-Andhra Jyoti channel was prohibited. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

On Saturday, he stated that Jaganmohan Reddy spoke against print media and democracy on the very day of taking oath as the Chief Minister.

He pledged his full support to journalists in their struggle against the controversial GO.

He noted that ministers in the Cabinet hurled out threats to the MSOs and ensured that airing of ABN-Andhra Jyoti channel was prohibited. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

On Saturday, he stated that Jaganmohan Reddy spoke against print media and democracy on the very day of taking oath as the Chief Minister.

He pledged his full support to journalists in their struggle against the controversial GO.

He noted that ministers in the Cabinet hurled out threats to the MSOs and ensured that airing of ABN-Andhra Jyoti channel was prohibited. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

On Saturday, he stated that Jaganmohan Reddy spoke against print media and democracy on the very day of taking oath as the Chief Minister.

He pledged his full support to journalists in their struggle against the controversial GO.

He noted that ministers in the Cabinet hurled out threats to the MSOs and ensured that airing of ABN-Andhra Jyoti channel was prohibited. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

On Saturday, he stated that Jaganmohan Reddy spoke against print media and democracy on the very day of taking oath as the Chief Minister.

He pledged his full support to journalists in their struggle against the controversial GO.

He noted that ministers in the Cabinet hurled out threats to the MSOs and ensured that airing of ABN-Andhra Jyoti channel was prohibited. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

On Saturday, he stated that Jaganmohan Reddy spoke against print media and democracy on the very day of taking oath as the Chief Minister.

He pledged his full support to journalists in their struggle against the controversial GO.

He noted that ministers in the Cabinet hurled out threats to the MSOs and ensured that airing of ABN-Andhra Jyoti channel was prohibited. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

On Saturday, he stated that Jaganmohan Reddy spoke against print media and democracy on the very day of taking oath as the Chief Minister.

He pledged his full support to journalists in their struggle against the controversial GO.

He noted that ministers in the Cabinet hurled out threats to the MSOs and ensured that airing of ABN-Andhra Jyoti channel was prohibited. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

On Saturday, he stated that Jaganmohan Reddy spoke against print media and democracy on the very day of taking oath as the Chief Minister.

He pledged his full support to journalists in their struggle against the controversial GO.

He noted that ministers in the Cabinet hurled out threats to the MSOs and ensured that airing of ABN-Andhra Jyoti channel was prohibited. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

On Saturday, he stated that Jaganmohan Reddy spoke against print media and democracy on the very day of taking oath as the Chief Minister.

He pledged his full support to journalists in their struggle against the controversial GO.

He noted that ministers in the Cabinet hurled out threats to the MSOs and ensured that airing of ABN-Andhra Jyoti channel was prohibited. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

On Saturday, he stated that Jaganmohan Reddy spoke against print media and democracy on the very day of taking oath as the Chief Minister.

He pledged his full support to journalists in their struggle against the controversial GO.

He noted that ministers in the Cabinet hurled out threats to the MSOs and ensured that airing of ABN-Andhra Jyoti channel was prohibited. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

On Saturday, he stated that Jaganmohan Reddy spoke against print media and democracy on the very day of taking oath as the Chief Minister.

He pledged his full support to journalists in their struggle against the controversial GO.

He noted that ministers in the Cabinet hurled out threats to the MSOs and ensured that airing of ABN-Andhra Jyoti channel was prohibited. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

On Saturday, he stated that Jaganmohan Reddy spoke against print media and democracy on the very day of taking oath as the Chief Minister.

He pledged his full support to journalists in their struggle against the controversial GO.

He noted that ministers in the Cabinet hurled out threats to the MSOs and ensured that airing of ABN-Andhra Jyoti channel was prohibited. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

On Saturday, he stated that Jaganmohan Reddy spoke against print media and democracy on the very day of taking oath as the Chief Minister.

He pledged his full support to journalists in their struggle against the controversial GO.

He noted that ministers in the Cabinet hurled out threats to the MSOs and ensured that airing of ABN-Andhra Jyoti channel was prohibited. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

On Saturday, he stated that Jaganmohan Reddy spoke against print media and democracy on the very day of taking oath as the Chief Minister.

He pledged his full support to journalists in their struggle against the controversial GO.

He noted that ministers in the Cabinet hurled out threats to the MSOs and ensured that airing of ABN-Andhra Jyoti channel was prohibited. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the controversial GO.

On Saturday, he stated that Jaganmohan Reddy spoke against print media and democracy on the very day of taking oath as the Chief Minister.

He pledged his full support to journalists in their struggle against the controversial GO.

He noted that ministers in the Cabinet hurled out threats

**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 Lakan Singh Yadav said on Saturday. The minister said the Central Semen Institute of the MP State Livestock and Poultry Development Corporation, located at Bhadbhada 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, Thanabawan 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.

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.

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

— 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.

GANDHI BOOKLET ROW**Odisha government terms it 'an inadvertent mistake'****PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

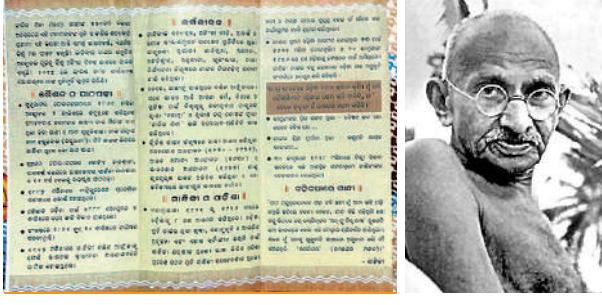
Facing widespread criticism over an official booklet describing Mahatma Gandhi's death as an 'accident', the Odisha government on Saturday said it was an inadvertent mistake and there was no intention to feed wrong information to the children or twist the sequence of events.

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 Patra 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 (mis)take (intentional)," 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 worshiping 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.

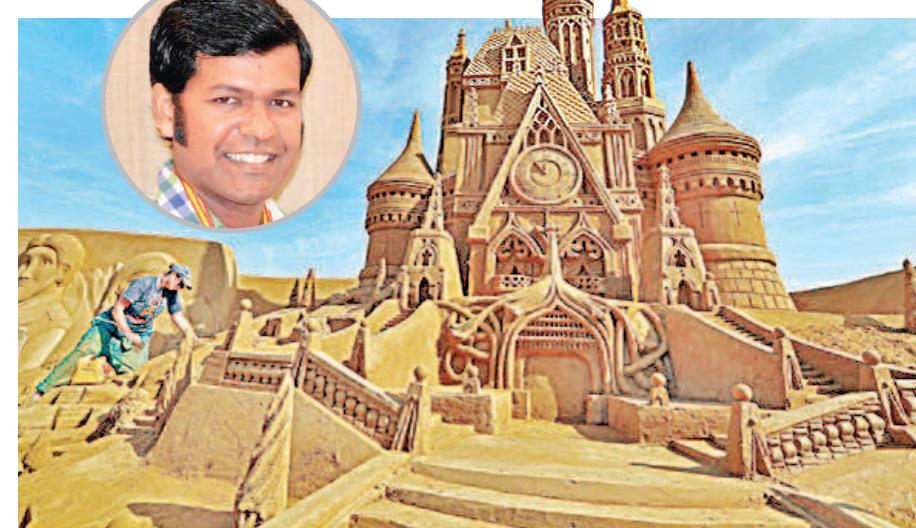
Maha equations change, Raut tweets about 'naya mausam'**PNS ■ MUMBAI**

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.

**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. Neerrika 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.

14 of a family suffer from food poisoning in Ahmednagar**PNS ■ PUNE**

At least 14 members of a family in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district fell ill after consuming rotis made of spoilt millets, police said on Saturday.

The incident took place in Dehre village on Friday afternoon, when 14 members of the Mali family suffered a severe case of food poisoning after consuming rotis made of old and spoilt pearl millet (bajra) flour, an official from MIDC police station said.

"The victims experienced vomiting and nausea, and were admitted to a civil hospital where their condition has been stabilised," he said.

Samples of the food have been sent for testing to ascertain the exact cause for food poisoning, he added.

**Govt should talk to farmers opposing electricity towers: CPI****PNS ■ CHENNAI**

other than agricultural lands, he said in a statement here.

They have announced that they would be holding peaceful protests in over 50 locations on November 18 in Tamil Nadu to urge the State and Central governments to resolve the issue and the CPI would take part in the demonstrations.

While the Tamil Nadu government should intervene and resolve the issue, it is a matter of anguish that Electricity Minister P Thangamani has "levelled allegations against opposition parties to divert people's attention."

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

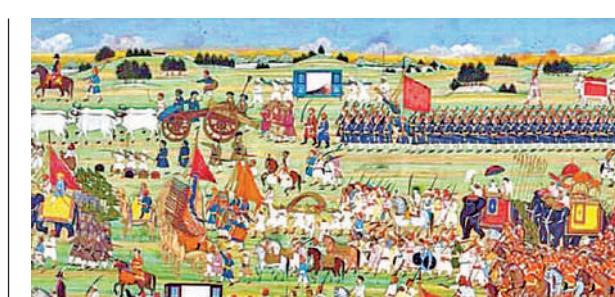
could be converted as the second camp to temporarily house the foreign nationals, till the piece of land is identified.

"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-

nexion 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.

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.

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 in Paris and the National Museum. 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 Firangi 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.

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 Bhuj, close to the Dihikala zone of the reserve.

The tiger had killed two guards in Tun Bhuj 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.

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-

nexion 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.

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

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



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

pact. India remains concerned that the China-dominated RCEP would be disadvanta-

geous 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 (AFTA), 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 Floater 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.

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

Insurance cover on Bank deposits may go up

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Nirmala Sitharaman

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-

"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

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



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.

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

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

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 14,00,000 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.

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 14,00,000 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.

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 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%, 17%, 7.6%, 29.5 per cent and 6.16% respectively.

The country's 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

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 for a review of industrial parks, logistics hubs and SEZs encompassing West Bengal with the aim of improving logistics competitiveness, employment generation and ease of doing business".

The infrastructure spending has been increased five



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 SGD 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 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 exemptions 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.

Services imports in September 2019 were 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.



'A star abused me on sets'

■ Having born to a naval officer, how did you end up doing acting?

I had a regular childhood. My parents are from Delhi and I was born and brought up in the city. And like every other child of the generation, I too was obsessed with *Chitrahaar* (aired on DD National) and *Superhit Muqabla* (aired on DD Metro). I wanted to be a part of those shows. After I grew up and was studying in

Jawaharlal Nehru

Talktime

SWARA BHASKER

Known for her roles in Tanu Weds Manu and Veere Di Wedding, Bhasker never fears in voicing her opinions. She speaks with Musba Hashmi about how she never had the fear of getting typecast and upcoming projects

University, my interest in acting grew even more. I wanted to be seen on the screen. Then after completing my MA, I shifted to Mumbai to pursue my dreams.

■ You debuted with *Madholal* Keep Walking but the film didn't do well. Did it dishearten you?

My first film is a different project that has not been released till date. By the time *Madholal...* released, I realised that it's not just enough to shoot a film but there's a whole process to get them released. So you have to land in projects that will actually get released and not just shot. I didn't expect *Madholal...* to do well because there's a whole system for distribution and economic breakdown also. It didn't dishearten me at all. Also, the film got good reviews. Then I got *Tanu Weds Manu* and I got so many accolades for the film and that actually became my break.

■ In the initial days of your career, did you have the fear of being typecasted?

No. You're right that a lot of people try to tell what one should do and what not and direct them by saying not do a particular type of role or else you'll get typecasted. But, I never had this fear in me. I was clear in my mind that I wouldn't be spending my life waiting for the ideal role to come to me. I can't sit idle. I start angsting if I am not working. I knew that I couldn't get a star-child launch. Not that Karan Johar or Sanjay Leela Bhansali would be launching me opposite a superstar, that was

I WAS CLEAR IN MY MIND THAT I WOULDN'T BE SPENDING MY LIFE WAITING FOR THE IDEAL ROLE TO COME TO ME. I KNEW THAT I COULDNT GET A STAR-CHILD LAUNCH

never going to happen. I figured it out that I have to showcase my work.

If you'll look at my career, I have broken all the rules and have done everything that people tell aspiring actors not to do. My biggest break, as I mentioned earlier turned out to be a heroine's best friend's role. And it is in the industry's don't dos list. Then Bindiya, the rejected lover in *Raanjhanaa*, next came Salman Khan's sister in *Prem Ratan Dhan Payo*, it was a role that no actor was ready to play it,

followed by *Nil Battey Sannata* which people told me that it was like a career suicide because I played a mother of a 15-year-old at such a young age and then of course Sakshi Soni's masturbation scene in *Veere Di Wedding*. I had done TV at a time when people considered it uncool. So, I believe in breaking all the boxes and that's what I tell others to do too. I don't pay attention to what people say not out of disrespect but because how can someone else pay attention to me what is my trajectory in life.

■ A worst and best moment in the industry.

My worst experience was when a star abused me on sets just because they were having a tantrum. I don't want to get into name calling, but it happened in front of a lot of people and everyone just stood still. After a moment, they all ignored it and behaved as if nothing has happened at all.

There are a lot of good experiences that I have had in the industry. But the best moment has always been the messages that Sooraj Barjatya sir keep on sending me every now and then praising my work and checking up on me if I am good or not.

■ You often have been at the receiving end for raising your voice on different issues. Does these trolls affect you in any way?

It's not nice to be at the receiving end of trolling but I don't pay attention to it now because I have become familiar to it. But, the thing that I do feel bad about is people mis-

understand what I say. And this is not a nice place to be in. It is like a collateral damage of speaking out but I wouldn't stop speaking up fearing that somebody would misunderstand me. I cannot help that. I remember when I wrote that open letter (to Sanjay Leela Bhansali for *Padmavati*) so many people got angry on it for no reason.

Most of them didn't even read the letter, they just read the headline. I don't even choose the headlines, the publishing platform does. So, I was a little sad at that time, but it's fine. I think people are not used to seeing women speaking up on issues, they just don't like it. It is a bigger problem and I don't understand what's a big deal in that.

■ Can you talk about your upcoming film *Sheer Qorma*?

It's a beautiful film about a Muslim same sex couple directed and written by Faraz Arif Ansari. It's a subject that we have not seen on screens before. It's a long-short film, which means it's not a full length film. It's a dream come true moment for me because Faraz has given me the opportunity to work with Shabana Azmi ji and Divya Dutta ma'am.

■ Do you think the film can land in some controversies because of the sensitivity of the topic?

I can't predict a controversy. But the soul of the film is so pure, I don't think there can be any controversy around it. I am convinced that it will go well with people.

DIFFerent experience

The 8th edition of Dharamsala International Film Festival had a lot to offer to viewers this time round. SHALINI SAKSENA caught up with SUSHIL CHAUDHARY, the brain behind Picture Time Digiplex to talk about the pulsating content

The Dharamsala International Film Festival, is in its eighth year and has wowed the audience with some of the best works from directors and filmmakers from across the globe. A brainchild of Ritu Sarin and Tenzing Sonam, filmmakers themselves and the festival that began its journey in 2012 has grown manifold. Back then, the two travelled to other film festivals to showcase their work and assess the organisation and the kind of work being shown.

For example, at the Locarno International Film Festival, the organisers had used a mountain as a backdrop to show a film. A film festival in the Amazonian basin was so lush and grand that the couple wanted to do something similar and Dharamsala International Film Festival was born.

The festival this year saw a diverse mix of independent features, documentaries, shorts and animation films from India as well as around the world. Some of the feature documentaries that made it to the festival were Archana Atul Phadke's *About Love*, Thomas Heise's *Heimat Is a Space in Time*, Kavich Neang's *Last Night I Saw You Smiling*. Besides showcasing some brilliant cinema, the festival also featured an acting workshop by noted actor Adil Hussain. Swiss filmmaker Samuel Weniger and Japanese documentary filmmaker Kazuhiro Soda enlighten audiences on their enriching sessions on filmmaking.

In order to get the content for the festival, which is in its eighth edition, there is a need to get the rights with secure technology.

"The Picture Time has been designed with global standards which relates to the security of content. Also when it comes to audio and visual experience, it is 2K digital cinema system.

This meant that the filmmakers and content owners didn't have any problems with sharing their work for this year's festival. We also used an innovative method to download content of getting the DCPs. This meant even if there was no Internet connectivity at Dharamsala, we could use our V-set system to ensure that the content ran seamlessly. This gave the content owners a lot of comfort when it came to sharing their work. The content curation team was strong and we got a lot of European, African, Canadian and American films. What

atres or fixed auditoriums. There was a need to create the right cinematic experience in a constrained environment. Mobile theatres resolved the issue. All that they need is open space — 80X80 feet. They can be set up in less than three hours and taken down when the event is over. This was a unique feature of this festival," Sushil Chaudhary, the brain behind the Picture Time Digiplex, tells you.

There are several benefits when one uses a technology like this. "Earlier, the films were being shown with a normal projector and normal sound system. Today, however, audio and visual defines good content. One can have great content but if the audio and the visuals are not good, the film will not have the necessary impact. Take *Sholay*. If the film was to be made with the present technology, one can only imagine the grandeur. The technology element plays an important role in filmmaking. Our technology makes it possible for the viewers to have a more immersive experience," Chaudhary explains.

In order to get the content for the festival, which is in its eighth edition, there is a need to get the rights with secure technology.

"The Picture Time has been designed with global standards which relates to the security of content. Also when it comes to audio and visual experience, it is 2K digital cinema system.

This meant that the filmmakers and content owners didn't have any problems with sharing their work for this year's festival. We also used an innovative method to download content of getting the DCPs. This meant even if there was no Internet connectivity at Dharamsala, we could use our V-set system to ensure that the content ran seamlessly. This gave the content owners a lot of comfort when it came to sharing their work. The content curation team was strong and we got a lot of European, African, Canadian and American films. What



Actor Adil Hussain with Sushil Chaudhary of Picture Time Digiplex at Dharamsala

TODAY, AUDIO AND VISUAL DEFINES GOOD CONTENT. ONE CAN HAVE GREAT CONTENT BUT IF THE AUDIO AND THE VISUALS ARE NOT GOOD, THE FILM WILL NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY IMPACT

I loved about this festival was that besides being a boutique, it was content-heavy. It had a strange spirit which was so different from the other festivals," Chaudhary says.

This meant that the atmosphere was informal and much of the proto-

col was given a miss. This allowed people to interact with the filmmakers and technicians who gave master classes for filmmaking. "There was a clean vibe. People asked questions freely," Chaudhary says.

He tells you that Dharamsala is

only a venue albeit a unique one. "Most global film festivals are associated with venues. Just like Cannes, it has no market for the film industry, but it makes for a great venue. Similarly, Dharamsala, set in the shadow of the majestic Dhauladhar mountains, offers a beautiful setting. It has made its mark when it comes to those who are in the market of making independent cinema. This is among one of the most sought after film festival for independent producers world over. This was the first film festival where a Tibetan film was made and showcased. But the eco-system in the city is such that people look forward to this festival. Last year, all the tickets were sold out. Locals look forward to it. They go out of their way to make things as easy as possible for those who come here. McLeod Ganj that has narrow roads removes traffic restrictions during festival days. It is not just locals who throng to this festival," Chaudhary says.

He tells you that this festival attracts people not just from within India but also abroad. "This year, we had volunteers who had come all the way from the US," he says. Chaudhary tells you that there are always security concerns for content owners because a festival is a place where one's work can be stolen if not properly secured. "Imagine that your whole work has been copied and multiple CDs made and the work released online and offline. While one can track online, it is impossible to do so offline," Chaudhary tells you.

When Sarin and Sonam had started the festival it was very boutique for a selected group, but the idea, this time, did not only make this edition big but to grow bigger from here on. "When they approached me last year, I told them I could bring in tech elements to the festival and three mobile theatres were set up. The festival was a huge success and we intend to go bigger from here," Chaudhary says.

'Artist should push himself to be successful'



Singer SHREYA SHARMA speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about how she got her first break with Prada and a remix of wedding song for the brides to enjoy on their special day

■ How did your musical journey begin?

It began when I was four years old and my mother noticed my interest. I started learning at a very young age. I learnt music. I went to New York to study and interned there. It has been an ongoing process. But I came back to India, Mumbai. That is how it all started.

■ You interned in New York. Was working there never on the cards?

As a performer, I felt that my personal musical influences were more Indian like India pop and Bollywood. I always felt that I would adjust to this kind of music better.

■ Was it tough to come back and difficult to adjust to Mumbai?

I am not from Mumbai. My family is from Meerut. When I was in a boarding school, I was very sheltered. Then I went to New York, but when I moved to Mumbai, I was all by myself. It was tough going to begin with. But life goes on and things settled down soon.

■ How did you get your first break — for Prada?

I was doing shows with Catalyst Entertainment and had gone to meet Naveen Soni at his office and it was by chance that they were discussing about *Lamborghini*, it had only been a week since the song had released. We got talking and saw a cover that I had done and they asked me to record a track. They came up with *Prada* and we recorded the song. We had a lot of fun. I was at the right place at the right time.

■ People are usually looking for a Bollywood break. Was it the same for you?

Whether it is India pop or Bollywood, it is always about connecting with the song and the music. I love Bollywood and the songs. When *Prada* happened, I enjoyed it very much, I loved the vibe.

■ You have been associated with music for such a long time. Is there any hit formula?

There is no formula. One can never predict what the public will like or dislike. India is such a vast country, it is difficult to make a generalised statement that this sells or that doesn't sell. All I would say that a song that connects with the public will do well. There are people who say that fast numbers work, but slow songs do well too. Some people like old songs as well. Content is king and all demographics fail.

■ How would you define success?

My parameters are feelings and to be professionally satisfied with the work that I have done. If the audience connects with the song means that one is successful. But having said this, it is important for an artist to push himself or herself all the time. One can't be complacent. If you keep pushing yourself, you are successful then.

■ Are you working on a project?

Yes, I am working on a couple of projects. Then there is a wedded cover of an old song that I am working on, it is an ode to the brides getting married this season. I want them to feel special and enjoy their day. The cover is slated to be released this year on my YouTube channel.

WEEKLY NATTER

VARINDER SINGH'S ACTING CONNECTION

Varinder Singh Ghuman, who was last seen in the film, *Roar: Tigers Of The Sunderbans* (2014), is all set for his second outing in Hindi cinema — he is a part of director Milap Milan Zaveri's *Marjaavaan*. Ask him about his role in the film, and he replies: "All I can reveal is that the character has a lot to do with my physicality. Saying more would spoil the fun."

A professional bodybuilder and wrestler, Varinder had won the title of Mr India in 2009 and also secured second position at the Mr Asia contest. He is touted to be the world's first vegetarian professional bodybuilder, and also the first Indian to secure the pro card from the International Federation Of BodyBuilding. Apart from acting and bodybuilding, he is also the brand ambassador of health products by a popular Hollywood action hero in Asia.

Interestingly, Varinder says that acting happened to him by accident. "I never thought of acting as a profession, but with Roar coming my way and now Marjaavaan, I am loving this new journey."

So, does he have more offers in hand? "Yes, there are a couple of interesting projects, but let's talk about them at the right time," he says.

BHUMIKA TO BE SCREENED AT IFFI

The 50th edition of IFFI will have a section called The Indian New Wave Films among which Indian films like filmmaker Shyam Benegal's *Bhumiya* that released in 1976 and starred Arnol Palekar, Smita Patil and Amrish Puri along with his 1973 release Ankur that had Anant Nag and Shabana Azmi in the lead roles will be screened. Along with these two, other films which will be screened under the same section are *Ajantrik* (1957), *Meghe Dhaka Tara* (1960), *Bhuvan Shome* (1969), *Swayanvaram* (1972), *Uttaranayam* (1974), *Thampu* (1978), *Uski Roti* (1969), *Duvvidha* (1973), *Tarang* (1972), and *Agraharathil Kazhuthai* (1977).

The 50th International Film Festival of India, 2019 will witness over 200 films from 76 countries. With the screening of 26 feature films and 15 non-feature films in the Indian panorama section, around 10,000 people and film lovers are expected to attend and participate in the golden jubilee edition. The 2019 Golden Jubilee edition of the International Film Festival of India will take place from the November 20 to November 28 at Panjim, Goa.

21 BRIDGES TO RELEASE ON NOVEMBER 22

STX films, MWM Studios and Huari Brothers Pictures present *21 Bridges*. Starring Chadwick Boseman, Sienna Miller, Stephan James, Keith David, with Taylor Kitsch and J.K. Simmons. Brian Kirk directs from a script written by Adam Mervis and Matthew Michael Carnahan. The PVR Pictures' film will be released on November 22, 2019 worldwide. The film follows NYPD detective Andre Davis (Chadwick Boseman) who leads a citywide manhunt for a pair of cop killers. Davis' relentless pursuit also uncovers a massive conspiracy, and lines become blurred on whom he is pursuing — and who is after him. When the search intensifies, extreme measures are taken to prevent the killers from escaping Manhattan, as Davis directs the authorities to close all 21 bridges to prevent any entry or exit from the iconic island.

"The idea of locking down Manhattan for a manhunt was incredibly compelling and cinematic," says Chadwick Boseman, who portrays Davis and also serves as a producer on the film. "We haven't seen that before."





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 film-making in environment, water, climate change, livelihood, forests and glaciers tells you that he is from a village Bandipora which stands 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 runs 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 film-making 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 are poisoning the waters. I told people what to 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 to 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 Lider 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.

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. Something that was unheard of in the park. "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," Bholu tells you.

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

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

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 Munnar 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.

He tells you that there are 56 marine animals in the Gulf. His primary work is 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.

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. 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



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. False 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

He tells you that there are 56 marine animals in the Gulf. His primary work is 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 collect 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," Bholu tells you.

He opines that there is need to ensure that Bharatpur remains 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 a 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," Bholu 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," Bholu tells you.

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 Bholu's interest was Dr Salim Ali who used to frequent the park to ring the birds. Bholu 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 Bholu could help was that he had to compulsorily go to school. The young Bholu 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," Bholu 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. Something that was unheard of in the park. "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," Bholu tells you.

He tells you how back in the 80s and 90s people would throng 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 and 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," Bholu tells you.

He opines that there is need to ensure that Bharatpur remains 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 a 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," Bholu 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," Bholu tells you.



the pioneer agenda

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

09



111

Leading a virtuous life

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

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 KEHWAS 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 ANOOTHI 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 *Lucknauwallah* 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.

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 space.

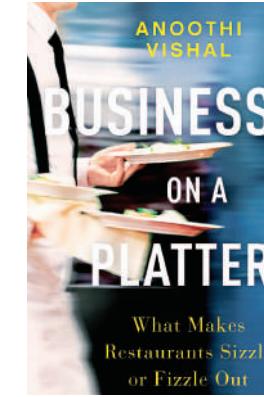
After the British assumed power in India and Mughal might was lost, cooks who had till then laboured in the kitchens of aristocrats found themselves out of work. Some of them found work with new employers but discovered that these new sahibs and brown sahibs of the Raj did not understand the elite art. 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 *durbar*. Karim Hotel in the beginning served just *alo 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 *paranthas*), 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 flour daily in 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 *paranthas* almost certainly existed in Lucknowi and Awadh 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 Peninsula 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 *gorma*, *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 sandstone 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.

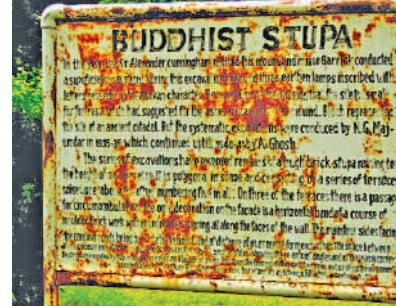
The place was then known as Mathia and today is known as Lauriya Nandangarh. *Lauriya* in local language means stick.

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 became 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 extra ordinary 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 Greeks 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 Budhal 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. Morris 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 — "Devanampriya Piyadas" — 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 "Devanampriya Piyadas" 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 of transformation.

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 Dharmam", 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 transformation. 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 Shakyamuni 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 stupas 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 Piprahawali 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, over populated 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

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 *sanjhā 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*, 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. Achaya 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*, silken *qormas*, *gola* and *dil* (heart) 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.

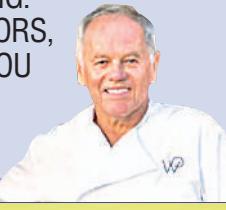
The new *tandoori* chicken was India's original fast food. Simply done and fresh. Moti Mahal also takes the credit for inventing butter chicken: *tandoori* chicken pieces dunked in tomato, yoghurt and butter laden sauce, and perhaps India's most famous restaurant creation.

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



WHOLESOOME FOOD

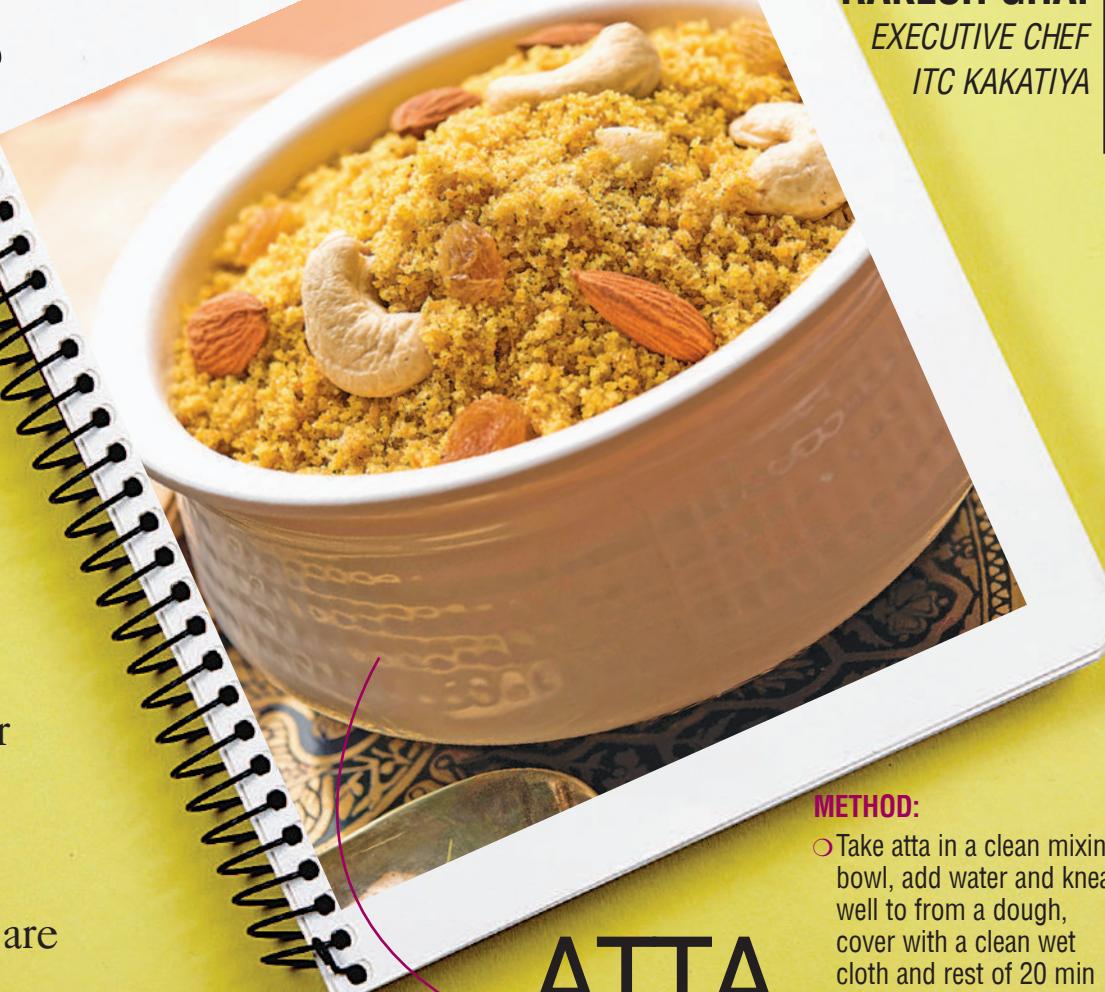
Rotis/
chapattis
and
parathas are
one of the
most popular
items
consumed
across the
country that are
made out of
whole wheat flour.
The use of whole
wheat flour is not
limited to bread or
snacks. It can be
transformed into lip-
smacking desserts.
We bring to you three
desserts that can be made
with whole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

ATTA CHURMA

INGREDIENTS

ATTAA	QUANTITY
GHEE	500 GM
SUGAR	200 GM
GREEN CARDAMOM	1 TSP
SAFFRON	1/2 GM
ALMOND	10 GM
PISTACHIO	10 GM
CASHEW NUT	10 GM

QUANTITY



METHOD:

- Take atta in a clean mixing bowl, add water and knead well to from 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

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

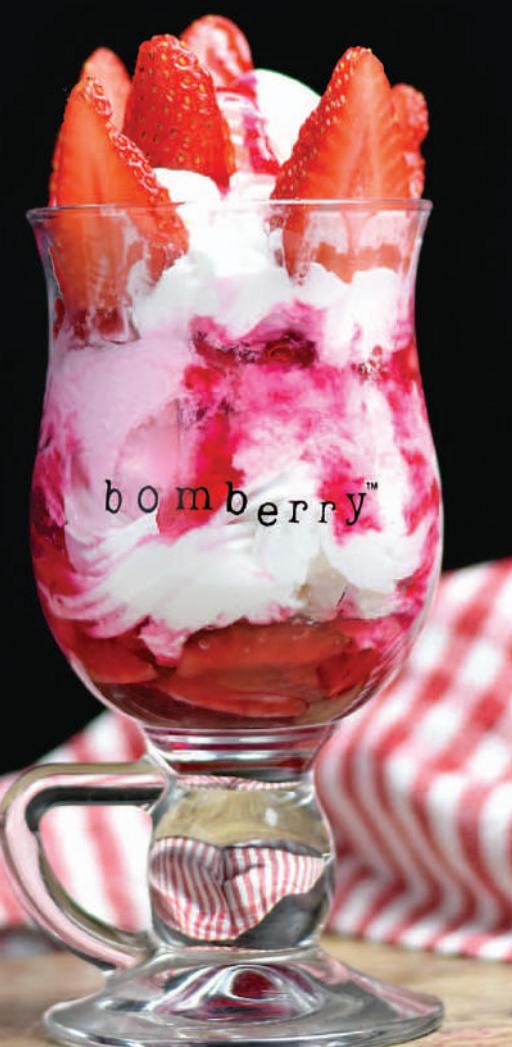
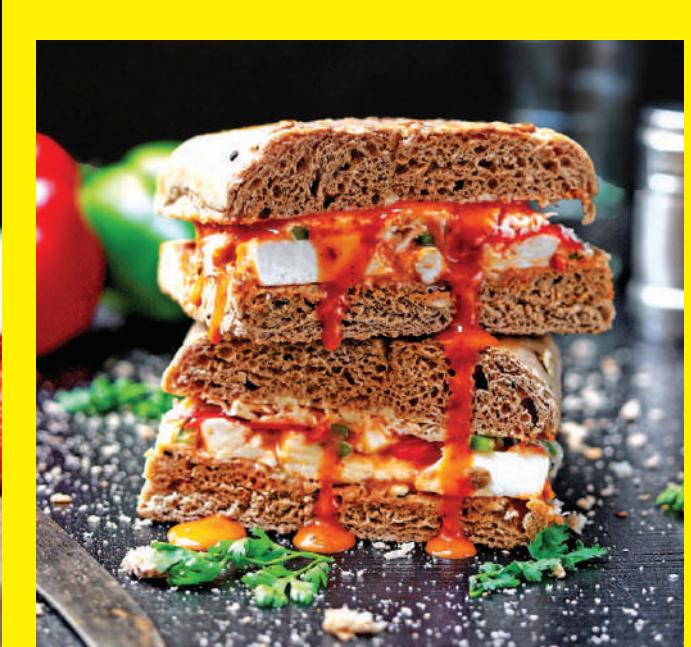
Hyderabad and I wanted to bring it to our people."

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.



BOBBATLU



INGREDIENTS

ATTAA	200 GM
GHEE	50 GM
CHANA DAL	250 GM
JAGGERY	250 GM
GHEE	250 GM
SAFFRON	1/2 GM
GREEN CARDAMOM	2 GM

QUANTITY

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.
- Take Atta in a clean mixing bowl, add water & knead well to from 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 bobbatlu and serve hot

WHEAT HALWA



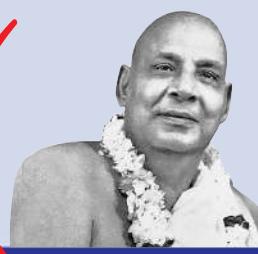
INGREDIENTS

ATTAA	2 CUPS	RAISINS	1 TBSP
SUGAR	1.25 CUPS	CARDAMOM	1/2 TSP
CASHEW POWDER	2 TBSP	GHEE	1.5 CUPS

QUANTITY

- ### 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



THE REAL SPIRITUAL PROGRESS OF
THE ASPIRANT IS MEASURED BY THE
EXTENT TO WHICH HE ACHIEVES
INNER TRANQUILLITY
— SWAMI SIVANANDA



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

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

GEMINI May 21-June 20

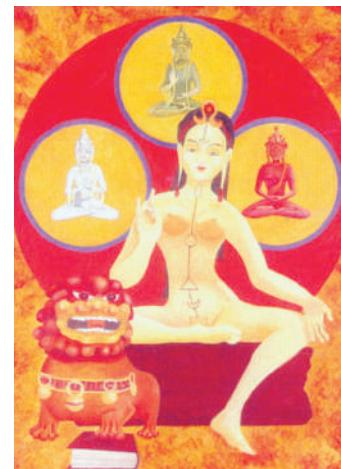
In order to maintain good health, you need to derive positive energy from the five elements. You will feel highly ignited and need to adopt a balanced approach to life. Control your cravings and keep your anger in check. At work, you are meticulous and hard-working. You are willing to learn new skills, 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

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

**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

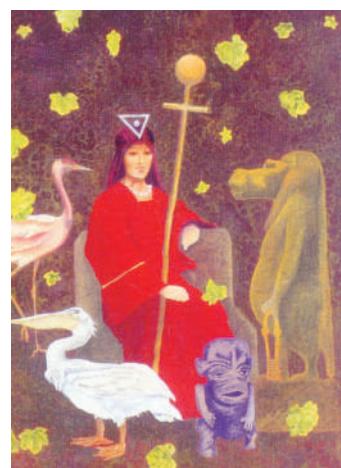
You will do anything to achieve good health. You should decide whether you want to follow your mind or your heart. The first approach would be to scrutinise your innermost needs and expectations. Your career may be at a standstill and you may feel stagnated. This is the time to make cordial relations 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

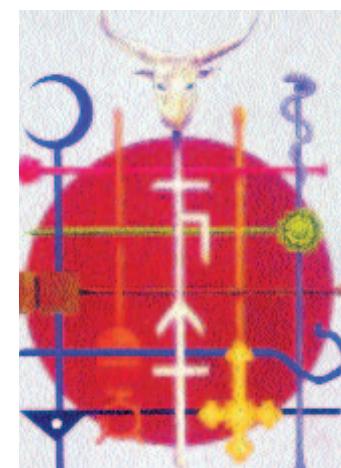
You need to find a positive environment where you can relax. You are likely to encounter mental conflict and nervousness that may cause your BP to fluctuate. Focus on balancing your untamed energy. A disciplined lifestyle, balanced diet, regular medical checkup and exercise are unavoidable. Stay away 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

**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

**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

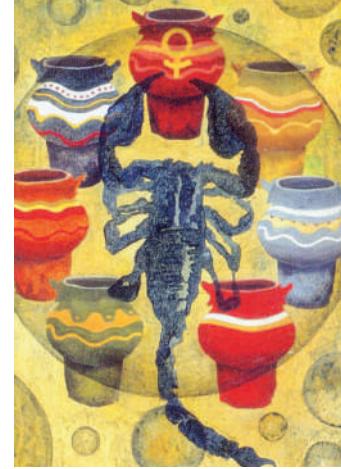
This week you will enjoy good health, vigour and stamina. You will not only be able to care for yourself but for your family as well. You will take a rock-solid resolution for a healthy family, and will leave no stone unturned to achieve your goal. On the career front, you must maintain a practical approach 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

**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 soulful, passionate, and romantic and will leave no stone to make your partner happy.

Lucky number 29
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Tuesday

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

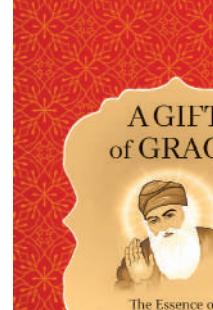
Guru Nanak's guide to leading a virtuous life

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 righteous 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.

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.

Community 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 self-evaluation 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

