

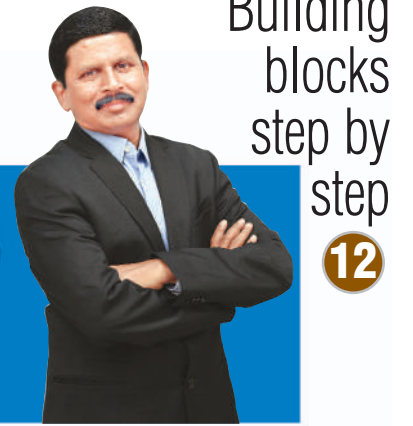
NATION 5 MONEY 6 SPECIAL 7
RSS: THOSE SHOUTING KAGAZ 'AMBITIOUS' JAPAN-BRITAIN
NAHIN DIKHAYENGE WILL LOSE TRADE DEAL ON ANVIL LAW IS JUVENILE
NEEDS TO GROW UP



sunday pioneer

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HYDERABAD, SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3



Building blocks step by step 12

ON VALENTINE'S DAY, 'MATRU-PITRU PUJAN DIWAS' FOR GUJ SCHOOLS

Schools in Surat in Gujarat have been asked to organise 'Matru-Pitru Pujan Diwas' (Mother-Father Worship Day) on February 14, coinciding with Valentine's Day...



IMRAN'S PARTY SUSPENDS LEADER FOR POSTERS INSULTING HINDUS

The ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party led by Prime Minister Imran Khan has suspended the general secretary of its Lahore chapter over posters that featured an insulting slogan targeting the minority Hindus...



THAI SOLDIER KILLS 17 IN MASS SHOOTING, SHARES ATTACK ON FB

A Thai soldier gunned down at least 17 people in an attack which he shared on Facebook, emergency services said Saturday, in an ongoing mass shooting which focused on a town centre mall...



WOMEN PROTESTERS VOTE IN BATCHES TO KEEP AGITATION ALIVE

On a sit-in for over a month against the Citizenship Amendment Act, women protesters at Shaheen Bagh voted in batches on Saturday so that the agitation remains unaffected...



'ALL AND SUNDRY'
Kia gives shock treatment after threats by leaders

KCR makes 'strategic' moves to revive Federal Front

L VENKAT RAM REDDY HYDERABAD

TRS president and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao is making 'early and strategic' moves on the Federal Front that he had proposed in the run-up to the 2019 general elections...



- To give 'complete shape' to Federal Front by mid-2021
To devote three years to establish Front to face 2024 general elections
Hopes AAP's victory in Delhi polls will be a trigger and stepping stone for Federal Front
To keenly keep an eye on elections in Bihar, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu

Front got a big boost after he swept December 2018 polls with a thumping majority and retained power for second term. However, the May 2018 Lok Sabha elections results shattered his plans as the BJP returned to power for a second term with an absolute majority.

GHMC becomes first Municipal Corporation to reject CAA

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Saturday passed a resolution against the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), National Registry of Citizens (NRC) and the National Population Register (NPR), thus becoming the first civic body in the country to do so.



that democracy was at stake due to the BJP-led Union government's plans. Echoing his views, former Mayor Majid Hussain said Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao had already expressed his views on CAA, NRC and NPR, and said that the Telangana Assembly would soon pass a resolution against CAA.

cussing CAA. Mayor Bonthu Rammohan said, "Telangana is a secular State and the government is a secular government. The resolution passed in the GHMC Council would extend support to Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao's plans in setting an example to other States to oppose CAA, NRC and NPR." Welcoming GHMC's move, Asaduddin Owaisi tweeted, "Hyderabad is now the first Indian city to adopt a resolution against NPR. GHMC adopted a resolution against NPR I thank all AIMIM corporators & most also thank Telangana CM for his support". This was retweeted by MA&UD minister K T Rama Rao.



Time ripe for law on pre-litigation mediation: CJI

Advocate, wife and nephew arrested for 'rape of NRI'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A mere Facebook friend request landed an NRI in trouble as she was allegedly conned, drugged and raped by an advocate and his nephew, who also 'extorted' from her money and valuables to the tune of Rs 42 lakhs.



The arrested advocate, his wife and nephew

The victim was conned, drugged and raped by an advocate and his nephew, who also 'extorted' from her money and valuables to the tune of Rs 42 lakhs

Bachupally police personnel under Cyberabad limits arrested city-based advocate Mamidi Sanjeev Reddy, along with his wife Mamidi Kavi, who works as a manager of DCC bank, on the charges of helping her husband and nephew Vishal in the crime.

Police seized one pistol 7.65 MM (0.32) RP-218345, GSF-IN-2016 with 32 rounds ammunition; one empty 'Koka' and three empty magazines and other material from them.

Rag-picker hurt in blast

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An explosion in a garbage dump maimed a rag picker and created panic among residents of Musheerabad early on Saturday morning.

Panic gripped people who feared that some explosives might have gone off. The police, however, assured them that no explosives were used and there was nothing to panic about.

Commissioner of Hyderabad Police Anjani Kumar took to social media, posting that a blast took place in a garbage bin at Risala Bazar area at 10.45 am. Forensic experts examined the bin and found no explosives.

Gang uses dead techies to cheat banks, firms



Some of the members of the gang involved in cheating banks

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Dead men tell no tales, but in today's digital world tech-savvy crooks can use credentials of the deceased to cheat anyone.

Revealing the bizarre modus operandi of a gang of six college dropouts and PG degree holders, the Cyberabad Cyber Crime police explained how they used the credentials of deceased techies and siphoned off amounts totaling Rs 53,95,043 from several leading banks and financial

firms. The accused just used the loophole of family members not informing banks about the deaths of the techies, due to which the accounts of the deceased remained active and vulnerable, sources said. The kingpin of the gang was Nimmagadda Phani Chowdary, 33, Mandava Swaroop Nath Chowdary, 34, Pedavalli Srinivasa Rao, 33, Kandru Harish, 25, Narne Venu Gopal, 35, and Ilkkruthi Veera Shekhar Rao, 28, all hail from Guntur district.

Exit polls predict AAP sweeping Delhi again

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Exit polls for the Delhi assembly election on Saturday predicted a big victory for Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party with some indicating that it can even repeat its 2015 landslide when it had bagged 67 seats in the 70-member House.

The India Today-Axis poll forecast 59-68 seats for the AAP and 2-11 for the BJP, while the ABP-CVoter put the Delhi's ruling party's tally at a n y - where between 49 and 63 and that of its main rival between five to 19.

Almost all exit polls predicted little change in the fortunes of the Congress, which had ruled the city between 1998 and 2013 but drew a blank in the 2015 polls.

The Times Now-Ipsos exit poll predicted that Kejriwal will retain power with the AAP winning 47 seats against 23 for the BJP.

The Republic-Jan ki Baat survey gave the AAP 48-61 seats and the BJP 9-21 seats. The TV9 Bharatvarsh-Cicero predicted 52-64 seats for the AAP and 6-16 for the BJP.

Continued on Page 4



US preferred trade partner in India's journey: Sandhu



AP Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy at the inauguration of the nation's first Disha Police Station at the Nannayya University in Rajahmundry on Saturday

Disha police station, app to protect women: Jagan

PNS ■ RAJAHMUNDRY

Describing it as 'a historic day' that will go down in the annals of history, Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy on Saturday inaugurated the first Disha police station in the country at the Nannayya University here.

SOS button that would alert the police control room in case of distress and ensure speedy response. The AP government enacted the Disha Act, in the aftermath of the gruesome rape and murder of a veterinarian in Hyderabad late last year, to ensure speedy investigation and trial of sexual assault cases.

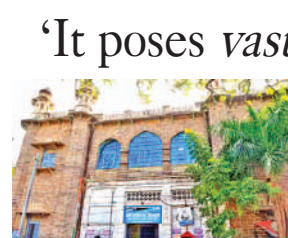
The Act prescribes death penalty where rape or gangrape is established.

The app has a single touch

Century-old stone building to be razed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 'stone house' built in 1910, adjacent to the recently vacated Secretariat building, is soon going to become a part of history as the state government, firm on building a new Secretariat complex after taking down existing structures, proposes to raze the century-old structure as it "poses vastu problems".



The government is of the view that the situation of the Nizam-era 'stone building' is

not auspicious for the new Secretariat because of vastu rules. The building, which once housed the first ever thermal power station in South Asia, is located adjacent to the Secretariat in the Mint Compound area.

The more than 100 year old building is entirely a stone structure. Osmania Technical College operated from the structure for several years. Currently, it houses TSSPD-CL units -- offices of the Chief Electrical Inspector to Government of Telangana and Metro Zone Chief General Manager.

According to Bank employees associations, a three-day all-India bank strike will be observed from March 11 to 13 as talks on wage revision failed

Banks may remain closed for five days in March

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After a two-day bank strike on 31 January and 1 February, lakhs of employees of several PSU banks have threatened to sit on another bank strike next week. If the shutdown is successful, several banks and even ATMs could be closed for five consecutive days in the second week of March.



From March 11 to 13 after wage revision talks with the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) failed. As the strike is timed ahead of the second Saturday of the month, when banks observe holiday, work could be affected for five consecutive days including Sunday.

bank strike so far this year as banking services were also affected on January 8 during Bharat Bandh when unions sat on protest against the Narendra Modi government's policies. From April 1 this year, the unions have again called for an

indefinite all-India bank strike if their demands are not met. Employees of PSU banks have their wage revised once every five years after several rounds of negotiations between union leaders and management representatives of banks. Last revised in 2012, wage revision is due from November 2017 as all negotiations held since then have failed.

Unions want wage revision settlement at 20% hike on pay slip components with adequate loading thereof while IBA said it is ready for upto 19% hike including performance linked

ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Magha & Shukla Paksha
Panchangam
Tithi: Pratipada: 09:44 pm
Dhwitiya: 06:17 am (Next Day)
Nakshatram: Magha: 05:05 pm
Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)
Rahukalam: 08:14 am - 09:39 am
Yamagandam: 11:05 am - 12:30 pm
Varjyam: 12:11 am - 01:36 am
Gulika: 01:55 pm - 03:21 pm
Good Time: (to start any important work)
Amritkalam: 02:57 pm - 04:22 pm
Abhijit Muhurtham: 12:07 pm - 12:53 pm
HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Showers
Temp: 29/18
Humidity: 85%
Sunrise: 06:45
Sunset: 06:15
Current Weather Conditions
Updated February 08, 2020 5:00 PM

'ALL AND SUNDRY'

Kia gives shock treatment after threats by leaders

The controversy over Kia Motors' purported resolve to move out of Andhra Pradesh has come at a most inopportune time when the State is lurching from one political controversy to another. The Government and the automobile major swung into action to quash a report put out by Reuters' that Kia was in talks with Tamil Nadu to relocate the Rs. 8,000 crore plant there from Anantapur. The report cast a larger shadow over the investment climate in Andhra, after UAE's Lulu group pulled out of Vizag and the Singapore consortium, the World Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank were forced to exit Amaravati. Andhra's track record has created an impression among industry

watchers that where there is smoke there must be fire.

What strengthened it was the cold shoulder Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy gave Kia Motors at the plant's inauguration in December when he delivered a perfunctory speech and left. About four months earlier in August, he had missed the roll-out of the first car when YSR Congress MP Gorantla Madhav embarrassed the hosts by scrawling on the bonnet that locals had been left out of employment. Jagan evidently was not pleased with cutting the ribbon for a project promoted by his bete noire N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Warding off competition from Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra, Naidu had wooed Kia by giving 600 acres of levelled land and electricity at concessional rates, besides providing one

Whatever the truth, Kia Motors needed a helping hand as it was supposed to be producing its first car Seltos, a mini-SUV, with a low profit margin, followed by the launch of a new model every six months. This run, if successful, would culminate in the production of the electric

vehicle in 3-4 years from now, maybe in Andhra, Tamil Nadu or Maharashtra. Interestingly, Reuters' report quoted unnamed sources in Kia itself that the company was facing problems relating to local employment and the government seeking review of incentives already extended. True, the present regime has announced a policy of giving 75% jobs to locals, but Kia offered to employ 80% locals out of the 7,000-strong workforce after training them in skill development centres.

tmctf of water from the Gollapalli reservoir. Bharatiya Janata Party leaders contest this claim by saying Kia Motors plant, a subsidiary of Hyundai, was established as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' initiative. Whatever the truth, Kia Motors needed a helping hand as it was supposed to be producing its first car Seltos, a mini-SUV, with a low profit margin, followed by the launch of a new model every six months. This run, if successful, would culminate in the production of the electric



S NAGESH KUMAR Former Resident Editor, The Hindu

The malaise, however, lay elsewhere. It was all about avarice of local leaders who wanted their pound of flesh from the massive investment in their backyard. A company of that size presented huge opportunities in sale of metal scrap, logistics like transporting finished cars to places

across the country, outsourcing manpower and deploying buses to carry workers. At the centre of the controversy were Anantapur Minister M. Shankar Narayana, besides a ruling party MP and MLA. While admitting that Kia Motors offered these opportunities, the Minister denied he was arm-twisting Kia to award him contracts.

Kia Motors, apparently unwilling to wilt under their pressure, decided to give shock treatment to the government. It jolted the Government which is now labouring to flaunt its industry-friendly disposition by stating how it facilitated establishment of Veera Vahan Udyog, a unit for manufacture of buses, also in Anantapur district. It has given 120 acres of land for the Rs. 1,000-crore plant. Andhra needs more success

stories like these. It cannot afford to be home to another scandal, after the one which drove away Volkswagen from Vizag to Pune in 2005 when Botsa Satyanarayana, a senior Minister now, was handling the Industries portfolio. A firm called Vashishta Wahan was floated and passed off as the Indian arm of Volkswagen. The Rajasekhara Reddy government pumped Rs. 11 crore into this firm before realising it was a fraud. Satyanarayana escaped without punishment, though Helmut Schuster, the person negotiating the deal, was sacked.

In this day and age, when the legion of unemployed is rising and there is cut-throat competition among States to woo car manufacturers, no government can toy around with the auto industry. The horror story of Mamata

Banerjee chasing Tata Motors out of Singur in West Bengal, a poor State, in 2008 is fresh in public memory. It would be foolhardy not to draw lessons from it.

The road ahead for Andhra is long and the future uncertain. The Jagan Government has squandered away time and energy in political controversies. Undoing the past does not constitute a road map for the future. It has to talk the language of the industry, particularly of the services sector and information technology. Hardly any Minister refers to them; leave alone speak about futuristic concepts like Artificial Intelligence, Big Data or the Internet of Things. Jagan will have to keep running for AP to stay where it is - 16th rank in GDP per capita. He hasn't even switched on the treadmill.

CENTRAL TAXES

States not getting their due share: Chidambaram

K VENKATESHWARLU HYDERABAD

Congress senior leader and former Union Finance Minister P Chidambaram on Saturday took potshots at the Central Government over the Union Budget.

Pulling no punches in describing the new Budget as detrimental towards investors, consumers and the poor, the former Finance Minister's remarks similar to that of Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao against the Centre.

KCR, after the Centre presented its Union Budget, expressed his disappointment and opined that the Union Budget will have adverse impact on a progressive State like Telangana. He alleged that the Centre was showing discrimination against the State by inflicting heavy cuts in allocation of funds and reducing the State's share in the Central taxes. He feared that it will be detrimental to implementation of welfare and development programmes in the State.

Making similar remarks, the former Union Finance Minister, addressing a talk on the Union Budget held at the Muffakhm



Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister P Chidambaram addresses the gathering at the Muffakhm Jah College of Engineering and Technology

Besides the government's fiscal deficit and the consumer expenditure, the investment sector is beleaguered, said former Union Finance Minister P Chidambaram

Jah College of Engineering and Technology in the city, said the states were losing their share in the distribution of Central taxes.

The Centre has distributed Rs 6.5 lakh-crore instead of Rs 8.5 lakh-crore to the states this time, he said, alleging that Telangana state lost its share of

Rs 5,000 crore in taxes. Questioning the 'double standards' of KCR, Chidambaram asked the former to tell as why he didn't question the injustice meted out to Telangana state?

"How can a government that can't admit its blunders of demonetisation and GST in the

Budget put forth a roadmap for economic recovery? That too, a regime which "is cruel, incompetent and heartless when it comes to the poor," he asserted. "Due to the decisions of BJP-led NDA government at the Centre, the Indian economy system is now in ICU," he alleged. "There is a need of doctor like former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh to revive the Indian economy. For the last four years, rural and urban wages are stagnant. This is why household consumption has declined. Besides the government's fiscal deficit and the consumer expenditure, the investment sector is beleaguered. The giants like Infosys and Tata are not investing despite the high amount of cash they possess. The growth of economy has come down from 8.2 per cent to 5 per cent. Modi is not even realizing the trouble ahead. Every sector is on downward trend," he alleged.

It may be recalled that KCR had said that he would start a fight against the Centre along with the like-minded political parties. He even said that he was ready to join hands with the Congress if the need arose.

Expedite works, officials told

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Nalgonda district Collector Prashanth Jeevan Patil on Saturday instructed the officials to quickly complete construction works, taken upon the premises of the district government hospital to provide required facilities to the patients and their attendants. The district Collector has conducted a surprise visit to the district government hospital at Nalgonda on Saturday and examined the ICU, Dialysis Ward, Mother and Child Hospital, Operation Theatres and SNCU.

Sabitha all praise for Harish

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Education Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy was on Saturday all praise for local MLA and Finance Minister T Hairsh Rao for developing Komati Cheruvu Lake in Siddipet town.

Sabitha said rtah Harish Rao has done wonderful work in the lake's bund by providing various recreation facilities for people of all ages. The Minister and Medak MP Kotha Prabhakar Reddy were in Siddipet to participate in a programme.

Later, the Minister, along



with the MP and others went on a ride in a luxury boat in Komati Cheruvu. As Komati Cheruvu is being developed into a model mini tank-bund, the Minister had expressed

her desire to see the lake.

Making the visit memorable, the MP took the wheel of the luxury boat. With the driver of the boat guiding him, the MP went around the Komati Cheruvu for over 20 minutes and completed the entire journey on his own surprising everyone on the boat. Later, Sabitha drove the battery car on the tank-bund. Later, the Minister posed for pictures with school students, who were visiting the lake.

Zilla Parishad Chairperson, Roja Sharma, MLC Farooq Hussain and others were present.

'Soon Karimnagar will be second largest city in TS'

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Yadagiri Sunil Rao assumed charge as the Mayor of Karimnagar Municipal Corporation in the presence of the BC Welfare and Civil Supplies Minister Gangula Kamalakar on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister sounded a note of caution to the elected representatives, telling to be extremely responsible and attend to the needs of people. He opined that posts should not become mere decoration for leaders and public representatives but they should act as responsible persons and maintain cordial relations with the people. The official positions should not be used to settle political scores, he warned.

Speaking at a public meeting after the Mayor assumed charge, Kamalakar advised the newly-elected corporators to work for the welfare of the people by suppressing their egos. People elected party candidates in recent corporation polls as they backed TRS, he said,



Yadagiri Sunil Rao assumed charge as Mayor of Municipal Corporation of Karimnagar in the presence of BC Welfare Minister Gangula Kamalakar

adding that every step initiated by Municipal Corporation of Karimnagar should reflect the goals of the State government. "People exercised their votes in favour of their favorite leaders with plenty of hopes. So, leaders should not disappoint the people. Complete freedom would be given to local bodies and there was no question of government's involvement into the affairs of civic bodies," he further said.

Talking about the development of the town, Kamalakar said the face of Karimnagar has changed over the last four

years. Road were laid with Rs 350 crore sanctioned by Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao. Karimnagar would emerge as a second largest city in the State once the ongoing works such as IT Tower, cable bridge, Manair Riverfront and other projects were completed. Moreover, about 4,000 to 5,000 people would get employment, he said.

Welfare Minister Koppula Eashwar said a lot of change has taken place in the condition of local bodies as well as municipalities after TRS government came to power.



TRS firm on fulfilling all poll promises, says Jagadish

PNS ■ NARAYANPET

Energy Minister G Jagadish Reddy on Saturday said welfare schemes taken up by the Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao have inspired new trend in governance in the country. He attended the swearing in ceremony of municipal chairperson of Suryapet P Annapurnaamma in the municipal office.

Later, addressing a meeting held in Gandhi Park to felicitate new chairperson, Jagadish Reddy said that the welfare schemes introduced by the TRS government have attracted the attention of entire country as Telangana stood in top in welfare of the people in India in the short span of time. It has become possible due to sincere efforts of the Chief Minister on welfare and development, he said.

Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bheema, 24-hours free electricity supply to farmers, Kalyana Lakshmi and KCR Kits have brought significant change in the lives of the people in the State, he said.

The people of the country were exerting pressure on the Centre and on their State governments to emulate Telangana government, the minister said. He said that this was the reason some political parties were targeting KCR as they were unable to respond to the demands.

Reminding that Suryapet witnessed rapid development in the last six years, he assured that the TRS was committed to fulfilling all promises made to the people of the town during the municipal elections.

Miraculous escape for kids

PNS ■ NARAYANPET

Five school children had a miraculous escape when the school van they were travelling in caught fire on Saturday morning. Thanks to the presence of mind displayed by the van driver, all the children escaped unhurt.

As the regular bus of Nagarjuna School in Atmakur had broken down, the school management hired a Suzuki Omni to ferry the children on Saturday. The five children, all residents of Kumar Lingampally village of Narva mandal had boarded the van that had just started from the village, when Krishna, the driver of the van noticed smoke emanating from the rear side of the vehicle. He immediately off-boarded all the children from the vehicle and took them to safety.



Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao paying homage to the mortal remains of his brother-in-law Parvathaneni Rajeshwar Rao who passed away on Saturday. The Chief Minister comforted the members of the bereaved family. Ministers KT Rama Rao, Harish Rao and others also paid homage to the departed soul

Indian-American woman to run for US Congress

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

An Indian-American woman, who raised her voice against alleged discrimination in admission of Asians in IV League schools, has announced that she will run for US House of Representatives, saying she wants to be a voice, not a noise for the community particularly the Hindus in the US.

Andhra Pradesh-born Manga Anantatmula, who worked as a federal government contractor in defence acquisitions programme management, has already become a presumptive nominee of Republican party from the 11th Congressional District of Virginia, making her the first Indian origin candidate to run for the House of



AP-born Manga Anantatmula already became a presumptive nominee of Republican party from 11th Congressional District of Virginia

Representatives from there. Said to be a Democratic strong bastion, the 11th Congressional District comprises mostly of the affluent Fairfax County on the outskirts of Washington DC, has about 17 per cent Asian population, including an estimated 7 per cent Indian

Americans. Asian Americans, including Indian-Americans normally support Democratic party candidates, but she hopes to turn the tide in the November Congressional elections by defeating six-term incumbent Congressman Gerry Connolly. Political pundits call it a tall

order. This time a large number of Democratic party supporters are moving towards the Republican party because of the current political situation and due to the successful policies of President Donald Trump, Anantatmula, who filed her nominations on January 26, said.

Anantatmula, who will formally launch her Congressional Campaign on Saturday from Herndon, a Virginia suburb of Washington DC, is a great supporter of President Donald Trump. For campaign purposes, she has expanded her first name Manga as Making Americans Great Again. Running her campaign on the platform of reducing taxes, equal rights for women, helping the growth of small and medium business

and affordable healthcare, Anantatmula says if elected to the House of Representatives she will strive to strengthen India-US relationship. Anantatmula, in her interview, said that she considers herself as one among a new generation of Indian American and Hindu American leaders who do not become pawns in a globalist ideological agenda that undermines their own integrity as well as the national interests of their adoptive homeland. Slamming Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, the first ever Indian American woman to be elected to House of Representatives, for tabling a resolution on Kashmir in the Congress, Anantatmula said such a move has caused "dis-may" in the community.

'Govt will ensure MSP to ryots'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy on Saturday asked the Marketing Department officials to provide all amenities to farmers bringing their produce to the market yards. He asked them to earn good name to the state by winning the hearts of the farmers. He highlighted the unprecedented measures

initiated by the state government such as Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bima, 24x7 power supply to farm sector and maintained that the government took several measures to ensure MSP to the farmer, including establishing purchase centers across the state. Earlier, TNGO leaders called on the Minister at his official quarter in Ministers' Quarters.

HYDERABAD BULLION RATES

GOLD	₹ 40,610 (10 gm)	₹ 280 ↑
SILVER	₹ 46,100(1kg)	₹ 100 ↓

CHICKEN RATES

Dressed/With Skin	₹ 136
Without Skin	₹ 155
Broiler at Farm	₹ 94

EGG RATES

HYDERABAD	315
VIJAYAWADA	325
VISAKHAPATNAM	375

RETAIL PRICE ₹ 3.15

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA DIRECTORATE OF EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING TS, HYD.

Notification No. DC/19/2019-20 (I) Dated 12/01/2020

Web Portal for inviting online Application for National Council of Vocational Training (NCVT) Affiliation of ITIs For Session 2020-21 is Available at <http://www.nimionlineadmission.in/iti>. Fee Structure for Accreditation / Affiliation :

Fee Structure	Upto 4 trades or upto 12 Units	for more than 4 trades or more than 12 units.
Application fee	Rs. 10,000/-	Rs. 10,000/-
Site Assessment fee for Stage-II	Rs. 15,000/-	Rs. 20,000/-
Site Assessment fee for Stage-III	Rs. 25,000/-	Rs. 30,000/-
Re-Visit :	Rs. 20,000/-	Rs. 25,000/-

For Further Details visit the website : <http://www.nimionlineadmission.in/iti/>. DPFR No.1342/DPCL-Agency/ADVT/171/2019-20, DC-08-02-2020 Sd/- Director

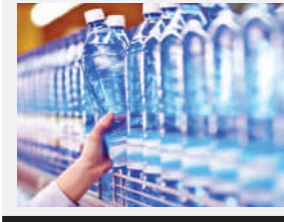
CRIME CORNER

Infant dies at Niloufer, kin allege medical negligence

Following the death of a newborn baby at the Niloufer Hospital here on Saturday, its parents alleged that callous doctors snuffed out the life of their child. After lodging a complaint with the police, the parents and relatives of the three-month-old baby staged protests at the hospital condemning the doctors. According to the police, Anil Yadav and Mamatha were blessed with a baby boy, prematurely delivered at seven months. Two days ago, the child had fever and became sick. The couple shifted the child to Niloufer Hospital at Nampally for treatment. The parents claimed that till late in the night on Friday, duty doctors at the hospital kept assuring them that the child was 'recovering' and asked them 'not to worry', though the child's condition did not merit such confidence among the doctors. On Saturday, doctors informed the parents about the child's death. The parents blamed the doctors and the hospital staff for being negligent towards providing proper treatment to the child. They staged a dharna and demanded action against the doctors. Anil Yadav, a private bank employee from Hastinapuram, lodged a complaint with the Nampally Police against the doctors. The child's body was shifted for postmortem. The Nampally Police have registered a case under section 174 of Cr PC. They said the details of the cause of the child's death would be clear from the post mortem examination report.

Restaurant fined for charging more than MRP

Sindhurra Restaurant and Banquet Hall near RK Nagar Colony in Malkajgiri was booked by the Department of Legal Metrology for tampering with MRP and charging extra amount for water bottles. Telangana State Consumer Forum has slapped Rs 2,000 fine on the restaurant. Complainant Galibe Vishal said the restaurant charged Rs 29 instead of Rs 20 for one liter water bottle. "I did not notice the overcharging until I received my bill copy from Restaurant," he said. The Legal Metrology department has registered a case under Section 33 of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009. Overcharging for pre-packed products is an offence under the Legal Metrology Act punishable by a jail term or a fine of Rs 25,000.



GHMC COUNCIL APPROVES RS 6,973 CRORE BUDGET

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Council unanimously approved the budget for the financial year 2020-21, presented by Mayor Bonthu Ram Mohan during the General Body meeting on Saturday.

The council also decided to appoint a committee to monitor the disposal of construction and demolition debris.

The Mayor, in his speech, said that the construction of 2BHK units in the city would approximately cost Rs 1,800 crore. "As many as 65,000 homes are under construction which will be completed by the last week of August, he said. He said that construction of these units would incur and expenditure of another Rs 90 crore, and this has been notified to the state government. The selection of beneficiaries was undertaken under the supervision of four district collectors. Data of more than 5,700 identified beneficiaries was uploaded online," the Mayor said.

Ram Mohan said that the GHMC has consulted the State Finance Commission on the issue of local bodies funding. He said that the Finance Commission will report to the state government soon.

Similarly, sewerage water and storm water drain issues in the outskirts of the city will be handed over to Hyderabad Metro Water Works.

The Mayor said, "Rs 50 to Rs 60 crore is being spent on sanitation. Likewise, 3,000 public toilets will be built with modern designs with 500 for each zone in the city."

Inspired by the slogan, "Let us change our minds, beautifully and cleanly," the budget was created in the context of the Swacch Sarvekshan-2020, he said.



Mayor Bonthu Ram Mohan presents GHMC Budget during the General Body meeting on Saturday

The 2020-21 Budget has been divided into two categories. Under the first category, the GHMC plans to spend Rs 5,380 crore.

In the second category of two major project of other corporations assigned to GHMC, the corporation will spend Rs 1,593 crores on housing and development of roads.

The funds would be redeemed through GHMC.

As per the Budget, the GHMC's revenue was put at Rs 3,667 crore with Rs 603 crores being in the form of Capital Receipts. The remaining funds will be collected in the form of bonds and bank loans.

Considering the revenue, a high percentage of Rs 1,803 crore was in the form of property tax. Revenue expenditure was put at Rs 2,750 crore, while the investment cost is Rs 2,630 crore.

GHMC receives an estimated Rs 1,393 crore in grants from the state government to fund construction of 2BHK units. When it comes to allocations under the Road Improvement Scheme, Rs 1,639.80

'GHMC is not getting its share from government'

HYDERABAD: The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is not increasing taxes for government buildings but is putting the burden of higher taxes on the poor, MP Revanth Reddy alleged. He was addressing the GHMC Council meeting on Saturday. He said, "Even government buildings have to pay property tax. Tax has not been increased for over 200 properties along with the Secretariat and Chief Minister's camp-office building." "If the properties tax are increased uniformly, Rs 102 crore would reach the coffers of



crores on bridges and flyovers, Rs 94.45 crores on subways, sewage, fresh water supply, Rs

the GHMC every year from government buildings itself. Now, GHMC is in debt and has to sell bonds and take loans," he said, demanding to know the measures being taken to collect property tax apart from professional tax. Questioning the GHMC for not collecting additional revenue collected by L&T HMRL through Metro tickets, Revanth Reddy said, "When the highest ticket is Rs 19, L&T HMRL is collecting Rs 60, the excess funds needs should to be transferred to the GHMC". Revanth Reddy suggested the GHMC officials take money collected through Metro tickets and from L&T malls as property tax.

326 crores on stormwater drainage and Rs 22 crores on street lamps would be spent.

BON VOYAGE



Home Minister Mahmood Ali gives send-off to the Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu at Begumpet Airport on Saturday

'Zero deaths due to medical negligence'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

While patients have been claiming of deaths due to hospital negligence, Health Department states that there were zero deaths due to negligence of hospitals or management in the last five years. In response to RTI filed by activist Robin Zaccheus, the DMHO said, "Negligence is not the reason for any death so far by the post mortem report."

Robin said, "Isn't this objectionable? Does anyone remember infant children dying due to negligence last year". Robin added, "Government continues to be in denial mode to critical problems instead of dealing with it head on."

HEARTFULNESS

'Practicing meditation makes people mentally strong, calm'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Ace badminton player PV Sindhu, in presence of Kamlesh Patel affectionately called Daaji the Guide of Heartfulness and gave away the awards to the national winners of the 14th Annual All India Essay Contest 2019, held in collaboration with United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan (UNICIB).

Participating as the guest of honor in 75 years celebrations of Heartfulness Institute at the World's Largest Meditation centre situated at Kanha Shantivanam in Hyderabad, Sindhu thanked Daaji for his support and said that her belief and practice of Heartfulness meditation has helped her become mentally strong and calm and that everyone should also practice it regularly.

Sindhu added, "A sports person performs the best when they are in their 'zone', a frame of mind when their focus is laser sharp and is centred to the moment at hand. The result of last shot does not matter, it's just what we need to do at this moment. For me practicing meditation has played a very important role and I am able to deliver my best."



Badminton player PV Sindhu plants a sapling at Kanha Shanti Vanam in Hyderabad on Saturday.

The annual essay writing contest is conducted across 25000 Institutes and more than 1 million students participated across all states of India

As part of the days functions there were other awards also presented to Corporate's to recognise their contribution to society.

The Essay Writing Contest is conducted across 25000 Institutes and more than 1 million students participated across all states of India.

Commenting on the event Vamsi Chalagulla, joint secretary, Heartfulness said, "All India essay contest is our endeavour to keep intact the value-based learning and to instil in students the ability to ponder, reflect and reason on topics that touch a deep intellectual cord."

Cops form teams to probe into AK-47 firing incident

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Startling details came to light during the investigation into the AK 47 rifle firing incident at Siddipet reported on Friday.

A shepherd by profession, Devini Sadanandam, had a dispute with his neighbor Gunti Gangaraju, 32, from whom his family bought cement bricks to construct a common boundary.

Police officials said that it is impossible for him to use a weapon like AK-47 without proper training. "Sadanandam had tested his weapon at his residence before targeting Gunti Gangaraju. He took away the weapon leaving little chance to ascertain where he got it from," said the police.

The firing incident created a sensation as Sadanandam, who earned his livelihood rearing sheep and working as daily labour, brought the AK-47 from his home and opened fire. Even after trivial arguments with friends, neighbours or relatives, Sadanandam used to threaten them that he would shoot them dead, villagers said.

However, Sadanandam went missing in 2000 following disputes between Yellavva and her husband. Yellavva returned to Akkannapet, her mother's home. Yellavva, who

In 2016, an AK-47 went missing from police station mysteriously and was never recovered

had lost hope of seeing her son again, was surprised when he returned after 10 years in 2010.

"The couple has two daughters. Sadanandam married another woman, Krishnaveni, with whom he has a son and daughter. There was no past record of Sadanandam's association with any militant group," sources said.

The case took an interesting turn when the police noted that in 2016, when Bhumaiiah was inspector of Husnabad PS, a AK-47 went missing from the police station mysteriously and was never recovered.

The firing incident at Akkannapet shook Husnabad, which was once a hotbed for Left-Wing Extremism. Sadanandam is yet to be traced. Meanwhile, sources said the investigating officials had got some crucial information from Yellavva.

TS to implement Deworming Day on February 10

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

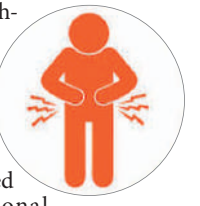
In response to the public health challenge of intestinal worm infestation in children and adolescents, the Health, Medical and Family Welfare departments will implement National Deworming Day on February 10, 2020.

As part of the programme, all schools and anganwadis in Telangana will administer Albendazole 400 mg tablets to children and adolescents. Out-of-school children will be administered tablet in their nearest anganwadis centre.

A n y child not dewormed on National Deworming Day due to absenteeism or sickness will be dewormed on mop-up day, February 17, 2020.

More than 22 crore aged between 1 and 14 years are at-risk of intestinal worm infestation, which interfere with nutrient uptake and lead to anemia, malnutrition, impaired mental, educational, and physical development.

National Deworming Day aims improve overall health, nutrition, cognitive development, and quality of life for all children and adolescents.



Four persons held with fake tiger skin

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The West Zone team of the Commissioner's Task Force on Saturday, apprehended four persons who were trying to sell a fake tiger skin as an original to customers.

The accused have been identified as Syed Jilani, 27, Syed Gayas, 26, Mohd Amaan, 18 and Shaik Zaleel, 23. Jilani, works as a driver. Gayas, Jilani's brother, works as a driver of a TATA ACE. Amaan is an intermediate student from Santosh Nagar and Zaleel, is in the fruit business at Balapur, said the Police.

"As many people are keen on keeping original fur and skins as decorative pieces in their houses, the gang decided to sell a fake tiger skin as an original one to customers. Accordingly, about a week ago, Jilani purchased a fake tiger skin from Jummat bazar. Jilani planned to sell the fake skin for Rs 7 lakh to gullible people and kept the fake tiger skin at his house. Jilani then informed Gayas to get customers to purchase the fake tiger skin. Gayas then asked Amaan, his friend, who in turn informed the same to Zaleel," said P Radha Kishan Rao, DCP, Commissioner's Task Force, adding that all four



The gang decided to sell a fake tiger skin as an original one as many people are keen on keeping it as decorative item

were waiting for the chance to sell the fake tiger skin on higher rates to earn easy money by cheating innocent persons.

On Saturday, the four were near a hotel in Nampally to sell the skin when the West Zone Task Force team apprehended them based on a tip off. Four mobile phones and the fake tiger skin was seized from them.

The arrested persons along with the seized property were handed over to SHO, Nampally PS, for taking necessary action.

Lok Adalat settles 10,407 cases in Telangana

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As many as 10,407 cases were settled at the National Lok Adalat held across the state on Saturday. The settled cases include 3,984 pre-litigation cases and 6,423 court pending cases of all categories and an amount of Rs 36.35 crore was awarded as compensation to the parties concerned.

Under the guidance and leadership of High Court Chief Justice Raghvendra Singh Chauhan, who is also patron-

in-chief of Telangana State Legal Services Authority, High Court judges Justice MS Ramachandra Rao, TSLSA executive chairman and chairman Justice P Naveen Rao, has coordinated with all the District Legal Services Authorities for conduct of National Lok Adalat to settle all kinds of civil and compoundable criminal cases.

Meanwhile, the Metropolitan Sessions Judge and chairman of Metropolitan Legal Services Authority in Hyderabad N Tukaramji conducted National Lok Adalat for settlement of all compoundable criminal cases, Negotiable Instruments Act cases, excise cases, labour disputes, matrimonial cases and pre-litigation cases at Metropolitan criminal



Anti-depressants work well when taken with statins

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Considering the fact that more than 5 per cent of the adult Indian population suffers from depression, the new study by the team of researchers at the centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB) from a biomedical point of view, could provide novel insights of improved therapeutic activity of antidepressant drugs when administered in combination with statins.

Prof Amitabha Chattopadhyay's group in a follow-up discovery published in the American Chemical Society journal, ACS Chemical Neuroscience, has now shown



that modulating the levels of cholesterol, an important lipid in the cell membrane could change the mechanism of endocytosis of the serotonin1A receptor.

When the researchers from CCMB treated cells with statin, the best-selling cholesterol lowering drug in the market, they observed that the serotonin1A

receptor, instead of using clathrin-coated pits, internalized through alternate regions called caveolae, the cave-like structures on the cell mem-

brane. "We observed that this switch in the mechanism of internalization again reverted back to clathrin-coated pits when we put back cholesterol in cells that was lost upon statin treatment", said G Aditya Kumar, a PhD student who is the first author of the paper.

Interestingly, experiments from the team also revealed that receptors that usually recycle back to the cell membrane in normal conditions started getting degraded inside cells when they were treated with statin. "We believe that our findings are crucial in understanding how cholesterol in cell membranes modulates the endocytosis of G protein-cou-

pled receptors (GPCR)", explains Prof Chattopadhyay. Cells in our body communicate with their surroundings through tiny nanomachines called GPCRs that are embedded in the outermost membrane which wraps the cell. Owing to their crucial role in maintaining key cellular processes, these receptors have emerged as major drug targets in almost all clinical areas.

The function of GPCRs such as the serotonin1A receptor is regulated by their internalization into the inside of a cell through a process called endocytosis - a key event in the therapeutic action of several drugs that act via GPCRs.

MEDARAM JATARA

TRIBAL DEITIES RETURN TO THEIR FOREST ABODE

PV KONDAL RAO
MEDARAM

The four-day Sannakka-Saralamma jatara, Asia's biggest tribal festival, concluded with the tribal deities re-entering the sacred groves also called as 'Vanpravesham'. The rituals of 'Vanpravesham' were conducted by the tribal priests amidst drum beats and dance by the devotees in the presence of a sea of humanity.

While Sannakka was taken back to the Chilukalagutta amidst traditional prayers by priests, Saralamma was taken back to Kannepalli village and Pagiddaraju to Poonugondlu village in Kothaguda while Govindaraju returned to Kondayi village in Eturnagaram mandal.

Addressing the media after the conclusion of the jatara, Ministers Errabelli Dayakar Rao and Satyavathi Rathod said that the biennial Sannakka Saralamma Jatara would attain prominence of securing national status in the coming years. They said the state government was taking up necessary proposals in this regard with the Central government and affirmed that they are confident of securing the national tag by the next jatara. "We brought the issue to the notice of Union Minister



Arjun Munda. He responded positively and said that he would bring the issue to the notice of the Prime Minister and would see that the desire of the tribals is fulfilled soon," said the Women and Child Welfare Minister. Panchayath Raj Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao asserted that the state government would procure 100 acres of land for the Jatara purposes by next Jatara. The Minister further said the area surrounding Chilukalagutta would be allocated to families of the priests in the coming days.

DGP elated over incident-free Medaram

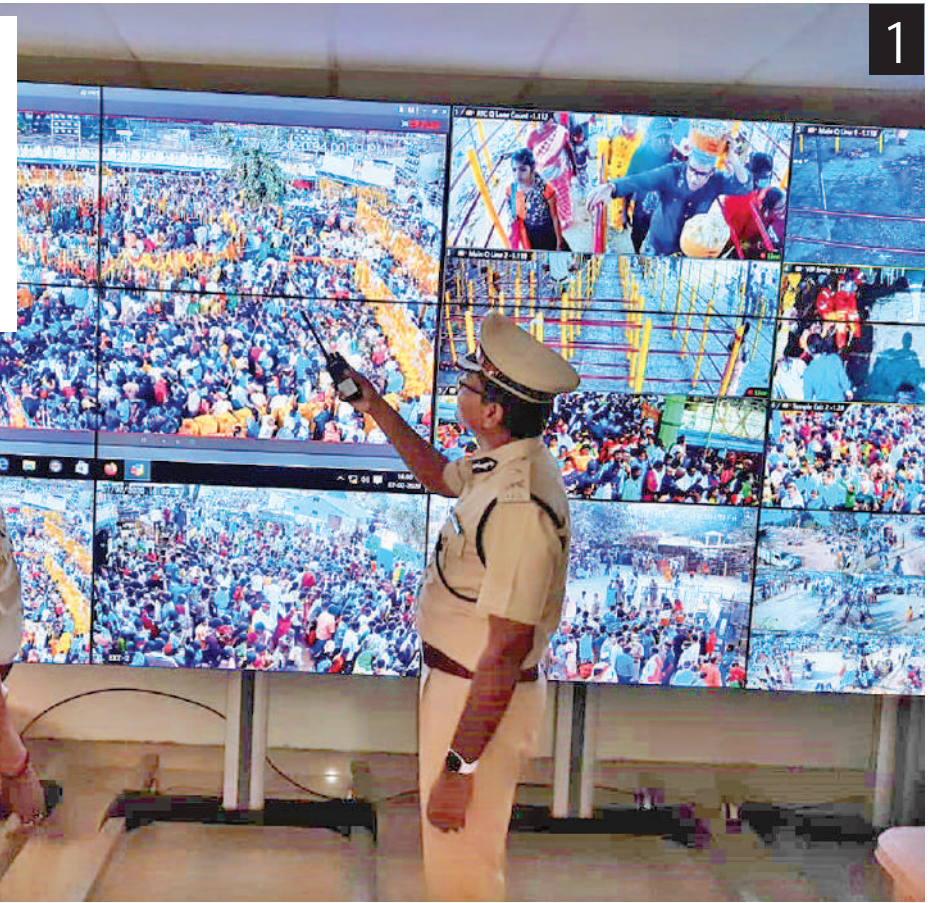
PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and elaborate arrangements helped the Telangana Police ensure a smooth and incident-free Medaram Jatara, which was attended by more than 1.5 crore devotees.

Director General of Police M Mahender Reddy, who monitored the entire proceedings and made two visits to oversee the arrangements, expressed satisfaction over the peaceful conduct of the jatara. Latest technology and AI was elaborately used to monitor the density of the crowd during the event so as to prevent any incident of stampede. "Around 14 high definition cameras were installed and connected to a special command centre and continuous assessments were made of the gathering.



Whenever it was getting overcrowded, necessary measures were being put in place on the ground," the DGP said. For the last six months, the intelligence wing and the IT Department were working



DGP M Mahender Reddy expressed satisfaction over the peaceful conduct of the four-day Medaram jatara

at Medaram. The AI application alerts the command center once the gathering swells to more than 3.6 persons per square metre and required measures could be put in place in such situations to prevent stampedes. Around 10,000 policemen were deployed by the Telangana Police to ensure the safety and security of the pilgrims. Mahender said the police would now be utilising AI for crowd management during rallies, processions and public meetings.

'Will strive for national fest tag for Medaram'

PNS ■ MULUGU

Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda on Saturday said that he would bring the issue of according national festival status to the Medaram Sannakka-Saralamma jatara, which is one of the biggest tribal congregations in the world, to the notice of the Prime Minister and see that desire of the tribals is fulfilled soon.

On Saturday, Munda visited Medaram and paid obeisance to the tribal deities. As a part of the tradition, he also offered 'Bangaram' equaling

his weight to the goddesses. Earlier, TS Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, Chairman of the Legislative Council Gutha Sukhender Reddy, Ministers E Dayakar Rao and Satyavathi Rathod welcomed the Union Minister.

Speaking to the media after 'darshan', Munda said tribals from across the country pay a visit to the Sannakka-Saralamma jatara. "Sannakka-Saralamma duo earned fame as goddesses who fulfil the wishes of pilgrims," Munda said, and hoped that the demand of the national festival tag for the jatara would be met soon.

1. Police officials monitoring the proceedings
2. Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, DGP Mahender Reddy, Minister Indrakaran Reddy and others making offerings
3. DGP Mahender Reddy offering silk clothes

Woman electrocuted

A 45-year-old woman died of electrocution near Jampanna Vagu at Medaram jatara on Saturday. The victim was identified as Godam Laxmi of Dursheed village in Karimnagar district. She had come to the jatara along with her family members three days ago.

The incident took place when people tried to shield themselves from the rain by taken shelter in a shed. Unfortunately, the temporary power lines snapped and fell on Laxmi, killing her on the spot. Two others also sustained minor injuries in the incident.

- Sanitation services have been improved this time as compared to the last Medaram festival
- At least 50 Scouts and Guides volunteers belonging to Bhupalapally and Warangal Urban rendered service during the festival. They were deployed near Jampanna Vagu and

- elevated platform
- As overcast conditions prevailed on Friday, plastic sheets were spread on hunds
- Various trainee IAS and IPS officers from AP, Telangana, Bihar and UP have been posted in Medaram because it would give them rich

- experience in managing mammoth festivals, fairs and events.
- On Friday alone, at least 20 lakh devotees are said to have visited Medaram
- As devotees threw jaggery and coconut pieces, volunteers performing duty near the

- elevated platforms wore helmets made of sarees
- Vemula Kakalu of Kammala village of Geesukonda mandal of Jayashankar district walked on his knees from Jampanna Vagu to the elevated platforms, separated by a

- distance of 2 km, to fulfill his vows to deities
- A group of women and farmers from Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh visited Medaram and offered jaggery to deities with a prayer to replace the Chief Minister Jagannathan Reddy with another leader

Exit polls predict AAP sweeping...

Continued from 1

An exit poll put out by Neta-NewsX said the AAP may win 53-57 seats and the BJP 11-17.

The ABP's survey said the AAP's vote share may be a whopping 50.4 per cent against the BJP's 36 per cent. The corresponding share for the two parties was 56 per cent and 35 per cent, according to the India Today-Axis poll.

In 2015, the AAP and the BJP had won 67 and three seats respectively. Their corresponding vote share was 54.3 and 32.3 per cent.

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari put up a brave face amid prediction of defeat for his party, claiming it will win 48 seats and form a government in the city.

AAP leader and Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said his party is going to win with a big margin.



MLA Sudhir appointed chief of MRDCL

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State government has appointed LB Nagar MLA Devireddy Sudhir Reddy as the chairman of Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Limited (MRDCL) on Saturday. Sudhir Reddy will continue in the position, which has the Cabinet status,

for three years. Sudhir Reddy won the Assembly elections held in 2018 from LB Nagar constituency from Congress ticket. However, he shifted his loyalty from Congress to TRS. It may be recalled that Sudhir Reddy worked as the HUDA chairman during the then Chief Minister late YS Rajashekar Reddy's regime.

Century-old stone building to be razed

Continued from 1

According to sources, oral instructions have been issued to the offices located in the structure to vacate the premises as early as possible, after finding alternative premises.

Employees working in various offices housed in the building are reportedly not happy with the government's decision. They say taking down a 100-year-old structure is not OK.

Several people have approached the Telangana High Court following the government's decision to pull down the existing Secretariat complex buildings. The state government is of the view that the High Court verdict would be favourable to them. The state government is particular about vastu compliance of the proposed new Secretariat.

KCR makes 'strategic' moves to revive...

Continued from 1

However, the BJP losing one state after the other in successive Assembly polls in 2019 has given new impetus and drive to KCR to revive the Federal Front proposal.

With the TRS sweeping all the polls in Telangana from December 2018 onwards and the entire Opposition all but wiped out, KCR feels that the time is ripe to focus on national politics and face the general elections in 2024.

With no elections scheduled

in Telangana before December 2023, there is no need for KCR to focus on state politics. The sweeping victory of the TRS in the recent municipal elections in the state has given KCR the confidence that the Opposition is on such shaky grounds that it will take at least two terms for his rivals to group and pose a credible challenge.

TRS sources say that KCR strongly believes that AAP's expected victory in Delhi polls will be the trigger as well as the stepping stone for his Federal

Front. KCR is confident that AAP will sweep Delhi Assembly polls which will further weaken the BJP and herald new political equations at national level. According to a TRS leader, KCR is confident of Arvind Kejriwal retaining power in Delhi; Mamata Banerjee will be back in West Bengal; DMK replacing the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu and Lalu Prasad Yadav's RJD re-emerging as a potent force in Bihar. He is also likely to take advantage of the differences between TMC and the

Congress in West Bengal and JD (S) and the Congress in Karnataka.

"If KCR can consolidate these forces in the next one year, there is every possibility that he might succeed in floating the 'Federal Front,'" TRS source said. "This time, KCR does not want to act late on Federal Front like he did in 2018. He wants to give it proper shape by mid-2021. He is keenly waiting for the elections in Delhi, Bihar, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu etc to work out his strategies," the source added.

Disha police station, app to protect women...

Continued from 1

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said he was very proud to inaugurate the first Disha police station in the state. "The Disha incident in Hyderabad was a stark reminder that a girl child can't travel safely on the streets at night. To eliminate such fears, and ensure safety of women and children, we have brought

the Disha Act," he said. Jagan recalled that though the Nirbhaya Act was enacted about as a consequence of an heinous crime against a girl, the tragedy was that the perpetrators of that ghastly crime remain unpunished even after eight years of trial. "Hence to bring about a change in the situation, Disha Act was enacted which is the first of its kind in the history of our country,

where an entire investigation is to be completed within seven days and trial within 14 days in cases where substantial and conclusive evidence is available," Jagan said.

"It is presently with the Home Ministry, and I sincerely wish that the Bill will be passed soon with God's Grace. Whatever was possible within the state government's limits has been done, he said.

Rag-picker hurt in blast

Continued from 1

"A rag picker was injured in the incident and he was immediately rushed to the hospital," he said. According to the police, a paint box exploded because of a chemical reaction. The incident took place around 10.45 am at the garbage dump near the White House Hotel in Risala Bazaar. The rag picker, identified as Nagaraju (55), found two tin containers while scouring the bin. "Nagaraju attempted to open one of the containers by hitting it against the ground when it exploded. He sustained serious injuries and collapsed on the road. Passers-by informed the police," said S Murali Krishna, Station House Officer (Musheerabad). The right hand of the man was severed due to the impact of the explosion, he added. Police and teams from the fire department immediately cordoned off the area and started a probe. The police are analysing footage from closed circuit cameras in the area to ascertain the source of the paint boxes. Police suspect that some shopkeepers might have dumped them in the garbage bin.

Gang uses dead techies to cheat banks, firms

Continued from 1

"They used fake documents of IBM employee Avakash Mahanta, Infosys employee Palaparthi Raghu Ram, Repakula Vishnu Kumar of Yash Technologies and Abhishek Anand of Page Systems, who all died due to various reasons in 2019. The gang cheated HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, SBI, RBL, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Bajaj Finserv," said Cyberabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar. The fraud came to light after the senior manager of HDFC Bank approached the police, informing them of the misuse of the bank's credit card to the tune of Rs.2.76 lakh. The card

was owned by Palaparthi Raghuram who had died in October. All the techies died in different accidents in the year 2019. "The gang members submitted fake IDs, forged documents of the techies and cheated banks to the tune of Rs 53,95,043. Investigations revealed that Phani Chowdary associated with Swaroop Nath and hatched a plan to avail loans in the names of dead persons by impersonating them in banks and in mobile stores by using false IDs and other documents. They shared their plan with the other accused and started working on it," said the police. The two targeted techies who died in accidents, as their personal details like mobile

Officials said that they would collect the mobile numbers and obtain duplicate SIM cards by submitting fake IDs created by Srinivasa Rao

numbers and workplaces, are easily available on internet platforms like Google and also on social networking websites. Officials said that they would collect the mobile numbers and obtain duplicate SIM cards by submitting fake IDs created by Srinivasa Rao, along with pictures produced by Venu Gopal and Veera Shekhar Rao. "They collected customer

ID and account number from the banks, saying that they needed them to deposit amounts. Using the Customer ID and mobile number, the accused would log into net banking and click on 'Forgot password' option and get the password changed by using Gmail and phone number. The Gmail or email IDs are collected from the internet or

mobile stores or even from banks by giving their phone numbers. Once the information is procured, they find out the existing bank accounts, credit card details and loans in the name of the deceased. They get to access the net banking through the changed password and raise requests for instant pre-approved loans and credit cards. Later, they transfer the loan amount and balance amount to fake bank accounts opened by them. They withdraw the money from banks and ATMs. Also, they transfer amounts from the credit cards to other accounts at cash points, where they collect cash by paying commission," explained the official.

Advocate, wife...

Continued from 1

The woman, who had been undergoing torture for the past three years, approached the Cyberabad Police Commissioner on Friday, following which Bachupally police swung into action and arrested the trio.

Explaining the case, police said that the victim received a 'friend' request from Sanjeev Reddy when she was residing in the USA a few years ago. After she accepted the friend request on Facebook, they started chatting frequently and became close. "When she visited India, Reddy picked her up from the airport and dropped her at her home in Kokapet. The next day he invited her for

lunch at Sitara Grand Restaurant, Kukatpally, where he introduced her to his wife Kaveri and nephew Vishal. When she refused to have food, they offered her a soft drink. After drinking it, she became unconscious. Immediately, the trio took her to their house at Nizampet. Sometime later, when she regained consciousness, she found herself lying naked," said the police. Following the incident, Reddy blackmailed her and extorted Rs 3 lakh from her. He also took away her cheque books, ATM cards, PAN card, Aadhaar Card, Flat keys, 30 talas of Gold, US \$ 6,000 and also withdrew an amount of Rs.22,00,000 from her accounts.

SHORT READS



Delhi polls: Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, Rahul cast vote
NEW DELHI: Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul Gandhi on Saturday cast their vote for the Delhi Assembly elections. Sonia Gandhi, who was unwell and discharged from a hospital here this week, voted at the Nirman Bhawan polling station. She was accompanied by her daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Rahul Gandhi cast his vote at the NP Senior Secondary School in Aurangzeb Lane.

Rs 400 cr sports infra projects coming up across J&K

JAMMU: Projects worth over Rs 400 crore are under execution to upgrade the sports infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Saturday. The projects are being funded by the Jammu and Kashmir Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation (JKIDFC), they said. The officials said the 100 projects of the youth services department, worth Rs 420.57 crore, funded by JKIDFC is for upgrading the sports infrastructure in the union territory. These include development of a number of new stadiums in rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir, they said. The JKIDFC was set up by the government in 2018 to plug infrastructural deficiencies in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Coronavirus: 15 Kerala students return from China's Hubei

KOCHI: Fifteen students from the state who were stranded in Hubei province of China following the outbreak of the deadly coronavirus have landed at the Cochin International Airport Limited and undergone a thermal screening for the infection, airport officials said on Saturday. The students travelled to Bangkok from Kunming Airport and then took an Air Asia flight to reach here, they said. When the flight reached Kochi at 11 pm on Friday, they were directly taken to the Kalamassery Medical College Hospital in five sterilised ambulances. The students have been admitted to an isolation ward of the hospital, the officials said. Relatives of the students had reached the airport but they were not allowed to meet them.

DELHI ASSEMBLY POLLS

RSS: Those shouting *kagaz nahin dikhayenge* will lose

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a swipe at those protesting against CAA-NRC, senior RSS functionary Ram Lal on Saturday said those shouting "kagaz nahin dikhayenge" would be defeated in the Delhi assembly election as he appealed to people to show documents while voting. Talking to reporters after casting his vote at a polling booth in Nirman Bhawan, Lal asked voters to keep in mind who can make Delhi the best capital city in the world. Hundreds of people, protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in many areas across the country, often raise the slogan of "kagaz nahin dikhayenge" (we will not show show documents. "My message to the voters is 'aaj apna kagaz jaroor lekar jayen. Kagaz jaroor dikhayenge' (Today, take your document along with you and show your



document)," Lal said. In Delhi, there will be a government which can coordinate with the Centre, Lal, who was in the BJP till last year, said. "Today, mentality of not showing documents will be defeated and (those ready to) show documents will win," he said. Senior BJP leader Shyam Jaju said that voters will teach a lesson to those who allegedly funded the anti-CAA protest in Delhi's Shaheen Bagh and those who supported it. "Aam Aadmi Party's Amanatullah Khan funded Shaheen Bagh and Delhi's Deputy CM supported it...They have done nothing to lift the blockade (at Shaheen Bagh)," Jaju told reporters. Responding to AAP supremo and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's allegation that no one in the BJP was worthy of becoming the CM, Jaju said, "We have no dearth of chief ministerial candidates. We will

declare our CM face at the right time." AAP candidate from Chandni Chowk Prahalad Sahni said that vote is being cast on the development plank, asserting that the Shaheen Bagh issue has no impact in the Delhi assembly elections. Counting of votes will take place on February 11. West Delhi MP and senior BJP leader Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma said that he is confident that after a long gap, the Bharatiya Janata Party will be victorious in Delhi this time. Dilbar Singh Chauhan, who lives in Maulana Azad Medical College Campus, said that nationalism is a commitment, which is in his blood. "But, vote should be cast on the issue of development. Today, the voter doesn't get swayed by the Hindu-Muslim politics. I know what is good for my family, kids...if we don't vote for development now, our kids will suffer in the future," Chauhan said.

7.9 lakh voters in Mizoram, 4.2 lakh in Sikkim voter list

PNS ■ AIZAWL/GANGTOK

Mizoram has a 7,99,328 electorate, including 11,847 Brus, while Sikkim has 4,26,126 voters, as per the revised electoral rolls of the two states. In Mizoram, female voters outnumbered males to the ratio of 1054:1000 in eight of the 11 districts of the state, a state election official said. There are 4,10,085 female voters as against 3,89,243 males in the eight districts, state Assistant Chief Electoral Officer Lalrinpua said on Friday. Three newly created districts -- Saitual, Hnahtial and Khawzawl -- have not been included in the final electoral roll as assembly constituencies under these districts are yet to be delimited, he said. There has been an increase of 1.97 per cent in the number of voters after the revision of the electoral roll which was conducted between December 6 last year and January 15, Lalrinpua said. The 7.9 lakh voters represent 60 per cent of Mizoram's population, the officials said.



There are 20,492 first-time voters in the state, including 10,586 males and 9,906 females, he said. As per the revised roll, of the 11,847 Bru voters, there are 5,786 females lodged in six transit camps in Tripura, Lanrinpua said. He said the names of those Bru voters, who have returned to Mizoram during the final repatriation last year, have been added to the revised electoral roll. The official said of the eight districts, Aizawl has the highest number of voters at 3,00,394 followed by Lunglei at 1,08,735 while Siaha has the least electorate at 40,658 voters. There are 1,222 polling stations in 40 assembly seats in Mizoram. On the other hand, of the 4,26,126 voters in Sikkim, 2,16,852 are males and 2,09,274 females, a release issued by the office of state Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) R Telang said. There has been a net increase of 1.03 per cent in the number of voters since the draft electoral roll was published on December 17 last year, it said.

Assam anganwadi centre to be built with plastic bottles

PNS ■ HAILAKANDI (ASSAM)

An anganwadi centre in Assam's Hailakandi district will be constructed with plastic bottles stuffed with non-biodegradable waste and mud, officials said on Saturday. The anganwadi centre at Singhalla area in Lala block will be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 3.46 lakh, district Additional Deputy Commissioner RK Dam said. Apart from the district administration, UNDP, the state education, social welfare and PWD departments are part of the project, he said. Liquid cement will be used to reinforce the 'ecobricks', the plastic bricks stuffed with waste, the official said. The rooms of the earthquake-resilient structure will be ventilated by making holes in the ecobricks, he said. As part of 'Plastic Borjon Campaign', the district administration organised a workshop and a rally on Friday to generate awareness about how to convert plastic bottles into ecobricks. The march, conducted in collaboration with the Hailakandi Municipal Board, was flagged off by Dam and saw the participation of children.



As part of 'Plastic Borjon Campaign', the district administration organised a workshop and a rally on Friday to generate awareness about how to convert plastic bottles into ecobricks

"Next time, you hold a plastic bottle in your hand, try thinking of it not as rubbish to be disposed of, but as the building block for something extraordinary," Dam told the children. He said the concept of ecobricks, which originated in Guatemala, turns waste into a robust and affordable building material which simultaneously tackles problems of unemployment, waste and lack of housing. Ecobricks represent a different approach to waste management as plastic recycling is an energy-intensive, polluting business often involving long-distance transportation, he said. The district administration has already set up 'plastic banks' where citizens can deposit single-use plastic items, which could be turned into ecobricks, Dam added.

BJP MLA felicitates cab driver who took poet-activist to police station

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai BJP chief Mangal Prabhakar Lodha on Saturday felicitated a cab driver who took a passenger to police station after overhearing a phone chat about the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protests. The BJP MLA conferred "Alert Citizenship Award" on cab driver Rohit Gaur at the Santacruz police station. Lodha also accused the passenger, poet-activist Bappaditya Sarkar, of hatching an "ant-national conspiracy" against the CAA. "Rohit Gaur...who handed over the Uber taxi passenger devising anti-national conspiracy against the citizenship amendment act. Felicitated Rohit Gaur on behalf of the



people of Mumbai calling him at the Santa Cruz Police Station and gave alert citizen award," Lodha tweeted. He also shared pictures showing him felicitating Gaur. On Wednesday night, Sarkar was taken to police station by the driver of his Uber cab. Sarkar, a resident of Jaipur

Sarkar, a resident of Jaipur who arrived in Mumbai on February 3 for a poetry reading session at the Kala Ghoda Festival, also took part in the ongoing anti-CAA-NRC protest at Nagpada in Mumbai

who arrived in Mumbai on February 3 for a poetry reading session at the Kala Ghoda Festival, also took part in the ongoing anti-CAA-NRC protest at Nagpada in Mumbai. On Wednesday night, while travelling by an Uber cab, he was discussing protests against the CAA with a friend on phone. Overhearing the chat, the cab driver summoned policemen and urged them to arrest Sarkar. Sarkar was taken to a police station and allowed to leave after an inquiry.

Taapsee shuts down troll targeting her for casting vote in Delhi elections

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bollywood actor Taapsee Pannu on Saturday blasted a social media user who targeted her for casting vote in Delhi Assembly elections even after shifting to Mumbai for work. Taapsee, who is looking forward to the release of her film "Thappad", posted a picture with her family on Twitter after casting the vote and urging her fans to do the same. One of the social media users criticised the actor for not getting her name transferred to the voting list in Mumbai, where she works as an actor. "Why are people who live in Mumbai deciding for us, it's been quite a long time since @taapsee shifted to Mumbai. She should get her vote shifted too," the comment read.



BJP Muslim corporator quits in Indore

PNS ■ INDORE

The lone Muslim corporator of the BJP in the party-ruled Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday announced that he was resigning from the "changed" BJP, which he said is doing the "politics of hate" over the new citizenship law. In a letter to the district BJP unit, Usman Patel, the corporator from the municipal ward no. 38, wrote that he was resigning from all posts in the party with which he has been associated for the last 40 years. Patel has posted a video of the announcement on social media. "I had joined the BJP 40 years ago after getting inspired by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The BJP has changed now. It is now doing the politics of hate," he said in the video clip.

BJP mocking me ever since I recited 'Hanuman Chalisa': Kejriwal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday alleged that the BJP has been mocking him ever since he recited the 'Hanuman Chalisa' on a TV channel. Taking to Twitter after casting his vote for the Delhi assembly elections, Kejriwal sought to know what kind of politics the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is doing. "Ever since I have recited the 'Hanuman Chalisa' on a TV channel, the BJP is constantly mocking me. Yesterday, I went to a Hanuman Temple. Today, BJP leaders are saying that the temple has turned impure by his visit. What kind of politics is this? God belongs to all. God blesses everyone, including those in the BJP," Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi. On Friday, Kejriwal along with his wife offered prayers at



the famous Hanuman Temple near Connaught Place. Earlier this week, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener had said his reciting the 'Hanuman Chalisa' has hurt leaders of the BJP. During an election rally in Delhi on February 4, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had said, "Now Arvind Kejriwal has started reciting the 'Hanuman Chalisa'. In coming days, you will see Owaisi reciting the same. This will certainly happen."

Kejriwal, Irani trade barbs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Union minister Smriti Irani traded barbs on Twitter on Saturday after the AAP leader issued a "special appeal" to women voters and asked them to discuss with men as to who could be the right choice for votes. Irani, a BJP leader and Lok Sabha MP, took a swipe at Kejriwal, asking if he does not consider women capable enough to decide for themselves who to vote for. "Must go to vote. A special appeal to all women. As you take care of your family, there is another responsibility on your shoulder which is of the country as well as Delhi. All women must vote and also take men of their family for it. You also must discuss with men who will be the right choice (for votes)," Kejriwal tweeted minutes before the polling for electing the Delhi assembly began.

SP LEADER MURDER CASE

Court orders salary of SI to be stopped for non-appearance

PNS ■ MUZAFFARNAGAR (UP)

A special court in Meerut has ordered police to stop disbursing the salary of a sub-inspector for not appearing in court in connection with Samajwadi Party leader Muzaffar Rana's murder case. Sub-inspector Deepak Malik is the investigating officer in the case and has not appeared in court to record his statement till now despite repeated issuing of warrants. Apart from halting salary payment, special court judge Pankej Mishra on Friday also issued another arrest warrant against Malik asking him to be produced before it on February 19. According to public prosecutor Sirajuddin Alvi, former Bahujan Samaj Party MP

SP leader Muzaffar Rana was shot dead during local body elections at a polling station here on October 28, 2006

Kadir Rana, his brother ex-MLA Noor Saleem Rana among others are facing trial in the murder case. SP leader Muzaffar Rana was shot dead during local body elections at a polling station here on October 28, 2006. Later, the case was shifted to the Meerut court from Muzaffarnagar by the Allahabad High Court in 2007 after a plea by the victim's family.

Time ripe for law on pre-litigation mediation: CJI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India S A Bobde on Saturday said the time is ripe to devise a comprehensive legislation which contains "compulsory pre-litigation mediation" that would ensure efficiency and reduce the time of pendency for parties as well as courts. Speaking at the 3rd edition of an international conference on 'Arbitration in the Era of Globalisation', Justice Bobde said a robust 'arbitration bar' is critical to the development of institutional arbitration in India as it would ensure availability and accessibility of practitioners with knowledge and experience. Justice Bobde said that today arbitration plays an essential role in the global infrastructure of international trade, commerce and investment and as an integral member of the



global community and a trading and investment giant, how India engages with international arbitration has important ramifications on international trans-boundary flows of trade, commerce and investments as a whole. "The pre-institution mediation and settlement as men-

tioned in the Commercial Courts Act would pave the way for many more institutions to emphasize on the need of pre-litigation mediation considering its very many benefits. "I think the time is ripe to devise a comprehensive legislation which contains compulsory pre-litigation media-

Justice Bobde said that in the 21st century, the "global and economic integration, filled by technological innovations, enhanced communication and affordable transportation" have sharply reduced the relevance of national border for trade commerce and economic activities

tion and a remedy for the biggest drawback in a mediation agreement that is to say the unenforceability of an agreement arrived at a mediation would ensure efficiency and also reduce the time pendency for parties as well as the courts," he said. While talking about India's role in international arbitration, Justice Bobde said, "In recent times, globalisation has led to the dramatic growth in cross-border transactions involving India, which has led to an

increasing demand for cross-border arbitration. This has resulted in establishment of transnational practices to deal with growing quantum and complexity of matters." He added that arbitration was not meant to mirror litigation. "The time-consuming methods of long oral arguments, long written submissions and a reference to precedence are bound to bring about the same effect in arbitration as it is done in litigation," he said. Justice Bobde said that in the

21st century, the "global and economic integration, filled by technological innovations, enhanced communication and affordable transportation" have sharply reduced the relevance of national border for trade commerce and economic activities. "I do agree that the globalisation seems to stay. Exponential growth of trans-boundary interactions necessitates formation of complex regulatory frameworks, including provision of effective and efficient methods of dispute resolution. "Yet attempts to resolve international commercial or investment disputes in jurisdiction-tethered-state-forums have met with little success. This void has been successfully plugged by various alternate methods of dispute resolution, in particular international arbitration.

Oberoi Realty Q3 profit up 7 pc at Rs 148 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Oberoi Realty has reported 7 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 148.24 crore for the quarter ended December despite fall in total income. Its net profit in the year-ago period stood at Rs 137.93 crore.

Total income, however, fell to Rs 536.53 crore in the third quarter of 2019-20 from Rs 548.79 crore in the same period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing.

"The Union Budget and the new RBI policy have paved the path to growth and liquidity. Reputed corporates thrive in challenging times due to their ability to adapt and deliver value to their stakeholders," CMD Vikas Oberoi said.

"We have also seen a marked improvement in buyer interest across all our projects; our diversified businesses also continue to perform well," he added.

Mumbai-based Oberoi Realty is one of the leading real estate developers in the country.

\$ 5 TRILLION ECONOMY BY 2024

US preferred trade partner in India's journey: Sandhu

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

America is India's preferred trade and business partner in its journey to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2024, the country's new envoy to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu has said.

Addressing a gathering of American business community at a reception hosted in his honour by US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum on Friday, Sandhu said that the potential for cooperation between the United States and India is limitless.

He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set the goal for India to grow from a USD 3 trillion economy today to a USD 5 trillion economy by 2024 and a USD 10 trillion economy by 2030.

"In this journey, Prime Minister Modi has made it clear that the US is a preferred partner for trade and business," said the country's new ambassador to the US.

"The relations between our governments has found a new momentum, getting its energy

from the warm friendship between our leaders. US President (Donald Trump) and our Prime Minister (Modi) have met four times last year," he said.

Observing that people from the business community across both the countries contribute so much to this relationship, he said, adding that entrepreneurs, businessmen and women have been the key stakeholders of India-US ties.

More than 2,000 US companies have a presence in India. Over 200 Indian companies have invested USD 18 billion in the US, creating

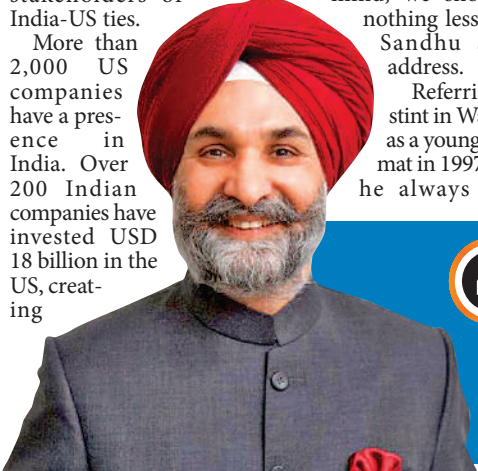
more than 100,000 direct jobs. Two-way investment between India and the US reached USD 60 billion in 2018, Sandhu said. Bilateral trade is growing at 10 per cent on a year-to-year basis and reached USD 160 billion in 2019, he said.

"This makes me bullish about our relationship. The best is yet to come. When US capital and expertise meet the Indian market and Indian mind, we should aim for nothing less but the sky," Sandhu said in his address.

Referring to his first stint in Washington DC as a young Indian diplomat in 1997, Sandhu said he always sensed the

potential of the US-India partnership and wondered how it could move forward.

"We are both vibrant democracies, open and multi-cultural societies based on the rule of law. Our partnership today is as natural as it is seamless, based on the strong people-to-people connections. We have become global strategic partners and our collaboration cuts across spheres of activity which was unimaginable two decades ago," said the top Indian diplomat. Sandhu, a 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service official, has had two successful stints at the Indian Embassy in Washington DC - the last one being Deputy Ambassador from July 2013 to January 2017.



“This makes me bullish about our relationship. The best is yet to come. When US capital and expertise meet the Indian market and Indian mind, we should aim for nothing less but the sky”
— TARANJIT SINGH SANDHU
New envoy to the US



Maruti showcases off-road vehicle Suzuki Jimny

PNS ■ GREATER NOIDA

Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Saturday showcased the fourth generation Japan model of off-road vehicle Suzuki Jimny at the Auto Expo here with an aim to assess response of Indian customers.

The four-wheel drive vehicle powered by a 1.5 litre petrol engine, has power of

75 kW /6000 rpm and torque of 130 Nm /4000 rpm enabling it to negotiate difficult terrains, the company said.

Speaking about Suzuki Jimny, MSI Managing Director and CEO Kenichi Ayukawa said: "The vehicle has been showcased at the Auto Expo to assess response of the Indian consumers to the product."

"Jimny has been developed on the basis of thorough research, assessing the expectations and requirements of professional users," he added.

With its compact design and off-road capabilities, the vehicle speaks volumes about Suzuki's engineering capabilities, he added. Suzuki sells the Jimny across 194 countries.

Goa's four PSUs record negative net worth of Rs 154.32 cr: CAG

PNS ■ PANAJI

Four public sector undertakings (PSUs) in Goa have recorded more losses than the capital investment, resulting in negative net worth of Rs 154.32 crore, a report by the CAG has revealed.

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) 2017-18 report, which was tabled in the state Legislative Assembly on Friday, said that despite fund infusion in the form of interest-free loans, the entire capital investment in the four PSUs has eroded.

As per the report, the Goa Handicraft, Rural and Small Scale Industries Development Corporation (GHRSSIDC), Kadamba Transport Corporation (KTC), Goa Electronics Ltd (GEL) and Goa Auto Accessories Ltd (GAAL) have plunged into the red.

The report, tabled by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, said that out of the 17 PSUs, 15 received equity long-term loans, grants or subsidiaries to



the tune of Rs 303.95 crore from the state government.

"As per the latest finalised account of three working PSUs and one inactive PSU (GAAL), a higher quantum of accumulated losses than the capital investment showed that the overall capital had entire eroded resulting in negative net worth of Rs 154.32 crore," the

report stated. A negative net worth indicates that the entire investment by the government has been wiped out by losses and deferred revenue expenditure.

The CAG has further said that at Rs 118.16 crore, the maximum net worth erosion was in the KTC, followed by GEL at Rs 19.06 crore.

200 per cent import duty hike to hit toy business

PNS ■ KOLKATA

More than a one lakh retailers across the country will be hit by 200 per cent import duty hike, toy importers, who went on strike on Saturday, said.

The Centre, in the Union budget, has proposed raising the import duty on toys from 20 per cent to 60 per cent from the next fiscal, saying that the step would support the MSMEs and promote local manufacturing.

Protesting the move, the toy wholesalers of the city went on a one-day strike, contending that the import duty hike will result in the closure of businesses and a spur in unemployment.

"The 200 per cent import duty hike is a rude shock for the toy industry. It cannot be absorbed by the market as it will make the goods unaffordable for the masses."

"We seek immediate rollback to the previous rate of 20 per cent."

Vivo to set up over 250 exclusive stores this year

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Smartphone maker Vivo on Saturday said it is planning to add over 250 exclusive stores this year to its retail network in the country.

The company has launched a new experiential flagship store in Thane, Maharashtra and plans to have 20 more such stores across metros and state capitals to offer a distinct customer experience in an offline retail space, Vivo said in a statement.

"Keeping customer centricity at the core, we at Vivo strive to offer our customers unique retail experiences. The offline channel has been an essential part of our go-to-market strategy, and we shall continue to invest in this channel. We intend to launch more than 250 exclusive stores in 2020, taking the total number to 600," Vivo India Director (Brand Strategy) Nipun Marya said.

On the experiential store, the company said the outlet houses dedicated gaming, virtual reality and customer interaction

zones that will allow smartphone enthusiasts to engage with Vivo products and experience cutting-edge technology in an immersive environment.

According to research firm IDC, Vivo captured the second spot (behind Xiaomi) in the smartphone shipment tally with 18.8 per cent share (6.9 million units) in December quarter 2019. On a full-year basis, it ranked at the third spot after Xiaomi and Samsung.



According to research firm IDC, Vivo captured the second spot (behind Xiaomi) in the smartphone shipment tally with 18.8% share (6.9 million units) in Dec quarter 2019



Cipla acquires 4 key brands from Wanbury

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Drug firm Cipla on Saturday said it has acquired four brands from Wanbury Ltd to strengthen its presence in the women's health segment.

While Cipla did not provide any financial details of the acquisition, as per a regulatory filing by Wanbury, it has received up to Rs 88.60 crore for the sale of the brands to Cipla.

Cipla has acquired the four brands namely CPink, CDense, Productiv and Folinine to further strengthen its presence in the women's health segment, Cipla said in a filing to the BSE.

The nutraceutical products, to be sold under the 4 umbrella brands, would address various health needs for conditions arising due to nutritional deficiencies or insufficiencies, it added.

This includes supplements such as multivitamins, multi-mineral and antioxidants for adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, women going through menopause and for male and female reproductive health, Cipla said.

"We are focused on strengthening our play in the women's health segment by amplifying our four-decade long presence in this category."

Rupee slips 22 paise to 71.40 against USD

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee declined by 22 paise to settle at 71.40 against the US dollar on Friday amid selling in domestic equities and strengthening of the American currency overseas.

Forex traders said the rupee traded weak largely owing to strengthening of the US dollar ahead of the non-farm payrolls number scheduled to be released

later in the day. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened on a weak note at 71.26.

During the day, the local unit lost further ground and touched a low of 71.49, before finally settling for the day at 71.40 against the US dollar, down 22 paise over its previous close.

The domestic unit had settled at 71.18 on Thursday.

DLF's sales bookings up 21 pc at Rs 2,156 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Realty major DLF's net sales bookings rose 21 per cent to Rs 2,156 crore during April-December, 2019-20 on better demand for its completed inventory.

Its sales bookings stood at Rs 1,788 crore in the year-ago period.

According to its investor presentation, DLF's sales bookings stood at Rs 731 crore in the third quarter of this fiscal as against Rs 563 crore in the corresponding period of the previous

year. The company said it is confident of achieving the sales target of Rs 2,700 crore for the entire 2019-20 financial year.

During 2018-19, DLF clocked sales bookings of Rs 2,435 crore.

It said the company would continue to focus on faster monetisation of unsold completed housing stocks worth Rs 9,415 crore. The demand for luxury segment remained subdued.

"Entering into the new cycle of development for replenish-



ment of completed inventory at select marquee locations. Planned new projects of around 21 million sq ft," the presenta-

tion said. "The company expects to exit the current year (fiscal) with around similar level of debt," it added.

Earlier this week, DLF reported 24 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 414.01 crore for the quarter ended December despite fall in income.

Its net profit stood at Rs 335.15 crore in the year-ago period. Total income fell 36 per cent to Rs 1,533.34 crore in the third quarter of 2019-20 from Rs 2,405.89 crore in the corresponding period previous year.

BPCL commences export of very low sulphur fuel oil from Kochi port

PNS ■ KOCHI

With the export of its first parcel of IMO 2020 grade Very Low Sulphur Fuel Oil (VLSFO) from Kochi to Singapore, Bharat Petroleum has become the first oil marketing company to export this cleaner shipping fuel from the country.

The tanker MT Alnic MC carrying the first parcel of 15 TMT VLSFO to Singapore was flagged off by Kochi Port Trust Chairperson M Beena from the Kochi Port on Friday, a BPCL press release said here on Saturday.

Stringent International Maritime Organization (IMO) standards aimed at preventing pollution from marine and shipping operations are re-shaping the marine fuels landscape and the global cap on sulphur content for general shipping stands reduced from 3.50 per cent wt to 0.50 per cent wt effective January 1, 2020, it

Now that the global demand is increasing, we have entered into exports of VLSFO, after saturating indigenous demands. The first export that was flagged off today also marks the first export from the country by any Oil Marketing Company in India



said. P Murali Madhavan, Executive Director (Kochi Refinery), BPCL, who was present, said VLSFO is an IMO 2020 compliant marine fuel and in view of emerging market for VLSFO, Kochi Refinery started production from December 2019.

"We also started supplying VLSFO to the tankers calling at Kochi from then. VLSFO is produced mainly using the vacuum residue of low sulphur crude oils with suitable blending streams."

"Now that the global demand is increasing, we have entered into exports of VLSFO,

after saturating indigenous demands. The first export that was flagged off today also marks the first export from the country by any Oil Marketing Company in India," he said.

Top BPCL officials including K Suresh Nair, Executive Director (Supply Chain Optimisation), MR Subramoni

Iyer, Chief General Manager (Operations), A Mohanlal Menon, Chief General Manager (Engineering & Advisory Services), N Chandrasekar, General Manager (Oil Movement & Stock) and V R Rajan, General Manager (Technology) were president.

'Ambitious' Japan-Britain trade deal on anvil

PNS ■ TOKYO

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab and his Japanese counterpart agreed Saturday to seek an "ambitious, high standard" trade accord matching Japan's agreement with the EU.

Raab is on a four-nation Asian tour in his first major overseas trip since Britain left the European Union on January 31 after 47 years of membership.

He arrived in Tokyo Saturday morning from Australia on a two-day visit and held talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi in Tokyo.

"In line with our commitment to free trade, we will work quickly to make the new partnership as ambitious, high standard and mutually beneficial as the Japan-EU EPA," the two ministers said in a joint statement.



Motegi said preparations were under way for formal negotiations on a Japan-Britain free trade partnership

Their planned bilateral trade accord would "send a very powerful signal of our shared commitment to free, rules-based trade," Raab told reporters.

Motegi said preparations were under way for formal negotiations on a Japan-Britain free trade partnership.

"We agreed that we will start and conclude the negotiations as early as possible," he

added. In 2018, Japan and the EU struck a trade deal covering more than 630 million people and economies that add up to around a third of global output. They began negotiations in 2013, two years after agreeing to start talks. Following Brexit, Britain is hoping to negotiate a new trade deal not just with Brussels but also the United States, Japan and other countries.



LAW IS JUVENILE

NEEDS TO GROW UP

In 2013, a five-year-old girl was abducted, gangraped and left mistaken to be dead by culprits. Six years later, on January 18, the rapists were sentenced for 20 years. MUSBA HASHMI looks into the reasons why it took so long for the Judiciary to serve justice

Just after four months of the spine-chilling Nirbhaya case that shook the nation to the core, Delhi saw another Nirbhaya but a much younger one. She is as brave as one can be and fought for her life till she won. Gudiya (name changed) was just five when she was abducted from her home in Gandhi Nagar, East Delhi, on April 15, 2013 gangraped and left for dead. The quest for justice spanned the same period as the one for Nirbhaya and the little braveheart has finally got justice after six years.

April 15 was just another day for Gudiya as she went down from her apartment to play in the colony lawns. It was then that Manoj Shah and Pradeep Kumar, who used to live in the basement of the same building, lured her into Manoj's rented room where she was gangraped, brutalised and left by the two, who believed her to be dead.

"When she didn't return for a couple of hours, we went searching for her but couldn't find her. Her mother informed the police and an FIR was filed. After two days of searching, she was found in the basement of our building in a horrific condition — unconscious, tied and bleeding. There was a cut on her neck and bottles and candles had been inserted into her private parts," Gudiya's father Rajesh (name changed) tells you with a heavy voice.

Rakesh went to the Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) for help in seeking justice. The BBA team took up the matter and assured legal, financial and medical help.

Due to the fear of being caught, the two had tried to murder the girl and assuming she was dead, they had left. Gudiya was taken to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences where six corrective surgeries were performed on her. After a lengthy stay in the ICU, she was finally released to the Young Women's Christian Association for further care and protection.

The culprits were arrested a week later from Bihar and a chargesheet filed on May 24. Later in July, the Delhi court framed charges for raping a minor, unnatural offence, kidnapping, attempt to murder, destruction of evidence, wrongful confinement and aggravated sexual assault under the Protection Of Children Against Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Things took a U-turn when Pradeep moved the court claiming to be a juvenile at the time of the incident. In 2017, he was declared juvenile and the case transferred to Juvenile Justice Board.

However, in 2018 the Delhi High Court, after an intervention by BBA,

declared Pradeep an adult and the bail order, given on the basis of juvenility was cancelled. This year on January 18, the court announced the two guilty and awarded them 20 years' imprisonment.

"Pradeep produced false certificates of juvenility in court. The matter was taken up by us in High Court. We challenged the order and intervened to get a bone ossification test done. Also when we got through the certificate produced by him, it was from the school's principal and not a photocopy of the register that students fill at the time of admission. As per the law, one has to submit the school leaving certificate or the copy of the register where you have entered your birth date during the time of the admission. Therefore, the certificate was not accepted at the High Court. Later, the bone test revealed that he was around 22 years old at the time of committing the crime," Sampurna Behura, Director (legal), Bachpan Bachao Andolan, tells you.

It seems that the culprits are now taking the alternate route by faking juvenility and seeking mercy. Is there a way to stop it? "A section of the POCSO Act says that when an accused is arrested and claims to be a juvenile, a bone ossification test is mandatory. The police also has to take out school documents or the birth certificate to validate the offender's claims. If this procedure is followed, the offender cannot make any false claims. In Gudiya's case, the police could have conducted the test. It is just a tool used by the convict to appeal for less punishment. The accused cannot provide false information and if they do, the court can hold them liable. That's what happened in Gudiya's case too. In such cases, the mindset of the judge has to change from being accused centric to victim centric and POCSO in itself is a victim centric law where the burden of proof lies on the accused," Behura says.

Since it took seven years for the judgement to come, Behura has a lot to say on that. "India has one of the strongest laws in the world when it comes to child abuse. We have prosecution and victim compensation schemes. Gudiya's case is a landmark one as it brought changes in the law. For instance, the Doctrine of Presumption would apply in all cases of a missing child. The police has to now register an FIR within 24 hours. If the police will do this many cases can be prevented. Also, a missing children portal has come up. Special Juvenile Police Units are to be formed in all districts. Each police station must have a trained Juvenile Welfare Officer. All this happened because of the Gudiya case. But yes, justice is delayed.

Giving a judgement in six years where the survivor has to go to the court again and again is like revictimising her. The mandate of the Act is to get justice in all POCSO cases in one year. But the problem is that chargesheets are not filed on time, regular case hearing doesn't happen, many times, the judges go on leave, there is lack of victim protection and because the protection mechanism is not in place the culprits are able to create a threat atmosphere around the victim. All this leads to delay in cases. In the Gudiya case, four years went by in deciding whether the culprit is a juvenile. It's high time that the Judiciary should look into its responsibility and justice should be delivered on time," she tells you.

The other reason why Gudiya's case took so long is because there are a lot of cases in Delhi and no sufficient POCSO courts to attend to them. After the recommendation of BBA, 11 special courts were set up in Delhi to attend to POCSO cases.

Gudiya's family and the BBA team is now challenging the judgement and will move the High Court to demand life imprisonment for the culprits.

However, things haven't gone too well for Gudiya and her family. These seven years have been a constant struggle to make the society realise it's never the victim's fault. "It was a tough time. We had to change so many places as we were not getting a home anywhere. Anyone who knew about the case wouldn't let us stay in their area. Now I live outside Delhi and my daughter goes to school there. We had seen so many hardships and had to face the indifference of family and friends. The fight becomes even more difficult because the society doesn't support the survivor. More so, because people are still living in a shell. This mentality of not blaming the culprit is wrong and there should be no place for this sick thought process," Rajesh says.

Even after so many years, Gudiya is still under psychological therapy. "Back then, she was too young to understand what has happened to her. But now since she is attaining puberty, we are well-prepared to provide her with therapy and care. She is doing fine now but as for the therapy is concerned, she will be needing it for a longer period," Behura says.

Much to your horror, a report of Kailash Satyarthi Children Foundation 'Children Cannot Wait' says that based on the number of POCSO cases pending in courts till 2016, provided there is no additional new case, some States will take more than 50 years to dispose of the pending cases.

A section of the POCSO Act says that when an accused is arrested and claims to be a juvenile, a bone ossification test is mandatory. The police also has to take out school documents or the birth certificate to validate the offender's claims. If this procedure is followed, the offender cannot make any false claims. In Gudiya's case, the police could have conducted the test. It is just a tool used by the convict to appeal for less punishment

— **Sampurna Behura, Director (legal), Bachpan Bachao Andolan**

Moreover, the POCSO Act, 2012, calls for trials to be completed within a year in cases related to sexual abuse of children. However, a latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report shows that by the end of 2018 as many as 1,08,129 registered POCSO cases, which is 90.35 per cent of the total cases filed, remained pending in the courts. These facts are enough to show how justice is being delayed in such cases. No wonder that Nirbhaya's convicts are yet to be hanged.

Advocate Siddh Vidya who has been handling such cases for a while now says that the need is to have better infrastructure to ensure any claim of juvenility accurately. "There are specific procedures laid down in law for ascertaining juvenility. There is a board and Committee which decides age of accused on the basis of physical appearance and some documents, if available, viz matriculation or other matriculation certificate, birth certificate issued by the school, panchayat and corporation. In the event of absence of documents medical examination is to be done. This is required in such cases where the age of a person claiming to be juvenile cannot be ascertained by his/her physical appearance as well as by documents. Accused of rape take advantage of this. They claim to be juvenile and get the matter delayed since the process by which juvenility can be proved, can be claimed at any point of time. Even after disposal of matter, offenders try to take shelter from this provision. Further, as per law in case of any medical ambiguity benefit of doubt is to be given to the accused. Due to such provisions even those culprits who have attained age of 18 years get benefit of doubt. Furthermore, unfortunately the judicial process is very slow. Culprits claim juvenility and in case of concrete proof of their age they enjoy benefit of doubt. The need is to have better infrastructure for ensuring that any claim of juvenility is decided fast and accurately," she tells you.

There are cases wherein accused claiming to be juvenile are apparently adults but having matriculation certificates from school which prove them to be juveniles. This is a matter of experience that even today there are parents who deliberately hide the age of their child at the time of admission in school for getting benefits in different competitive exams.

There is misuse of law as well. There are many who are behind bars despite there being scientific evidence as the law considers the version of victim sufficient for conviction. "In a matter which we handled, a

school teacher was convicted despite there being a DNA report in his favour which proved that the victim girl was not impregnated by him. He tried to commit suicide in jail, his children are out of school. In that matter prosecution did not bother to take DNA samples of other persons who could have perhaps impregnated the victim girl. Entire investigation was focused on proving that teacher guilty but no effort was taken by the prosecution to find out who impregnated a 13 year old girl," she tells you.

She adds that unless the police and judiciary is not made well-equipped with best infrastructure and sensitised, any amount of law and punishment would not achieve result, so far as pendency of matters and speedy disposal of matters are concerned.

Pooja Sareen, an advocate and a POCSO expert says that lack of awareness among the parents and the children is the reason behind the increased number of crimes.

"There are different types of crimes that the parents should know about. Knowledge is power. Many cases go unnoticed because either the child or the parent is living in oblivion, unaware of what happened was wrong. First, paedophilia. It is a psychiatric disease wherein an adolescent experiences a primary or special sexual appeal to pre-pubescent kids. Someone who's identified with paedophilia ought to be at least 16 years old and at least five years older than the prepubescent child. Such incidents are not reported, though they happen often, especially in boarding schools, close vicinity of houses or by grown up cousins. Second, sodomy. It is a crime not reported most of the times. It refers to male child exploitation — Male to male abuse and exploitation. In such cases, most of the survivors don't speak up at all. Moreover, only one small section is dedicated to this offence in our constitution — Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code. Third, infant sexual abuse. It is rising at an alarming rate in India. Ironic is that the criminal regulations in India are insufficient in a lot of respect to cope with such sensitive and critical problems," she tells you. Any kind of exploitation to children is not only limited to physical or sexual abuse, but it affects them mentally and emotionally as well.

Handling such cases is no child play. "Children usually take time to open up and talk about the incident. There are always chances that the defence may mislead them with the sexual connotations as they are not well-versed with the sexual terminologies and are not able to comprehend instances," she says.





the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

Be happy with being you. Love your flaws. Own your quirks. And know that you are just as perfect as anyone else, exactly as you are — Ariana Grande



Time to love

Péro showcase in New Delhi is an episodic exhibition that presents the practice of the brand

09



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Astrology & destiny indicators

A being is not fully bound by destiny indicators. It depends on us how we respond to energy changes in the cosmos

EAT SAFE TO LIVE WELL

Focussing on scoring right nutrition, safe food is the only solution to combat adulterations that have invaded our plates, writes KAVITA DEVGAN, as she lists a five-point plan to staying healthy

Looking at the frequent outbreaks of stubborn virus and food-related allergies and illness, there is no doubt that an un-wellness pandemic is engulfing us. And the sad part is that while we see this happening — to us and to everyone around us — there really isn't much that we can do about it, except worrying and cribbing about it, maybe!

Well, the good news is that a lot of this is preventable by a simple tool at our disposal — just changing what we plate. Focussing on scoring right nutrition and safe food is the only solution. All you need to do is to follow a simple five-point plan to add health to your diet.

FOCUS ON NUTRITION

My get healthy philosophy is clear and simple: if we focus on nutrition, rest everything will fall in place, automatically.

When our diet is loaded with empty foods, which are low on nutrition (that is, the basic vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and enzymes that our body needs) then sustenance does not happen. I define sustenance as not just filling of the stomach with the required calories, but with nutritional satiety. And without sustenance, there is no satisfaction, without which the urge to continue eating continues. It is that often familiar feeling of eating without being able to stop when we should, and the gnawing utterly uncontrollable avalanche of cravings that rule our food choices!

Secondly, unless we are nutritionally fit, we won't function at our optimum — and that is a real deal breaker. For example, you may be at a risk for anaemia, one side effect of which is constant fatigue. And this will interfere with your ability to exercise, which will lead to weight gain.

Similarly if you are a fan of low or no carb diets and restrict cereals excessively in your diet, you may not get enough B vitamins, which are essential for fat metabolism in the body. Result: more fat deposition. Yes, that's how diets that restrict carbs too much fall flat!

MAKE SENSE OF SCIENCE

It's a sad fact that science, sometimes doesn't discover knowledge, it "constructs" it, and then the marketers market it smartly. And we can't just wish away this reality. Apparently, the sugar industry in the US paid three very influential scientists in the 1960s to play down the link between sugar and heart disease and promote saturated fat (SF) as the devil instead. Thankfully, sugar is back to being the devil and saturated fat is being exonerated.

Also, there is no way to making sense of the constant yo-yoing of what research says and then unsays. A theory that may appear right today may be debunked tomorrow. It happened with milk, eggs, coconut oil, ghee, to name a few, making all of us bonafide food schizos.

So what does one do? For one, we must understand that nutrition is an ever evolving science, and facts change at breakneck speed. So read the 'breaking news' but take it with a

pinch of salt; use it only as a guiding light not gospel. Read all sensational headlines (like so and so extract will help you dodge Alzheimer's) objectively and apply the principle of common sense before following them. For example, a research says that wine is good for our heart, but that does not mean that you must begin downing a glass or two everyday! Maybe, it is the exercise that you are doing in the morning and the two fruits you are snacking on that are keeping your heart in the pink of health, and it doesn't need any extra help.

Too much information can often do more harm than good. Listen to your gut feel, and the golden rule of moderation — no food is bad *per se*, it is only bad in excess — and you will be fine.

CUT DOWN PROCESSED FOODS INTAKE

There are enough red flags about processed foods to convince anyone who values his health to go off them. According to the World Health Organisation, processed foods are to blame for the spike in chronic disease around the world. Multiple studies have found correlation with higher incidence of heart disease, diabetes, depression and even early death with more intake of processed foods.

The reason is simple — they come packaged with a deadly cocktail of chemicals, and way too much of sugar and salt, all of which wreak havoc inside the body. They leave you short on fibre and antioxidants. Plus they are addictive as they are designed clearly to attack the reward centre of the brain (and not really to provide you nutrition) — and that is always a bad thing.

Plus, giving up processed "diet" food is a big part of this strategy to knock off weight successfully. I have seen people up their calories intake and yet lose weight just by going clean! The explanation is simple. When people eat minimally processed foods, they produce more of the hormone that suppresses appetite and less of the hormone that causes hunger. Translated in simple terms, this means that when you eat more processed foods, your body chemistry works in a manner that makes you eat more, even if you are trying not to. Result obviously is loss of control and yes, weight gain. And if you can put a lid on the consumption of junk and processed then your hormones can be tipped in the favour of weight loss.

KEEP AWAY FROM THESE BADDIES

In 2015, high lead concentration and traces of MSG were found in a batch of a brand of instant noodles in Uttar Pradesh. The regulatory authorities asked for a recall of that batch and a clamour for banning it began. A survey conducted by the Kolkata-based All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health (under the Health Ministry) in 2016 had found presence of 5 toxins in the soft drinks packaged in PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottles. These harmful metals — antimony, lead, chromium, cadmium and a compound DEHP (Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate) — apparently

leech in from the PET bottles. Now think of all that we consume out of the PET bottles and the sheer number is enough to raise an alarm.

Why is it scary? you would ask. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), lead and cadmium are two of the top ten chemicals of "major public health concern" and can have serious consequences for our health, particularly children. Lead exposure affects the brain and central nervous system, causing mental retardation and behavioural disorders at high level of exposure. Cadmium attacks the kidney, skeletal system and the respiratory system and is a known carcinogen.

The other three: chromium, antimony and DEHP can also be harmful. While, chromium is needed by the body in very small amounts, an overdose has been associated with lung, nasal, and sinus cancer. Antimony may lead to problems with the lungs, heart, stomach pain, diarrhea, vomiting, and stomach ulcers, and DEHP (EU had banned and classified it as a reproductive toxicant a while back) is associated with adverse effects on the liver, kidneys and the reproductive system.

Even the humble bread, that many of us eat almost on a daily basis was in the eye of the storm because of the dangerous, cancerous additives (potassium bromate and potassium iodate) found in multiple brands. Plus, there is the omnipresent danger of consuming multiple toxins like acrylamide, BPA or bisphenol A and diacetyl (found in something as ubiquitous and considered healthy as pop corn) found in processed foods.

In India, right now we don't have any laws banning anything, even known harmful additives. So the onus is upon us to steer clear of them. We can always try and replace PET bottles for storing (and selling) everything with time-tested and traditional alternatives such as glass or even earthen pots/bottles! Giving up may not be practical option for a lot of us, considering the way we all live today, rationing them in the diet is only the next best.

EAT SAFE MEAT

Meat is an important part of a balanced diet, there is no denying that. In fact, some nutrients and our body's protein requirement often demands that we incorporate it in our diet. That said what one needs to be super careful about its overload.

Eating meat may be good for us, but too much of this can be bad too. Especially if you are consuming unsafe meat. The science is solid on the fact that there is a huge cost involved in eating cheap meat. "Overuse of antibiotics in animal farms endangers us all as

it multiplies drug resistance in the environment," explains author and CDDEP Director Ramanan Laxminarayan.

This, in fact, has been proven beyond doubt. Antibiotic use in animals can over time promote the development of hard-to-treat antibiotic-resistant superbugs that make people sick. So we are, slowly but steadily, becoming an antibiotic resistant race. The concerns over the use of antibiotics for more growth promotion (read higher production) in farm animals is serious and the threat to public health from the overuse of antibiotics in food animals is very real.

Source your meat and eggs carefully. To prevent antibiotic resistance, avoid antibiotic medications unless absolutely necessary; eat less meat (or give it up entirely) to help reduce demand and buy from small, organic farms which raise antibiotic-free animals. It's not easy, but then catching (and being apart in spreading) a superbug and becoming antibiotic resistant is a far scarier prospect by any stretch.

DRINK SAFE MILK

You can thrive on good food, if it is safe. According to Ayurveda, the best kind is the milk that is absolutely fresh from the cow, still warm. But as that is not really an option anymore (unless there's a cow in your backyard who you are feeding organic pasture), we need to cover other bases to ensure that the milk we drink is not adulterated.

This is important. The immediate effect of drinking adulterated milk can be gastroenteritis vomiting, nausea, abdominal cramps, but the long term effects are known to be far more serious. These adulterants are hazardous and can cause irreversible damage to the organs. Detergents in milk cause food poisoning and gastrointestinal complications. Other synthetic compounds cause impairments, heart problems, cancer and even death. The high alkaline level of milk can damage body tissue too. Caustic soda harms the mucosa of the food pipe, especially in kids.

So how does one check if milk is adulterated? The NDDB (National Dairy Development Board) website mentions that it has a kit with which you can do some simple tests at home. Check it out. Meanwhile some simple tests you can do on your own are:

To check for extra water in milk, place a drop on a shiny, polished slanting surface. Milk leaves no trail behind but if water is added to it you will find a white trail behind the drop.

For starch (wheat flour etc), add a drop of iodine solution (easily available in medical stores); formation of blue colour indicates adulteration. For detergent, just mix equal amounts of water and milk and shake for five minutes. Appearance of lather indicates presence of detergent.

— The writer is a Delhi-based weight management consultant, nutritionist and author of *Don't Diet! 50 Habits of Thin People and Ultimate Grandmother Hacks*



“TOO MUCH INFORMATION CAN OFTEN DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD. LISTEN TO YOUR GUT FEEL, AND THE GOLDEN RULE OF MODERATION — NO FOOD IS BAD PER SE, IT IS ONLY BAD IN EXCESS — AND YOU WILL BE FINE”





I WISH YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DESIGN SO OFTEN. TRY TO DO QUALITY AND CUT DOWN ON QUANTITY
— VIVIENNE WESTWOOD

Bungalow number 13 on Barakhamba Road is radiating love these days. Painted red hearts on its old-world yellow façade attract many a curious looks from the passersby, tempting them to pause and take a look at what secrets the building holds inside.

This is the space where Péro, India's leading clothing design label, is showcasing an episodic exhibition presenting the practice of Péro, titled *Time for Love*. The showcase commemorates the tenth anniversary of Péro.

From the characteristic edge of fabric woven on looms from all corners of this country to the silhouette and story of every garment passing through numerous hands — there is love, labour and time — the essential ingredients of Péro-making. An India Art Fair Parallel event, the showcase is an experience of detail where the principle artwork is the becoming of a Péro garment over 42 days, made with love, over time.

As we gather our first impressions of the showcase, we speak to Aneeth Arora, textile and dress maker and the founder of the brand. Excerpts from our conversation:

ON THE SHOWCASE

I felt it was time that people under-



TIME TO LOVE

Péro showcase is an episodic exhibition that presents the practice of the brand. NAVNEET MENDIRATTA speaks to its creator about their brand's archives and more

stood what goes into the making of a Péro garment. Even though it looks like a simple white garment, there is a lot that goes into making one. We do everything by hand. Once the garment is off the machine, every seam is hemmed on both sides. Thereafter, details are added. The buttons are handmade, the labels are hand embroidered... So, the idea is just to celebrate time and see what comes out when you are actually giving time and love to something.

The atmosphere here is very edgy, very shiny and it's a very personal thing. We have always felt that even though we are in the world of fashion, we never really were a part of it. This is because our way of looking at things is very different. Fashion is all about change and pace. For long, we didn't realise that we were spending so much time on what we were making, still trying to be a part of that world. The environment here is a symbol of that. It's a showcase of how within this glamorous environment, this humble dress woven in so many regions of India still holds a place of its own. This is exactly what people have loved us for!

PLAYING REVIVALIST

Revival is a big word. I wouldn't say it is a conscious attempt, but our philosophy is such that we work with age-old techniques. We are very old school in the kind of things that we do and when we do work with those techniques, it brings back nostalgia. That is when people think it is revival. I am just enjoying the old school techniques and using them in our clothes.

To me, revival is when you do something over and over again and other people start following suit. Soon, you have a lot of people working on the craft and it is no longer lost. It happened with *jamdani*. The first season we used it, there were very few weavers doing it — at least not in this

very fine cotton. We lost the order that season, because we could not weave the required fabric. You see, it takes a weaver a week to weave 3 metres of that fine cloth. We tend to use a lot of fabric when we make a flared garment. Eventually, we used it in the next season. Suddenly, there was this wave and there were almost 300 weavers weaving *jamdani* and people started calling this revival. For me, it was the fabric they found which was still in the market.

10 YEARS-WORTH DOCUMENTATION

At NID, they taught us how to document the process well. And that is one thing that really stayed with me. From day one, we have been keeping a copy of every fabric, every button, every trimming that we have ever made. That was my way of documenting it. And now, I am using 10 years as an excuse to look at our archives, document each thing and show it to people. You feel the evolution when you see it all in its entirety.

We are using this opportunity to document it all digitally as well as physically, making note of each of our collaborations. We turn 10 this June 13. And that is when, we will close our archives.

THE BIG REVEAL

In these 42 days, we will slowly unbox all that we have so painstakingly stored over the past decade and reveal our archives. Every day we will open and reveal a new segment. We will look at the prime elements of Péro — like the buttons that people identify us with or the hearts or the dolls. We will assign a room each to these elements — like the dolls of Péro, the hearts of Péro, button of Péro, textiles of People — and invite people to see our world.

INDIA ART FAIR CONNECT

Initially, when we thought of doing



IN THESE 42 DAYS, PÉRO WILL SLOWLY REVEAL THEIR ARCHIVES. A ROOM WILL BE DEDICATED TO EACH OF THE ELEMENTS THAT PEOPLE IDENTIFY THE BRAND WITH, AS WELL AS THE TEXTILES

things together, it was a collaboration between a fashion label and Art Fair. But eventually they realised that what we do is also a kind of art. So we thought of this showcase. Just like an artist works on his installation or art, we have our people working on each and every piece that comes out of Péro. Each of our garment is unique like any other art piece.

Unlike the usual Péro event, which is all fun and frolic, this event is a very quiet one. Visitors can clearly see that it is about understanding quality and time invested in it. And that is what makes everyone, including ourselves, pause.

INSPIRATIONS FROM OTHER CULTURES

We do it all the time. If you look at the showcase garment, you will notice that the sleeves are Spanish and the yoke reminds you of a *kediyu* from Gujarat. Péro is all



as a wrap. Perhaps to be worn as an overlay with a pair of jeans and T-shirt. So we like to put the same piece out for people to interpret it in their own way. We are not emphasising on the fact that it is an Indian silhouette. Because it is a mix of a lot of things, it is an *angrakha* with a European lace. The moment you put a garment outside its context, people look at it differently.

ON BEING SUSTAINABLE

This is the other part of our messaging. When you spend so much on a piece... so much that when you own it, it becomes like an heirloom. You take care of it. And because you own that beautiful piece, you don't want more. And when you do give it to someone else, you also reduce the demand for that person.

That's what we say about our clothes. When you own, let's say, 10 of our beautiful couture pieces, you don't feel the need to own more. Because we are not about fast fashion. And when people see a piece and they see that someone has spent time on it, they do not want to discard it and that is where sustainability comes, where we reduce fashion waste. You may spend more but you are really investing in quality and time.

— The showcase is on till March 14

I find most people today find ageing to be a malady, seeking solutions in jars and bottles, potions and lotions of promises of timeless youth and beauty. If there were such a remedy, believe me, the discoverer would have become a multi-billionaire ten times over!

Ageing is something that affects everyone in today's world. I find that even the late 35 year olds start worrying about ageing, little realising that their worry itself could lead to a stray wrinkle here or there.

So where lies the answer to ageless beauty? Is it in the use of never ending beauty products? Or in the new age injectables like Botox and the miracles of plastic surgery and fillers?

How does one find the answer to the elixir of youth and eternal glowing skin?

My answers would perhaps be conservative. Not that I completely believe that the old age *rishis* and *munis* had flawless skins and did not age while meditating in the jungles, but to a very large extent it definitely makes me ruminate about their lifestyles.

Many years ago, when I was in college, my mother had organised for a group of people to visit Indonesia on an educational and cultural tour. A certain Professor Bendre who was heading the JJ School of Art at that time also accompanied her with his wife. Mrs Bendre must have been in her 50s and looked no more than to be in her late 20s! Except for her graying hair, her dusky skin was flawless and taut. Her timeless beauty remains ingrained in my mind to date. The secret to this was perhaps the simple diet that she followed — she only ate fresh fruits, dry fruit

The art of ageing gracefully

The secret lies in following a simple lifestyle, eating simple, exercise, stop worrying, meditation and a regular skin and hair care programme, writes SUPARNA TRIKHA

and juices.

I have travelled quite extensively in my younger years and met people from various walks of life. Once I met a young 92 year old Colonel, retired from the Kumaon regiment. He had a perfect eye sight, walked straight and did all his driving and gardening himself. He was a living legend of sorts and passed on very recently at the age of 102! His secret, as he shared, was meditation in the morning, breakfast of a king, lunch of a prince and dinner of a pauper. Although that did not stop him from having his two whiskies every evening! He enjoyed being one with nature, pottering around in his herb garden, planting his favourite rosemary, chamomile, lettuce, etc. At 102, that was quite an achievement.

So besides my natural remedies, I always tell people (who come asking for suggestions to slow the ageing process) to follow a simple lifestyle, eat simple, exercise, destress, stop worrying, meditate and of course follow a regular skin and hair care programme.

We abuse our bodies and minds so much that we spend double the amount of time trying to find solutions to undo the damage we have already done.

The other day, I was sitting



with the chairman of a well known domestic airline whose skin looked completely dehydrated. As I was trying to offer solutions to the problem, I noticed that his exquisite chamber overlooked a lush

green expanse of never ending trees and beautifully trimmed bushes and the rarest of the flowers. There was a huge window to overlook this but no balcony to breathe in the fresh air. Hydrating

your skin with fresh air and keeping it away from the maladies of air conditioning is so important.

So to make things easier for you, the answer to ageless youth and beauty is a combination of good health, simple diet, exercise, less stress and a regular skin care programme which would mean taking care of ones skin from an early age.

I am astounded at mothers who tell their daughters at 13 to not bother about their skin as now was not the time. I know for sure that the same mothers 10 years down would run to dermatologists to find a fix for their daughters' acne marks since that might affect the marriage proposals. Skin care must be a lifestyle just like brushing your teeth in the morning which we are taught to do from the age of 2 years. Infact, you would be surprised to know that a 5 minutes of skin cleansing, toning and moisturising routine takes you a long way as to what our skin will look like later in the day.

Lots of fresh raw food, plenty of water, regular exercise, sleep, destressing whenever you get the time to do so, regular skin care, meditation is what will define how you are going to look like at 90.

The writer is a nature care, beauty expert

DIY BEAUTY TIPS

- APPLE CIDER OILY & COMBINATION TONER**
 - 200 ml apple cider
 - 1 tsp powdered camphor
 - 1 drop witch hazel
 - Mix all the ingredients and store in a bottle. Use the mix to wipe skin three time a day. The ingredients will help tone and clean the skin as well as increase blood circulation.
- HONEY & ROSE TONER FOR DEHYDRATED & DRY SKIN**
 - 200 ml of pure rose water
 - 2 tsp raw honey
 - 2 drops lavender essential oil
 - Mix all the ingredients well and store in a bottle in the fridge. Wipe the skin with this mix three times a day for cleansing, toning and moisturising.
- EGG WHITE SKIN SOUFFLE**
 - 2 egg whites, whipped till the peaks and put in freezer
 - 1 tsp honey
 - 1 tsp china clay
 - Clean the skin. Mix these ingredients in to a paste. Apply the mix on your face with a broad flat brush and relax. Let it dry completely. Avoid talking all this while. Wash off with ice water and pat dry. This is excellent to fade out fine lines and wrinkles.
- PAPAYA PORCELAIN MASK**
 - 2 cubes mashed Papaya
 - 2 tsp grated cucumber
 - 2 tsp fullers earth
 - a pinch of powdered camphor
 - 1 egg white
 - Rose water to mix
 - Mix all the ingredients and apply on a clean skin. Let dry and wash off with tepid water and pat dry.
- HONEY AGE CARE**
 - 3 tsp raw honey
 - 2 tsp fresh cream
 - 50 gms beeswax
 - 1 tsp wheatgerm oil
 - 1 tsp olive oil
 - Heat the beeswax in a double boiler and add all the ingredients except the fresh cream. Stir in well and let cool. Upon cooling, add the fresh cream and mix well until it becomes of a smooth consistency. Pour into a glass jar tight jar and refrigerate. Massage your skin with this mix daily and let its goodness soak into the skin for atleast 20 minutes before washing off. You can safely store the mix in the fridge for upto 10 days. It is an excellent skin polisher and hydrator. These simple, natural and effective recipes will take care of your skin. For emotional balance, all you need to do is to keep away from stress and worries. Take out time for yourself every day. Compliment yourself and make yourself happy by staying uncomplicated in your decisions. Life is too short to throw away. Take time to enjoy it slowly, discovering its secret pastures. Find joy in simple little things. Treat yourself kindly and nature will be kind to you. Nurture your self and nature will nurture you to age gracefully.

A REPORT FROM THE INTERCEPT HAS REVEALED THAT A 19-YEAR-OLD IN BRAZIL LIVESTREAMED HIS DEATH ON TIKTOK NEARLY A YEAR AGO. WHEN TIKTOK OFFICIALS WERE ALERTED TO THE LIVESTREAM, THEY REPORTEDLY WAITED FOR THREE HOURS TO INFORM THE POLICE

LATEST TECH



SONY HT-S20R SOUNDBAR LAUNCHED AT RS 14,990

Designed and tuned especially for the Indian market, Sony India has launched a Rs 15,000 soundbar. Unlike the existing soundbars in Sony's portfolio starting at Rs 18,990, the HT-S20R three channel soundbar with rear speakers and external subwoofer delivers 400W power output support Dolby Audio to create cinematic 5.1 channel experience, as reported by *BusinessToday*. HT-S20R soundbar supports HDMI ARC for single-cable connectivity with compatible TVs. For non-HDMI compatible TVs, the options include optical input or analogue input. The soundbar can be used to wirelessly stream music by pairing smartphone over Bluetooth or plug-and-play a pen drive.

ONEPLUS 8 PRO, ONEPLUS 8 SHOW UP ON AMAZON INDIA

OnePlus 8 Pro and OnePlus 8 are two highly anticipated smartphones, expected to launch in the first half of this year. But while OnePlus is yet to make any confirmation around its new models, an Amazon India affiliate page suggested their development, as reported on *gadgets.ndtv*. The e-commerce site was spotted providing an advertising fee on the OnePlus 8 and OnePlus 8 Pro. Both are speculated to have the Qualcomm Snapdragon 865 SoC and up to 12GB of RAM.



SAMSUNG GALAXY M31 LAUNCH TEASED, WILL FEATURE 64MP CAMERA

Samsung Galaxy M31 is being teased to launch in India soon, and the teaser tips it will feature a 64-megapixel camera as well as a large battery. The new Samsung phone, the successor to the Samsung Galaxy M30, was up until now a part of the rumour mill that indicated its quad camera module. The Galaxy M31 is likely to debut alongside the Galaxy M11, Galaxy M21, and Galaxy M41, all part of the new Galaxy M-series phones. The smartphone is expected to run Android 10, with the latest One UI on top, as reported by *gadgets.ndtv*. The teaser images shared online carries tagline the 'Mega Monster' suggesting a large battery that might be larger than the usual 5,000mAh battery.

SAMSUNG CONFIRMS NEW VERSION OF GALAXY BUDS

A new version of Samsung's wireless earbuds is on the way. Samsung confirmed after an app for its Galaxy Buds Plus became available in Apple's App Store. Rumors have been circulating ahead of Samsung's February 11 event that the tech giant may release an update to last year's Galaxy Buds. It's believed the wireless earbuds will have long battery life and a similar design to last year's model but could come with- out noise cancellation, a key feature of Apple's AirPods Pro from October, as reported by *CNet*.



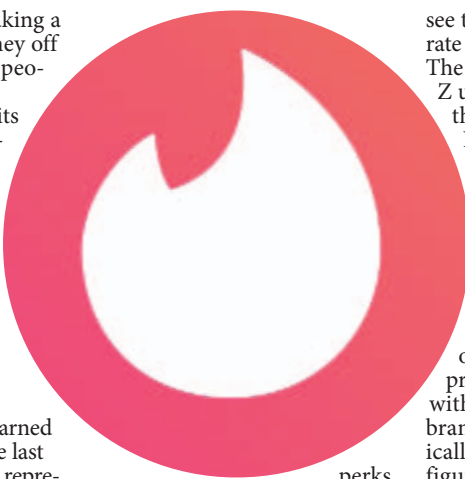
POCO X2 WITH QUAD REAR CAMERA SETUP, 120HZ DISPLAY LAUNCHED

Poco X2 was launched in India last week, the second smartphone under the Poco brand that thus far was known for the affordable Poco F1. The new Poco phone, which appears to be a rebranded variant of the Redmi K30 4G smartphone that was launched in China last year, will be available for purchase in the country starting February 11, as reported by *gadgets.ndtv*. Xiaomi spin-off Poco India is targeting mobile gamers with the Poco X2 that comes with a RealityFlow 120Hz Display, apart from the gaming focussed Snapdragon 730G SoC. The Poco X2 also houses a quad rear camera setup and comes with 27W fast charging support for its large 4,500mAh battery.



Tinder made \$1.2 billion last year off people who can't stop swiping

Tinder's making a lot of money off the single people of the world. In its final earnings release for 2019, Match Group disclosed that Tinder brought in \$1.2 billion in revenue last year, further cementing its place as the dating app company's most valuable asset, as reported by *The Verge*. Match as a whole earned \$2.1 billion in revenue last year, meaning Tinder represents half of its income. The company, which also owns Hinge, OkCupid, and Match.com, also said Tinder averaged 5.9 million subscribers in the fourth quarter of 2019, representing an increase of 36 percent over the past year. Tinder sells in-app subscriptions that offer users



perks, including unlimited swiping and increased prominence of their profile among nearby users. It also has ads that occasionally appear between swipes. It's no surprise that Tinder is the biggest moneymaker for Match. That's been the case for some years now. However, it is surprising to

see the app's subscriber rate continue to grow. The team is courting Gen Z users with features like the interactive Swipe Night experience, which lets daters match based on decisions they made while engaging with the interactive content, as well as location-based features for music festivals and spring break. Match is also focusing on the localization of the product abroad, along with promoting its other brands. The company specifically calls out OkCupid for figuring out a way to bring its product abroad, mainly in India, and how it's looking to further branch out in Turkey and Israel. Single people aren't going away — neither is the swipe — and Tinder's in a prime position to make money off both of them.

eSPORTS CONTEST POSTPONED OVER CORONAVIRUS SCARE

Acer Predator has announced that this year's Dota 2 Asia-Pacific (APAC) Predator League, originally scheduled to take place from February 19-23 in the Philippines, has been postponed due to the ongoing Coronavirus epidemic in the region. Acer Predator announced the postponement in a statement on its official

Facebook page, adding that the event has been tentatively rescheduled for June or July later this year. The tournament's organizer stressed that the decision was made "in the interest of the health and well-being of the tournament's competitors, spectators, and staff during this period." The APAC Predator League featured 12 teams from all over Southeast Asia, with 11

qualifying from different countries in the region while its top team, TNC Predator, was given a direct invite. The Coronavirus outbreak has also affected the Dota Pro Circuit, as it has caused the Chinese qualifiers for the ESL One Los Angeles Major to be postponed. As many as 28 countries have been affected by the ongoing coronavirus epidemic, including the Philippines, the host country for this year's APAC Predator League, as reported by *onesports*. The first death from coronavirus outside of China - where

the epicenter of the epidemic in the city of Wuhan is located - occurred in the Philippines on February 2, as reported by *CNN*. The ongoing epidemic has severely affected a growing number of other esports leagues and tournaments set in the APAC region, such as the League of Legends leagues in China and South Korea, and the Chinese home-stands for the Overwatch League, to name a few. Meanwhile, a number of companies have provided technological support to doctors, nurses, and others on the front lines. China Mobile, China Telecom,

China Unicom, and Huawei have all provided 5G equipment and services to the newly constructed Huoshenshan Hospital in Wuhan. Lenovo also donated equipment, and Alibaba has said it will provide public research institutions free access to all AI capabilities needed for the development of vaccines and new drugs. The cybersecurity company Qi Anxin is providing free services to government departments, medical and disease control centers, media, and other organizations involved in the prevention and control of the outbreak. — Agencies

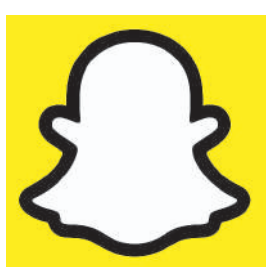


Hacker gets \$30K from FB over flaw

Hacking may not be as bad as it looks as there are different types of hackers — the black hat guys and the white hat guys. Both possess the same skills and tools but the latter use it ethically. In fact, big companies employ such hackers to find vulnerabilities in their systems. S. Arun Kumar, 20, is one such hacker from Kerala. Arun went through the social media platform to find a bug that leaves a user's account vulnerable to hackers. Arun wrote to Facebook and informed them about the vulnerability. After a fortnight he received a sum of \$10,000 which reached \$30,000 after he reported two more bugs in the platform. Later that year, he was invited by the FB security team in the Silicon Valley to share his insights. He is now among the renowned white hat hackers listed in the Facebook hall of fame. Arun also volunteers as an assistant commander at the Kerala cyber research centre Cyberdome where he helps develop framework to protect online security. Arun started with computers at a young age and has been hunting security bugs on web platforms since 2013.

Snapchat rolls out support for five more Indian languages

Snap, the parent company of photo-sharing app Snapchat, on Thursday rolled out support for five additional Indian languages: Bengali, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu, as reported by *IANS*. Snapchat currently supports Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati and Punjabi, which were introduced last year, bringing the



total to nine, the company said in a statement. Snapchat, which has an average of 218 million daily users, is trying to build a local product for India where Facebook-owned Instagram is quite popular. The average number of Snaps created every day by users has grown to more than 3.5 billion while the average time spent is 30 minutes per day.

Want a good job? Don't express strong views on FB

Applying for a job? Don't express your strong views on potentially controversial topics on social media platforms like Facebook, as researchers have found that job recruiters are less likely to select candidates who appear to be too self-involved or opinionated in their social media posts. The study, published in the *International Journal of Selection and Assessment*, also found that recruiters are less likely to hire employees who post content suggestive of drug or alcohol use. "In 2018, 70 per cent of employers reported looking at social media sites to help them evaluate potential employees, and as many as 60 per cent of candidates were eliminated on the basis of negative content," said study researchers Michael Tews from Pennsylvania State University in US, who cited a recent report by *CareerBuilder*. "It's important for job candidates to be aware of how they portray themselves in social media," Tews added, said *IANS*. The researchers noted that little is known about how much weight hiring managers give to potentially negative social media content. Therefore, the research team investigated the effects of three potentially negative topics — self-absorption, opinionatedness and alcohol and drug use — on hiring managers' decision making.

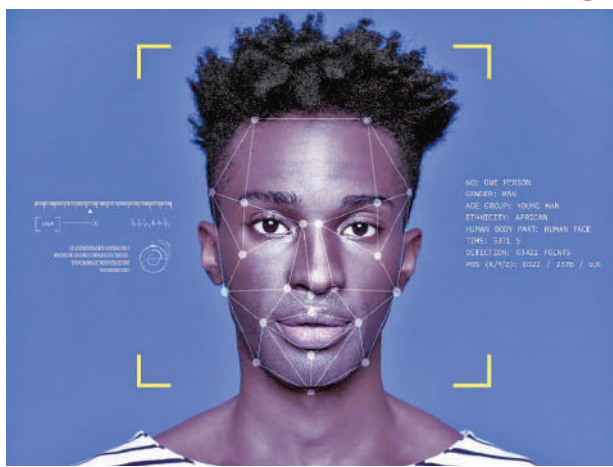


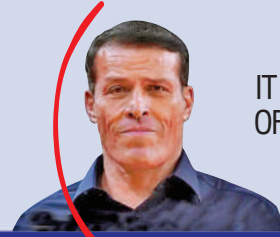
Firm with facial recognition tech slammed by Google, FB

Google, YouTube and Facebook have sent a cease-and-desist letters to Clearview AI, the facial recognition company that has been scraping billions of photos off the internet and using it to help more than 600 police departments identify people within seconds.

That follows a similar action by Twitter, which sent Clearview AI a cease-and-desist letter for its data scraping in January. The letter from Google-owned YouTube was first seen by *CBS News*. (Note: *CBS News* and *CNET* share the same parent company, ViacomCBS.) The CEO of Clearview AI, a controversial and

secretive facial recognition startup, is defending his company's massive database of searchable faces, saying in an interview on *CBS* last week that it's his First Amendment right to collect public photos. He also has compared the practices to what Google does with its search engine, as reported by *CNet*.





IT IS IN YOUR MOMENTS OF DECISION THAT YOUR DESTINY IS SHAPED
— TONY ROBBINS



YOUR WEEK AHEAD



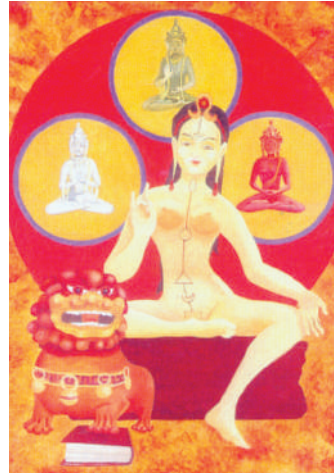
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

You will have reasons to feel good and enjoy life. A sense of contentment with the material and spiritual world will make you feel enthusiastic about life. You will be full of energy and enjoy good health. Move to a new house, cooperation from the young ones or support and encouragement from the spouse is indicated. The environment at workplace will be healthy. A colleague or a close friend may need your attention. By the end of the week, you may reflect over your accomplishments and bring about some improvements in your schedule. Some of you may travel long distance, could be to foreign land. Singles, you need to be clear about what you want from a relationship before you decide upon going ahead with it.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Your search for a mentor, who will open the pathways to wisdom and insight will come to an end. This person will provide you with all the comfort and help that you require. You will put your family in focus more than usual, as conditions all around may not be the best. Trust yourself and follow the tradition. The dreams of the past will sink in and new ones will arise. Stay calm and quiet. Allow things to take their own course without intervention or control. You may change your residence or start a journey to distant lands. Help from a male friend or relative is indicated. You will experience high energy and vitality in your daily life. Religion and traditions will become a priority and enlighten you spiritually. Those related to travel and tourism sector will have reasons to smile.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Tuesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

You will experience immense energy and vitality this week. You are likely to engage in sports/adventure activities, spas and sauna baths. Make sure to stick to your health regime via a vis diet, exercise, and vitamins/minerals intake. You may take a short break. On the career front, frequent travels are indicated that will open great avenues for your professional growth. To those appearing for an interview or a competitive exam, stars are favourable. Patience and persistence will help resolve business-related issues. You are likely to face some challenges in terms of a relationship. Accusations and misunderstandings between married couples are indicated. For singles, this is not the right time to get into a relationship.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you will be in a state of confusion. You are likely to have a tough time finding a solution to an unexpected problem. Your mind will be ruled by two most powerful emotions — apprehension and fear and this will not allow you to sleep at night. This could be a challenging situation for everyone in the family. On the career front, work load will keep you stressed and bring out aggression in you. It is very important to take time off and spend it with friends and family. Delegate your duties and try to balance between work and emotions, this is the best way to bust stress. As the week comes to an end, you will gain enough confidence and control over the situation. Couples may plan a movie outing or a picnic for relaxation and better bonding.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Tuesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you will enjoy good family life and experience happiness. Beginning of a happy relationship is on the cards. The children in the family will bring joy. You will feel optimistic throughout the week. On the career front, a tough decision in your work area will demand your attention. You are bound to follow the company's system and discipline. By the end of the week, you must balance work and pleasure. Your passion, greed and desires will rise high, making you just about lazy. There are chances of last-minute changes and as long as you are not caught off guard, you can handle everything. Opportunities to make quick money are indicated. It is likely that you may have some misunderstanding with the elders. Make effort to keep away from conflicts.

Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Wednesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week your health is good, you will be emotionally balanced and in control. Treat your mind and body with care and compassion. At work front, things are good. Empathise with your colleagues and understand their point of view. This will bring positivity to your work environment. Role of a senior woman is indicated, taking her help or advice will be beneficial in your project. Those awaiting interview results, good news is indicated. Your love life is in a very good phase. You and your partner are serious about the relationship and have a caring and a protective feeling for each other. Ensure you take some quality time out of your work and spend it with your partner. Single, there is a chance of new love coming your way.

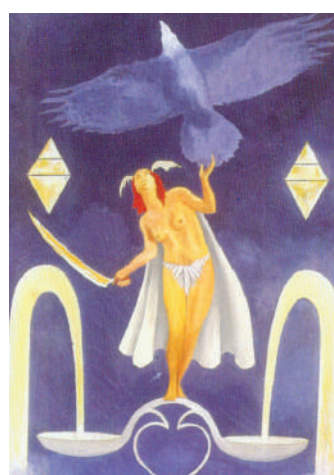
Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Genius and creativity will be your forte this week. You will find yourself multi-tasking on several occasions. You are versatile and your expertise will be acknowledged by others. You may have to take important decisions related to your professional and personal life. This will infuse fresh energy in you and you will be able to handle several issues with ease. This is the right time to invest money in business expansion. Money will not be a limitation for you. Mid-week, a new job opportunity will come your way. You will have a tempting offer with a higher salary and perks. By the end of the week, you will be running high on emotions, making you almost a home bird. It is recommended that you spend time in artistic pursuits.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Friday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week you will be strong-minded to follow the resolutions related to your health. A healthy diet, exercise, adequate rest and spirituality are on your checklist. Your adventurous spirit will keep you motivated. Creative pursuits will be satisfying. You are likely to step out of your comfort zone. In terms of your career, you may face issues related to equality and justice. You will be held accountable for your choices. If everything proceeds with fairness and integrity, the outcome should be positive. It would be in your best interest to look at things from other's point of view as well. Relations are demanding and need your time and attention. You have to maintain a balance between work and relationship. Married couples may face conflicts over financial matters.

Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You will feel an upswing in your energy and vitality. Those facing health issues need to relax, a new and improvised mode of healing or a healer will come into your life. Maintain a positive attitude and help will be available if you seek it. At work, you need to control your over-ambitious nature or you may find yourself in a conflict. It is important that you respect the feeling of your colleagues. Be careful of whom you trust. Betrayal by a colleague or a business partner is indicated. In relationship, you underestimate yourself. You may feel insecure and even question your partner's feelings towards you. It is recommended that you draw from your inner strength and reconnect with it. Believe in yourself and things will be back on the track.

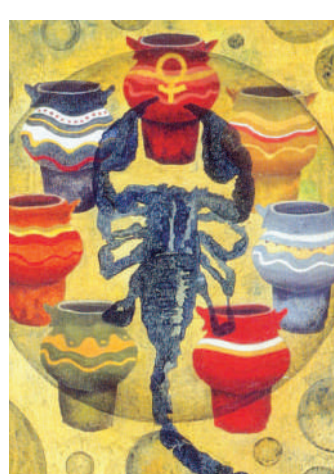
Lucky number 6
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Sentiments and emotions will rule your heart and mind this week. You will find yourself caught in dilemma and contradictory situations, not knowing whether to trust your mind or emotions. You are likely to help or make amends with your family. Irrespective of negotiations, you must try and strike a balance. You will feel the need to spend time alone to re-evaluate your life and situation — the four-fold process that you are experiencing on all four levels of consciousness, that is, mental, emotional, spiritual and physical. Surrender yourself to the higher wisdom to conquer material temptation. Giving up something to gain something better is indicated. Your patience and endurance will be put to test.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Wednesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You will feel the healing and rejuvenating energy around you this week. The purity of energy will enhance your creativity. Positive thought will come easily to you. Ensure that you continue with your health regime. Those facing health issues are likely to recover. Stay in touch with your doctor and seek his consultation timely. Career-wise, you are creative, original, and free from restrictions imposed by ideas and criticism. How you speak your mind is as important as what you say. For some of you, promotion, salary hike or desired transfer is foreseen. In relationship, you are making a lot of effort. Be clear about your boundaries and preferences, and be honest with yourself about the possibilities. Whatever the final decision, stick to it.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Constant worry about health will keep you in stress. It is important that you treat yourself well. Ensure you have adequate sleep, proper food and an ample amount of water intake. Maintain a positive attitude. Do breathing exercises and meditate to keep your mind calm. At work, situations are not exactly favourable. You might face challenges. Do not hesitate to ask for help from those you trust. Believe in miracles. Focus on your work and do your bit, the situation will improve. Those in a relationship will face conflicts with their partner. Others' views on your love life may cause tension and worry in the relationship. In such a case, be open to what comes your way and opt for a solution that is agreeable to you and your partner and works best for your relationship.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Blue
Lucky day Thursday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Astrology and destiny indications

A professor of Philosophy came the other day looking for what lies in store of his habitually errant daughter's destiny. In his opening statement he said: "My teenaged daughter is erratic, haughty, and impulsive, and could offend anybody with her caustic remarks. She is in the habit of rebuking all socially accepted norms. Her behaviour is causing us worry. Sir, on the advice of a friend who has been following your column for a long time, we are reaching out to you to seek answers to our questions."

"However, before a reading of her horoscope, I request you to please dispel my doubts over the efficacy of astrology. How can planets' gravitation pull, so distant from earth, affect our lives, and that too reflecting varied ways on different people. How can imaginary division of zodiac influence our life pattern? In a world, subject to continued change every moment, how can a being's destiny be defined in finite terms? And if the whole course of life is bound by a predefined trajectory, what then would be left in the hands of a human being? Is it possible to change one's attitude through conscious efforts?" he asked

Well, the planets are not to be seen

just as physical objects moving in the cosmos influencing us with their gravitational force. It will be worth mentioning here that a planet needs to be seen as an energy ball — as marker of energy stream passing through a particular region with that planet in the centre. A zodiac sign is again marked with a cluster of energy emitting stars grouped in a particular formation. And the energy streams marked with a particular planet or a zodiac sign would vary from those identified with other planets.

Having exposure to various disciplines of Indian philosophy, you would know that energy streams excited from the primordial source, following a course of progressive evolution, eventually manifested into a world of name and forms. So, all form existences in the world are rooted to the energy orchestra of the cosmos, all sourced to a singularity — the primal source.

Here again, it has been scientifically established that energy particles emerging from a common source are in immediate and intimate connect with the rest. So, looked at in energy frame, the whole world is framed as a unified organism. This fact of life has been highlighted in



the *Kathopanishad* through the metaphor of inverted *Ashvata* tree standing for the whole world. Here I quote the observations of an Australian physicist Paul Davies: "For a naive, the world is a collection of objects. For a quantum physicist, this world is an inseparable web of energy patterns, where no individual component has a reality independent of the entirety, included in that entirety is the observer."

It, thus, comes out that any change at one end of the cosmos, its reverberations would get carried over far and wide. And we know that all energy balls in the cosmos are ever on their move. Seen with reference to earth, which is moving at a great speed, almost 30 km per second, the energy flux excited in the cosmos, would vary widely every moment. Being a part of the larger world, we can't evade the influence of that continual cosmic change.

Efficacy of astrology is thus established, as it is premised on energy mapping of the cosmos at the time of one's birth. That reflects upon the basic frame of mind one is born with, which throws light on the probable trends of life. That, however, is subject to three variables — *Kaala*, *Patra* and *Samaya*.

Kaala speaks of the overall environ-

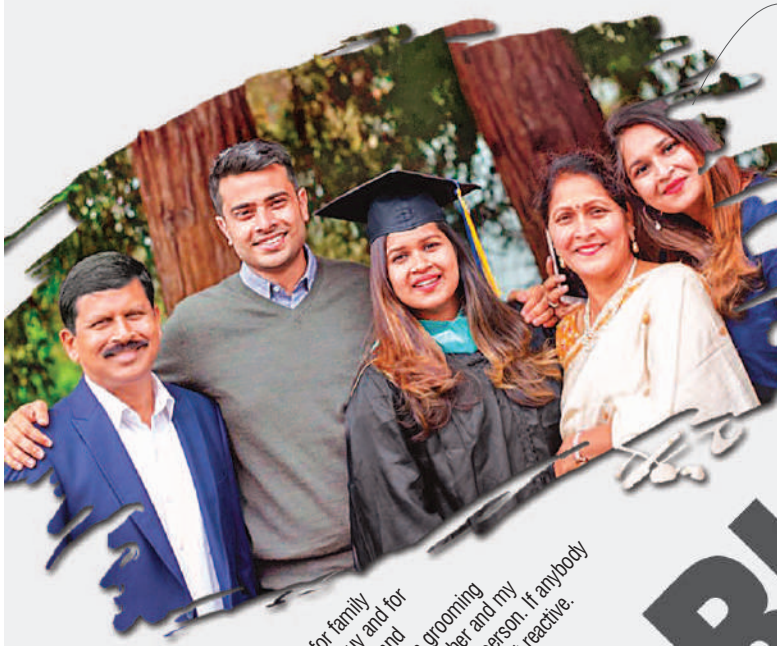
mental condition. *Patra* reflects upon the personality trends with all the changes that it would have undergone so far. *Samaya* here stands for probable destiny indication. So, a being is not fully bound by destiny indicators. But how we respond to energy changes in the cosmos, depends on us. This is where the power of freewill comes into play, and which applied rightfully, can help bring about the desired change through conscious efforts.

To sum up, astrology allows enough of scope to change the course of destiny. Remember, energy serves as a double-edged weapon — if used rightfully, it can be productive, and when misused may turn self-defeating. All that is needed is to exercise one's power of freewill to self-reflect upon one's own inherent trends, identify and acknowledge the fault lines. Having known thus, one could make conscientious choice to make amends with the help of educative inputs.

The discussion continues...

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(Left to right) Ram Reddy with son-in-law Chaitanya, daughter manasa, wife Sarala and daughter Meghana

Family comes first
My family is always my priority. Sundays are for family, unless there is an emergency. I am not a party guy, and for me, it's only family. Any vacation is with the family and everything linked to the family. We go to movies and children there were no restrictions. I was a disciplined father and my children never crossed any boundaries. I am an emotional person, if anybody talks anything negative about my company and my family, I get reactive.

BUILDING BLOCKS STEP BY STEP

From being unable to clear Maths in Class X to aspiring to own a Rs 5,000 crore company, CREDAI Telangana Chairman G Ram Reddy tells **THE PIONEER** how he used ropes to raze a theatre to building a world-class TATA Boeing facility in a candid conversation with **Naveena Ghanate**

Failed 10th
I come from a middle-class farming family from Chityal in Nalgonda district. Youngest among five sisters and two brothers, I studied in a Telugu medium government school at Ramannapet up to Class IX. Till Class IX, I used to top my class. Just before Class X, we shifted to Suryapet and the new place resulted in me losing focus. I failed in two subjects in Class X — Social studies and Mathematics. I wrote the supplementary exams and failed to clear the Maths paper again, but after things

settled, I was back among the toppers, and cleared the paper. This failure had a positive effect on me; I was now interested in Maths.

'Compartment'
I appeared for airman selections By Air Force Academy. I couldn't make it since my foot couldn't create an arch as I am flatfooted. Had I been selected, I would have been airman. I learnt lot from my failures. I was supposed to apply for MPC in Rammanapet. My peers used to call me

forehead. I went to a doctor and got it sutured. People were shocked that at my age, I didn't cry but went to a doctor by myself.

People were scared of dad
My father late Buchi Reddy was a sarpanch level leader and farmer. People used to come to him if they had any disputes and he was well-known in our village. My mother, Damayanthi, is 93 years old now. While everyone was scared of my father because of his size, I wasn't. I was never afraid of anyone and was always bold.

Reluctant to take govt job
After engineering, I went to Errum Manzil for a R&B interview, but never completed the process. I was reluctant to take up government job as engineers were infamous for corruption. I didn't want to go in that direction. Today, I am giving this interview because I didn't attend that interview. Some of my friends are still executive engineers.

Used ropes to raze a theatre
After engineering, I joined BNR Dev-

elder one, is a lawyer and is married to Chaitanya. She studied in Cornell University and UC Berkley. She is working in Facebook now. It was a proud moment she was named the convocation speaker at Cornell and her arangetram at Ravindra Bharati in 2004. My younger daughter is Meghana, an architect. She did her masters in the US in Real Estate Development and she is now the CEO of our company. She got married to Pranay in January.

Contractor troubles
In 1995 I was bidding for a contract for Singur dam works in Nizamabad. The other contractors formed a cartel and threatened me to withdraw. I did not yield to their threats and bagged the contract and executed it perfectly. In 30-plus years of being a contractor, I have faced many challenges. Every project is challenge.

Tata of Hyderabad
Recently we executed a project for TATA-Boeing at Adibatla. We started with one project and they gave us other projects. It is proud moment for me to get a picture with a legend like Ratan Tata. Ours is not a big company but it is a true value company.

Recently, a senior IAS officer introduced me to someone saying 'He is the TATA of Hyderabad'. I said that I am very small developer. He said, 'I have been seeing you for 20-plus year and you are a Tata in values'. In the past three decades, my journey was just smooth normal ride with all referral projects. I never really approached anyone seeking work; most of the projects I have done have been referred. Be it a project for Pallela Gopichand Academy or Vasavi Engineering

College or TATA-Boeing, they were all referrals.

Failed after 30 years
During the past 30 years, I never encountered failure, but in my 30th year, I failed. It was simple structure supposed to be completed in 18 months. I thought I could do it in 15 months but even in 24 months, I couldn't. Out of four buildings, I could complete only two. I changed 10 project managers, 72 staff left the project and we faced every possible hurdle. I faced a huge loss in that project. I got the answer for my failure in Bhagvad Gita. It says for any success we need five things -- place, person who drives, equipment, efforts and fifth and biggest thing is Daivya (god's blessing). I realized that there was no unknown force behind me as we had all four things. We did all rituals and prayers and we still failed. The contract was terminated and I lost substantial amount of money.

When I had to give referrals for Pallela Gopichand Academy, I cited my failed project, that's the confidence level I had. I am not religious person, but now I look at Bhagvad Gita as encyclopedia. I started looking at it only after my failure.

Dream of Rs 5,000cr company
Now my target is to bid for a project that is being bid by major companies. I want to compete with them and succeed. We have announced that we will be a Rs 5,000 crore company by 2030.

Our company is not even worth Rs 100 crore now. That is the challenge that I have set myself and I want to do it. Another challenge I have set myself is running a Marathon. In August 2019, I participated in 21K Run and I was practicing on the Juhu Beach. I hurt my ankle and everyone tried to stop me from participating.

My target was to qualify for full marathon and finish it in 3 hours 15 min. I have run from People's Plaza to Gachibowli Stadium in 3 hours 7 minutes. After completing the run, I couldn't move. An X-ray revealed a fracture. After a month of physiotherapy, I ran a half-marathon again.

ARK Foundation
I never give donations to political parties. I run ARK Foundation wherein we support education. It was started about eight years ago. The foundation supports anyone who has cleared Class X and has got 9+ GPA. So far, we have supported over 200 students. On an average, 25 students approach us every year for support; this year we got over 100 applications.



Love and marriage
My wife Sarala is my support system. She never says no to anything. I focus on business and she on family. My wife now takes care of our farmland near Chityala. She is the sister of my brother's wife. She was studying graduation and I was pursuing engineering in Bengaluru and she was the one who proposed. My family initially was reluctant, but I was firm. They wanted us to get married in a temple but I was like 'nothing doing' and we had a proper arranged marriage in December 1988.

'compartment' because I had failed to clear Class X in the first attempt. I took up CEC and about a month later, I got the opportunity to change branches and I shifted to MPC. I was topper in Intermediate. From failing in Class X to topping Intermediate, it was a turning point in my education.

In those days, the qualification criteria for engineering was clearing English exam. That meant that you had to clear the English test. I couldn't do that. I joined the Islamiah Institute of Technology a private college in Bengaluru in the civil engineering because it was top stream at that time. I did reasonably well there.

Injured, I walked to a doctor
My sisters used to pamper me a lot, but I was quite a disciplined child. I was also a good swimmer. One day, I and my friend bet on who would swim the farthest. I swam to other end of the open well and when I came out of the water, there was a cut on my

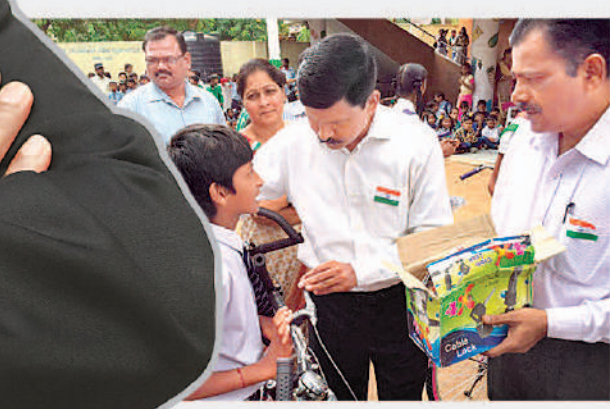
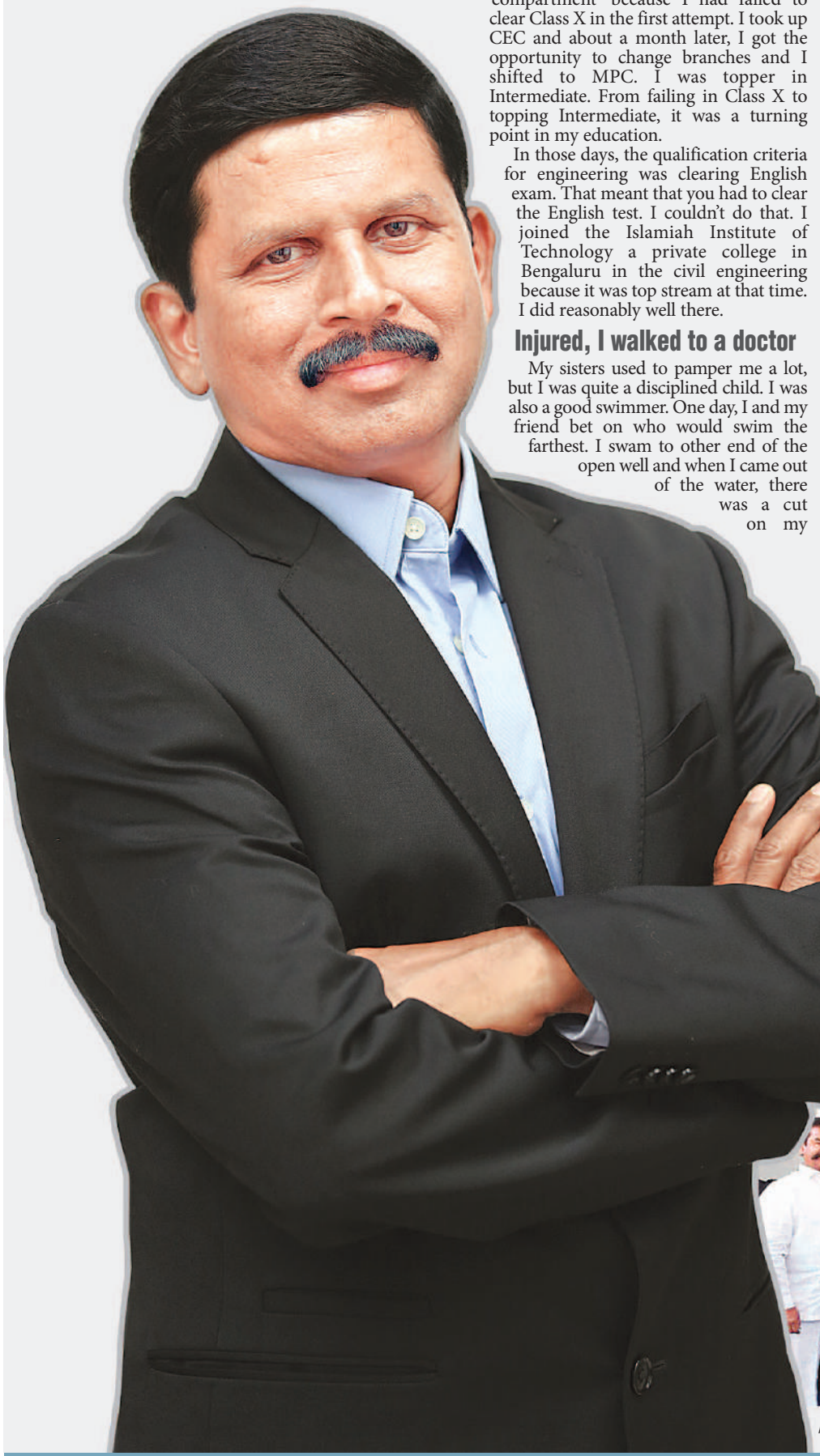
elopers Pvt. Ltd. in 1986 where we constructed independent houses, and after nine months, joined Amrutha Estates. They assigned me the task of demolishing the Prabha theaters at Kacheguda. There I executed the task beyond their expectations. They expected that I would utilise cranes, but we razed the structure using ropes. My bosses recognised the fire in me and transferred me to Amrutha Hills, Panjagutta. Till that time, I had never seen a foundation being laid, or reinforcement being place. I didn't have experience, but within 3 months, I was made in-charge. I was so involved in the work that I feel that any column you touch will speak about me. I got the highest increment paid to any employee in Amrutha Estates at that point of time.

First businessman in family
My wife backed my idea of bagging contracts, but some of my friends were skeptical. I was the first businessman from family. There was no discussion on changing my profession and I had no godfather or mentor. ARK was started Anji Reddy, Ram Reddy and Kiran. Anji Reddy was a labour contractor and Kiran was my roommate in Bengaluru. We decided to go ahead with contracts and I was the frontrunner. Later Kiran shifted to Bengaluru and Anji Reddy also left.

Daughters made me proud
I have two daughters —Manasa, the



With daughter Meghana



Giving cycles to students from ARK Foundation



At Boeing facility inaugural in Adibatla, along with Ratan Tata and KTR



With wife Sarala

QUICK BYTES

LANGUAGES YOU CAN SPEAK:
English, Hindi, Telugu, Kannada and bit of Tamil

FAVOURITE COLOUR:
White

FAVOURITE MOVIE:
AA Naluguru

FAVOURITE ACTOR:
Those days NTR and later Chiranjeevi

FAVOURITE SINGER:
Ghantasala

SPORTS:
I used to play cricket, now I do Yoga

WHAT MAKES YOU SAD –
anything bothering my family and unhappy customers

ONE SUPERPOWER:
I would spread more positivity to see happiness in people

FAVOURITE HOLIDAY:
Hawaii was great experience. Yet to go to Kashmir.

FAVOURITE FOOD:
Anything my wife cooks. About 26 years ago I became vegetarian by choice

FAVOURITE SPORTSPERSON:
Sachin Tendulkar

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS:
Simple, modest and trustworthy