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Getting people to go oh Baby!

12

AYUSHMANN KHURRANA'S GAY ROM-COM: TRUMP SAYS 'GREAT'

US President Donald Trump got into the mood on Friday ahead of his upcoming India trip by issuing a surprising thumbs-up for Bollywood's newly released gay rom-com movie. "Great!" the US president wrote as he retweeted gay rights activist Peter Tatchell's own expression of support for the movie "Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan". Released on Friday, "Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan" stars actor Ayushmann Khurrana as a young man bucking social disapproval to be with his beloved -- another man. Trump is not a regular advocate of gay rights, while some of his more right-wing supporters actively oppose them.



GSI: NO DISCOVERY OF AROUND 3000-TONNE GOLD DEPOSITS IN UP

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) on Saturday said there has been no discovery of gold deposits estimated to be around 3,000 tonnes in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh, as claimed by a district mining official. "Such data was not given by anybody from GSI... GSI has not estimated such kind of vast resource of gold deposits in Sonbhadra district," GSI Director General (DG) M Sridhar told PTI in Kolkata. "We share our findings regarding any resources of ore after conducting survey with the state units... We (GSI, Northern Region) carried out work in that region in 1998-99 and 1999-2000."



CONJOINED TWINS VEENA-VANI TO HAVE SEPARATE ANSWER SHEETS

Telangana education department has said that conjoined twins Veena and Vani will be treated as two individuals and both will take separate exams. Initially, district education authorities were unsure whether to consider the girls as one or two individuals when it came to giving them hall tickets for the examination. The twins, who received special tuition, were coached by teachers deputed by the Education Department at the state home in Hyderabad where they currently live. Veena and Vani are children of M Murali and Nagalakshmi from Beerishettygudem of Mahabubabad.



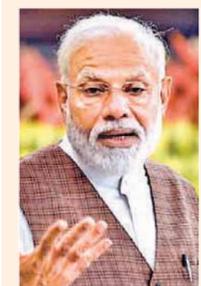
NEW VIRUS HAS INFECTED MORE THAN 77,000 PEOPLE GLOBALLY

A viral outbreak that began in China has infected more than 77,000 people globally. The World Health Organization has named the illness COVID-19, referring to its origin late last year and the coronavirus that causes it. The latest figures reported by each government's health authority as of Saturday in Beijing: Mainland China: 2,345 deaths among 76,288 cases, mostly in the central province of Hubei Hong Kong: 69 cases, 2 deaths Macao: 10 Japan: 739 cases, including 634 from a cruise ship.



'ALL AND SUNDRY'
Owaisi sitting pretty after anti-CAA protests

2



'1.3 bn Indians wholeheartedly welcomed critical verdicts'

5



CEA: India needs pro-biz, not pro-crony policies

6

TODAY

ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Magha & Krishna Paksha
Panchangam:
Tithi: Amavasya: 09:00 pm
Nakshatram: Dhanishtha: 01:43 pm
Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)
Rahukalam: 04:50 pm - 06:16 pm
Yamaganadam: 12:29 pm - 01:56 pm
Varjyam: 09:42 pm - 11:29 pm
Gulika: 03:23 pm - 04:50 pm
Good Time: (to start any important work)
Amritakalam: NIL
Abhijit Muhurtham: 12:06 pm - 12:52 pm

HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Sunny
Temp: 32/17
Humidity: 36%
Sunrise: 06:38
Sunset: 06:20
Current Weather Conditions
Updated February 22, 2019 5:00 PM

JUDICIARY AND THE CHANGING WORLD

Insulate constitutional values from populism: Justice Ramana

'India has contributed to the evolution of jurisprudence in many areas'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Justice N V Ramana, the seniormost judge in the Supreme Court, on Saturday exhorted courts to help prevent populist decisions from affecting constitutional rights and pitting the rights of one group against those of other groups.

Justice Ramana was speaking at the inaugural function of the International Judicial Conference here on the theme 'Judiciary and the Changing World'.

Mentioning that the conference would deliberate upon the important topic of 'Role of the Judiciary against Populism', Justice Ramana observed: "This topic assumes fundamental importance because populist



Justice N V Ramana

decisions affect the constitutional rights, and more often than not, rights of one group are pitted against the rights or interest of other groups. Hence, courts will have to rise to the occasion and guard constitutional values, at the same time balance all constitutional considerations."

Right to privacy include online data: Justice LN Rao

NEW DELHI: The right to privacy, recognised as a fundamental right by the Supreme Court, has evolved to protect not only telephonic conversations but also online data, an apex court judge said on Saturday.

Justice L Nageswara Rao said the evolution of the law assumes importance because it represents the progress of a nation and its social conditions, and that failure to evolve the law in accordance with the changing circumstances often leads to injustice.

"The right to privacy, which



Justice LN Rao

is a topic for panel discussion and which has been recognised as a fundamental right by the Supreme Court, has truly transformed in shape and form in the last 60 years of its existence in Indian law.

Uncertainty over L&T executing 5.5-km Old City Metro stretch

NAVEENA GHANATE ■ HYDERABAD

Although citizens have been requesting the authorities in right earnest to speed up grounding of works relating to the Old City stretch of Hyderabad Metro Rail, there is an air of uncertainty over whether L&T will go ahead with it in the first place. Apparently there is some ambiguity over L&T doing the Old City Metro stretch due to fund crunch, though it is part of Phase I.

When contacted, HMRL



Except for the 5.5-km stretch in the Old City, falling under Corridor II, L & T HMRL has completed works in all the three corridors

MD said, "We are looking at alternative funding options. For Old City Metro, we are seeing different options to ensure that it happens. We have open mind on that. No decision is taken yet. Most probably L&T only will be

doing it, nothing is certain as of now." Except for the 5.5-km stretch in the Old City, falling under Corridor II, L & T HMRL has completed works in all the three corridors.

Shaheen Bagh-like stir not in Hyd: CP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Commissioner of Hyderabad Police Anjani Kumar asserted on Saturday that nothing like Shaheen Bagh protest would be allowed in Hyderabad.

The Commissioner said, "There is no Shaheen Bagh-like incident in Hyderabad. Nowhere. Hyderabad is the best city in India and don't compare it with places where all these negative things are happening. Nothing like Shaheen Bagh will be allowed in Hyderabad. Impossible!"

Police officials said that right to protest was different from the right to continued protest. Anjani said, "It is an appeal to women ... in public place, sitting and causing traf-



Anjani Kumar

fic problem is not nice. Anti-social elements will try to take advantage. Our objective is not to deny permission, but follow due procedures. We will take legal action if common public is put to inconvenience."

Ram temple will be ready within 3.5 yrs

PNS ■ JAIPUR

The proposed Ram temple in Ayodhya will be ready within three or three-and-a-half years after the construction starts, Govind Dev Giri Maharaj, the treasurer of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra trust, said on Saturday.

Giri Maharaj said financial cooperation from all devotees for constructing the temple would be accepted. "The Akshardham Temple was built in three years, the Statue of Unity was constructed within three years, then we are also thinking that in three to three-and-a-half years, the grand temple of Lord Ram will be realised there," Giri Maharaj said at a press conference here.

Centre offers Rs 10 crore to make Hyderabad beggar-free

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Centre has picked Hyderabad to make it a beggar-free city under a pilot project aimed at comprehensive rescue and rehabilitation of persons involved in begging.

R Subramanyam, Secretary, Government of India, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, said on Saturday that the Centre would provide Rs 10 crore for this project to help provide beggars with full-fledged rehabilitation and economic self-reliance. He, along with



Central officials R Subramanyam and Radhika Chakravarthy with TS Principal Secretary Arvind Kumar and Deputy Mayor Fasiuddin at the workshop on Saturday

Radhika Chakravarthy, Joint Secretary, Government of India, and TS Principal Secretary Arvind Kumar, attended a workshop on

'National Campaign for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of People involved in Begging' conducted here on Saturday.

AIMIM leader withdraws 'hate-comments'

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Following a nationwide furore over his "communal hate-speech", All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) ex-legislator of Maharashtra Waris Pathan withdrew his controversial remarks here on Saturday.

"I had no intentions to hurt the sentiments of any community...My remarks were not 'anti-Hindu', I hereby withdraw my statement," Pathan told mediapersons here this evening.

Nationalism misused to construct militant idea of India: Manmohan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Nationalism and the slogan of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' are being misused to construct a "militant and purely emotional" idea of India that excludes millions of residents and citi-

zens, former prime minister Manmohan Singh said on Saturday, in an apparent attack on the BJP.

Addressing a gathering at the launch of a book on Jawaharlal Nehru's works and speeches, Singh said that if

India is recognised in the comity of nations as a vibrant democracy and, if it is considered as one of the important world powers, it was the first prime minister, who should be recognised as its main architect.

Nehru had led this country in its volatile and formative days when it adopted a democratic way of life, accommodating divergent social and political views, Singh said.

Legislators likely to get funds under CDF Scheme

K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD

The state government is likely to earmark money for MLAs and MLCs under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Scheme in the upcoming budget.

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has apparently decided to allocate funds for the CDF Scheme in the budget. He has reportedly directed officials of the Finance Department to factor in the allocation of funds to every MLA and MLC during preparation of budget proposals.

CM has reportedly directed officials of the Finance Department to factor in the allocation of funds to every MLA and MLC during preparation of budget proposals

The state government did not allocate funds for the CDF Scheme in Budget-2019 due to recession and other factors. This time, there could some allocation, though the amount may not be as high as Rs 3 crore for each legislator.

'Football' and 'Biscuit' in Trump's security armour

Football is the ultimate power accessory, a nuclear device with a secret code and alarm

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As India is gearing up to welcome US President Donald Trump who will arrive on his maiden visit on February 24, a high level security apparatus has been put in place.

Trump's security is in the hands of the American Secret Service which is tasked with protecting the US President. In India, the SPG and the NSG will help the secret service agents maintain the security machinery of Trump.

According to reports, secret service agents came to India a month ago, as is the routine. The American agents laid their own communication system through which they will keep track of every development minute by minute. According



to media reports, permission was taken from the Indian authorities to bring the technology and equipment from the US to India. As it landed in India the bar code was scanned at the airport to see that the return from India is as smooth. In the entire security appa-

ratus, the most important components are a 'football' and a 'biscuit'.

The football is a black colour leather briefcase which comes into service when the President leaves America. It is the ultimate power accessory, a doomsday machine that could

The American President's security agents laid their own communication system through which they will keep track of every development minute by minute

destroy the entire world. It is in fact a nuclear device with a secret code and alarm. According to reports, the 'nuclear football' has an antenna protruding from it. The antenna is linked to a satellite phone.

According to Dailymail, the US has been using this nuclear football since 1962.

There are four things in the football and the most important thing is the 'biscuit', a debit card sized piece of plastic containing the codes the US President needs to order the launch of nuclear weapons.

Trump will arrive in Ahmedabad around noon on February 24 for a little less than a 36-hour-long trip to India.

Ajay Tomar, Special police commissioner (crime) of Ahmedabad, said, "Arrangements have been made for traffic management apart from the security. On the 22-km long route of the roadshow, more than 1000 officers and jawans have been deployed. Rehearsals are being held to see that everything goes off smoothly. I don't want to share more details."

'ALL AND SUNDRY'

Owaisi sitting pretty after anti-CAA protests

The agitation against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and other controversies surrounding it have gone so much in favour of Asaduddin Owaisi, president of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), that he could be laughing all the way to his vote bank. If he is sitting pretty today, he must thank the ruling dispensation in Delhi as much as his allies.

His all-weather friend, Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Naidu, has opened the floodgates for opposition to the new legislation while the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has added fuel to the fire by issuing notices to several people in the Old City to produce documents to authenticate their Aadhaar cards.

remains way ahead of other mainstream Muslim politicians in leading the cause to repeal CAA. The ruling party in Telangana, in a bid to keep the State's 12.7 per cent Muslim population on its side, is on the same page. It has decided to introduce a resolution in the Assembly seeking abrogation of the Act as it runs counter to India's secular spirit.

This has added muscle to the campaign by Owaisi who led a massive 'Tiranga' rally in January under the United Muslim Action Committee (UMAC) banner soon after MIM's arch enemy Majlis Bachao Tehreek took out an impressive 'Million March' with the support of Congress, CPI, CPI (M) and the controversy-mired Popular Front of India.

The TRS had ruffled MIM's feathers earlier when it backed scrapping of Article 370 and abstained from voting on the

An articulate leader, Asaduddin Owaisi remains way ahead of other mainstream Muslim politicians in leading the cause to repeal CAA. The ruling party in Telangana, in a bid to keep the State's 12.7 per cent Muslim population on its side, is on the same page

triple talaq bill. However, when it came to citizenship bill, the party vehemently opposed it in both Houses, though less dramatically than Owaisi who tore the bill with a flourish in the Lok Sabha.

Despite his toxic speeches decrying the injustices done to minorities in India, Owaisi has rarely crossed the Rubicon of his party's professed secularism in contrast to his younger sibling Akbaruddin whose infamous, rabble-rousing 15-minute threat speech against Hindus in 2013 landed him in legal trouble and

revived dark memories of MIM's pre-independence avataar.

However, a party's ex-MLA, Waris Pathan remarked in the senior Owaisi's presence at a rally in Karnataka on how 15 crore people belonging to a section could dominate 100 crore people, an unsaid reference to Muslims and Hindus respectively, while a girl shouted pro-Pakistan slogans from the same dais. Such embarrassments, if indeed they are, remain a small blip on MIM's political radar. The party's footprint is rapidly



S NAGESH KUMAR
Former Resident Editor,
The Hindu

expanding beyond the Old City. It has now two MPs, seven MLAs, and significant strength in Aurangabad and Hyderabad municipal corporations and will find fresh pastures after CAA.

UIDAI's notices to 87 Old City residents are clearly ill-timed and have given anti-CAA protestors and parties like

MIM a handle. Worse still, they have bolstered fears among large sections of Muslims that CAA was aimed at depriving them of citizenship, in spite of innumerable claims to the contrary by the Prime Minister and the Home Minister.

If the alleged discrepancies in a 13-year-old Aadhaar card could become a tool for UIDAI to seek proof of citizenship from Mohd. Sattar Khan, a resident of Bhavani Nagar Talab Katta, what would a 'mysterious' entity like the CAA do. Asaduddin Owaisi was not off the mark while accusing the UIDAI of abusing power by turning it into a case of citizen verification.

The flip side of the argument is expressed by BJP leaders who say that thousands of Rohingyas and Bangladeshis are illegally staying in Hyderabad, while the number of Pakistanis who

have merged into the Old City's population by overstaying their visas is unknown. Is the UIDAI, therefore, unjustified in weeding out Aadhaar cards of persons whose addresses do not exist and of those who provided false information?

If the opposition parties, including MIM, get traction in Shaheen Bagh, Lucknow's Clock Tower or elsewhere, it can be attributed to the government's failure to anticipate such widespread opposition to the Bill. Giving piecemeal clarifications after several parts of the country were rocked by protests is different from gauging the likely repercussions and holding talks with the Opposition. Defiant statements that there will be no going back on CAA or claims that there are no linkages between CAA, National Population Register (NPR) and National Register of

Citizens (NRC) are unhelpful and lack credibility.

Section 14 (a) of CAA, for example, enjoins upon the Centre to issue a national ID card to every citizen and to maintain a National Register of Indian Citizens. Home Minister Amit Shah even announced in Parliament that a nationwide registry of citizens was on the agenda. Besides, the Home Ministry in November 2014 categorically stated that "the NPR is the first step towards creation of NRC by verifying the citizenship status of every usual resident".

It is nobody's case to scrap CAA, NPR, or NRC on which it backed down later for the simple reason that they existed earlier. What is needed is accommodation by Government on contentious aspects of CAA to allay people's fears and see that fissiparous forces don't get political legitimacy.

'CROP DIVERSIFICATION NEED OF THE HOUR'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Farmers need to diversify to others allied sectors like dairy and poultry to make agriculture more sustainable, said Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu. He was speaking at the second edition of Agritech South, jointly organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry and Prof Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University here on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, Venkaiah Naidu said, "Agriculture as a profession is becoming non sustainable and there is a need to make it more attractive and sustainable. There is a need for crop diversification and adding value by food processing. Farmers should diversify to others allied sectors like dairy and poultry to make agriculture more sustainable. Sericulture, horticulture and fish/ prawn culture is in great demand and farmers should venture into them along with agriculture."

The Vice President also urged the students and research community to spend half of their time on the field with the farmers to gain practical exposure and knowledge. Farmer is the best teacher on



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu at Prof Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University here on Saturday

Farmers should diversify to others allied sectors like dairy and poultry to make agriculture more sustainable. Sericulture, horticulture and fish/ prawn culture is in great demand and farmers should venture into them along with agriculture

—VENKAIAH NAIDU, Vice President

agriculture, he said. Applauding the Government of Telangana for the major irrigation projects in the State, Venkaiah Naidu stressed on the need to preserve and conserve traditional water bodies.

Telangana Agriculture Minister Niranjana Reddy, in his address termed agriculture and

allied sectors as the backbone of the country. "Telangana has a farmer friendly government. The TRS government has brought several farmer-friendly schemes such as Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bhima, 24X7 power supply and others for the welfare of farming community," he said.

Stating that despite the doubling of per hectare yield in the recent years, several factors have contributed to the depleting farmers' income. Dr V Praveen Rao, Vice Chancellor of Prof Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University mentioned that the varsity has been able to do some impactful research. "The research priorities of the university have been realigned to meet the changing needs of the state. The University has also mapped 133 varieties of crops with a target to double farmers' income," he said.

Earlier, CII Telangana chairman D Raju mentioned that the conference and exhibition would help in bridging the gap between the agricultural research & farmers through the dissemination of the research & latest agri technology & methods to the farmers.

Several farmers, university officers, large number of students, agriculture faculty and scientists attended the three-day event aimed to create business opportunities to the technology holders and also introduce practical learning to the technology users and farmers, with special focus on farmer-expert interface.

DCCB notifies election schedule

PNS ■ WARANGAL

The district election officer on Saturday issued election notification for DCCB elections in Warangal. According to the notification, a total of 20 directors would be elected for the D C C B Warangal unit from the PACS chairpersons spread across the erstwhile Warangal district.



The chairpersons of Warangal Urban, Warangal Rural, Mahbubabad, Jangaon, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu and part of Siddipet districts would be the eligible voters in the district election for which a secret ballot system would be adopted.

Sixteen directors of the PACS, FSCS and LSCS societies would be elected for the eligible director posts. Among those sixteen director posts, three have been reserved for SCs, one for ST and 2 for BCs. Apart from these four directors representing employees cooperative societies, Fishermen cooperative societies, LCCS and PWCS would be elected in the B class category societies. Nominations for the director posts would be filed on or before February 25 in the district bank, officials said.

CMS-COP13

Nehru Zoo's mouse deer breeding draws praise

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

The conservation breeding programme of Mouse Deer at Nehru Zoological Park won lot of appreciation and accolades from delegates across the world at the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS-COP13), which came to a close on Saturday.

As an environmental treaty of the United Nations, CMS provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats. CMS brings together the States through which migratory animals pass, the Range States, and lays the legal foundation for internationally coordinated conservation measures throughout a migratory range.

The Telangana Forest Department participated in the CMS-COP13 exhibition, wherein the success story of Mouse Deer conservation breeding and reintroduction



R Shobha, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and others at the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals in Gujarat on Saturday

programme at Nehru Zoological Park, Long-Billed Vulture conservation in Kumaram Bheem Asifabad district, conservation at Manjeera Wildlife Sanctuary and Biodiversity of Telangana by Telangana State Biodiversity Board were displayed.

Union Minister for Environment Prakash Javadekar, Chief Minister of Gujarat Vijay Rupani heads of different national and international organisations visited the Telangana stall.

Additionally, the success

story of Mouse Deer conservation breeding and reintroduction in wild was presented by Dr Sidhanand Kukrety, Director, Nehru Zoological Park in a side event organised by Central Zoo Authority. One of the most successful breeding programmes among 73 others, the conservation breeding programme of Mouse Deer at Nehru Zoological Park won accolades from delegates. R Shobha, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and others participated in the CMS-COP13.

Shaheen Bagh-like stir not in Hyderabad, says CP

Continued from Page 1

During such protests at other places in the country, there have been burning of vehicles, firing, people sitting for a month on dharna, but in Hyderabad such things are not happening, he said. It is only because Hyderabad Police are concerned about safety, security and comfort of common public, he said. "...At every place if you want to sit on dharna then it will cause inconvenience to common public and hence we have taken legal action and

booked cases pertaining to some places where the protests were held," he said. Meanwhile, reacting on the news article published in *Enadu* on TS police, Hyderabad CP Anjani Kumar said that the allegations of politicians' involvement in the recruitment of police officers are untrue. "The Police Department is working in most transparent manner in the state. The police system is constantly working to protect the peace in the state," he said, adding that such news is damaging the police morale.

AIMIM leader withdraws...

Continued from Page 1

He added that attempts were being made to portray him as "anti-national", but he clarified that his remarks were not intended to create any kind of discord among people or communities.

A huge political storm erupted after Pathan addressed an anti-CAA protest in Kalburgi (Gulbarga) in Karnataka on February 15 and said that "15-crore (Muslims) will prove stronger than the 100-crore majority (Hindus)."

Uncertainty over L&T executing...

Continued from Page 1

This financial issue was reportedly taken to the notice of Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Naidu, who instructed Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited to find ways of completing the Old City Metro.

According to sources, there has been time overrun and cost overrun for the concessionaire as they have invested heavily in stations and not focused on real estate through

property development. Apparently, there was an increase in the interest component running to a couple of hundred crores yearly and L&T apparently needs assistance to pump in additional money.

For the time being, citizens should feel happy with the feeder services provided from MGBS Metro station to other parts of Old City.

Officials hope that this in itself will initially take care of public transport needs.

Nationalism misused to...

Continued from Page 1

India's first prime minister, who was very proud of Indian heritage, assimilated it, and harmonised them into the needs of a new modern India, he said.

"With an inimitable style, and a multi-linguist, Nehru laid the foundation of the universities, academies and cultural institutions of Modern India. But for Nehru's leadership, independent India would not have become what it is today," Singh said.

The book 'Who is Bharat Mata' by Purushottam Agrawal and Radha Krishna, contains selections from Nehru's classic books.

Centre offers Rs 10 crore to make...

Continued from Page 1

Radhika said that a strategy had been formulated at the national level following discussions with social activists, academicians, NGOs and other stakeholders involved in the rehabilitation of beggars. As a result, 10 cities across the country, including Hyderabad, had been identified for piloting the project. Subramanyam said: "The success of Hyderabad city in implementing 2BHK, Annapurna canteens schemes has resulted in the Government of India choosing this city for the pilot project towards comprehensive rescue and rehabilitation of the persons involved in begging."

He urged officials and stakeholders to prepare a city action plan, which should be implemented from April 2020. He said, "Moving away from crime and pity, involving community into the forefront, providing shelter to the homeless, access to medical services and providing sustainable livelihoods to the beggars should be discussed and deliberated in the workshop." Meanwhile, some speakers at the workshop expressed their views that the problem of beggary was a major concern warranting urgent attention and interven-

tion in view of the increasing numbers, especially of children and women. It was felt that regular convergence and coordination committee meetings should be conducted and beggary regulations enforced strictly. Radhika said, "The city action plan should include survey and identification of beggars, mobilization, setting up of shelter homes and comprehensive resettlement, which should also include providing health care, education to the children and skill development training to take up economic activity." Deputy Mayor Fasiuddin, while expressing concern over the problem of begging in the cities, pointed out that 150 Annapurna centres across the city had been providing meals at Rs 5 daily. In his inaugural remarks, Arvind Kumar assured that the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation would cooperate with the Government of India and wholeheartedly support the programme. He said, "The problem of begging is a crucial problem, but very often neglected. Thinking it as an eyesore is not the solution."

He urged various stakeholders to suggest viable economic options to be taken up for uplifting the persons involved in begging.

HYDERABAD BULLION RATES	
GOLD	₹ 42,150 (10 gm)
	₹ 300
SILVER	₹ 48,300 (10 gm)
	₹ 0
CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹97
Without Skin	₹111
Broiler at Farm	₹67
EGG RATES ₹/100	
HYDERABAD	340
VIJAYAWADA	355
VISAKHAPATNAM	375
RETAIL PRICE	₹3.40

Legislators likely to get funds...

Continued from Page 1

Many MLAs and MLCs had given up hopes on fund allocation under CDF Scheme, considering that the state has been reeling under financial crunch occasioned largely by recession. However, sources suggested that the CM would "surprise" the MLAs and MLCs by allocating funds in Budget-2020 for the CDF Scheme. The Telangana government is going to present the Budget-2020 in the first week of March. As part of it, the Finance Department has been preparing proposals in line with previous instructions from the Chief Minister.

It may be mentioned here that the Telangana state government

continued the CDF Scheme post bifurcation. At one point of time, the Chief Minister doubled the MLAs/MLCs' CDF fund from Rs 1.5 crore to Rs.3 crore.

Legislators have been asked to submit proposals directly to the Planning Department. Similarly, MLCs, elected by MLAs and nominated by the Governor, can submit their proposals to the Planning Department. In case of MLCs, they could utilise their funds with clearance from the Finance Minister since they do not have any specific constituency. MLCs elected by local authority representatives and graduate constituency members have to give their proposals to the district collectors.

Insulate constitutional values...

Continued from Page 1

Justice Ramana identified terrorism, cyber crime, environmental degradation and health problems as major issues plaguing the world, including the Indian subcontinent. The judiciary needs to appropriately respond to them by evolving innovative principles while keeping in mind the rule of law, he said.

Justice Ramana remarked that terrorism is one of the main issues which has affected every part of the world and has no end in sight. "Presently our globalised world is closer than it seems. Issues are common and solutions need to be unanimous," he suggested.

Justice Ramana said the judiciary needs to appropriately respond to this problem by

Right to privacy...

Continued from Page 1

While it was initially limited to dealing with issues of surveillance and protection of epistolary communications, it has now evolved to protect not only telephonic conversations but also protection of online data. "It is this challenge of interpreting unchanged laws in light of vastly changed social and political contexts which courts constantly grapple with. Judges across countries would presumably deal with such issues differently," he said.

"evolving innovative principles and jurisprudence so that terrorism is kept at bay, while, at

the same time upholding the rule of law". He said globalisation demands the rule of law and with increase in cross-border dealings, movement of citizens, goods and investment, there is a requirement of stronger trust between nations. "This trust can be built by creating institutions with strong emphasis on the rule of law, which creates a secure environment," Justice Ramana said.

The SC judge said India has contributed to the evolution of jurisprudence in many areas. "Our judgments have been cited with acceptance overwhelmingly by other jurisdictions such as the United Kingdom, Australia, Singapore, Bangladesh and other countries in the Asian continent."

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT, NIZAMABAD CIRCLE, NIZAMABAD.
"P" PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Online tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for "1" road work in Kamareddy District, "5" Building works & "1" Box Culvert work in Nizamabad District vide NIT No. 42 to 48/2019-20 Date : 14.02.2020. Tenderers can download the tender schedules from e-market place i.e. : <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> from 20.02.2020 at 4.00P.M. onwards. The last date of receipt of tenders for the work is on or before 05.03.2020 upto 4.00P.M. for the 1st call works and 27.02.2020 upto 4.00P.M. for the 3rd Call & 5th call works. Further details can be seen at e-procurement market place i.e. : <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> R.O.No.1404-DPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/2019-20 Dt: 22-02-2020. Sd/- Superintending Engineer (P&B) Circle, Nizamabad.

CRIME CORNER

Mother kills son after he threatens to reveal her affair

HYDERABAD: A woman allegedly strangled her 9-year-old son to death after he threatened to reveal her illicit relationship with another man to his father, police said here on Saturday. The incident happened last evening in Nalgonda district when the 30-year-old woman strangled the boy using a towel at home. The woman's husband works with a borewell drilling firm and used to regularly go out on work, police said. Based on his complaint, a case of murder was registered and the woman was picked up for questioning and she confessed to killing her son, they added.

2 held with fake tiger skin, teeth

HYDERABAD: The South Zone Task Force police caught two persons who were attempting to con people into buying a goat skin which was painted to look like a tiger skin. The officials recovered one skin, fake teeth and nails of tiger and two mobile phones. Acting on a tip off, the police caught Mohammed Mushtaq, 25, and Mohammed Abdul Khadeer, 37 at Midhani Depot in Kancharbagh. "Mustaq bought a goat skin and painted it using yellow and black colour to look like tiger skin. Later with the help of Abdul Khadeer, he tried to sell the skin to gullible persons," said Chakravarthy Gummi, Additional DCP Task Force.

Gold paste worth Rs 15 lakh seized

HYDERABAD: Custom officials nabbed a passenger for smuggling gold disguised as a paste at RGIA on Friday. "A passenger from Doha was smuggling gold paste weighing 366.630 grams valued at Rs 15.56 lakh," said officials. In another incident, the officials found two gold bangles worth Rs 9.40 lakh weighing 233.200 grams being smuggled from Riyadh. They were decorated with ribbon to make them look like simple bangles. Officials seized the paste and bangles.

KTR: New GHMC Act to be introduced in next Budget

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A new Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Act will be introduced shortly, said Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao on Saturday. While incorporating all the major provisions of Telangana Municipalities Act 2019, the new GHMC Act will focus on easing the building plan approval mechanism and put more focus on sanitation and greenery, KTR said. The new GHMC Act will be introduced in the next Budget session for approval.

All the rules and regulations incorporated in the Telangana Municipal Act will be included in the new GHMC Act, he said. With the Telangana State Building Permission Approval and Self-Certification System (TS-BPASS) to be introduced shortly, the Minister directed the MA&UD principle secretary Arvind Kumar, GHMC commissioner Lokesh Kumar and other senior officials to ensure all the provisions of the



Minister KT Rama Rao presides over the meeting with MA&UD principal secretary Arvind Kumar, GHMC Commissioner Lokesh Kumar and other officials on Saturday

new system are in place in the GHMC Act. Required steps will be taken to ensure the new provisions of building plan approval are also implemented in HMDA to expedite the application approval.

The Minister reviewed the ongoing works in the city including development of footpaths, public toilets, bus shelters, development of slip and link roads, modernisation of graveyards, HRDCL, sanitation, desilting of nalas, beautification of lakes and others.

Further, addressing the GHMC officials, the Minister said the zonal commissioners should come up with innovative programmes, which ensure more convenience for citizens. He said that all link and slip roads should be completed by April 15, 2020. KCT instructed the officials to expedite the construction of Maha Prasthanam in each zone and asked them to provide more Basthi Dawakhana.

He advised the GHMC officials to prepare action plan to

MA&UD Minister stated that the new Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Act would focus on easing the building plan approval mechanism and put more focus on sanitation and greenery

combat seasonal diseases. On land acquisition issues, the Minister instructed the officials to issue all notices in a single day of a particular project so that it will be easy to take action in time.

Further, KTR directed the GHMC zonal commissioners to be well acquainted with the ongoing works and their status in their jurisdiction. He asked the officials to share the activities being taken up within GHMC and other stakeholders departments.

'Unsafe' colleges to face fire wing wrath

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Several corporate junior colleges and degree colleges could be tinderboxes with a major catastrophe in the making.

Details available with the Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education confirm this, with 79 colleges junior colleges found to be not complying with fire safety norms of the fire services department.

Special chief secretary of education department Chitra Ramachandran conducted a meeting with all the managements of private junior colleges and degree colleges and discussed about college buildings functioning without producing fire NOC.

The representative of fire services department, commissioner of collegiate education, BIE secretary and other officials attended the meeting at Godavari Conference Hall in the city on Saturday.

According to the Board's affiliation norms, junior colleges with building height of 15 meters or more should obtain a No Objection

As per the directions of the High Court, TS BIE served notices to 79 colleges to give an explanation about fire safety before February 25

Certificate (NoC) from the Fire Services Department.

As many as 79 colleges have failed to produce the affidavit that they will shift to other buildings next year. But this has not happened and situation continued for the past few years without shifting to a proper building. The High Court issued orders to take action against the 79 defaulting colleges to submit a report by February 25.

Chitra Ramachandran advised college managements to cooperate in implementing the court orders. She also made it clear that from the next academic year, no college will be allowed to function in any building without NOC.

ACB sleuths nab two in SC office

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The officials of Anti-Corruption Bureau arrested two officials working in SC Development Office for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 5,000 from a retired attender from the same office in Jangaon on Saturday.

According to sources, the complainant Ilaiah retired from service on January 31, 2019 and urged officer Gattu Mallu and Superintendent Md Khadeeruddin to complete his pension formalities. However, they kept harassing him and did not oblige despite repeated appeals. They both demanded Ilaiah to pay Rs 10,000 to process his work and streamline his monthly pension. Ilaiah complained to the ACB officials, who advised him to tell the officials that he would give half of the amount on Saturday.

When he was asked him to come to Gattu Mallu's office with the amount, the ACB officials laid a trap and arrested the officials by catching them red-handed while receiving the amount.

Hyd Metro's non-fare box initiative hangs in balance

NAVEENA GHANATE ■ HYDERABAD

While Metro trains in other cities across the country are focusing on non-fare box initiatives including birthday celebrations and pre-wedding ceremonies, the Hyderabad Metro which seems to enjoy decent patronage is lagging behind in launching such facilities.

Except for Hyderabad Metro, individuals in other cities can book Metro coaches for birthday celebrations or pre-wedding ceremonies.

Recently, Noida Metro Rail Corporation launched a facility to book coaches, following the footsteps of Rapid Metro Gurgaon, Gujarat Metro Rail



Corporation and Jaipur Metro Rail Corporation Gujarat.

The applicants would have to submit the license fee which will vary from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000 per hour excluding

taxes depending on the category such as decorated coach or undecorated coach, running metro or static metro. Housekeeping, decoration, furniture, supervisory staff will be

provided by Metro. This move has been apparently taken to increase Metro's viability and to provide better facilities to commuters.

With the overwhelming acceptance by the residents of Hyderabad to Metro, Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL) cites that it is difficult to implement such initiatives in Hyderabad.

A senior official in HMRL said that such facilities can be implemented on holidays at the most but on other days, the trains are steadfast in Hyderabad unlike other Metros. Hyderabad Metro which is second largest in the country enjoys a patronage of four lakh passengers per day and is already operationally

breakeven in a very short period of time. L&T HMRL earns Rs 30 crore from passenger fares per month and another Rs 10 crore from property development, advertisements and miscellaneous. So the need for such initiatives for Hyderabad Metro is apparently not seen.

However, like others, Metro trains in the city are being used for non-fare box initiatives like film shooting. Metro rail has been winning hearts in the Hyderabad, especially the directors of Tollywood. Every new Tollywood film is being filmed in metro stations. On an average L&T receives about five requests per month for shooting and about 15 films have been shot so far.

ASI gets suspended for misbehaving with woman

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

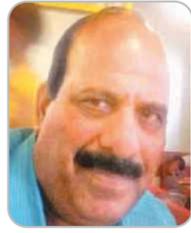
In the wake of alleged misbehaviour with a woman, police commissioner Rachakonda Mahesh

M Bhagwat passed orders suspending Narender, an assistant sub-inspector of the Special Branch on Saturday. Following a complaint from the woman, the Rachakonda Police had conducted an independent inquiry through the She

Team. Based on the report, Narender, who is currently posted at Meerpet was suspended.

"He had allegedly made suggestive remarks and called the victim at odd hours by harassing her. An inquiry backed up the victim's claims," sources said.

"There will be zero tolerance for anybody who ever misbehaves with women folk" said Mahesh Bhagwat.



OUR SPEAKERS

 NITIN GADKARI Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways	 PIYUSH GOEL Union Minister of Railways and Commerce	 PRAHLAD S PATEL Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture
 BHARAT BALA Filmmaker and Storyteller	 RITU BERI Indian heritage and luxury entrepreneur, fashion designer	 AMAN NATH Co-chairman, Neemrana group, architectural restorer
 ROCKY AND MAYUR Highway travellers, writers, TV show hosts	 ZORAWAR KALRA Restaurateur and progressive cuisine specialist	
 ASHWANI LOHANI Ex-CMD, Air India	 PRANAB SARKAR IATO President	 ANIL CHADHA COO, ITC Hotels
 MANDEEP SINGH SOOIN Mountaineer, Founder, Responsible Tourism Society of India	 SUMITRA SENAPATY Founder, Women on Wanderlust	 SUMANT BATRA Boutique museum hotelier
 SHILPA SHARMA Curated travel expert		
 SUBHASH GOYAL Tourism policy specialist	 ANUP KUTTY Co-founder, Ziro Festival of Music	 ABU SUFYAN Founder, Purani Dilli Walo Ki Baatein
 RAVEE SINGH AHLUWALIA Chief Functionary, Patiala Foundation	 HARKIRAT AHLUWALIA Founder, Citrus County Farmstays	 SAMIL MALHOTRA Tirun Travel Marketing

February 26, 2020
Hotel Shangri-La, New Delhi

'Reinstall Ambedkar statue'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Leaders from across the political spectrum have demanded the state government reinstall the statue of Dr BR Ambedkar at Punjagutta before April 14. They warned that they would launch an agitation if the government fails to reinstall the statue.

It may be recalled that the statue was removed by the GHMC while it was being erected as no permission was sought. It is alleged that later, the statue was found broken though GHMC officials said it was shifted to the LB Stadium.

Addressing the all-party round table meeting held at Somajiguda Press Club on Saturday, T-TDP chief L Ramana slammed the TRS government for allegedly neglecting SCs, STs and BCs. "Development has come to a standstill under Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's rule. Cases of sexual assaults on girls in the hostels across the state have also increased under TRS rule," he claimed.

"It is not correct on part of police to remove the Ambedkar statue from Punjagutta Crossroads. The

It is not correct on part of police to remove the Ambedkar statue from Punjagutta Crossroads. The state government is being undemocratic

—PROF M KODANDARAM
TJS president

state government is being undemocratic," said TJS president Prof M Kodandaram, urging the people to launch an agitation if the government fails to re-install the statue.

Prof Kodandaram made it clear that they will launch 'Maha Dharna' in Hyderabad with around 10,000 people.

Congress senior leader V Hanumantha Rao also asked the government to reinstall the statue at Punjagutta Crossroads. He threatened to stage a protest if his demand was not met. "I, along with former MP Harsha Kumar erected the statue by spending Rs 5 lakh. The TRS government has no respect for Ambedkar. They removed the statue and shifted it to a police station," the Congress leader said.

Officials gear up for Pattana Pragathi

AVINASH DEEPAK PULI ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

State government's Pattana Pragathi review and awareness meetings in Mahabubnagar district are grabbing the attention of newly-elected municipal bodies and the representatives are expressing their inclination to achieve the targets in their respective zones.

In Mahabubnagar municipal corporation limits in particular, the programme envisaged by the administration is likely to prove a major success as the cleanliness drive was taken up with utmost interest. The district administration has bought new machinery, which helps in cleaning Gurrupu Dekka leaves in the waters of Mahabubnagar main tank.

On the other hand, Excise Minister Srinivas Goud has addressed the Pattana Pragathi meeting in Mahabubnagar district and called upon the representatives of municipal bodies to adopt the development programmes chalked out by the administration.

Centre gives nod for oil palm cultivation in State

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Central government has given its nod for oil palm cultivation in the state, said Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy. The government has targeted to cultivate oil palm in 45,000 acres in the state in the next two years. The Horticulture Department has started oil palm cultivation on an experimental basis in 2,500 acres for the year 2019-20.

Addressing the media, the Minister said, "Currently, India is importing palm oil worth Rs 40,000 crore every year. Keeping this in view, the Telangana government has encouraged oil palm cultivation in the state to save foreign exchange. According to the Central government survey, 246 mandals in the state are suitable for cultivation of oil palm." "The state government is encouraging farmers to take up cultivation of oil palm. Last year, more than 1,000 farmers from Wanaparthi, Gadwal, Narayanpet, Nagarkurnool, Mahabubnagar, Nizamabad and



Mahabubnagar districts were taken to the palm oil factory in Kothagudem district to expose them to oil palm cultivation," Niranjan Reddy said.

It may be recalled that the state government had written to the Central government to allow cultivation of oil palm in the State, after it was found that at least 2.878 lakh hectares of land is conducive for oil palm cultivation.

Taking potshots at

Telangana BJP leaders for criticising the state government, Niranjan Reddy said, "We don't have to answer on the allegations leveled by the BJP leaders. They don't have any work other than leveling baseless allegations against the state government. People are keenly watching the development being done under the leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao."

Clearing the air on Rythu

Last year, the state govt had written to the Centre to allow cultivation of oil palm in the State, after it was found that at least 2.878 lakh hectares of land is conducive for cultivation

Bandhu, the Minister said that all the beneficiaries in the state have received the dole for Rabi season and added that at some places some farmers didn't receive the amount due to technical snag.

Finding fault with BJP leaders for demanding the state government to increase crop loans, the Minister asked them to know that the issue comes under the purview of the Centre.

UoH's Startup Launcher Programme from Apr 25

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Technology Incubators in University of Hyderabad in association with The Entrepreneur Zone (TEZ - a Startup Accelerator) - is inviting applications for its Startup Launcher Programme (SLP) 2020.

The weekend programme, which runs over 3-months, is designed as a combination of mentorship sessions and case to case consultancy/incubation/support services to help the entrepreneurs to launch and scale up.

The programme covers - idea assessment and market validation, customer discovery, business modelling, prototyping & MVP, technology integration, regulatory compliances, go-to-market strategy, finance and funding, business plan and pitch deck, communication and networking, etc. The last date for applying is 15th March 2020 and the programme commences on 25 April, 2020. Interested can apply online on www.tez.co.in or write to tez.co.in@gmail.com.

Announce new PRC: Uttam to KCR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Saturday demanded that State government immediately announce the new Pay Revision Commission (PRC) for employees, teachers and pensioners.

In an open letter to Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, Uttam said that nearly four lakh teachers and employees and about three lakh pensioners have been desperately waiting for the announcement of new PRC scales.

He said that teacher and employees had played a major role during the statehood movement and risked their jobs and careers by participating in 42-day long Sakala Janula Samme. They expected a better future and financial growth after formation of Telangana, he said.

"Neither employees nor teachers benefited in any way during the last six years although the Chief Minister claims that his government is employee friendly.

Employees, teachers and pensioners have been deprived of deserved benefits," he alleged.

Uttam said that the new PRC should have been applied from July 1, 2018. However, he said that the announcement of PRC

with 11th

PRC has been delayed by almost 20 months causing huge financial losses to the employees and teachers. With the State Government extending the term of PRC by another six months, the employees face extended period of agony, he said. He asked as to why the reasons for extension of PRC's term were not placed on public domain. He said the PRC's term is limited to five years, but no Fitment has been announced for the last three years.

He said thousands of employees have retired in the last six years and the total number of employees has come down. He also asked whether or not the delay has caused financial losses to employees for three years.

Uttam reminded that the previous Congress regime had declared 39 per cent fitment and other benefits in the 9th PRC. Again in 2013, the Congress announced 10th PRC five months in advance and when the report was delayed, 27 per cent interim relief was announced in order to reduce the burden on the employees.

He said steps were also taken to announce 43 per cent Fitment under 10th PRC.

Cop shoots self while cleaning gun

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A police constable working in Tiryani Police Station in Kumram Bheem Asifabad district accidentally shot himself after the gun he was cleaning discharged. According to Tiryani Sub Inspector of Police Pushpala Rama Rao, the constable, N Kiran, was assumed to have been cleaning his self loading rifle (SLR) while on sentry duty when it accidentally went off and the bullet injured him as a result. His condition is stated to be critical.

TMREIS invites online applications

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society (TMREIS) has invited online applications from eligible candidates from minorities (Muslim, Christian, Parsi, Jain, Sikh & Buddhist) and non-minorities (SC, ST, BC & OCs) communities for fresh admissions in Class V in the 204 TMR Schools for 14,640 seats, in Intermediate 1st year in 83 TMR Junior Colleges includ-

ing Centres of Excellence for 6,640 seats and against backlog vacancies in minorities category in classes VI, VII and VIII, across the State for the academic year 2020-21.

The online applications have to be made through TMREIS official website www.tmreis.telangana.gov.in and admissions will be through entrance test. Entrance tests will be held between April 12 and 20. The results will be published on May 2.

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SHORT READS



NCP factions come face to face during Supriya Sule's speech

AURANGABAD: Supporters of two rival NCP leaders raised slogans against each other when party MP Supriya Sule was addressing workers at Palthan city in Maharashtra's Aurangabad district. The incident took place on Friday. When the Baramati MP was addressing NCP workers, the supporters of party leader Datta Gorde, who had contested the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly polls, and those of former MLA Bhausaheb Wagchoure came face to face. The rival factions started raising slogans against each other, which disrupted Sule's speech. Sule had to intervene and pacify the members of both the groups. After the sloganeering ended, Sule continued her speech and reprimanded the members for their misbehaviour. "NCP chief Sharad Pawar has put in tremendous efforts to build the party...If the party workers behave in this manner again, they will have to face me," she warned.

Jaipur airport to be alternative landing for Trump's aircraft

JAIPUR: A special aircraft of the US Army carrying top officials arrived on Saturday at Jaipur International Airport to take stock of security arrangements ahead of US President Donald Trump's visit to India, an airport official said. "The aircraft landed at the airport at 9 am and flew out at 11 am. US Embassy officials took stock of the security measures at the airport. There is no scheduled programme at the airport but precautionary measures are being taken," Jaipur International Airport Director J S Balhara said. Trump will be on a two-day visit to India from February 24 to 25 and Jaipur airport will be the first alternative for landing his aircraft in case of bad weather, the official said.

SHAHEEN BAGH PROTEST

An example of struggle between rights and duties of people: Naqvi

NEW DELHI: Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Saturday termed the Shaheen Bagh protest against CAA an example of the struggle between rights and duties of the people. "They (protesters) understand their rights but not their duties. I do not think one can achieve their rights by abducting (blocking) a road," Naqvi said at Indian Student Parliament event held at Vigyan Bhawan here. "We will always be caught up in confusion if we do not understand our rights and duties," he said. The protest against Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), primarily by local women, started in Shaheen Bagh in mid December, has led to blocking of a road connecting southeast Delhi areas to Noida causing daily hardships to commuters.



'1.3 bn Indians wholeheartedly welcomed critical verdicts'

● Modi on judgement's that became subjects of global discussion

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday said "1.3 billion Indians" have disregarded apprehensions and "wholeheartedly" accepted recent critical judicial verdicts which were subjects of global discussion.

Speaking at the inaugural function of the International Judicial Conference 2020 - 'Judiciary and the Changing World' at the Supreme Court, Modi spoke about recent crucial judgements, in an apparent reference to path-breaking verdicts including in the politically-sensitive Ayodhya case.

The Prime Minister said no country or society in the world can claim to achieve holistic development without gender justice and referred to laws on transgenders, 'triple talaq' and on the rights of 'Divyang' (persons with disabilities).

He said the government has also taken steps to give rights to women in military service and in providing paid maternity leave for 26 weeks. He also hailed the Indian judiciary for redefining environmental jurisprudence to strike a balance between development and ecological protection. Modi, while emphasising



The Prime Minister said no country or society in the world can claim to achieve holistic development without gender justice and referred to laws on transgenders, 'triple talaq' and on the rights of 'Divyang' (persons with disabilities)

on the use of technology and the internet, said it would help in procedural management of courts and would benefit the justice delivery system to a large extent. He also referred to synchronisation of artificial intelligence with human wisdom and said it would bring "speed to delivery of justice".

"In addition, in the changing times, issues like data protection, cyber crimes pose new challenges for the judiciary," he said in his inaugural address.

"In recent times, there have been some critical judicial judgements and decisions which have been the subject of global discussion. Before these

judgements were delivered, several apprehensions were being expressed about the consequences. But look what happened! 1.3 billion Indians wholeheartedly accepted the judicial verdicts," Modi said.

He said it is going to be a decade of remarkable changes across the world which will impact all frontiers, be it society, economy, or technology, and these changes need to be rational as well as just and fair.

Talking about the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi, the Prime Minister said, "Gandhiji's life was dedicated to the cause of truth and service, which are the foundational tenets for any system of justice and as you all know, he was himself a barrister and belonged to the fraternity of lawyers".

Hailing a vibrant judiciary, legislature and executive, the PM said, "Respecting each other's jurisdiction and dignity, these three pillars of the Constitution have resolved various challenges faced by the country on several occasions. "We are proud of having developed such a rich tradition in India. In the last five years, various institutions of India have further strengthened this tradition".

'Promote culture where students earn and learn'

PNS ■ KOZHIKODE

Kerala Labour and Skills Minister T P Ramakrishnan on Saturday said there is a need to promote a culture where students earn while studying and to this end will soon bring out a state Skills Policy. "Kerala will soon bring out a state Skills Policy and also a Career Policy considering the recent surge in the importance of technology in the new age," he said here at the inaugural of India Skills Kerala 2020, an endeavour to showcase the technical proficiency of the youth.

"We must promote a culture where students earn while studying. The state needs its youth in educational institutions to do part-time jobs," the Minister added. He said the government had initiated several skill development programmes and added, "India Skills Kerala is part of that mission."

The three-day state-level round of India Skills Kerala which began here today, offers total prize money of around Rs 78 lakh. The event features 253 participants who will be showcasing their skills in 39 disciplines with several prizes and a ticket for an international-level competition in China at stake. India Skills Kerala gives the winner of each skill Rs one lakh, while the runner-up will receive Rs 50,000. Those finishing in the subsequent four ranks get Rs 10,000 each.

"Kozhikode has a history of popularising peoples festival," Ramakrishnan said. "Let genuine and extraor-

"We must promote a culture where students earn while studying. The state needs its youth in educational institutions to do part-time jobs"



inary skills lead the youth to greater heights," he added. Kozhikode North MLA A Pradeepkumar, who is chairman of the events organising committee, in his presidential address, said events focused on the skill development of youth are a welcome sign.

India Skills Kerala comes as a result of its district-level competitions held last month, with 4,298 contestants.

The 1,278 winners among them subsequently qualified for the zonal rounds held separately for the north, central and south regions of the state. While the state-level winners qualify for the national competitions, the prize-winning performers in that round will represent the country at World Skills 2021 in Shanghai. That global round next year will have youngsters from 83 countries vying for honours and prizes in 54 skills.

Prahar Janshakti Party leader shot dead

PNS ■ AKOLA

A local leader of the Prahar Janshakti Party (PJP) was allegedly shot dead by two unidentified assailants at Akot town in Maharashtra's Akola district, police said on Saturday.

Tushar Pundkar, who was former Akola district chief of the PJP, was shot at around 10 pm on Friday, and died in the wee hours of Saturday while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Akola, police said.

Giving information about the incident, a police official said, "Pundkar was walking in Police Colony area of Akot around 10 pm on Friday when two motorcycle-borne persons fired two bullets at him from behind. Pundkar collapsed on the ground. Some local residents alerted the police and rushed him to the Rural Hospital in the town."



TRUMP'S GUJARAT VISIT

Committee reviews steps for grand welcome

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

A committee formed to oversee various programmes that are part of US President Donald Trump's visit to Gujarat on February 24, held its first meeting at the Circuit House in Ahmedabad on Saturday.

The 'Swagat Samiti' is a 10-member committee that includes Ahmedabad Mayor Bijal Patel, who is its chairperson, BJP MPs from Ahmedabad East and West Lok Sabha seats Hasmukh Patel and Kirit Solanki respectively, architect and Padma Bhushan awardee BV Doshi, Gujarat University Vice Chancellor Himanshu Pandya, and Durghesh Buch of the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"It has been our culture that we welcome our guests with enthusiasm, and we are committed to that," Mayor Patel told reporters.

MP Kirit Solanki said, "Heads of two of the world's largest democracies are visiting Ahmedabad. To welcome them is a historic event, not just for



Ahmedabad but for the country and the world...I feel proud to be part of the committee. There are ten members in the committee." Solanki informed that the committee members will visit the newly-built Sardar Patel Stadium in Motera, where the 'Namaste Trump' event will be held.

The formation of the committee, first announced as Donald Trump Nagarik Abhivadan Samiti by Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson

Raveesh Kumar, had drawn flak from the Congress.

In a tweet on Thursday, Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala asked, "Dear P.M, Intriguing news from @MEAIndia! Pl state- 1. Who is the President of Donald Trump Abhinandan Samiti? 2. When was the invitation extended to US President & accepted? 3. Why is President Trump then saying you have promised him a grand event with 7 million people?"

Heads of two of the world's largest democracies are visiting Ahmedabad. To welcome them is a historic event, not just for Ahmedabad but for the country and the world...I feel proud to be part of the committee. There are ten members in the committee

— KIRIT SOLANKI, Ahmedabad West MP

Traditional media should introspect on its role in society: Prez

PNS ■ BENGALURU

President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday asked the traditional media to introspect on its role in society in the face of the new media, driven by the internet and social media, to earn the reader's full trust again.

"The new media is fast and popular and people can choose what they want to watch, hear or read. But only the traditional media has, over the years, developed skills to authenticate a news report, and that is a costly operation," he said in his inaugural speech at the fourth edition of 'The Huddle' by English daily The Hindu.

The President said the traditional media would have to introspect on its role in society and find ways to earn the reader's full trust again. "The project of democracy is incomplete without informed citizens which means, without unbiased journalism," he said.

Speaking about the new media, the President said rapidly evolving Information Technology has impacted journalism in all its aspects, from news gathering to delivering news to readers and finally making money to sustain the activity. The internet and social media have democratised journalism and revitalized democracy, said Kovind, adding that it has also led to many anxieties. In this context, only the traditional media remains authentic. "The new media is fast and popular and people can choose what they want to watch, hear or read. But only the traditional media has, over the years, developed skills to authenticate a news report, and that is a costly operation. I hope that we will arrive at the ideal trade-off soon," the President said. Insisting on truth in journalism, Kovind reminded the audience of Mahatma Gandhi, who had a unique understanding of truth.

Hitting out at the Congress over its scepticism about US President Donald Trump's visit to India, the BJP on Saturday asked the opposition party why it is unhappy when the country's stature is being raised globally.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, party spokesperson Sambit Patra said Trump's visit will be a landmark moment in the Indo-US relationship and advised the Congress to "start taking pride in the nation's achievements".

"This is a meeting of the world's largest and oldest democracies and it should be celebrated," he said. Underlining that Trump himself has said multiple times that India is a hard bargainer, Patra said the Congress should not be worried about India's interests. With PM Narendra Modi's hardwork, India's relations with other countries have further strengthened from Sochi to Mallapuram, he said.

'Why is Cong unhappy when country's stature is growing?'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



GOA CARNIVAL

Thousands line up to watch float parade

PNS ■ PANAJI

The world-renowned Carnival began in Goa's Panaji on Saturday and thousands of people lined the streets to watch the float parade led by the mythological King Momo.

The parade, flagged off by state tourism minister Manohar Ajaonkar, traveled three kilometres on the picturesque DB Bandodkar Road along the Mandovi river and culminated four hours later near the Kala Academy here.

Lawyer Shalom Saldanha was chosen as King Momo by the state tourism department for this year's festivities, which will culminate on February 25. Among the highlights of the float parade were martial arts performers and decorated cars.

Before the start of the parade, 'King Momo' Saldanha said festivities this year were dedicated to a drug-free Goa. "Say no to drugs. When you drink, drink responsibly," he said.



Rule of law essential feature of modern Constitutions

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The rule of law is probably the "most fundamental feature" of modern constitutions and its success depends on how judiciaries across the world respond to emerging challenges, Chief Justice SA Bobde said on Saturday. The CJI, while speaking at the International Judges' Conference on the subject of 'Judiciary and the Changing World' at the Supreme Court here, also stressed on the need for citizens to perform their legal duties.

"Probably the most fundamental feature of most modern constitutions is the idea of the rule of law," he said, adding,



"Undoubtedly, the success of the rule of law in our countries depends on how the judiciaries respond to such challenges and

Undoubtedly, the success of the rule of law in our countries depends on how the judiciaries respond to such challenges and how they emerge — SA BOBDE, Chief Justice of India

how they emerge." Referring to Constitutional provisions, Justice Bobde said it was often implicit in law that "legal rights have correlatives of legal duties." "A feature often neglected is a chapter on fundamental duties imposing on every citizen the duties to abide by the constitution, the whole of it and respect its ideals and institution," he said. The CJI said more than 50 countries have specific provisions on fundamental duties in

their constitutions. Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, Justice Bobde said the exercise of rights depends on one's sense of duty and "real rights are a result of performance of duty".

The CJI also referred to "incredible technological advancement" and said now the entire world was interconnected and a small change in one corner of the world can result in changes in different parts of the world. "Judiciaries all

over the world are dealing with this kind of change, what might be called a rights revolution, a technological revolution and a demographic revolution. Our decisions no longer impact only those who live in our jurisdiction but also those who live in other jurisdictions, some far away," he said. Wishing success to the first such conference organised by the Indian Supreme Court in which judges from over 20 countries are taking part, he said this would offer opportunities to judges "to exchange ideas and gain knowledge from each other on many aspects of gender justice, right to privacy, populism, environment and sustainable development."

MAN KILLS MOTHER-IN-LAW AS WIFE TERMINATES PREGNANCY

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A man allegedly shot his mother-in-law dead suspecting that she was behind his wife's decision to terminate her pregnancy twice, police said on Saturday.

The woman was killed in Mundka on February 14 while she was returning home from a private hospital in Paschim Vihar where she worked as a nurse, they said.

Her son-in-law, Pankaj, and his two accomplices Ujjawal

Dabas and Ajit allegedly sprayed bullets at the woman while she was in an e-rickshaw. She suffered five bullet injuries and died on the spot, police said. Dabas was arrested in Ladpur village on Wednesday, while Ajit and Pankaj are absconding, they said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) PS Kushwah said Dabas was arrested on the basis of a tip-off. One pistol and nine cartridges were recovered from his possession, the DCP said.



SHORT READS



Dilip Buildcon executes EPC agreement with AAI

NEW DELHI: Dilip Buildcon on Saturday said it has executed an EPC (engineering, procurement and construction) agreement for construction of a new greenfield airport at Rajkot in Gujarat. "...the company has executed an EPC agreement with the Airport Authority of India for an EPC project in the state of Gujarat," Dilip Buildcon said in a BSE filing. The project cost is Rs 570.06 crore and completion period is 30 months, it added.



Migsun to invest Rs 55 cr to build hospital in Ghaziabad

NEW DELHI: Realty firm Migsun Group on Saturday said it is entering the health segment by building a hospital in Ghaziabad at an investment of Rs 55 crore. The multi-specialty hospital is under construction at Raj Nagar Extension in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. The structure work of the proposed hospital is almost complete and the project will be operational this year, the company said in a statement. Migsun Group MD Yash Miglani said, "Ghaziabad has a dearth of quality hospitals that offer quality treatment at a reasonable cost." "Spread across 1.75 acres, the upcoming hospital will have 250 beds and have multiple specialties. It is likely to entail an investment of Rs 55 crore, which includes land cost as well," the statement said. Migsun is currently developing more than 10 projects. The company, earlier named Mahaluxmi Group, has built several residential and commercial projects in Ghaziabad.

CEA: INDIA NEEDS PRO-BIZ, NOT PRO-CRONY POLICIES

PNS ■ MUMBAI

India has some distance to go in fully shifting from pro-rony to pro-business policies, Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian said on Saturday.

It will be the pro-business policies that will enable the "invisible hands of the market" and also take the country to the goal of USD 5 trillion GDP, he added.

"Pro-business policies are those that enable fair competition in the country. We have some distance to go in terms of enabling that fully. Pro-rony policies on the other hand just help incumbents and that is something that we have to stay away from in enabling the invisible hands of the market," he said at an alumni conference of his alma mater IIT-Kanpur here.

Indian policymaking has been criticised for favouring crony capitalists in the initial decades after Independence, till the country shifted gears by adopting liberalisation in 1991.

Subramanian said after the CAG's report on telecom spectrum allocations came out in 2011, investor returns from "connected companies", a euphemism for crony firms, have been very low as compared to the broader indices.



The problem with cronyism is that it is not better business models and processes which drive the growth, he said, adding that we should always aim for "creative destruction" where the incumbents are challenged.

The problem with cronyism is that it is not better business models and processes which drive the growth, he said, adding that we should always aim for "creative destruction" where the incumbents are challenged.

In a critique of the dominant policy choices in the initial decades after Independence, Subramanian said "the trust with socialism did not deliver the trust with destiny", referring to first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's famous speech when India attained freedom.

He also made a strong case for not depending only on recent work in economics to

make policy choices and neglecting age-old texts like the Arthashastra.

"Scholarly work isn't something that was written in the last 100 years but dates back millennia," he said.

The Arthashastra stresses on ethical ways of creating wealth, he said, adding that we need to focus on creating trust in the markets as well.

If governance standards have to be increased in the country, there has to be a greater focus on disclosing related-party transactions, the CEA said. The comments come in the wake of frauds like the one at non-bank lender DHFL.

The Union Budget's thrust

on 'Assemble in India' should not be seen as substitute to the government's flagship 'Make in India' programme, but as a complementary aspect which will act as a precursor to other goals, he said.

On the focus on 'Assemble in India', Subramanian cited the case of Suzuki's entry into the country in 1980s and the developments in the auto sector since then to illustrate that simple assembly of parts to make a car is a precursor to manufacturing and also intellectual property creation.

Pointing out to the recently released Economic Survey, he said over four crore well-paying jobs can be created in the country by 2025 by focusing on assembling for the world, and the same can go up to eight crore by 2030.

Asked about the Budget's thrust on imposing tariffs on certain sectors and how it has been criticised as being protectionist by some, Subramanian said we need to make a distinction between duties that are imposed on finished products against those on raw materials or intermediate goods which hurt exports.

"We need to move towards far more open trade policies on intermediate goods and raw materials to enable exports," he told reporters.

PM-KISAN: Centre pays Rs 50,850 crore to farmers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday said it has disbursed Rs 50,850 crore to farmers so far under its landmark scheme PM-KISAN, enabling them to meet farm input cost and household expenses.

The agriculture ministry shared the progress made under the scheme, ahead of its first anniversary on February 24.

The PM-KISAN was formally launched on February 24 last year by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.

Under the scheme, the Centre transfers an amount of Rs 6,000 per year, in three equal instalments, directly into the bank accounts of the farmers, subject to certain exclusion criteria relating to higher income status.

"February 24, 2020 is the 1st anniversary of starting of a new Central Sector Scheme, namely, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)," an official statement said.

The scheme was launched to provide income support to all landholding farmers' families across the country and enable them to meet expenses related to agriculture as well as domestic needs, it added.

"The Central Government has already released more than



The scheme is effective from December 2018. The cut-off date for identification of beneficiaries with regard to their eligibility was February 1, 2019. The entire responsibility of identification of beneficiaries rests with the state /UT governments

Rs 50,850 crores till now," the ministry said.

Total number of beneficiaries covered under the scheme is about 14 crore, based on estimates of the Agriculture Census 2015-16.

As on February 20 this year, 8.46 crores farmer families have been given the benefits.

The scheme is effective from December 2018. The cut-off date for identification of beneficiaries with regard to their eligibility was February 1,

2019. The entire responsibility of identification of beneficiaries rests with the state /UT governments.

The scheme initially provided income support to all small and marginal farmers' families across the country, holding cultivable land up to 2 hectares.

However, its ambit was later expanded to cover all farmer families in the country irrespective of the size of their land holdings.

Fox and NBC Universal in talks to acquire streaming platforms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Media groups Fox Corp and NBC Universal are looking to buy ad-supported streaming platforms meant to lure customers who don't want to spend money on subscriptions, the Wall Street Journal reported Friday.

Fox, the Murdoch-family controlled media group which owns the Fox News Channel, has said it would be willing to shell out some USD 500 million for Tubi, a streaming platform which airs mostly older movies and TV shows, the report said.

A tie-up could help expand the footprint of Fox, which last year sold much of its film and television assets to Disney but retained its broadcast television network in the deal.

Tubi, sometimes called the "free Netflix," claims to have



A tie-up could help expand the footprint of Fox, which last year sold much of its film and television assets to Disney but retained its broadcast television network in the deal.

some 25 million users and recently announced an expansion into Europe.

It already operates in the United States, Canada and Australia.

NBCUniversal, a subsidiary of Comcast, is meanwhile engaged in what the WSJ called advanced talks with Vudu, a Walmart-owned, ad-supported service that allows users to rent and buy movies or watch them online via a free streaming platform.

NBCUniversal already has plans to launch a new streaming television service called Peacock in April, which can be accessed both ad-free or with ads at different payment tiers.

The potential Fox and NBCUniversal acquisitions come as internet platforms and entertainment groups are launching streaming and on-demand services as part of a larger trend to attract viewers who are veering away from traditional television.

'Howdy, Modi!' team hopes 'Namaste Trump' will help improve US-India ties

PNS ■ HOUSTON

The maiden visit of US President Donald Trump to India next week will provide an opportunity to improve the bilateral relationship, strengthen the strategic ties and deepen commitment to an open Indo-Pacific, according to the team behind the historic 'Howdy, Modi!' event here last September.

President Trump will pay a state visit to India on February 24 and 25 at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The US President will be accompanied by a high-level delegation including First Lady Melania Trump, the President's daughter Ivanka Trump, son-in-law Jared Kushner and a galaxy of top American officials.



In Ahmedabad on Monday, Trump will address the 'Namaste Trump' event jointly with Prime Minister Modi at the newly built Motera cricket stadium, the world's largest.

In September, Trump and Modi shared a stage in Houston at a massive rally of

Indian-Americans called "Howdy, Modi!". In India, they will share a stage for "Namaste Trump," which roughly translates as "Hello Trump."

Hundreds of thousands of people are expected to greet Trump in Ahmedabad for a road show leading to the rally at the huge stadium with a

capacity to accommodate 110,000 spectators.

The "Howdy, Modi!" team would like to extend its best wishes to the organisers of the "Namaste Trump" event in Ahmedabad.

"We know the level of hard work that the Namaste Trump event organisers must be putting in for their summit on February 24th, and we look forward to seeing the results of their labour in a few days," Jugal Malani, convener of the "Howdy, Modi" community summit in Houston, Texas, said in a statement.

It was at the "Howdy, Modi!" summit on September 22, 2019 with a packed crowd in attendance that Prime Minister Modi invited President Trump to visit India, the statement noted.

Yet to finalise trade deal with India: US

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

The United States on Friday said it was unlikely that a trade deal would be inked with India during President Donald Trump's upcoming visit to the country, saying that concerns that led to India's removal from the Generalized System of Preferences persisted.

"The concerns that led to the revocation, suspension of India's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) access remains a concern for us. And to remind, it was really the failure of the Indian government to provide equitable and reasonable access to its markets in numerous sectors," a senior administration official told reporters during a conference call.



There have been talks about India and the United States agreeing on a trade package as a precursor to a major trade deal.

Trump and First Lady Melania Trump are scheduled to travel to Ahmedabad, Agra and New Delhi on February 24 and 25. There have been talks about India and the United States agreeing on a trade package as a precursor to a major trade deal.

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, who has

been negotiating a trade deal with India, is not travelling with Trump on the India trip. In fact, he had cancelled his earlier trip to India as well.

"We continue to talk to our Indian colleagues about addressing these market access barriers. Our trade teams, led by the USTR, have been in touch with their counterparts

over the past several weeks. That engagement will continue," the official said.

"The trade and economic relationship with India is critically important to the United States, and I think also access to the United States market is critical to the Indian government. We do want to make sure that we get this balance right. We want to address a bunch -- a lot of concerns, and we're not quite there yet," the official said in response to a question.

The high-powered American delegation led by Trump will likely have discussion with Prime Minister Narendra Modi about these concerns and continue the discussion beyond this visit, said the senior administration official.

Bloomberg smashes campaign spending record

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

Presidential hopeful Michael Bloomberg, the multi-billionaire former mayor of New York, has shattered the record for campaign advertising, spending a staggering \$364.3 million and counting, an ad tracker said Friday.

The unprecedented amount recently surpassed the previous record spending by Barack Obama's campaign during his entire 2012 re-election effort, Advertising Analytics reported.

"Bloomberg surpassed Obama's 2012 spending record of \$338.3M, making him the highest spending candidate of all time," the non-partisan group said in a newsletter.

The figures include only those for traditional broadcast advertising on television and radio.

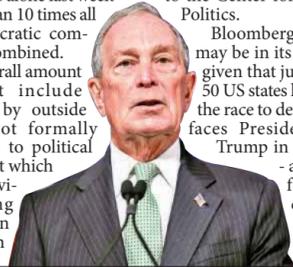
Bloomberg, seeking the Democratic Party nomination, is also far ahead in digital advertising, and spent \$14.5 million on Facebook and Google ads alone last week -- more than 10 times all his Democratic competitors combined.

The overall amount does not include spending by outside groups not formally connected to political parties, but which spend heavily during election season in

support of -- or opposition to -- specific candidates.

In the 2016 cycle, spending by super PACs (political action committees) and other groups that can spend unlimited funds but are barred from coordinating with campaigns topped \$1.4 billion, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

Bloomberg's spending may be in its early stages, given that just two of the 50 US states have voted in the race to determine who faces President Donald Trump in November -- and he didn't formally compete in either of them.



Bharti Infratel board to meet on Feb 24 post DoT's nod for merger

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bharti Infratel on Saturday said its board will meet on February 24 to chart out the future course of action following the telecom department's approval for merger with Indus Towers.

The combination of Bharti Infratel and Indus Towers will create a pan-India tower company with over 163,000 towers, operating across all 22 telecom service areas. The combined entity will be the largest tower company in the world outside China.

"...FDI approval for merger of Indus Towers with Bharti Infratel has been received late evening yesterday," Bharti Infratel said in a regulatory fil-



ing. It added that the board of directors of the company will meet on February 24, 2020 to "take stock and decide the future course of action".

Bharti Infratel and Vodafone hold 42 per cent stake each in Indus. Vodafone Idea holds 11.15 per cent stake in the mobile tower firm.

As per the plans, the combined company, which would fully own the respective businesses of Bharti Infratel and

Indus Towers, would change its name to Indus Towers Ltd and will continue to be listed on Indian stock exchanges.

The timely completion of the tower deal was critical for the companies, since it would allow Bharti and Vodafone Idea in offloading stake and raising funds.

The development comes at a time when Vodafone Idea is confronted with total AGR dues of over Rs 53,000 crore. Of this, it has paid only Rs 3,500 crore in two tranches earlier this week.

In all, as many as 15 entities owe the government Rs 1.47 lakh crore -- Rs 92,642 crore in unpaid licence fee and another Rs 55,054 crore in outstanding spectrum usage charges.

'VIVAD SE VISHWAS' SCHEME

Cases in arbitration abroad eligible: I-T Dept

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Income tax cases being arbitrated abroad will be eligible to be taken up under the proposed 'Vivad se Vishwas' scheme to settle disputes between the taxman and the taxpayer, the department said on Saturday.

The I-T department issued advertisements in leading dailies saying the scheme was a "golden opportunity... to settle income tax disputes", bridge the trust deficit in cases of disputes and minimise tax-related litigation.

The public message spells out the main features of the scheme proposed by Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech on February 1, like the

The I-T department issued advertisements in leading dailies saying the scheme was a "golden opportunity... to settle income tax disputes", bridge the trust deficit in cases of disputes and minimise tax-related litigation.



allowed to be taken up under the scheme.

Other eligibilities are: Orders for which time for filing appeal has not expired on January 31; cases pending before dispute resolution panel (DRP) or where the DRP issued direction on or before January 31, 2020 but no order has been passed; cases where assessee filed revision and in raid cases where disputed tax is less than Rs 5 crore in a year.

It added that disputes where the payment has already been made shall also be eligible; appeals or writs filed by taxpayers or the department and cases in arbitration in India or abroad.

The scheme, it said in the advertisement, will cover all disputes related to tax, penalty, interest, fee, tax deducted at source (TDS) or tax collected at source (TCS).

Talking about the payment of taxes under the scheme, it said for remittances made on or before March 31, 100 per cent of the disputed tax is to be paid (125 per cent in search cases) and if appeal relates only to disputed penalty or interest or fee then 25 per cent of the disputed penalty or interest or fee is to be paid.



Biocon gets 3 USFDA observations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

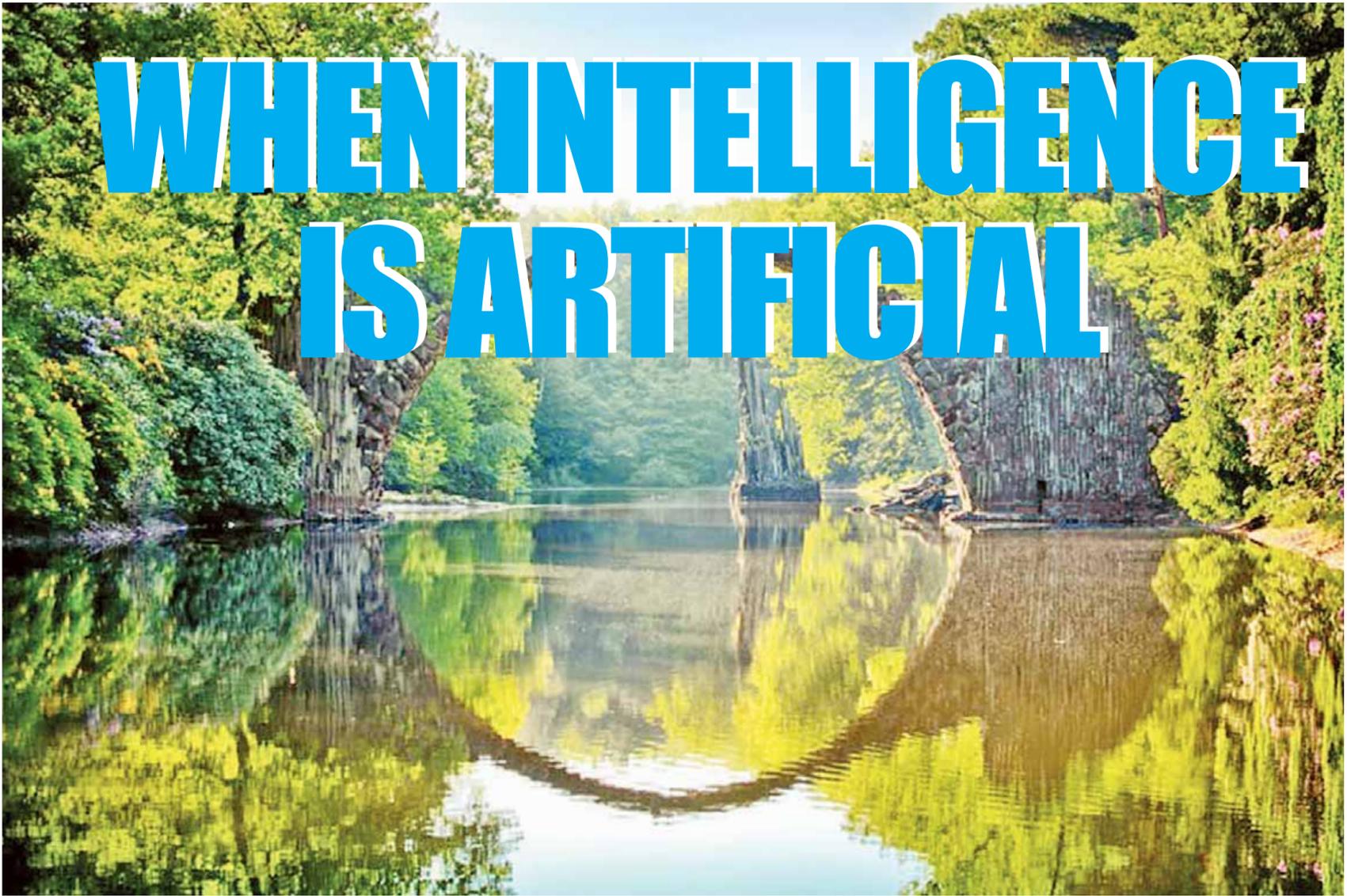
Biocon on Saturday said it has received three observations from the US health regulator following inspection of its insulin manufacturing facility in Malaysia. The US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) had conducted a pre-approval inspection of Biocon's subsidiary Biocon Sdn Bhd's manufacturing facility in Malaysia for Insulin Glargine between February 10 and 21.

"At the conclusion of the inspection, the agency issued a Form 483 with three observations which we believe are procedural in nature," a Biocon spokesperson said in a regulatory filing. As per the USFDA, Form 483 is issued to firm management at the conclusion of an inspection when investigators have observed any conditions that in their judgment may constitute violations of the Food Drug and Cosmetic Act and related Acts.

"We will respond to the FDA with an appropriate Corrective and Preventive Action Plan (CAPA) and we are confident of addressing these observations expeditiously," the company added.

The FDA has set a target action date for its Insulin Glargine application in June 2020, it said. "We believe the outcome of this inspection does not in any way impact the commercialisation plans of Insulin Glargine in the US. Biocon Biologics is committed to global standards of quality and compliance," the spokesperson said.

In its 11th edition, TEDxGateway has hosted exceptional speakers who are slowly but surely changing the healthcare sector. SHALINI SAKSENA catches up with researchers who talk about how they have carved a niche for themselves



Creating a buzz at age 13

Rishab Jain (15)
Scientist and Inventor

He is a freshman in school at Portland, Oregon, US. He does a lot of science related activities and research on pancreatic cancer in the medical field and the application of applying artificial intelligence (AI) to medical treatment of pancreatic cancer. When he is not doing research, he is busy participating in science bowl — a buzzer-based competition for those who want to increase their knowledge, especially in Biology. A big part of his free time is spent in track and field running cross-country. Meet 15-year-old Rishab Jain, a scientist and an innovator who has invented the Pancreatic Cancer Deep Learning System (PCDLS), an AI tool that improves radiation treatment in cancer. He aspires to become a surgeon and hopes to cure pancreatic cancer one day.

He tells you that despite his busy school schedule and the time spent on research for pancreatic cancer, he does manage to find time for himself to pursue what he loves — running. "I was 13 when I found out about this cancer, after passing of a family friend from pancreatic cancer. I was intrigued and found out the survival rate and got to know that this cancer is extremely deadly and survival rate is very low. This is because it takes time to pinpoint the area of the cancer," Jain says.

His system of AI that uses deep learning is a technique that offers an abstract way of looking inside and identifying patterns in the data. But he used another technique with deep learning — convolutional neural network. This network, he tells you has the ability to look at images and identify patterns inside. "What I did was the data that I had of MRI and CT scan of abdominal area. Within the thousands of different pictures of the abdomen, I had different images of the organs including pancreas. I used my tool to predict where the pancreas is positioned which is extremely hard to find for the untrained eye. My goal was to improve the accuracy for radio therapy by segmenting the



pancreas which can sometimes take a long time for a radiologist to do," Jain explains.

Another benefit of his deep learning system is its real-time application. Rather than pinpointing the pancreas from the images and then moving on for treatment, if there is an AI tool — PCDLS — can locate pancreas within a couple of seconds. "It is all about the execution of the programme running the command. When we take the CT and MRI images, it becomes fast to locate the pancreas," Jain says. He tells you that his tool is about early detection of this type of cancer.

"At present, pancreatic cancer treatment involves generic cancer treatment. Radiation therapy is a treatment that uses high doses of targeted energy to kill cancer cells and shrink the tumours. The problem in treating pancreatic cancer lies in its late detection — last stage. At this point, all one can do is shrink the tumour and if the patient is lucky, they can successfully remove the tumour," Jain says.

Not only this, Jain is also named as

America's Top Young Scientist for his path breaking innovation to improve radiotherapy. A competition he entered when he was 13. "After I came up with the solution using AI for pancreatic cancer that began after a lot of reading and doing a lot of research I realised that it was something that can be used in the future and have a big impact after I got some success, I entered a competition — 3M Young Scientists Challenge. The great thing about this that they pick out the top ideas from the US that are presented and provide support like mentorship. The primary reason to enter the competition was if I was selected it would allow me to better my tool and I could look for a bigger expansion. After I was selected, I spent that summer improving on the accuracy of the tool. I got more data, I fine tuned it. It was then that my idea became a reality," Jain says.

When he speaks at platforms like TedxGateway, the reaction of the people is centered more on his age. "When people see a young person talking while it can be a source of big inspiration, people may doubt it at first. I believe no matter what the age, anybody can make a difference. It just needs one idea that a person has to be passionate about and have the goal to complete it. With the right mindset and opportunity, it is possible to achieve that goal," Jain says.

According to him the best overall invention has been the Internet that provided the biggest platform for everything. Just the creation of connecting multiple computers has made so many things possible today.

"In the medical world, I would say the CT technology that has had ginormous impact. When it was invented by Sir Godfrey Hounsfield invented back in 1967, it opened a lot of doors and possibilities for all kinds of treatments not just cancer," Jain says.

His future is set. He would like to continue to work on his research. His latest project today involves working on whether they can improve on the treatment of the cancer — to solve the gap that exists today.

CAD gets a brand new voice

Yuval Mor (54)
AI Technologist and Disruptor

What if someone were to tell you that your voice is enough to detect several diseases including coronary artery diseases (CAD)? Most people would not believe it or would term it as fake news. However, the truth is that Beyond Verbal is doing just this.

Yuval Mor, CEO of Beyond Verbal, tells you that what his company uses the tone of voice of the people in order to be able to identify different health conditions. "It comes under what we call vocal biomarker — the area of voice to detect various diseases," Mor says.

The journey began with the analysis of emotions from the voice. "We all know that we can understand what people are feeling just by listening to them. As part of this analysis, our scientists did an experiment. He found that group of people he was evaluating had reading dyslexia. Because of this, their analysis of their emotions was incorrect. The scientist came up with an idea that maybe there is something in the voice of the people that gives their health condition. This led to our research in many different areas like mental health, heart conditions, lung and breathing conditions and many more," Mor explains.

The good part is that order to get the voice, there is no need for any complicated device to record the voice. All one needs to do is record the voice on your smartphone. Yes, you read that right. One can record the voice on any regular mobile that



allows voice recording and one is good to go. All one has to do is record your voice; there are not set words needed, nor does one have to speak in a particular tone or pitch. All one has to do is record the voice — like the tone one uses while talking to another person over the phone.

"After the call is recorded, one can send it to a central control analysis where experts use machine learning and AI in order to find specific indications in the voice that could indicate health conditions," Mor explains.

"Since we are speaking over the mobile all the time, we can see a pattern when there are deviations. We use regular voice recorded over a regular mobile. The success rate when it comes to detection of coronary artery disease using a single voice analysis stands at 86-87 per

cent level of accuracy. The idea is not to scare people to rush to the hospital, it is a tool to let them know that there is something wrong and that needs to be addressed in the near future. And to also increase the person's awareness level when the information is sent to their doctor who can then decide to go for further testing; the tool is not for emergency care; it is a monitoring device," Mor tells you.

The advantage, he tells you are amazing. Just imagine, we are using the voice all the time and mobiles. This way one's mobile or smart home device can be a personal bodyguard when it comes to health. The device that has been collecting voice recording over time gives information if there is significant deviation in the voice. All this is becoming part of tele-medicine or

The success rate of detecting coronary artery disease using a single voice analysis stands at 86-87%. All one would have to do is send a recorded voice to central control analysis where experts use machine learning and AI to find specific indications in the voice that could indicate health conditions

remote healthcare. The idea is that one doesn't really have to go physically to a hospital but a lot of interaction can happen remotely using sensory, in this case voice sensory.

Mor tells you that the future will be about using all kind of devices that people will have in their homes or at their disposal. Some of these will be connected to the smartphones like we are already seeing in terms of wearables that are available in the market today to check our BO and even heart rate. "Some devices would be more dedicated and connect to a software that would be running of the mobile to collect the vitals but using the voice to say monitor oxygen saturations. It is no longer the future, the future is here, we are living it and using it when we buy a smart watch," Mor says.

Back to Nature innovations by a reluctant Master of science

Oded Shoseyov (63)
Nano biotechnologist

He was born to a family in the vineyard business for more than 130 years. Twenty years back, he established the Estate Boutique winery near Jerusalem in one of the oldest grape growing regions in the world from the time of King Solomon. In High School, he was a terrible student. Nevertheless, his parents always told him that he had potential and so he never gave up.

"After three-and-a-half years of service in the Israel Defence Force, I decided that I would like to go to university and study Agriculture so that I could go back to the vineyard and help my father. I had to struggle a lot to get accepted to the university because I had very low grades from High School. My appli-

cation to the Faculty of Agriculture of Hebrew University was rejected. Thanks to the intuition of the Dean of Chemistry Professor Lena Bendor, I was accepted on condition to do an undergraduate course in Chemistry at The Hebrew University where I really shined. I met Professor Ben Ami Bravdo who invited me to join his laboratory. The day I entered his lab, I knew that this is my destiny," Oded Shoseyov tells you.

His research in plant molecular biology, protein engineering and nano biotechnology is creating super-performing materials that could change the way we build our future products.

Over the years, Oded has established 14 companies and asking him to talk about a particular one doesn't come easy. "You are asking me to pick my favourite child. But I will do

my best. CollPlant is a company that produces human collagen from tobacco plants. Collagen is a special protein that builds up tissues and organs in our body. Medical implants like bone substitutes and heart valve leaflets are made of collagen extracted from pigs, cows and human cadavers which are not safe because they harbour viruses. At the Hebrew University, my laboratory cloned all the five genes from humans that are responsible for making collagen in our body, and by genetic engineering introduced all the five human genes into a tobacco plant," Oded explains.

He says that tobacco plants produce human collagen through their leaves. "We grow the tobacco plants in greenhouses, harvest the leaves, extract and purify the human collagen. This collagen is safer because plants do not harbour



human pathogens. From this, we make different medical implants for wound healing and tendon repair that are already used in clinics in Europe and Israel.

"Our latest achievement and source of pride is the new version of collagen that can be 3D-printed. We are now engaged with United Therapeutics, a US Pharma company and 3D Systems, a US 3D printing company in an ambitious project to print for the first time a fully functional living human lung. This is only the first in printing of future organs," Oded tells you.

Another company is Biobetter Ltd whose mission is to make biologic drugs affordable. He tells you that antibodies are large and complex proteins which are central in our immune system.

"They help our body to overcome infection and cancer. In the

last decade, biologic drugs and specifically humanised antibodies became extremely effective drugs for Rheumatoid Arthritis, cancer and more. One major problem remain. Biologic drugs are produced by mammalian cell culture which is very expensive.

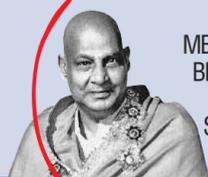
"We cloned the genes of Adalimumab (drug for rheumatoid Arthritis) and by genetic engineering introduced it into tobacco plant. We introduced several more genes into the plant to modify the sugar content of the Adalimumab to make it more human. We can produce the biologic drug in a greenhouse at a cost of lettuce. Our goal is to make it affordable — bring down the cost to less than \$1 a day as opposed to \$100 a day at present," he adds.

His breakthrough was finding genes that are at the heart of a mechanism in plants that accelerates its

growth. This discovery was later translated to transgenic eucalyptus trees that grow faster in the forest and enable production of timber and pulp for paper in a significantly shorter period of time.

According to him, over billions of years of evolution, Nature made amazing materials and systems. "I will mention only a few: Resilin which enables cat fleas to jump 100-200 times their height and the amazing computational powers of our brain. Overabundance of these super performers around us are encoded by their DNA," says Oded who is in India as a TEDxGateway speaker.

When he is not busy in his laboratory, he and his children are busy skiing and looking for new resorts to explore all over the world. He also enjoys mountain biking, running and music.



MEDITATION IS PAINFUL IN THE BEGINNING BUT IT BESTOWS IMMORTAL BLISS AND SUPREME JOY IN THE END — SWAMI SIVANANDA



YOUR WEEK AHEAD



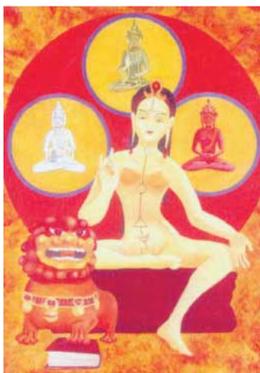
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

Bring positive changes in your lifestyle, and make efforts to improve your health situation. You need to exercise under an expert or go for nutritional education to make sure that you are eating better. Outdoor activities will draw your attention. At work, you will receive admiration from superiors and colleagues. The working environment will be friendly, cohesive and that would increase your efficiency. Promotion/hike in salary is indicated. Work on improving your knowledge and skills. On the personal front, you are strong, courageous and confident. At home, your domineering attitude could irritate others, and you may find yourself alone. This is the time to tame your tongue and bring compassion and concern for the loved one.

Lucky number 6
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Friday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Your physical strength is beyond comparison this week and you must be aware of it. Some of you may embark on an overseas trip or may get an opportunity to work, study, or live overseas for an extended period of time. You will encounter new experiences and welcoming hosts who will support you unconditionally. Overall, this is a good week. On the career front, an enhanced status, promotion or designation is on the cards. You can take important decisions related to your career as you are in a very sound and grounded position. The abundance of energy and self-confidence will give you a boost to move ahead. On the personal front, you may meet a romantic person. A good news is expected to come your way. Be open to exploring your feelings.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Saturday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

You will enjoy good health and vitality this week. Those who are dealing with a serious illness, a new health modality or a healer will prove helpful. Stay positive and expect the best. It is important to share your spiritual understandings with others. Your life will improve immensely if you reach out. Career-wise, learn to delegate responsibilities, especially if you are overloaded with work. A dilemma at the workplace will demand action or decision. Analyse all available information before you arrive at a conclusion. In love, you are likely to question whether you and your long-term partner should stay together. You may choose to go your separate ways. Singles, this may be the time when you finally commit to settling down.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

Your health will be very good. You will feel exceptionally well and upbeat about your future. You need to consider ways to maintain your good health. You will enjoy peace, joy, and prosperity this week and would be filled with positive energy. Those who have recovered from a serious ailment must follow their routine consultation. On the career front, you need to watch out for any cheating. Make sure you are doing things the right way, and then you will have nothing to worry about, even if someone is out to get you. In the matters of heart, you are not very vocal about your feelings. If you love someone, express it. Your introvert and individual personality is definitely not helping you get closer to someone you love. Trust your instincts.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Tuesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You need time and quiet to connect with your soul and energies around. Health, vitality and inner vibrancy will fill you with energy and inspiration. Creative ideas will occupy your mind. Career-wise, there could be a moment which begs you to bring about some desirable changes. Those of you who are not satisfied with the current job, switching to a new job is likely. Good news: the job you find will be better than the previous one. Transfer to a desired place or changing locations are a possibility. On the personal front, you may come across an analytical mind. Make sure not to get pulled into silly debates. Do not ignore your loved ones. Take time out for them and show your concern. Let the heart speak louder than the mind.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Beige
Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Let go of the past and any wrongs that you perceive were done to you, mainly if you are dealing with chronic medical issues. Letting go of your need to be right will go a long way towards helping you to feel better. Think positively. You may find yourself exploring ideas and spiritual directions that you never thought would appeal to you. Career-wise, you may be inspired to start a new creative project, take up an art class, or even dance. You see new potential in allowing your creativity to flow. To those looking for a job, a suitable job offer matching with your profile may surprise you. For those in a committed relationship, it is best to handle situations in a traditional way. Those feeling suspicious about their partner, make a point to talk about it even if it is difficult.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

You will enjoy happiness, good health and worldly pleasures. You tend to be enthusiastic. Carefully weigh and consider what others ask of you. You might consider taking a long holiday. Some of you may travel abroad. Some may even choose to stay at home in order to rejuvenate yourself. Practicing yoga, meditation, cosmic healing or learning new interests is on the cards. Professionally, things are good. Don't take your initial success for granted. Enjoy what you have for the moment. Business is lucrative. On the relationship front, you need to analyse whether you are being realistic in love. Don't spend too much time in self-pity or wishing your life away. Put your anger in check.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Thursday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Work towards good health and vitality. Plan your routine. Those of you who like to dwell in solitude, it would be a good idea to reach out to others. At work, good news is indicated. You will get the benefits from the choices that you make. An 'out-of-the-blue' opportunity may arise. Your company may send you on a foreign assignment. This is a good time for those in the export and import business. You have the potential to crack the most difficult competitive exam and face the interview with confidence, if you have applied for a job. On the love front, those who are committed, you may find your workload or that of your partner interfering with the relationship. Make time and space for the relationship, regardless of your jobs, otherwise, things will suffer.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Mauve
Lucky day Monday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You are a quiet and keen observer this week. Your perception about life will change sensing the positivity around. You will feel healthier than ever. Things will move along well, and hope will emanate — with good cause. Avoid obsession/passion this week. On the career front, you want your time and space. Take rest to emerge from those difficult times, perhaps the trauma of losing your job or financial and health worries. Stress and conflict with your colleagues will overpower you. This is not the time to make decisions, particularly when you are at your vulnerable most. In love, happiness and compassion is on the cards. The start of a new relationship, be it a friendship or a romance will bring a smile to your face.

Lucky number 2
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This is the time for self-improvement. Be creative in your work and avoid stress. Follow a good diet and take adequate rest. Tensions of the past would ease off. Listen to your body and work accordingly. The spiritual journey proves to heal this week. Career-wise, this is a very good time to start planning long term, even if you are very young. Plan to work methodically. An intriguing business opportunity will come along this week. The investments you made in the past will fetch you good returns, and with interest. In love, confusion will prevail. Think calmly and carefully about what your deal-breakers are in a relationship. Be honest with yourself first, and then be honest with your beloved.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Friday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

With your experience and maturity, you will be able to take charge of your life. Instead of being innovative, you need to adapt to the existing set of beliefs and systems that are already in place. Any new theory or fashionable trends will not work for you this week. On the career front, a foreign assignment may come up. There's a good chance that you are working far too hard for recognition and money. This is the time to remind yourself of your real value. In relationship, messages of love and affection will come your way. You will feel pampered and wish to rejuvenate yourself this week. Those who are single, a new suitor with whom you have a lot in common, and who is also very adventuresome, may enter your life. Exciting times ahead.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Wednesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Do not run away from reality. It does not suit your personality. If dealing with a health issue, you need to look for another healthcare practitioner. Look for treatment outside your purview. Plan a vacation to natural surroundings to rejuvenate yourself. Avoid stress. On the career front, share your responsibilities as you may feel overstressed. Share your thoughts with your friends. Reflecting upon the past will help you prepare for the next phase. Review your past experiences and mark your learnings. All the pieces of the puzzle of your life are finally coming together. On the personal front, true love, balanced partnership, commitment, and all good things that most of us hope for in love and relationship, are yours to savour!

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Thursday

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ASTROTURF

BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Lord Shiva: Existence personified

This Friday, Hindus celebrated Shivaratri dedicated to Lord Shiva, popularly seen as one amongst the God-trinity of Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh (another contextual naming of Shiva). Hindus apart, who revere Him in highest esteem, Shiva now seems to be extending His charm even in the scientific world. He, now in his dance form (Nataraja), is prominently displayed at Perth laboratory, known for its particle accelerators engaged in exploring what they term as "God Particle." For, in their perception, Shiva's dance symbolises the play and interplay of cosmic energy streams, which progressively evolved into the manifest plural world. The concepts underlying Lord Shiva can be seen in different perspectives. For meditators, He remains the Adi Guru. In Nataraja form, he remains the guiding spirit of the classical dancers. Kashmir Shaivism carries on its metaphysical perception around Shiva. To me, He comes out as 'Existence personified.'

A look at two imageries associated with Shiva in togetherness, presents a unified picture of the world process, encompassing the whole gamut of creation, sustenance and recycling. In the

first picture Lord Shiva is seated in meditative posture on Mount Kailash. He is shown having lunar crescent over his head, almost bare bodied with just the private part covered with tiger skin. His poison fed blue neck is encircled by venomous snake. River Ganges flows down his matted hair locks. He is seen holding a trident in one arm, Damru (double headed hand drum) in another, rosary in the third, and the 4th palm in blessing mode. Being in meditative posture symbolises reflecting on the churning within, on the prospects of creation. As the rosary keeps circling, the life cycle keeps moving in succession. The blessing mode implies that all existences draw succour out of his inexhaustible potential.

In the second imagery, Lord Shiva, mounted on a bull, has in his entourage multitude forms of existences, some of them even weird and invisible. To name a few, divine beings, humans, devilish existences, animals, birds, goblins, and even invisible existences such as ghost etc. Symbolically, his entourage is indicative of the multipolar manifest world with all its enormity and diversity. This particular symbol stands for the dynamic world ever on the move at its own pace,



as would a bull moving at a constant pace mean. While pulling a cart, the bull moves unprovoked at a constant pace and would not stop in the way till it reaches a place designated for being fed and taking rest. After a while, the bull again takes the journey forward, and then finally reverts back to its normal place of abode after completing the voyage. The manifest world too, after being on the run for a specified time, reverts back to the primal source to acquire a restful state, when it gets recharged once again. Following which, out of the seeds of life withdrawn into primal-source, fresh creation cycle takes off.

Mount Kailasa, is one of the high peaks in the Himalayan range to which lot of perennial rivers are sourced, including the Ganges. It, thus, is closest to the cosmic world, simultaneously having all round view of life down below. Lord Shiva, with lunar crescent over the head, read together with his place of abode, the Himalayan range having in store perennial rivers, is symbolic of eternity, infinity.

The presence of lunar crescent symbolises the convergence of all nature driven forces. For, Moon's luminosity is drawn out of the light extended by the Sun, as well as all the planets and stars up above in the cosmos. But before all light

drawn thus, flows down the line, Moon does its own stamping by turning them into an amiable form. Moon, thus, symbolises convergence of all nature driven energy streams.

With the play of Damru, the equilibrated state of the primal source gets shaken, when the primal sound note O? comes into play. Now going by the scientific perception, once there is entropy (disorder), it multiplies in geometric progression. So, it happened following excitation of O? sound. In the process, first came into play Energy-trinity — Sata, Rajasa, and Tamasa. Trident, it may kindly be noted is symbolic of Lord Shiva's creative power — the three branches of the trident branching out of the base rod imply three dimensions of energies emanating from a singularity. The random mutation of the three that followed, led to multitude of differentiated energy streams. The harmony and sympathy of these differentiated energy streams that followed, led to all creations, first up above in the cosmos.

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the pioneer agenda

The most important lesson I've learned in this business is how to say no. I have said no to a lot of temptations, and I am glad I did
— Penelope Cruz



Mughal prince with a heart

Avik Chanda's book offers a view on the life and times of Dara Shukoh, the designated heir of Shah Jahan

09

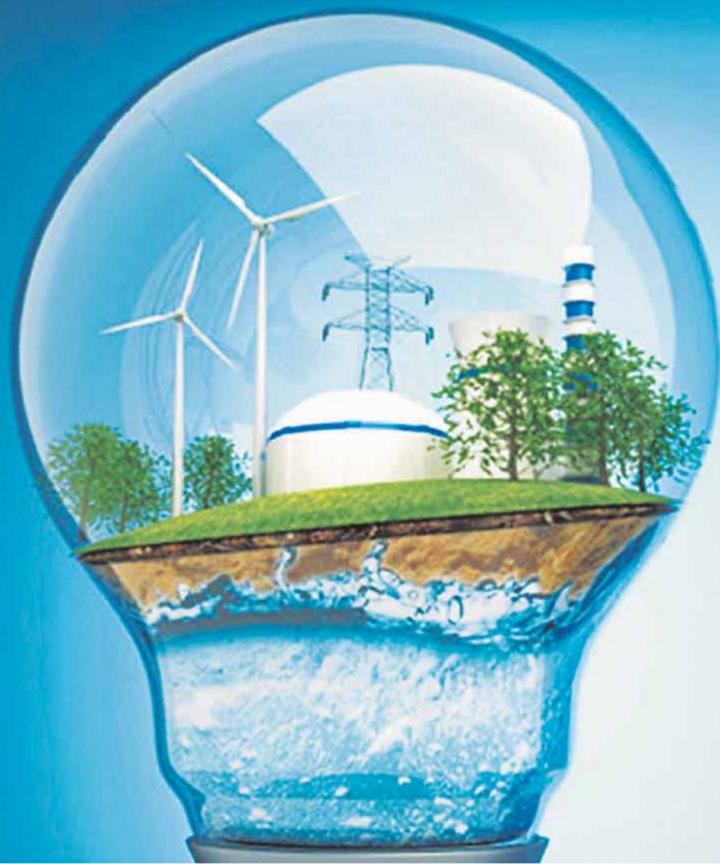


11

Snacking kids the right way

There's a recipe for every kid. While some can be prepared in minutes, some can be part of your Sunday meal-prep

INDIA'S QUEST FOR ENERGY SECURITY



Energy security has been significant to the economic transformation, global prosperity and well-being of the human kind. Energy security will continue to be detrimental to the existing life and much more crucial to the developing countries than the developed world. The world's demand for energy grew by 95% in the last 40 years and the future demand, estimated to be more than 90%, to be because of huge growth in demand from India and China. These resources are finite, and the direct links between energy supply and economic growth have pushed the issue of energy security at the core of the policy debate with a considerable impact on the geopolitics.

India, one of the fastest growing major economies, is also the fastest growing energy consumer in the world. And set to become the most populous nation, it is not well endowed with energy reserves. India has mammoth task of meeting its economic and social developmental goals, and lift its millions of people out of poverty. The country has no option but to strive for sustained growth rate of 8-10% to achieve this. India's economy in all likely will continue to supersede the growth rate of all other major economies in the world in the foreseeable future. The demand for energy in the coming years will accelerate further as India embarks on manufacturing through Modi Government's much vaulted 'Make in India' programme, developmental projects and access to electricity to all. Consequently, energy security has emerged as one of the salient policy issues over the past decade and a half, and the successive Indian governments have emphasised on addressing the impending energy crisis challenges.

In the past, India's energy security has been narrow in its approach, mainly aimed at managing supply. But over the past two decades, India's energy security policy has evolved and approach is much more inclusive which takes into account the political, economic, social and environmental issues and concerns under which the energy security policy is being pursued today internationally. India's quest for energy security can be seen under the framework of four 'A's: availability, accessibility, affordability and acceptability, which is to make energy accessible to all the sections and sectors at an affordable price in a socially and politically acceptable carbon-controlled environment.

India's more than 50% of energy needs is derived from domestic stocks of coal, mainly for the electricity. Coal shall remain India's most important energy source and critical to its growth for the decades ahead. However, the percentage of coal in India's energy mix

will decline in the future. India, with 17% of the world's population, has just 0.8% of the world's known oil and natural gas resources. Today, oil accounts for 36% of the country's primary energy use. This figure is set to rise both in absolute and in percentage terms. India's domestic production is not sufficient to meet its demand. As a result, India already imports 80% of its crude oil needs. Without new and substantial domestic discoveries, imports will continue to increase. By contrast, natural gas currently provides only 8% of India's primary energy supply, and most of that gas comes from domestic sources, onshore and offshore. But the position is likely to change drastically as India plans towards the world average for the use of natural gas.

To promote oil and gas production at domestic level, the Indian Government has been taking several steps which range from encouraging the Indian companies to increase their domestic activities and widening its engagement with multinational companies, broadening opportunities for them to participate in oil and gas exploration in India. Also, to stimulate the investments and development in the exploration of hydrocarbon sources of energy, some of the steps have focussed on regulatory changes, a transparent gas pricing policy and redevelopment of uneconomical assets. The domestic efforts have also seen a concerted focus on exploring various alternative sources of energy which are infinite, renewable and environment-friendly. The government has given a massive push in this regard in the energy production through solar energy, wind power, hydroelectricity power, and biomass, and nuclear energy.

At the domestic level, the challenges are puzzling and often at odds such as increasing energy access, building a smart system for drawing investment in energy infrastructure and pricing of energy to facilitate the economic and environmental competence. Unlike the past policy of self-reliance, India's energy policy has shifted to position itself to address its new dependence on international markets, diversify its sources of energy abroad, look for alternative sources of energy, and increase its domestic production which continues to be in line with its earlier commitment to self-sufficiency. India's domestic exploration and production push is not very promising. As a result, India continues to rely on the foreign sources for its energy needs especially for petroleum.

Since increased domestic production alone will not be sufficient to meet the projected needs for either oil, gas or coal, India is also expanding its efforts abroad. Eventually, this has made energy security one of the top foreign policy

priorities. Despite the Indian government's emphasis on domestic production of coal and efforts to diversify the sources of energy, the demand for imported coal is likely to continue. India's energy demand, both for consumer and industry, cannot be done in the near future without the help of imported coal. There is no substantial proof that India can address its energy demand without the use of imported coal to supplement its domestic supply. For example, the energy security has been an important aspect of India-Australia relationship in which import of Australian high calorific value coal remains crucial.

Subsequently, energy security has emerged as one of the top foreign policy priorities of the Modi Government. This becomes significant as Modi Government embarks to make India a manufacturing hub through its much vaulted 'Make in India' initiatives. Energy security's primacy in Modi government's foreign policy is reflected in his record number of high-profile foreign visits during which he has been cutting energy deals with energy rich countries.

India's energy security pursuit becomes more challenging with the growing concerns of global climate change and political instability in the energy rich regions of the world. India has been relying mainly on coal and petroleum for its energy sources. India's move towards renewable energy sources will not be sufficient for its mounting energy demand. India has to look towards an energy sources with less carbon emission and provide base load power. In this context, gas and nuclear energy figure significant. Gas is less carbon emitting source of energy. India's gas utilisation is far below the world average. Modi government has also given priority to enhance the gas utilisation and move towards gas based economy. India is planning to set up gas pipelines for import of gas from its neighbouring nations. A number of gas pipelines are proposed and are in the construction phase. Majority of them involve intense geopolitics as some of the proposed gas pipelines will pass through Pakistan and China.

Since the two-thirds of India's oil imports come from one single region, that is, the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries, India is following in the footsteps of other major oil-importing economies and making significant efforts to obtain supplies from sources outside the Gulf. In addition, the possibility of disruption from unseen political instability, religious extremism, terrorism, and threats to supply lines have pushed India to look for new hydrocarbon destinations abroad.

India has taken steps to diversify its hydrocarbon exploration in the regions

of Latin America, Africa, Caspian Basin, Russia and in the waters of Indo-Pacific region.

Problems of diversification of energy sources for India arises from the political volatility, geopolitics of these regions and above all it puts India in the direct competition with China particularly in the Non-Middle Eastern and Non-Gulf region as the new destination of energy source which further sparks a geopolitical competition and adds more complexities to an existing competitive and often conflicting India-China relationship.

Nuclear energy has the potential to become an important source of India's energy mix given its economic affordability in the long run and environment friendly. Currently, nuclear energy makes up around 3% of India's energy mix and has the potential to become 20 to 25% of India's energy mix by 2050. The lack of enriched uranium, light water reactors, and advanced technology hampered India's nuclear energy capability. But after the conclusion of India-US nuclear agreement, India's nuclear apartheid ended and unchained India from the technology denial regimes of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Act of 1978 which came in the wake of India's first atomic test in 1974. The nuclear deal was aimed to help India to meet its looming energy crisis by enabling it to access to safeguarded nuclear fuel, advanced light water reactors and civilian nuclear technology.

The India-US nuclear deal pushed the energy security to the core of India's foreign policy. After the India-US civilian nuclear deal, India has sealed the civilian nuclear agreements with a number of countries including France, Russia, Canada, Australia, Japan and the UK. Given India's non-signatory status of Nuclear-Non-Proliferation Treaty, for any country dealing with India in nuclear energy and technology trade becomes an issue of a mutual trust and confidence which required delicate diplomacy from India. Though aimed to address India's energy security, the US-India nuclear deal was viewed by China as part of the United States' grand strategy to contain the growing power and influence of China in Asia. As a result, the Chinese and Pakistani lobbying along with 'Nuclear Ayatollahs' put a concerted lobbying effort to block the nuclear deal at Capitol Hill, though failed. The India-China energy geopolitics resurfaced during India's bid to membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) recently. China used its clout and prerogatives to block India's case for the inclusion in the NSG. The nuclear energy is significant for India's efforts to shift to an environmentally friendly energy sources and alternate sources of energy sources.

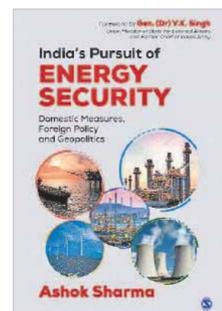
India's push towards renewable

energy has been remarkable which is reflected in Modi Government's schemes to give a boost to renewable energy sources. But even the renewable energy sources are not free from the competitive geopolitical environment. India-China energy geo-politics is also reflected in renewable energy space. Renewable energy's geographic and technical characteristics are fundamentally different from those of coal, oil and natural gas. Though still in the formative stage, international norms are being built towards the renewable energy, and India-China energy geopolitics will enter this new energy space as both are striving to influence the renewable energy space. The inevitability of renewable energy is undeniable and countries are gearing up for an increased share in their energy mix. Those that dominate the markets in these new technologies will likely have the most influence over the development patterns of the future. As other major powers find themselves in climate denial, China and India both are moving to use and exploit the global renewable energy space, though China is ahead.

India is emerging as a new normative player in the renewable energy regime. Prime Minister Modi has pursued unwavering commitment to energy security by constructing 175 GW of renewable capacity by 2022 and India is committed to its unflinching commitment to combat global warming irrespective of what happens in the rest of the world. Prime Minister Modi being awarded the "Champion of Earth" by the UN Secretary General in 2018 is additional power to India's growing normative leadership in this new energy source regime that translates into geopolitics as it helps India to enhance its image internationally.

India's energy policy is being pursued in a much more inclusive manner in its domestic and international settings to address its fast-growing energy demand in a competitive geo-political environment. India energy exploration abroad in the new regions is putting in direct competition with China. Unlike the US-Soviet Union energy geopolitics, the India-China energy competition has been mostly confined to the commercial and diplomatic level tussles, though both remain vulnerable to conflicts which may get aggravated due to their competitive and conflicting relations and the emerging strategic geometry in the Indo-Pacific region.

— Dr Ashok Sharma is a Visiting Fellow at the University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy and the author of the book 'India's Pursuit of Energy Security: Domestic Measures, Foreign Policy and Geopolitics' (Sage Publications, 2019)



ENERGY SECURITY HAS EMERGED AS ONE OF THE TOP FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES OF THE MODI GOVERNMENT. THIS BECOMES SIGNIFICANT AS MODI GOVERNMENT EMBARKS TO MAKE INDIA A MANUFACTURING HUB THROUGH ITS MUCH VAULTED 'MAKE IN INDIA' INITIATIVES. ENERGY SECURITY'S PRIMACY IN MODI GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY IS REFLECTED IN HIS RECORD NUMBER OF HIGH-PROFILE FOREIGN VISITS DURING WHICH HE HAS BEEN CUTTING ENERGY DEALS WITH ENERGY RICH COUNTRIES





THE CHIEF REASON FOR GOING TO SCHOOL IS TO GET THE IMPRESSION FIXED FOR LIFE THAT THERE IS A BOOK SIDE FOR EVERYTHING
— ROBERT FROST

Avik Chanda's book, *Dara Shukoh: The Man Who would be King*, is an ideal read, not only for aspiring historians but also for those interested in Indian history, writes KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Mughal prince with a heart

A frequently heard complaint from a section of Indian historians is that vested interests have played havoc with the sub-continent's history, traditions and culture. If one goes through the history books taught in the Indian schools and universities, it will be found that those lamenting over the tampering of India's history are not exaggerating. Some sections of the country's valuable history have been suppressed from the new generation, especially from those who were born after 1950.

How many among those who were born after 1950 are familiar with the great Maratha ruler Shivaji, the valiant fighter Tantia Tope, the great social reformer Mahatma Phule, the all time great of the 19th century South India by name Chattampi Swamikal and his colleague Sree Narayana Guru?

We cannot put the entire blame for distorting history upon previous regimes alone. It is a strategy deployed since time immemorial to misinterpret historical facts by groups with vested interests. "History is written by victors," Sir Winston Churchill, former British Prime Minister who is known for his erudition and knowledge had said. In modern times, it was proved by the British colonialists. The best example is Louis Mountbatten's decision to destroy even the last vestiges of victory symbols of the Japanese army from Singapore and Malaysia.

"After re-taking Singapore, Mountbatten's (who was the Supreme Commander, South East Asia during Second World War) first act was to order the demolition of the war memorial honouring slain heroes of the Indian National Army. The INA War Memorial at Singapore to commemorate the "Unknown Warrior" was started on July 8, 1945 at Esplanade Park. It was razed to the ground by Mountbatten's allied troops when they reoccupied the city. Demolishing memorials, war memorials and other revered symbols of defeated people is habitual Christian triumphalism as is desecrating the tombs of the rulers of conquered people," writes Radha Rajan, one of the highly respected thinkers of our times.

Most Indians are not really serious about learning history. They are not even bothered about recent history as can be seen by the attitude of the new generation towards the dark days of



emergency declared by the former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1975.

I was shocked to see the larger than life flex boards with pictures of Fidel Castro and Che Guevara greeting the delegates of Indian Science Congress during the 2009 Indian Science Congress held at Thiruvananthapuram. There were no pictures of Sir C V Raman, Prof J C Bose, S N Bose and the likes who took Indian science to new heights. But for ISRO, which co-sponsored the event, there would not have been a single picture of that prince of Indian Space Science, Vikram Sarabhai.

This is not the case with science alone. How many among our new historians are familiar with the works of the great Acharya Ramesh Chandra Majumdar, whose seminal work the

eleven-volume *History and Culture of Indian People* preserve and protect the great history of this great nation from getting tampered by the evil designs of people following imported and outdated ideologies?

Dara Shukoh, son of Shah Jahan, was the unsung hero of the Mughal Dynasty. Dara, the eldest son of Shah Jahan lived only up to the age of 44 years but left indelible marks in the history of the sub continent.

What makes him dear to the people in Mughal empire was his tolerance towards other religions and humane nature, unlike his younger brother Aurangzeb, who went on to become the Mughal ruler presiding over the kingdom till the ripe age of 89!

Aurangzeb was known for his hatred

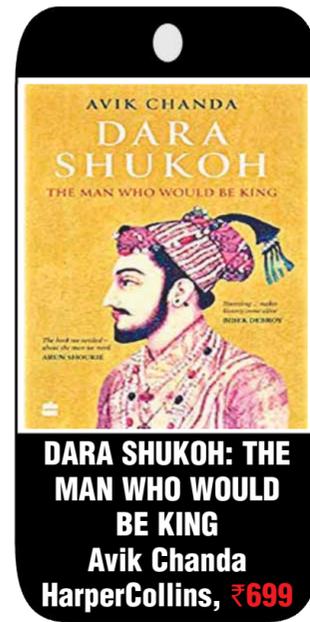
towards Hindus and went on demolishing and destroying the Sanatana Dharma and its symbols like temples, ashrams and monasteries. Though the secularists tried to portray him as a philanthropist by hiring the services of Audrey Truschke to come out with a volume by name *Aurangzeb: The Man and Myth*, it fell all flat as she could not counter the eye witness accounts of Francois Bernier (a European physician and traveller in Shah Jahan's court) and Niccolao Manucci (a military strategist for Dara, who continued to work with Aurangzeb after the fall of the tenure).

Dara in his brief tenure as prince had got the Vedas and Upanishads translated into Persian and French and this itself speak volumes about his compassion for anything that originated in the

sub continent. Who in India would have heard about Bernier and Manucci if it had not been for S L Bhyrappa who in his famous work *Aavaran* told the readers about the official eye witness accounts of these two Europeans?

Avik Chanda, a business advisor with degrees from Delhi School of Economics, has taken from where Bhyrappa left.

Chanda's book "*Dara Shukoh: The Man Who Would Be King*" is a refreshing experience. Chanda gives the readers a bird's eye view on the life and time of Shukoh, the designated heir of Shah Jahan. Even as a young prince, Shukoh wanted the common man to know more about the Islamic saints and for that he opted words instead of swords unlike Aurangzeb and Tipu Sultan. "What Dara



DARA SHUKOH: THE MAN WHO WOULD BE KING
Avik Chanda
HarperCollins, ₹699

was striving for was not linguistic and literary brilliance but a tone of simplicity, an idiom that would induce faith in the reader who was a common man," writes Chanda (Page 51). Thus was born *Safinat-ul-Aulia*, an account of the lives of over 400 saints!

The account of Dara Shukoh once again underlines the fact that the Muslim invaders who occupied the thrones in New Delhi and elsewhere in the subcontinent chose this land only to loot and proselytise. The Sufi saints were Islamic evangelists who went ahead with their mission by singing about love and preaching the message of anarchy. Despite the fact that he belonged to the Mughal dynasty, Dara had some civility in his heart unlike his forefather Babar or sibling Aurangzeb. Those who are out to paint Aurangzeb with divinity may need more self styled historians like Audrey Truschke because we have writers like Avik Chanda for digging out the truth.

Dara Shukoh: The Man Who would be King is an ideal work not only for aspiring historians but for general readers interested in Indian history.

NEW ARRIVALS

MISSING IN ACTION: THE PRISONERS WHO NEVER CAME BACK
Chander Suta Dogra
HarperCollins India, ₹699

The story of India's soldiers missing in action is one that remains unfinished, a spillover of the wars with Pakistan. These are men who went missing in enemy territory while on daring missions during the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars. The nation has forgotten them, though successive governments continue to make token acknowledgements about their missing status. Over the last five decades, there have been scattered reports offering information piecemeal, but this is the first time the saga has been fully told. The result of years of research, the book unearths startling revelations that shed new light on the subject.

SO ALL IS PEACE
Vandana Singh-Lal
Penguin, ₹499

A richly atmospheric, deeply claustrophobic story with a stunning denouement, of two women confronting the everyday realities of their city and country. *So all is Peace* provides an unflinching insight into love, lust, fear, grief, and the decisions we make, through a cast of sharply drawn characters brought together by an unspoken wrong.

BIRDS IN YOUR BACKYARD & BEYOND
Arthy Muthanna Singh, Mamta Nainy, and Kaustubh Srikanth
Red Panda, ₹299

An easy handbook on bird-watching for children and the uninitiated - take the journey with Binee into the magical world of birds. Colourful illustrations and information, interesting nuggets of information, practical things you should know and much more!

Raghupati Raghav on the Banjo

'There is no such thing as a wrong note as long as you can sing it,' Pete Seeger said, his gentle tone immediately endearing him to an audience that had spilled, recalls SHANTANU DATTA in his book. Excerpt:

They all sang along. With Pete Seeger it is difficult not to.

Embellishing his selection with high-note harmonies by grandson Tao Rodriguez, Pete strummed his banjo and guitar to strike up the ever-popular *If I had a hammer* question, reminisce Jose Marti's *Guantanamera*, count 1,2,3 on the *Vietnam Song* and run through the *Midnight Special*. In between there were stories, lots of laughter, more stories and a knee-slapping, foot-stomping jingle that had the 77-year-old bringing the house down with thunderous applause.

And they all sang along. The money tune came next. It was zesty, what with Tao's freewheeling harmonies aided by the snappy guitar rhythm: *...Money can still be handy too (but) let's not allow 'king money' to rule.*

The audience, essentially 30-plus, was loving it. 'How does he do it?' 'What energy, it's amazing...' were all that the chattering classes could manage.

But it was truly magical. How could one man, 77 years old, and helped only by a guitar and a grandson, captivate his listeners thus? And that too when there are none of the now-generation psychedelic pyrotechnics, no multi-coloured lights and no fancy bass-boosting sound system.

The truth is Pete doesn't need all that. He never did. For having spent over five decades

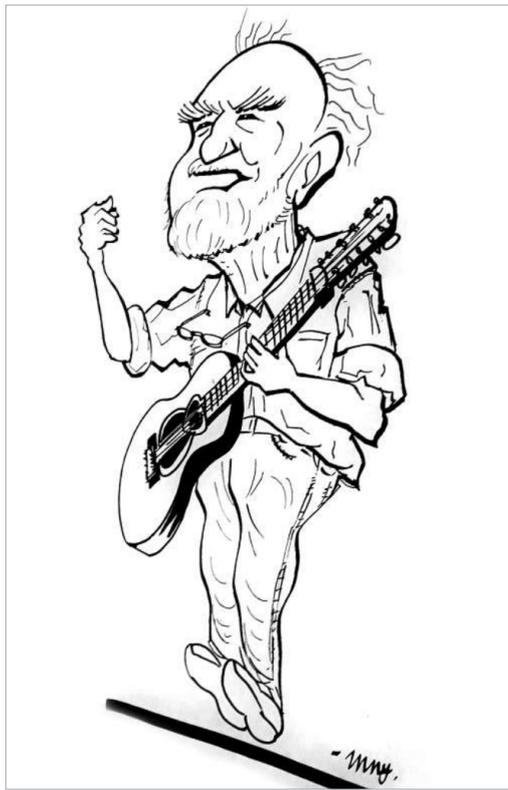
directing music towards social change for peace, equality and decency, his philosophy was always about heart-and-soul, and about the power of simplicity. No wonder they always sing along.

During the early '60s, after he was able to reorganise the Newport Folk Festival to use profits to help folk performers, he privately published *How to Play the Five-String Banjo* but refused to copyright the book because the 'banjo belongs to everyone'. Pete's humanity was so unusual it seemed threatening. Always a popular target of the US witch-hunt he was sentenced to prison and blacklisted during the McCarthy era-particularly suspicious was his custom of learning songs from every country where he gave concerts.

Back at Siri Fort, Tao held on to this tradition as he rendered an Argentinian song about god, war and the future. Pete was on harmony this time as the grandson's soul-stirring high-pitched singing had the audience fall head over heels. A standing ovation was the young man's reward.

A slow and soft tune on Pete's recorder helped the ever-cooperating audience hum one note for effect, which was then followed by what the Guru had picked up from an Indian student, *Ram Dhum*. Tao dwelled on the high notes once again as Pete celebrated his comeback.

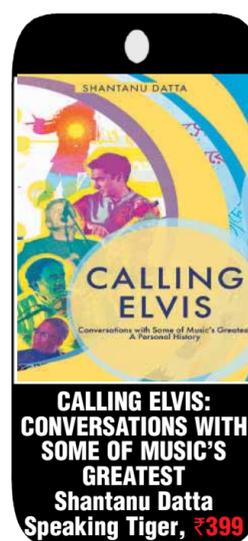
Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram/Patita Pavan Sita Ram... And they all sang along.



WE SHALL OVERCOME: Pete Seeger by E.P. Unny (author's personal collection)

Over two hours had slipped by rather quickly. By then there were more songs with tabla player Ashim Chakraborty join-

ing the duo. But the audience was getting restless. Some of the favourites were yet to come. 'Turn, Turn', someone screamed



from the far corner of the balcony. 'Last Train to Nuremberg, Garbage', it went on. Amidst all the shouts for encores, chief guest Ustad Amjad Ali Khan presented the customary floral tributes on behalf of hosts, Indian Council for Cultural Relations. And as Pete thanked the 'wonderful singing audience', he obliged with The Anthem.

We shall overcome, We shall overcome, someday Oh deep in my heart I do believe We shall overcome someday...

And they all sang along. I learnt that song in Bangla in the '70s as a ten-year-old while living on a college campus on Beltola Road in Bhawanipore, hearing students sing it with zest, welcoming a group of families from Bangladesh who had fled the war of 1971 and had been sheltered there, courtesy my aunt, the principal of Beltola Basic Training College. Not sure if I grasped its true import then, but as the years passed I realised how my mother and I could well have been among them. Not fleeing war, but finding ourselves without a roof over our heads after life in Agartala took an unexpected turn.

That song, anthem really, would be heard on various occasions in Calcutta; at student marches protesting too few teachers in government colleges, at Left Front political rallies against the bourgeois Press or funnily enough, at residents' meetings to demand, not eight-hourly, but four-hourly, water supply from Calcutta Corporation and at a Dharamtala sit-in defence of the Bengali's inalienable right not to work and enforce a state-wide shutdown (bandh). Calcutta still loves a good protest. We had to take it on our stride. Still do.

But Delhi is way different.

Calling Elvis: Conversations with Some of Music's Greatest: A Personal History, written by Shantanu Datta is published by Speaking Tiger

Proxy You wouldn't want to miss VISITING this bar!

K RAMYA SREE
HYDERABAD

It may look like your average neighborhood restaurant and bar from the outside, but a stroll through the entrance of this newly-opened bar in the city will give a completely different experience altogether. The wooden seats, the shacks on the side, the drums hanging from the ceiling are all a treat to your eyes!

Located in Kothaguda, a few metres from Shilparamam in Hitec City, this place is sure to turn into a weekend haunt for all the techies working in the vicinity, at least that's what the Managing Director of Proxy, Aman Chainani hopes for.

When you wander in, one will immediately be greeted by the friendly staff and incredible aroma of home-made cocktails and a pleasant atmosphere with an open roof seating area. Mind you, it's not just for those who want to enjoy nature while drinking, but also for those who want to party hard and dance to the high-octane beats belted out by the DJ.

The theme of the restaurant is definitely not run-of-the-mill. Aman says, "Our idea was to play around the crockery, combinations in cocktails and the food, thereby giving a modern touch to traditional food."

The presentation of the food is true to his words. The onion rings presented on the table looked like they came straight from the farm. The Gongura cream served alongside just enhances the taste. Even the chicken

kebab is presented on hanging seek, as if they are being cooked in a matka.

The presentation of the cocktails was no less. The management has chosen to play around with the crockery and serves liquor in classy glasses that you get lost just admiring its shape.

The food goes with any drink and my personal favourite was the chicken pakora and chicken ghee roast. The chicken pakora were like mini bombs bursting in one's mouth with the Hyderabadi spices adding to the flavour. The ghee roast had just enough ghee which ensures one

doesn't have to work out twice as much to burn those calories. One bite makes it melt in your mouth, leaving you wanting for more.

The highlight of the menu

however was the making of Urban Bhel Puri. It is made right in front of you on your table. Yes, you read it right. The Tandoori Paneer momos, however, were a slight disap-

pointment as they seemed out of place with the rest of the menu. The cocktails are a must try as this include a variety of craft liquor, or as they call them, Craftails.

According to a cocktail expert there, they use fresh blended juice for all their cocktails. Be it beetroot or pineapple, fresh fruits are used to give an essence of freshness to the drink. Beefeater, made of beetroot juice and in house nut liqueur, rosemary blaster, Kaffir lime infused vodka with lemongrass extract and fresh pineapple juice with tropical bitter and galangal fizz remain top favourites.

Desserts are no less. When one orders the chocolate garden,

don't be surprised when you get a garden for yourself.

The dish had chocolate syrup with chocolate brownie crumbles, some fruits and an overload of chocolates.

This place is not just perfect for post-work hangouts, but is ideal even for spending a cozy night with your loved one. If peace is what you seek, sit in the open lounge. If you want music and want to de-stress by dancing, then get to the bar inside where you have live bands and DJs performing.

Price for two:
Approx Rs 1500

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE MENU HOWEVER WAS THE MAKING OF URBAN BHEL PURI. IT IS MADE RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU ON YOUR TABLE. THE COCKTAILS ARE A MUST TRY AS THIS INCLUDE A VARIETY OF CRAFT LIQUOR, OR AS THEY CALL THEM, CRAFTAILS



Pizza



Chocolate garden

Chicken ghee roast, onion rings and chicken pakora

What snack to make for a kid coming back from school is a stressful thought for every mother as every kid has their own like and dislike towards food. Making snacks especially when kids are coming back home with a bunch of friends can get hectic for you. But worry not, there's a recipe for every kid. While some can be prepared in minutes, some can be part of your Sunday meal-prep.

So, here are some after-school snacks that even the pickiest of eaters will love. **Chef:** Tata Sky Cooking expert Chef Nita Mehta. —IANS

Snacking kids the right way

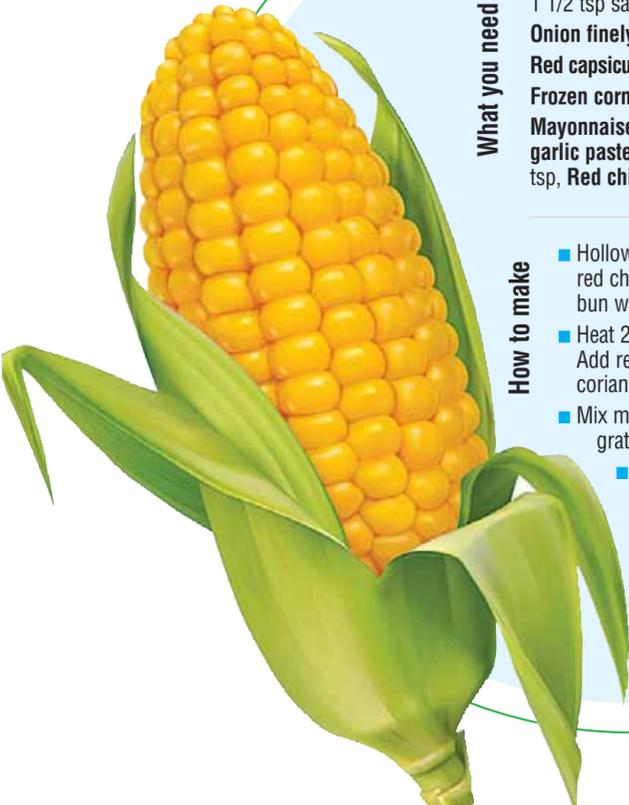
MINI CORN BUNS

What you need

Mini buns: 12; Oil: 2 tbsp mixed with 1 1/2 tsp salt, red chilli flakes
Onion finely chopped: 1; Chopped celery: 2 tbsp
Red capsicum cubed: 1; Chopped zucchini: 1 1/2 cups
Frozen corn: 1 1/2 cups; Chopped coriander: 1 tbsp
Mayonnaise: 3 tbsp, Mustard sauce: 1 tbsp, Chili garlic paste: 1 tsp, Grated cheese: 4 tbsp, Oregano: 1 tsp, Red chili flakes: 1 tsp.

How to make

- Hollow buns. Mix 2 tbsp oil with a pinch of salt and red chili flakes. Brush the outside and inside of each bun with this oil. Keep aside.
- Heat 2 tbsp oil. Add onion and celery cook till soft. Add red capsicum. Zucchini and corn. Mix well. Add coriander, salt, pepper and keep aside.
- Mix mayonnaise with mustard, chili garlic paste, grated cheese. Oregano and chili flakes.
 - Add vegetables to mayonnaise mix and check salt. Stuff in the buns.
 - To serve, heat a flat pan and place the stuffed buns on it. Reduce heat and cover and cook for 4-5 min. Serve hot.



OAT CUTLETS

WHAT YOU NEED:

Potatoes boiled and grated: 2; Oats: 1 1/2 cups
Grated cauliflower: 1 1/2 cups
Grated carrot: 1 1/2 cups; Boiled peas: 1 1/2 cups
Chopped coriander leaves: 1/2 cup
Raisins: 1 tbsp; Salt: 1 tsp or to taste
Pepper, garam masala, chaat masala: 1 1/12 tsp each
FOR TOPPING
Sesame seeds: 1 1/2 tbsp; Suji: 1 1/2 tbsp

HOW TO MAKE:

- Mix all ingredients with boiled grated potatoes. Mash well to bind.
- Make 6 balls of the above mixture. Flatten each ball and give it a heart shape.
- Spread the topping mix on a plate. Press both sides of each cutlet in it.
- Pan fry cutlets in 1-2 tbsp oil in a pan.



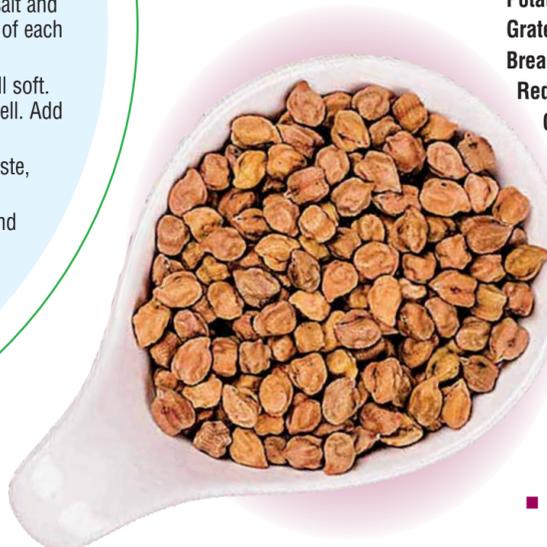
KALA CHANNA LOLLIPOPS

WHAT YOU NEED:

Black Chickpea (Kala channa): 1 1/2 cups (soak, pressure cook with 1 cup water for 20 min after the whistle)
Potatoes: 2 small sized (boiled and grated)
Grated carrot: 1 1/2 cups; Chopped mint: 2 tbsp
Bread: 2 slices; Tomato ketchup: 1 tbsp
Red chilli powder: 1 1/2 tsp; Salt: 1 tsp
Chat masala: 1 tsp; Channa masala: 2 tsp
Corn flour: 2-3 tbsp

HOW TO MAKE:

- Break bread into pieces and put in a mixer. Grind to get fresh bread crumbs.
- Grind the channas to a paste adding little water.
- Mix channa paste, boiled potatoes, grated carrot, mint, bread crumbs, ketchup, salt, chat masala, red chilli powder and channa masala.
 - Make balls and insert a stick in each.
- Flatten the ball on the stick. Coat lightly with corn flour. Refrigerate for 30 min.
- Shallow-fry in a pan, till golden along with the stick. Serve with ketchup



Getting people to go

Oh Baby!



On the sets of *Oh Baby!*

Breaking almost every stereotype, Nandini Reddy has emerged as one of the most sought-after directors following the success of *Oh Baby* released last year. She is known for her 'feel good' films that one wouldn't mind watching over and over.

From *Ala Modalaindi* to *Oh Baby!*, Nandini has always delivered one-of-its-kind movies. From being put down before the release of *Ala Modalaindi* to becoming 'a brand', Nandini's journey has not always been a bed of roses, she tells **THE PIONEER**, in a no-holds-barred conversation with **K RAMYA SREE**.

Pakka Hyderabad...

I was born and brought up in Marredpally and studied in St Ann's High School. We later shifted to Sindhi Colony, most of my childhood years were spent in Secunderabad. I have a lot of fond memories of Marredpally. Since my parents — Bharath. V. Reddy and Roopa Reddy — got divorced when I was very young, I grew up at my maternal grandparents' house and I am a *pakka* Hyderabad.



With brother Uttam

Love for Amar Chitra Kathas...

As a child I would love reading books and was a huge fan of Amar Chitra Katha. I love reading any printed material. My mom would buy me *Amar Chitra Kathas* on my birthday and I would wait for my birthday only to read those books. I still have them. My *mammya* used to read a lot and is a very well educated man. He was also a foodie, so food and books were my favourite as a child and he influenced me a lot. Although I was very mischievous, I would study well. I was quite active and outgoing and used to take part in sports, dramas, theatre and whatnot.

When food coma hit me...

One day, my uncle took my brother, Uttam Reddy and me for buffet lunch when his friend was visiting from the US. The 10-year-old foodie I was, did not know when to stop and I possibly overate. We went to Salar Jung Museum after lunch and food coma hit me as I was falling on all statues. My uncle called my mom and asked her to come pick me up as it was very embarrassing for him. (laughs)

Ice creams were distributed on my b'day

Like any other kid, I never liked milk and used to pour it in the washbasin when no one was looking. My mom used to run an ice cream parlour. When I was in Class 2 my mother asked me to invite some of my friends to the parlour. I was my class representative and was very protective about my class. So I told my teacher that my mother invited my friends and I have to take all 55 students to the parlour. She panicked and called up my principal who then called my mother. My mother then said that wasn't my intention and sent 55 cups of ice cream to the school. On my birthdays, I would bring ice cream instead of chocolates to school and my entire class used to wait for it.

Sitting in the fridge...

When I was around 4 years old, I was feeling very hot in the afternoon. So when my grandparents were asleep I sat in the fridge with my legs sticking out. When they saw me there, I got the scolding of my life (laughs).

Getting ready was never my fancy...

There are a few reasons for me being the way I am. I have curly hair and it takes a lot of time to comb and tie it. I feel one should not spend so much time on their hair. I always used to want to go and play outside and was always impatient. So I would cut off my hair and my mother would thrash me whenever I got a haircut. It was the same for years. Later on, I started wearing jeans, track pants and t-shirts often because I used to play a lot and those were very comfortable. For me, the effort needed to dress up was pointless. It never caught my fancy. Dressing up for me was to look neat and comfortable. For me that came from my dad. I remember my mom telling me that my dad wore old shoes on their wedding as he felt new shoes will bite his feet and he would be uncomfortable.

Not made for a bureaucratic job...

When I joined JNU, I went with the intention of cracking my IPS exams. But during my time there I understood that I was not made for a bureaucratic life. I gave it a lot of thought and decided not to give the exam. I returned to Hyderabad and wanted to get into advertising as I write well. At that point some-

one introduced me to Gangaraju Gunnam garu and I worked with him on a children's film. I didn't know what I was doing or what I have to do. Somewhere I gelled with him and a lot of things clicked for us. I think that was the best thing that could've happened to me as at that point. I didn't know that there were very few women technicians in the industry. It was a great set of people I worked with then. I gradually fit in. By the end of that film I realised that this was what I wanted to do.

It was Gangaraju garu who convinced my mom...

When I told my mom that I want to get into industry, she was worried. Our family is full of academicians, so there was a lot of criticism within the family itself. She met Gangaraju garu and he told her that I can do it. He gave her the confidence and she extended her support and has been supporting me ever since. From there on it was a lengthy journey till I made my first film.

Never expected blockbuster status...

After *Ala Modalaindi* was completed, first persons to tell me the film would work were our music directors Kalyan Koduri and Sagar. Gradually, I started getting positive vibes. Until then I had no hopes. Later, Rana saw the film and loved it and I showed it to my school and college friends, who liked it. I never expected the film to become a blockbuster. My life changed completely in 24 hours. All theatres ran full and I remember watching it in the

theatre and saw hundreds of people laughing like crazy. It was an overwhelming and emotional moment.

Jabardast is my biggest guru...

I made *Jabardast* not listening to my gut. I knew something was wrong. I just didn't want a controversy for my second film. After *Ala...* I pitched *Kalyanavaibhogame* to Sam and Shaurya but somehow I was pushed to do *Jabardast*, letting go of my own story. I feel I should've backed out then and told directors that I didn't want to do it. But the fear of success stopped me. Now I don't make decisions out of fear. I don't want to give in to fear. *Jabardast* is my greatest guru. It taught me a lot. With *Ala Modalaindi*, overnight you were on a pedestal, and after the next film, on the ground. I didn't understand people's anger then until I saw *Shaandaar*, the next film of Vikas Bahl who had directed *Queen*. I was very disappointed with him. I then realised this is what people and my fans would have felt after watching *Jabardast*.

Leamt to chill from Puri Raghavendra garu...

I learnt a lot from Puri Jagannadh garu and Raghavendra garu. They both are very cool and easygoing. Whenever I see them work I always tell I'm going to be like you. When a director is happy on the set, everyone else is in a good mood. I want my shoots to be memorable. I found a way of coping with work stress, so I don't shout or get angry on sets. I'm very chilled out.



With mother Roopa

Mother's attitude helped me...

There was six-year period during which I was pitching scripts for *Ala Modalaindi*. I felt like quitting every day. I wouldn't have money when I went out with friends who were already settled. But my mom's positive attitude and support kept me going.



On *Ala Modalaindi* sets

Making Ala Modalaindi was traumatic...

Ala Modalaindi was a struggle. It was traumatic and every day was a battle. The film would be held up sometimes. I don't remember the number of people who have watched the film and called it crap. Every single person would say that the film was crap except my actors, music director and my writer. Rohini garu was a big support then and it was a traumatic phase for me. The film was almost shelved. But my executive producer explained the math to the producer and cajoled him not to shelve it.

Studying in JNU changed my life...

As a kid I always wanted to be a doctor. I studied BIPC in Inter, but the prospect of studying for years to become a doctor was too much for me. I also started playing cricket at the same time. After my Inter I was looking for colleges that had a good ground and zeroed in on Women's College, Koti. I took economics, political science and public administration. I thought it would be interesting. After that I wanted to explore myself and joined JNU and did my masters in International Politics. JNU changed my life entirely. Everything was new to me and places like JNU change your thinking, your perspective of things and your approach towards life. That's where I actually grew in life.



With friends from JNU

Will soon do an action film...

I don't want to do only rom-coms. I will be switching genres shortly and will explore action films soon. I don't want to do what everyone is doing. Will I do a mass film? Well, if I find something quirky in it, I will.

Wish dad was alive...

Between the age of 18 and 22, I lost five people in my family who were my pillars of strength — my dad, my *mammya* and my grandparents. It was one of the most emotional periods of my life. I wish my grandparents and dad were alive today to see what I have achieved. My dad was the one person who said I should do what I wished in life. He always said "Do what you love". He said if you want to be a cobbler, do it because you love shoes. If you love making shoes, you will make one of the best pairs in the world and money will automatically come to you. I think he would've been quite proud to see what I'm doing now. I miss the fact that they were not there to see my first film.



With father Bharath

RAPID FIRE:

Describe yourself in 3 words:

Foodie, Traveller and Storyteller

What are you most inspired by:

Life
Favourite beverage: I love water and I'm one of those bizarre people who loves water

3 am friend from industry:

Rohini

What does creativity mean to you:

Putting a spin on something nobody could've thought of

Celebrity Crush:

Prabhas, Farhan Akhtar

What do you do to relax:

Read, music and hang out with friends

Guilty pleasure:

Food, especially Sushi

If not direction what would you be doing:

I would either be a deep sea diver or a wild life photographer /travel blogger

Weirdest thing a fan has ever done to you:

My fans are mostly kids (laughs). But my director friends sent me pictures of their kids watching *Oh Baby!* non-stop and they are going nuts.

How do you deal with anger:

I sleep

What do you hate the most in another person:

Being lied to

How do you start your day:

Big mug of water and a newspaper. I need the newspaper

City you wish to visit:

Japan, Prague

Worst subject in school:

Math

Favourite film:

Maya Bazaar

Favourite holiday destination:

Bhutan, where I went for my recent vacation.