

NATION 5

PREZ: SOME DON'T REALISE IMPORTANCE OF VOTE

MONEY 6

ICICI BANK Q3 NET PROFIT RISES TO RS 4,146 CR

SPECIAL 7

MIND BENDER

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A WOMAN OF SUBSTANCE

12



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KCR opposes CAA, to hold CMs meeting in Hyd

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Clearing the stand of the TRS on the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) for the first time after it was passed by Parliament, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Saturday termed the controversial law as "100 per cent wrong decision of the Centre as it violates very Preamble to the Constitution" and appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to rethink.

KCR also said that it was unlikely that NRC will take place. "NRC will not happen. Ministry of Home Affairs in its report submitted to Parliament, said that NPR is the first step toward creating NRC. But the Home Minister says it is not related," he said.

He also appealed to the Supreme Court to take suo motu notice and strike down the CAA. "When we face opposition from the people, we need to rethink. We are not military

Telangana CM asks PM to rethink

governments; we are political governments. A midcourse review is needed," he said.

KCR declared that he will take the lead on the issue and in a month would invite regional parties and Chief Ministers opposed to CAA for a conclave in Hyderabad. "I will take the lead and if needed, will hold a meeting with 10 lakh people to oppose the Act. We will champion this cause. This is not a Muslim cause, and there are apprehensions (about it)."

Emphasising that the "country shall not suffer", KCR added that the state government will pass a resolution in the Assembly opposing CAA.

Home Minister Amit Shah called me and I told him with conviction that we will not support (the CAA). We supported abrogation of Article 370 as

it was about the country's integrity, but we opposed CAA consciously." "Amit Shah will tell a lot of things, but we will express our dissent (to the CAA)," KCR said.

He revealed that he was in touch with the Chief Ministers of other States that are opposed to the CAA, and also leaders of like-minded parties. "If necessary, I will take the lead and invite all of them for a meeting in

"Kishan Reddy said this is voluntary disclosure. So is it okay if we tell Telangana citizens not to give details?"

"I don't understand the thing about keeping aside one religion. Constitution is equal for everyone and CAA is against the Preamble"

"I am Hindu and I chant Gayatri Mantra every morning and I don't do it because BJP tells me to."

"If I go from here, I can become (the PM). Didn't Modi become PM from being a CM?"

"Next elections it will be Federal Front government - both BJP and Congress failed miserably in so many aspects."

Hyderabad soon to chalk out a course of action to fight against this regressive legislation. We will fight against it. We are not scared of anyone or any party," the TRS supremo said.

"India is being turned into a Hindu state under the BJP. It is not good to have only one brand of religion. Our country's brand image is being hurt in the international market. We will be seen as bigots as they will call us 'religious country'. They might see us as third-class fellows. We have to live along with the world. 100 per cent it is wrong Act, the thinking (behind it) is wrong," KCR said.

The Chief Minister said that there are 10 crore Indians working overseas and about 10 lakh Telanganites working in Gulf countries. "What will be consequences for them if the Centre comes out with such policies and keeps on playing with religious sentiments? BJP is playing religion-based politics, which are outdated," KCR said.

He said, "Wisdom should prevail in the country. KCR says boldly and clearly without fearing anyone. We will not support anything blindly. Even if we die, TRS will remain a secular party."

Is there no other issue at all in the country? Is there no other subject other than this? Economy is becoming disastrous. How many days will BJP do this dhanda? Aren't Muslims our people? For how many days will you isolate them?



Padma Bhushan PV Sindhu

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Badminton ace from Telangana PV Sindhu has been honoured with the Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award. The Padma awards for the year 2020 were announced on Saturday.

From Telangana, Chintala Venkat Reddy was bestowed with the Padma Shri for his contribution to organic farming while Vijayasarithi Srihashyam was conferred the award for literature and education. From Andhra Pradesh, Yadla Gopala Rao and Dalavai Chalapatih Rao were named for the award in the arts category.

This year, the President has approved conferment of 141 Padma Awards including four duo cases (in a duo case, the award is counted as one). The

list comprises seven Padma Vibhushan, 16 Padma Bhushan and 118 Padma Shri awards. Former Union Ministers late Arun Jaitley, George Fernandes and Sushma Swaraj were awarded the Padma Vibhushan, the second highest civilian honour. Industrialist Anand Mahindra has been awarded the Padma Bhushan. Producer Ekta Kapoor, director Karan Johar, actor Kangna Ranaut and singer Adnan Sami will receive the Padma Shri.

Thirty-four of the awardees are women and the list also includes 18 persons from the category of Foreigners, NRI, PIO, OCI and 12 posthumous awardees.



Chintala Venkata Reddy, Dalavai Chalapatih Rao, Yadla Gopala Rao, Srihashyam Vijayasarithi

Arun Jaitley, Sushma, Fernandes awarded Padma Vibhushan

NEW DELHI: Former central ministers Arun Jaitley, Sushma Swaraj and George Fernandes, have been posthumously awarded Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian honour, the Ministry of Home Affairs announced on Saturday.

The three BJP stalwarts died last year. This year's Padma Award list includes 7 Padma Vibhushan, 16 Padma Bhushan and 118 Padma Shri Awards.



FOR TELANGANA

TRS IS LOCAL AND SWEEP IS TOTAL

- Pink party creates history by registering an all-time record poll result
- Cutting across sections, people repose confidence in the ruling party



TRS supremo K Chandrasekhar Rao gestures after results of the urban local bodies' polls give his party a comprehensive victory.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) swept the municipal elections, capturing power in over 100 out of 120 municipalities and seven out of nine municipal corporations.

Main opposition the Congress

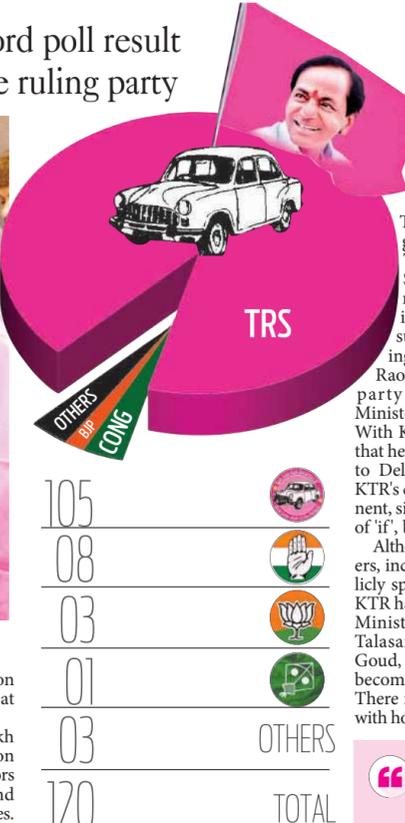
was distant second with majority in three municipalities. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) won a municipality each.

Counting of votes was underway in some places and all the results are expected to be announced by the evening.

The State Election Commission (SEC) took up counting of votes at 134 centres.

Over 70 per cent of 53.37 lakh voters had cast their votes on Wednesday to elect 325 corporators for municipal corporations and 2,727 councillors for municipalities.

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When is the coronation of KTR as Chief Minister?

NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD

The massive mandate given by people to Telangana Rashtra Samithi in the municipal polls has increased manifold support for TRS working president K T Rama Rao to step into the shoes of party supremo and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao. With KCR declaring on Saturday that he would not hesitate to move to Delhi when the time comes, KTR's coronation now seems imminent, since it is no longer a question of 'if', but when.

Although several prominent leaders, including Ministers, have publicly spoken about the coronation, KTR has been in denial mode. Be it Minister Erabelli Dayakar Rao, Talasani Srinivas Rao, Srinivas Goud, the voices in favour of KTR becoming CM is getting shriller. There is now a chorus in harmony with hopes that KCR would pass the

baton to KTR. Slogans like 'Car Sarkar and KTR' are already doing the rounds among leaders and on social media platforms. With Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao giving indications again about his foraying into national politics, even to the extent of becoming 'Prime Minister', KTR may soon be at the wheel in the car in the state.

As things stand, the outcome of the Chief

Ministers' and regional parties' conclave, being convened in a month or so to reject CAA, could decide the timing for KTR to become the Chief Minister of Telangana.

Continued on Page 2

"The people of Telangana have once again demonstrated that they stand by TRS, whatever is the election"

— KTRAMA RAO
TRS Working President

TODAY

ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Magha & Shukla Paksha
Panchangam
Yamagandam: 12:28 pm - 01:52 pm
Varjyam: 08:58 am - 10:42 am
Gulika: 03:16 pm - 04:40 pm
Good Times: (to start any important work)
Amritakalam: 07:27 pm - 09:12 pm
Abhijit Muhurtham: 12:05 pm - 12:50 pm

HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Mostly Sunny
Temp: 31/18
Humidity: 47%
Sunrise: 06:49
Sunset: 06:07
Current Weather Conditions
Updated January 25, 2019 5:00 PM

Cong fails to repeat LS performance in civic polls

K VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee continued on its downward spiral with its total rout in the elections to urban local bodies, after its serious debacles in the Assembly, Lok Sabha and rural local bodies' elections. The Congress party failed to build even on its shock victories in the Lok Sabha elections in Malkajgiri, Bhongir and Nalgonda.

Prominent Congress MPs -- A Revanth Reddy from Malkajgiri, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy from Bhongir and TPCC Chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy from Nalgonda failed to show their strength in the municipalities and corporations under their constituencies. Somehow, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy



N Uttam Kumar Reddy



Komatireddy Venkat Reddy

stood his ground by giving a tough fight to the ruling TRS party in the municipalities located in his constituency, besides stiffly opposing TRS in his hometown Nalgonda, though it is not under his Lok Sabha constituency.

The Congress has some chance of winning chairman

posts in Chanduru, Pedda Amberpet, Adibatla and Yadadri. It gave a tough fight in Chityal, Bhongir and Janagan. Komatireddy left his mark in Nalgonda town, with the Congress winning 20 seats on par with the tally of the ruling TRS party.

Continued on Page 2

Six Army men get Shaurya Chakra

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Six soldiers have been awarded the Shaurya Chakra, including one posthumously, for displaying gallantry during anti-militancy and anti-insurgency operations.

Lt Col Jyoti Lama, Maj Konjengbam Bijendra Singh, Naib Subedar Narendar Singh and Naik Naresh Kumar were among the recipients of the award. Naib Subedar Sombir was posthumously awarded the Shaurya Chakra. He was killed during an encounter with terrorists in J&K last year. During the encounter, three hardcore terrorists were killed. One of them was a foreigner and an 'A++' category terrorist, and he was shot down by Sombir in a close quarter battle.

Prez Medal for Shivadhar Reddy

Akun Sabharwal among 12 who get Police Medal

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State's first Intelligence chief B Shivadhar Reddy IPS, Additional DGP (Personnel) has been awarded the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service for 2020. The announcement was made on the eve of Republic Day.

According to a release from the Office of the President, 12 other police personnel from TS will be honoured with the Indian Police Medal (IPM) on Republic Day.

Reddy, along with Akun Sabharwal IPS, Director Enforcement, Prohibition and Excise, were the two IPS cadre officials among the 13 cops from the State to be honoured.



Shivadhar Reddy, Akun Sabharwal

Iqbal Siddiqui, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Special Branch Hyderabad, P. Satyanarayana, Additional Commandant, 10th Battalion, Beechpally, Mahabubnagar, Devanaboina Pratap, Assistant Commissioner of Police, task force, Nizamabad, Ghanta Venkata Rao, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Khammam town, Sama Jayaram, Deputy

Superintendent of Police, V&G Nalgonda, Srikrishna Ravindranath, Reserve Inspector, 8th battalion, TSSP, Kondpur, K. Sudhakar, Assistant Sub Inspector, Warangal, M. Nagalakshmi, Assistant Sub Inspector-C, RBVRR Telangana State Police Academy, Hyderabad, R. Anithi Reddy, Assistant Sub Inspector, SOT Shamsabad, Cyberabad, and D. Ramesh Babu, police constable in senior commando, Greyhounds police, Puppulaguda post, Hyderabad. Earlier, Hyderabad city Police commissioner, Anjani Kumar IPS was selected by Election Commission of India for the Best Electoral Practices Award 2019. He received the Prestigious National Award for Best Security Practices from the President on Thursday in New Delhi.

'ALL AND SUNDRY'

Jagan government firmly in 'fast backward' mode

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, after people voted massively in his favour in 2019, raised hopes of putting AP on fast forward mode and giving stiff competition to neighbouring States in attracting investments. The coastal State had been battered for the previous five years by a totally corrosive debate over the merits of Special Category Status. In the preceding five years from 2009, it was rocked by the bifurcation agitation, leaving it in a state of policy paralysis. Effectively, 10 years in AP's life is gone forever. Jagan's predecessor N. Chandrababu Naidu promised the moon, but barring his handling of the Hudhud cyclone in Visakhapatnam and completion of the Pattiseema Lift

Irrigation project linking the Godavari to the Krishna, he had little to show. Pattiseema was, however, overshadowed by massive delays and corruption that pockmarked Polavaram, the project with which Pattiseema has an umbilical link. Above all, Naidu lent himself to charges of nepotism and of over-reaching in his attempt to build Utopia whose other name is Amaravati.

A huge responsibility thus lay on Jagan's shoulders to give Andhra a strong developmental push. But, he had other ideas, primarily promotion of Navaratnalu, a package of nine welfare schemes promised in his manifesto. Of equal priority was rollback of Naidu's policies, projects and schemes. Jagan was desperate to put his permanent stamp on Andhra Pradesh.

Matters turned upside down

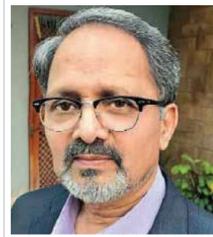
A huge responsibility thus lay on Jagan's shoulders to give Andhra a strong developmental push. But, he had other ideas, primarily promotion of Navaratnalu, a package of nine welfare schemes promised in his manifesto.

when he decided to shift Andhra's administrative capital from Amaravati to Visakhapatnam, a peaceful city which can turn into an over-populated megapolis if not planned properly. Using his four-fifths majority in the Assembly, the Government steamrollered three Bills to change the capital and scrap the Capital Region Development Authority.

Often in politics as much as in life, one mistake leads to another. There were no consultations with the Centre, the stakeholders or party commit-

tees and no indication in the election manifesto. There was no political strategy either before sending the Bills to the 58-member Legislative Council, where the TDP enjoys majority. The TDP forced the Bills to be referred to a Select Committee, a legitimate legislative tactic often used by the opposition in Rajya Sabha when it is in majority. It thoroughly exposed Jagan's inexperience.

He now wants to scrap the Council, a body revived in 2007 at the initiative of his father, the late Y. S.



S NAGESH KUMAR
Former Resident Editor,
The Hindu

Rajasekhara Reddy. The Council was creating obstacles to making laws by MLAs, who were elected by the Assembly. It was casting "a huge financial burden" of Rs. 60 crore annually, he said, whereas the total annual budget for the Parliament is Rs. 600 crore. No price can be too high for

keeping Parliamentary democracy up and running.

Now, the bicameral legislature was conceived by framers of the Constitution as a mechanism for checks and balances. Comprising people from a cross-section of society, not merely politicians, the Upper House was expected to rise above politics while deliberating on various pieces of legislation with the calmness of mellowed elders, and refer them to the Select Committee if it felt deeper scrutiny was needed.

The Jagan regime has painted itself into a corner. In the normal course, the Select Committee takes 3-4 months to send its report to the House whereas, going by past experience, it may take nothing less than one year for the Centre to get the resolution passed in both Houses of Parliament.

The Centre will be opening

a can of worms if it obliges Jagan. Ten States, including three each of BJP and Congress, either want re-establishment of Councils they scrapped earlier or creation of fresh ones. A fine balancing act would be required if the Centre chooses to create new Councils while scrapping existing ones.

What is the way forward from here? Amaravati farmers are agitating for their rightful share from the land pooling scheme under the doctrine of legitimate expectations. The farmers did not surrender lands for lease money or pensions as the Jagan Reddy Government would have us believe. They did so in the expectation that real estate values would rise and so would the value of their share of plots.

When AP was bifurcated, fears were expressed about possible flight of capital from

Hyderabad to Andhra because of Naidu's experience in wooing investors and the development of a green field capital. The reverse is happening now. Thrown out of Andhra, Singapore's Minister for Trade S. Iswaran and the Lulu Group are seeking investment opportunities in Telangana.

While Jagan (47) was bogged down in waging battles against Naidu and Amaravati farmers, Telangana Minister for Industry and IT KT Rama Rao, four years his junior, was rubbing shoulders with global economic and IT industry leaders at Davos seeking investments. Andhra will have to wait and watch when this Government gets down to business as the capital controversy is unlikely to die down soon. As of now, Jagan has his fingers firmly pressed on the 'fast backward' button.

Double paddy MSP, TS urges CACP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The state government has submitted a proposal to the Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices to hike the MSP of paddy by at least two times and that of the cotton by thrice for the next Kharif season citing the increased cost of production of paddy and cotton.

The government urged the Centre that the MSP should be in tune with the recommendation of Swaminathan Commission. Therefore, it urged the Centre to revise the MSP adding at least 50 per cent of the cost of production. Accordingly, it urged the Centre to hike the MSP for paddy by twice and that of cotton by thrice. It also appended the list of cost of production of various crops taking into consideration input costs like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, harvesting, labour charges and so on.

The Centre has been fixing the MSP according to its



The State government urged the Centre that the MSP should be in tune with the recommendation of Swaminathan Commission and asked it to revise the MSP adding at least 50 per cent of the cost of production

whims and fancies not taking into consideration government of Telangana's Agriculture Department's request. The state

government worked out the per acre cost of production of paddy taking into consideration inputs like seeds, fertiliz-

FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS PER QUINTAL COST OF PRODUCTION (RS)

Crop	Production cost	Proposed MSP	Current MSP
Paddy	2,529	3,794	1,815
Cotton	10,043	15,064	5,550
Soya	4,694	7,041	3,710
Maize	2,172	3,258	1,760
Red gram	8,084	12,126	5,800
Groundnut	5,282	7,924	5,090
Jowar	3,713	5,569	2,570
Pearl Millet	3,477	5,215	3,150

ers, transplantation costs, de-weeding, labour costs and so on to be Rs 35,156. It put the per quintal cost of production of paddy at Rs 2,529. As per the Swaminathan Commission recommendations, the government asked the Centre to hike the costs by 50 per cent and fix Rs 3,794 as the MSP for paddy from Kharif next.

Similarly, it put the cost of production of cotton per quintal at Rs 10,043. However, the MSP fixed for 2019-20 was Rs 5,550 per quintal. It sought the Centre to hike it to Rs 15,064 a quintal. Similarly, it proposed an MSP of Rs 3,258 for maize, Rs 7,924 for groundnut, Rs 12,126 for red gram, Rs 7,041 for soya beans.

GREEN DRIVE



R Chalapati Rao, president of Telangana Real Estate Developers Association (TREDA), planting a sapling, under the Green India challenge programme initiated by Rajya Sabha MP J Santosh Kumar, at the TREDA office on Saturday. On the occasion, he said that the Green India Challenge initiative, under Haritha Haram programme, is working towards achieving a green Telangana state.

When is the coronation of KTR as CM?

Continued from Page 1

KCR on Saturday declared that in the next elections it would be a Federal Front government at the Centre - both BJP and Congress failed miserably in so many aspects. He said, "If I go from here (TS), I can become (PM). Didn't Narendra Modi, who was once Chief Minister, become Prime Minister? KCR if needed will move forward for the sake of country."

Except for a small setback in the Lok Sabha elections, TRS party has been on a winning streak since KTR took over as party working President. The ZP/MP polls, Huzurnagar and ULBs mandate have been tremendous for the party. KCR did not mince words in praising KTR and his team for the mandate given by people in the municipal polls. There were speculations in the aftermath of the LS elections and the 'Modi wave' that KCR may have chosen to rethink on the coronation. However, with the protests against Centre gaining pace, and with TRS becoming invincible in the state, the winds are blowing in right direction for KTR to be declared as second Chief Minister of Telangana.

Will settle scores with TRS in GHMC polls: BJP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP State unit president Dr K Laxman on Saturday said that the party has representation in all municipalities and maintained that it would settle the scores in the forthcoming GHMC elections. The BJP succeeded in sending warning signals to the ruling TRS by acquiring representation in all municipalities, he said observing that the TRS graph is on the gradual decline.

Referring to KT Rama Rao being projected as the future Chief Minister of Telangana, he observed that KTR failed to win at least 50 per cent of the wards in Sircilla municipality. The TRS failed to create an impact in Nizamabad municipal corporation polls, he pointed out. There was no precedent in the country of political out-

fits spending Rs 1 crore during municipal polls, he said. He wondered at the TRS embarking on 'camp politics' even before the results were completely out. TRS senior leaders are fielding rebel candidates against the official nominees, the TRS leadership is not in a position to take action against them, he pointed out. The TRS failed to announce candidates for the municipal chairman posts, he said wondering it whether it is a political outfit or a private limited company.

He alleged that he never heard of such costly elections in his long political career. He said the BJP achieved good results and won on its own in three municipalities. He alleged that several irregularities have taken place during the municipal polls.

Cong fails to repeat LS performance in civic polls

Continued from Page 1

However, it is not easy to win the chairman post as everything depends on BJP and independent candidates.

The ruling party has more ex-officio members and they may change the chairman results. The party failed to do well in Motkur, Tirmalagherry, Alair, Pochampally and Ibrahimpatnam.

Nalgonda MP N Uttam Kumar Reddy suffered a jolt in the municipal elections. Uttam has lost his face as the party failed to win a single municipality in his former Assembly constituency and in the municipalities that come under his Lok Sabha constituency. The party did badly in Huzurnagar, Devarakonda, Suryapet, Kodada, Miryalaguda, Haliya, Nagarjuna Sagar. However, the



party did badly in four corporations and nine municipalities that come under his Lok Sabha constituency. The Congress totally failed to do well in the four corporations - Boduppall, Nizampet, Peerzadiguda, Jawahar Nagar and in nine municipalities - Medchal, Kompalli, Nagaram, Pocharam, Ghatkesar, Gundlapochampally, Dammaiguda, and Bandlaguda Jagir.

The Congress failed to do well also in his former Assembly constituency Kodangal. However, the grand old party gave a tough fight in Kosgi by winning seven wards on par with the TRS party. However, it is not possible for the party to win the chairman position over there.

People repose faith in TRS, says Indrakaran

PNS ■ NIRMAL

Minister for Housing Allola Indrakaran Reddy opined that the results of elections to municipalities reflected the mandate of the public given to the TRS-party led governance. He was commenting on the results here on Saturday.

The Minister, Indrakaran Reddy asserted that the electors reposed faith in the ruling of State by the TRS by casting their votes in favor of candidates fielded by the pink party in the elections to municipalities.



Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao addressing the media on Saturday

TRS is local and sweep is total

Continued from Page 1

A total of 1,746 candidates were in fray in municipal corporations while 11,099 candidates tested their political fortunes in municipalities.

As expected TRS swept the polls, securing majority in over 100 municipalities by winning more than 1,500 seats. Congress was distant second with 495 seats.

BJP, which was claiming to emerge as the main opposition after winning four Lok Sabha seats last year, won 223 seats. Interestingly, independents won more seats than the opposition parties in several municipalities.

Independents were elected in 293 wards. Most of them were TRS rebels.

Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM won 56 seats. It captured power in Bhainsa, which was recently rocked by communal violence.

TRS also dominated the elections to nine municipal

corporations. It won 123 seats while BJP finished a distant second by winning 42 seats. Independents won 41 seats while Congress secured 37 seats.

TRS candidates were elected unanimously in 77 wards in municipalities and one ward in corporation while three candidates of AIMIM were elected unopposed in three municipal wards. Most of the municipalities and corporations are going to polls for the first time after they were carved out last year. Celebrations broke out at TRS headquarters Telangana Bhavan here. Party cadres distributed sweets and burst crackers.

TRS working president and cabinet minister K.T. Rama Rao said the victory increased his responsibility. He thanked people for once again reposing faith in TRS.

The newly-elected bodies will elect mayors, chairpersons and deputy chairpersons on January 27.

HYDERABAD BULLION RATES

GOLD	₹ 40,110 (10 gm)
SILVER	₹ 47,000 (1kg)
₹ 800	

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG

Dressed/With Skin	₹155
Without Skin	₹177
Broiler at Farm	₹107

EGG RATES ₹/100

HYDERABAD	360
VIJAYAWADA	395
VISAKHAPATNAM	410
RETAIL PRICE (IN HYDERABAD)	₹3.60

Political outfits kick off 'camp politics'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With the municipal election results are out, various political outfits on Saturday kicked off camp politics to prevent their respective candidates from poaching by rival parties. Meanwhile, the Election Commission made it clear that running camp politics with the ward member and corporator-elect people's representatives is violative of the commission's rules. It clearly specified that campaigning 48 hours before the indirect elections was prohibited. It said that inducing the newly-elected to violate their respective party whips offering them one post or the other was prohibited. Further, it prohibited the ruling party and its administrative machinery from misuse of



The Election Commission made it clear that running camp politics with the ward member and corporator-elect people's representatives is violative of the commission's rules

power. Clearing pending bills, issuing certificates, licenses, closing pending cases against the elected people's representatives, reviving contracts and other inducements were also prohibited.

In Mancheril district, political outfits are competing with each other in running camp politics. TRS ward member-elected candidates

from Mancheril, Luxettipet, Bellampalli, Chennuru and Kyatanapalli municipalities have been taken to Hyderabad. They are understood to be taken to Goa.

The Congress is running a camp in the house of MLC Prem Sagar Rao's residence in Mancheril with candidates-elected from Mancheril and Naspur

municipalities. However, the Congress candidates elected in Luxettipet have been shifted to an undisclosed location in Maharashtra.

TRS candidates elected in various municipalities in Adilabad municipality have been taken to an undisclosed place in two buses under the leadership of former Minister Jogu

Ramanna. The BJP is also giving finishing touches to its camp politics.

TRS candidates elected in Khanapur municipality of Nirmal district are also dispatched to the party camp at an undisclosed place.

In all, 38 TRS candidates elected to Sangareddy municipality and 26 belonging to Sadasivapet municipality have been sent to TRS camps in two buses separately. In Andhole municipality, the Congress sent its candidates to its camp at an undisclosed place.

In yella Reddy municipality of Kamareddy district, the Congress dispatched its candidates to undisclosed places. The Congress has kept a watchful eye on TRS candidates.

CAPSULE



RGUKT TECH FEST TO IGNITE YOUNG MINDS

HYDERABAD: AntahPragnya 2020, the techno-cultural festival at Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT), Basar will be held on 31 January and from 1 to 2 February 2019 in the campus. The event will be organised by the engineering students. The main features of the AntahPragnya include events like eunoia, techies for karshak, VihaaR (VR gaming), astro-space camp, sci-fest, robo race and workshops on robotics, IOT, AL@ML using python, Formula 1 car design, NDT, Telugu & English language literary workshops and many more. Around 150 stalls including working models, poster presentations and educational talks and films will be screened. The three-day fair will be kept open from 9 am to 7 pm. There is a scope for a school or a college student to get educated, inspired, motivated and get ignited by the exhibition being put up by young technocrats.

3-DAY ICDLRLR 2020 TO BE HELD IN APRIL

HYDERABAD: The three-day International Conference 'Digital Landscape-Reinvention and Re-engineering of Libraries: Trends, Issues and Challenges' (ICDLRLR-2020) organised by the University Library, JNTUH in association with Indian Library Association (ILA), New Delhi will be held from 9 to 11 April 2020 in Hyderabad. Registrar of JNTUH Prof A Govardhan released the brochure and launched the website (<http://www.icdlr2020.in>) on Saturday. Director of JNTUH Dr BN Bhandari, director of SIT at JNTUH Prof A Damodaram, president of ILA Prof. B.D. Kumbhar and other professors were present.

AMEENPUR FALSE RAPE CASE

House owner booked for revealing identity of girl

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Sangareddy Police have booked a case against the landlord of the 16-year-old girl who cooked up a rape story fearing her parents earlier this week. The house owner, Ravi Goud, a Congress leader, had filmed the girl by asking questions about how she was raped, who raped her, how many people and others. The landlord further shared it on WhatsApp and to the media, exposing the identity of the minor girl.

Seeking 'justice' for the girl before knowing the fact that the girl faked a rape story, Ravi Goud videographed her without concealing her identity. The video has gone viral.

Cases were booked against Ravi under POCSO Act of Section 509 of the IPC, Juvenile Justice Act and sections 21, 22 among others for exposing identity of the minor girl.

Sangareddy SP, S Chandrashekar Reddy said that Ravi



House owner and Congress leader Ravi Goud

Goud has committed a crime as he violated the privacy of a minor girl. Police also said that they will take action against him for allegedly involving minor in the election campaign. Ravi's wife, Surekha contested as a Congress candidate from Ameenpur municipality in the recently held Municipal elections.

Ravi is allegedly absconding after police filed a case against him. It was recalled here that the girl from Sangareddy district alleged that she was gang-raped on Thursday. She explained cops that the trio in the car took her to an isolated place in the Patancheru IDA and allegedly raped her and abandoned her at the spot.

Subsequently, their parents registered a case. However, police officials found that the girl had lied.

"The teenager left home on Thursday morning to watch a film with her boyfriend. Fearing her parents, later at noon, she called her parents and told them that she was gang-raped at an abandoned place in Ameenpur by a group of men," said the police officials.

The worried parents reached the spot and informed police through Dial 100. After verifying that the allegation was false, police counseled both the girl and her parents. Police also said that the case would be dropped.

According to sources, the victim was residing along with her parents who have migrated for livelihood in Ameenpur town and had come there 15 days ago. While both the parents are working as in an apartment and the girl is studying in college.

6 DMart outlets fined Rs 13.4 lakh for tampering with MRP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Legal Metrology Department of Telangana has slapped a fine of Rs 13.4 lakh on six outlets of DMart, a hypermarket chain in Rangareddy district for tampering with the MRP.

The action against DMart was the outcome of several complaints by consumer rights activist Umesh Kumar. Based on his complaints, Legal Metrology officials had earlier seized goods from DMart outlets.

In October 2019, Umesh Kumar had filed a complaint with the Legal Metrology Department, alleging that DMart outlets in the state were selling imported goods like toys by putting their own labels and removing details, including the name of the manufacturer.

"Consumers should be aware of their rights. They are being cheated by big supermarkets including DMart by



A fine of Rs 2.9 lakh has been imposed on Vanasthalipuram outlet followed by an outlet at Ramanthapur

manipulating MRP on the products. An empowered consumer is a smart consumer. These companies are amassing money through unfair trade

practices. Regular inspections should be done at other DMart branches in the country," said the activist.

The highest fine of Rs 2.9 lakh has been imposed on a DMart outlet at Vanasthalipuram followed by Rs 2.5 lakh on a store at Ramanthapur. The department has also asked DMart stores at Sanath Nagar and Kusaiguda to pay a fine of Rs 2.25 lakh each. The other two outlets at Champapet and Kukatapally will have to cough up fines of Rs 2 lakh and Rs 1.5 lakh, the officials said.

Jagityal 'best in conduct of elections'

PNS ■ JAGTIYAL

District Collector Sarath on Saturday expressed happiness over the State Election Commission adjudging Jagityal as the best in the conduct of elections.

Addressing media here, he said that the elections were conducted within the short-possible time with the support of poll officials and the constabulary.

The collector also attributed the success to the priority that the state government attaches to development of the district ever since the carving out of Jagityal district.

The district administration has been extending better services to the people working with a team spirit, a jubilant district collector said over Telangana becoming number one at the national level. It may be recalled that the EC shortlisted Sarath for observing the best electoral practices.



Cyberabad Police launch patrol vehicles to make NH 44 safer

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyberabad Police Commissioner, VC Sajjanar, flagged off two highway patrol vehicles on Friday from Medchal ITI College, NH 44 to tackle increased vehicular movement and vulnerable accident spots in the 54 km stretch from Hasannagar cross roads to Hamid cotton mills.

The teams will check on drunk and driving, no helmet, cell phone driving, no seat belt, passengers in goods vehicles.

The patrolling staff will help citizens in case of vehicle breakdown and exhaustion of fuel

They will also check the sale and consumption of liquor at unauthorised places.

The patrolling staff will help citizens in case of vehicle breakdown, exhaustion of fuel, route direction and guide visually impaired persons.

They will also educate villagers, school children and auto-rickshaw drivers on social issues, women and road safety. They will coordinate with hospitals, ambulances, Road Transport Office and National Highway authorities. The officers will also be responsible for reporting on issues such as poor illumination, road marking, road damages and vehicle checking during emergencies, Sajjanar said. Public can provide feedback on Patrol team on 8500411111.

Man held for cheating job aspirant of Rs 2 L

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Officials of the Cyber Crime Police, Hyderabad arrested a person who had cheated a job aspirant and took Rs 2 lakh from her on Saturday.

The arrested person has been identified as 28-year-old Burra Dinesh Kumar Goud, a real estate dealer from KPHB Phase 1 and a native of Peddapalli district.

The police received a complaint from a resident of Ashok Nagar in Hyderabad on December 13, 2019 stating that she saw a job advertisement on OLX, for a receptionist at a hotel in the United States of America.

A person, identified as Satya contacted her and asked her to send copies of her identity. Satya then introduced the complainant to another person, Dinesh Kumar and said that he would look after her visa and ticketing process. Dinesh contacted the complainant and took an amount

Public are cautioned not to believe online ads and transfer amounts to those making job offers

of Rs 1,97,000 on various pretexts like VISA, ticket processing and other reasons.

Police said the Dinesh posts advertisements on OLX claiming to provide jobs in hotels in the USA and other countries. When job seekers approach them, he would extract lakhs of rupees from them stating various reasons.

Public are cautioned not to believe online advertisements and transfer amounts in advance responding to online fraudsters unless they verify with the original organisation in which the job is offered.

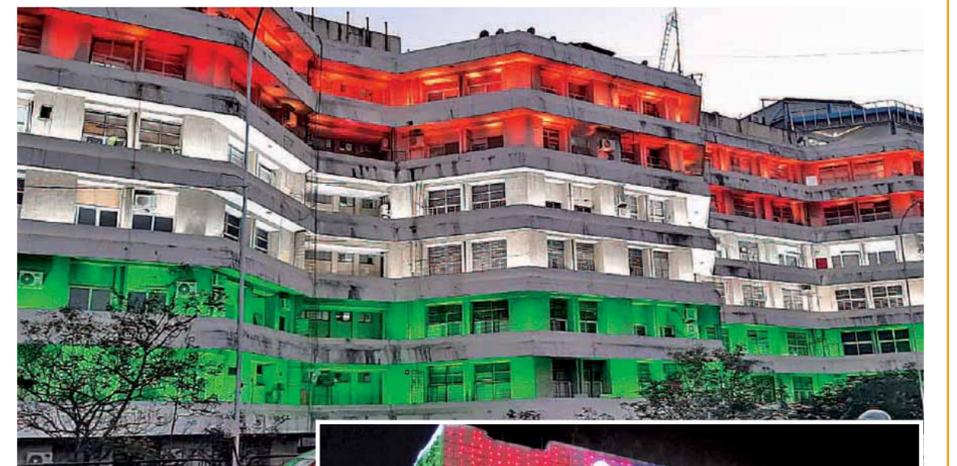
Man held for cheating fraud, Rs 93k recovered

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 35-year-old man was arrested by the Cyber Crimes Police for cheating a victim to the tune of Rs 93,000 on the pretext of offering a backdoor entry job in Infosys.

The accused identified as Mohamed Salman is a resident of Karimnagar. The arrest was made following a complaint from a resident of SR Nagar, stating that she was cheated of Rs 93,000 after he claimed to provide her a job at Infosys. Salman contacted her and asked her to transfer an amount of Rs 93,000.

Police said, "The accused further offers jobs in Infosys. The accused would collect the money from the job aspirants on the pretext of interview charges. The accused would collect the money until the victims realise that they were cheated. When the victims question them about the returns, the accused would stop responding to the calls of the victims," police said.



PATRIOTIC FERVOUR

On the eve of 71st Republic Day celebrations, the buildings of BRKR Bhavan and Metro Rail Bhavan illuminated on Saturday night

Narayana student tops SAT exam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Narayana student Sai Teja Varanasi has emerged as topper in SAT 2020 by scoring 2400/2400.

Managing director Dr Sindhura Narayana and Director of Narayana Group Sharani congratulated Sai Teja on his achievement and informed media persons that the SAT exam tests students on logical reasoning, quantitative ability, vocabulary and verbal skills. They further reminded that Sai Teja scored 100 percentile in mathematics in the recently announced JEE Main 2020 results.

The executive director of Narayana Group Puneeth Kothapa congratulated the students on their success and thanked the teachers and parents. He expressed his confidence that the students of Narayana would continue their winning streak in future also.

Lalitha Jewellers announces cost price sale in all showrooms

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Lalitha Jewellery now opens its 25 showroom in Kakinada.

To mark the landmark occasion and to express thanks to customers, Lalitha Jewellery has announced a cost price sale in all its 25 showrooms. The entire range of gold jewellery will be offered for 2 per cent less in V.A Charges while the entire range of diamond jewellery will be offered at Rs 3000 less per carat.

Dr M Kiran Kumar, chairman of Lalitha Jewellery said, "I have always believed in proving that jewellery can be sold profitably at a fair price without hidden charges. This is the main reason for our success. I want to give maximum grams of gold for the hard-earned money customers pay us! To this end, we even give Free Information booklets on 'How to buy Gold Jewellery', he added. It's a customer centric 11 month jewelry purchase scheme at Lalitha Jewellery where the first instalment is absolutely free. What more, customers can also avail 50% flat discount on charges upon buying any item at the end of the 11 month period.



Deccan branch of IDA bags 3 awards at IDC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Deccan branch of the Indian Dental Association has won three awards at the Indian Dental Conference-2020 in Tiruvananthapuram held on Friday.

Dr Y Sudheer Reddy, Deccan branch president won the Dr US Krishna Nayak trophy under the category of 'Best local branch president of the country', a special appreciation award under TII category (tobacco intervention initiatives) for public and professional ac-

tivities and the IDA Thane branch National award under the Best All-round activity local branch. The awards were presented by Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan. The winners were selected from over 650 local IDA branches across the country-based on their performance in 2019.

The IDA said that it aims in attaining professional excellence in day-to-day clinical and research activities and aims in making India a hub of oral healthcare destination of the world.

High-protein diets clog arteries, says study

■ NEW YORK

High-protein diets may help people lose weight and build muscle, but there is a downside to it a greater heart attack risk. Researchers now report that high-protein diets boost artery-clogging plaque.

The research in mice showed that high-protein diets spur unstable plaque -- the kind most prone to rupturing and causing blocked arteries.

More plaque buildup in the arteries, particularly if it's unstable, increases the risk of heart attack.

"There are clear weight-loss benefits to high-protein diets,

which has boosted their popularity in recent years," said senior author Babak Razani, associate professor at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri.

"But animal studies and some large epidemiological studies in people have linked high dietary protein to cardiovascular problems. We decided to take a look at whether there is truly a causal link between high dietary protein and poorer cardiovascular health," Razani added.

The researchers studied mice who were fed a high-fat diet to deliberately induce atherosclerosis, or plaque buildup in the arteries.



Some of the mice received a high-fat diet that was also high in protein. And others were fed a high-fat, low-protein diet for comparison.

The mice on the high-fat, high-protein diet developed worse atherosclerosis -- about 30 per cent more plaque in the arteries -- than mice on the high-fat, normal-pro-

tein diet, despite the fact that the mice eating more protein did not gain weight, unlike the mice on the high-fat, normal-protein diet.

"A couple of a scoop of protein powder in a milkshake or smoothie adds something like 40 grams of protein -- almost equivalent to the daily recommended intake," Razani said.

"To see if protein has an effect on cardiovascular health, we tripled the amount of protein that the mice receive in the high-fat, high-protein diet -- keeping the fat constant. Protein went from 15 per cent to 46 per cent of calories for these mice". Plaque contains a mix of fat, cholesterol, calcium deposits and dead cells.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
Revenue (Land Acquisition) Department
FORM-VII
(Publication of the Declaration)
(Under Rule 25 of sub Rule (1) in section 19 (1) of the right to fair compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement Act 2013 (Central Act 30/2013)
Collector File No.G1/1199/2019 Date: 21-01-2020
Special Deputy Collector and Date: 05-10-2019
Revenue Divisional Officer,
Siddipet File No.B/5/19/2019
Gazette No.678/2019 Date: 15-11-2019

As per the directions of Government of Telangana/ District Collector, Siddipet, the preliminary notification is issued as per the Section 11(1) of the right to fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 for requirement of Ac. 3-01 Guntas admeasuring land in the Bandarupally Village, Toguta Mandal, Siddipet district for public purpose namely for Construction of main canal 2L Distributory as part of Mallanna Sagar under Kaleswaram Project. After publication of the notification as per section 11(1) of land acquisition act 30/2013 the Grama Sabha has been conducted under section 11(2) of the act. Since objections or not registered on the issued mentioned under section 15 (1) of sadar act the declaration is issued as per Land Acquisition Act 30/2013 for the land of Ac. 3-01 guntas in the Bandarupally Village, Toguta Mandal for the public purpose namely for construction of main canal 2L Distributory as the part of Mallanna Sagar under Kaleswaram Project.

SCHEDULE

Sl. No.	Survey No.	Area to be Acquired	Name of Land Parttadar/ Employer/ interested persons	Boundaries				Structures / Trees and on the land	
				East	West	North	South		
1	297	0.06	Yalla Kanakavva w/o Ramulu	Patta	296	298	298	VB	
2	297	2.06	Dodla Papi Reddy s/o Marri Reddy	Patta	296	298	298	VB	1-Bore
3	297	0.26	Devunuri Sattavva w/o Malliah	Patta	296	298	298	VB	1-Bore, 1-Pipe line, 1-Kadi
4	297	0.03	Devunuri Sattavva w/o Beeralah	Patta	296	298	298	VB	
Total	3-01								

Under section 15 of the Act 30/2013 the declaration is issued after consulting and hearing from the interested persons under section 19 (1) of the said act. Such land acquisition is going on for canal and some part of the land is proposed for land acquisition therefore the remaining part of the land may be continuation as livelihood as it is. Hence it is intended that there will be no objections for livelihood specially.

If Coal, Iron, Slate and other minerals available in the proposed land of land acquisition or some part, the minerals, if they useful construction for the project, will be accepted or otherwise they will not be accepted.

A Plan of land to be acquired shown above may be available for inspection in the office of Land Acquisition Officer and Revenue Divisional Officer, Siddipet on any working day during office hours.

Tahasildar, Special Deputy Collector (L.A) Unit-1, Kaleswaram Project and Revenue Divisional Officer, Siddipet Dist.
Sd/- Joint Collector Dist.
Sd/- Dist. Collector Siddipet

DIPR No.No.1217/LA/PPI/Agency/2019-20



URBAN POLL 22 2020



KCR ON RESULTS OF CIVIC POLLS

'Never seen such wave in my life'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TRS supremo and Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, characterizing the mandate just given by people to the pink party, has remarked with justifiable pride: "Nobody gets such mandate in local body elections."

Addressing the media on Saturday, KCR said, "This is all India record and it never happens. In my experience, there was 'NTR wave', 'Indira wave'; this wave is something I never seen. It is consistent wave towards leadership and party - be it Assembly, Lok Sabha, ZP, mandal parishad or local body elections. It is not something to get easily. This has increased our responsibility."

The Chief Minister recalled how dramatically he and TDP lost in the municipal elections, despite banning liquor under

the leadership of NT Rama Rao. He came down heavily on the Opposition and said, "Some dogs keep barking and even in this elections they barked. People slapped them with this result."

KCR, dismissing allegations of misuse of power, said that the party spent just Rs 80 lakhs- Rs 1 crore and that too for distributing party material in constituencies. He said, "Elections is political game for other parties, but it is a task for us. We will work like demons, if we take up any task. Rama Rao and others in the team worked day and night for this and I congratulate everyone."

KCR said that soon 'Pattana Pragathi' will be taken up on par with 'Palle Pragati'. He said that a lot of migrants were coming into the state. With KTR's visit to Davos, there will be more investments coming and growth

happening, which will bring more people. To address the new challenges coming in due to migration, he said, "TS Urban Philosophers and managers have additional responsibility. The Urban Center of Excellence is being set up over 20 acres near Khanameti n Hyderabad. Start it. ASCI and worldwide experts will come under MA&UD and they will do continuous research and training." Points of interest "I am planning to go to the Gulf nations, before Assembly session, to talk to our people there. We will send a delegation of 15-16 MLAs, along with Rama Rao, to understand their issues. Based on this, we will bring out our NRI policy. MROs should introspect on why people are coming with petrol cans to their offices. Revenue Act is surgery for the laxity in this department. We will hold conversations with revenue employees soon."

Some dogs keep barking and even in this polls they barked. People slapped them with this result. Elections is political game for other parties, but it is a task for us. We will work like demons, if we take up any task

TRS romping home in Cong bastions

BAKKA TENNYSON ■ NALGONDA

The TRS swept through what was once a Congress bastion of Nalgonda, securing major gains in the urban local body elections. The Congress found some solace in Nalgonda, securing 21 of the 48 wards but the TRS came too close for comfort, winning 19. The BJP won six wards and the remaining two were captured by the MIM and an Independent. However, in Miryalaguda the TRS won 27 seats while the Congress got 18, the BJP, CPM and an Independent winning one each. The TRS won the Deverakonda municipality easily, securing 11 out of the 20 seats. Congress won four, the BJP three and two Independents were successful in this municipality. Results for the Chityal municipality were hung, the TRS winning six of the 12 seats, the Congress four and Forward Bloc two.



TRS wins big in Mahabubnagar

AVINASH DEEPAK PULI ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

The vote share and results graph in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district reflects major gains for the TRS and the BJP, though the ruling party has grabbed a majority of the municipalities in the district.

In Jogulamba Gadwala district, the BJP emerged second to TRS but the municipality was won by the TRS. The Waddepalli municipality was won by the Congress while Alampur was captured by the TRS.

TRS rebels, who formed the All India Forward Bloc won the Ayija municipality. In Wanaparthy district, the TRS swept all municipalities except Amarachintha. Here the Wanaparthy, Atmakur, Koththakota and Pebbair seats were captured by TRS.

Amarachintha witnessed the interesting among the results graph as TRS won three, TDP, CPI, Congress, BJP and Independents winning one seat each. CPM here won two seats in the total ten seats of the municipality. In Nagarkurnool, the TRS won Nagarkurnool, while Kollapur was bagged by All India Forward Bloc and Kalwakurthi witnessed a hung result. The three municipalities of Narayanpet witnessed hung results and Narayanpet, Makhtal and Kosgi churned out mixed results. The Mahabubnagar Municipal Corporation was captured by TRS, while Bhoopur Municipality witnessed hung result. Shadnagar municipality was won by the TRS, while Amanagall municipality was captured by the BJP. Ward-wise results in the municipalities reveal the BJP emerging a force in many municipalities, coming second to the TRS in Koththakota, Atmakur, Gadwal and other municipalities. Some independent candidates who have won the polls have already started giving indications that they would join the TRS soon.

Congress on the verge of collapse?

■ The grand old party slips to third place after rout in many segments

PV KONDAL RAO ■ WARANGAL

The results of urban local bodies in the state have reflected the waning popularity of the Congress party in many prestigious parts and gaining strengths of BJP and TRS in several places. Congress suffered one of the worst defeats in the municipalities such as Kollapur, Bhupalpally, Manthani, Siricilla, Gajwel and many other parts, where it enjoyed considerable clout hitherto.

In Kollapur segment of erstwhile Mahabubnagar district, the All India Forward Block candidates have stunned the Congress and TRS by winning a major chunk of the wards. Similarly, in Bhupalpally municipality, the presence and contest of All India Forward block in the fray has given scope for the routing of Congress party.

Surprisingly, the Congress candidates could not fare better in Siricilla and Gajwel municipalities, where the TRS rebels-cum-independent candidates outclassed Congress or any other opposition nominees. There is of course a blessing in disguise kind of thing for the Congress in certain parts like Mahabubabad municipality in erstwhile Warangal, Jangaon municipality in the present Jangaon district, where the party nominees emerged victorious amidst the



In Kollapur, the All India Forward Block candidates have stunned the Congress and TRS by winning a major chunk of the wards

present unhelpful conditions. In Karimnagar, Mahabubnagar, Medak and Adilabad districts, the Congress suffered stunning defeats and it is placed in a precarious position in the results. What stunned many is the Congress nominees securing double digit votes in the segments like Bhupalpally, which it wrested in the assembly elections from the TRS. Congress MLA Gandra Venkat Ramana Reddy later joined the TRS and he succeeded in wiping out the Congress to the zero number in the municipality limits. Though the All India Forward Block leader Gandra

Satyanarayana Rao, a rebel from TRS could succeed in securing four Ward member posts, the Congress has failed to show its presence in this crucial segment. The stunning among the defeats in the present election was recorded in the Manthani municipality of the erstwhile Karimnagar district where the Congress secured single digit seat.

All India Forward Block is the party which gained surprise wins in Ramagundam, Ayija and other municipalities. The party, which has not even got a state committee in tact has won more than the Congress with the aid of Lion symbol in Ramagundam. During the Assembly polls, the Lion symbol secured victory for the present MLA Chandar who later defected to the TRS. The Congress has shown its presence felt in certain pockets which it enjoyed clout previously but that party seemed losing to the previous level of 1985 when the TDP inflicted huge losses to the party.

TRS juggernaut continues to roll on in TS

Since 2018, the oppn parties have clearly not been in race for any election except for aberrations in LS

NAVEENA GHANATE ■ HYDERABAD

The current political scenario in the state clearly indicates that 'there is no alternative' or TINA factor set in. Since 2018, the opposition parties have clearly not been in race for any election except for small aberration in Lok Sabha. The outcome of the three elections and by poll signifies that because of a fragmented opposition, TRS could sail through these elections. The absence of another leader who can match the popularity and stature of the CM K Chandrashekar Rao is evident.

The results displayed that this TINA factor was ultimately going to be the decisive variable as nobody gave a heed to not actual issues. BJP and Congress tried to raise issues

The absence of another leader, who can match the popularity and stature of the Chief Minister KCR is evident

such as putting state in debt trap, PRC for employees, pensions, railway projects, bad roads, increasing in RTC fares, construction of new secretariat and assembly apart from unfulfilled promises of TRS manifesto, but in vain. TRS has made TINA factor a central poll plank and the leaders echoed this mantra during their campaign by pointing out the contradictions of the opposition in their leadership itself. Congress, which was a tough competitor when the state was formed, is no longer an option. The disarray in Congress is on full display with leaders battling among themselves for positions. TRS is clearly not letting BJP enter into competition and become alternative. K T Rama Rao echoed this by recently saying, "BJP's position was still as it used to be during my childhood. Congress as a party has 100 years plus history. It has witnessed many ups and downs and the party should not be taken lightly. Congress is a party which cannot be ignored". As things stand today, a weak opposition is TRS party's biggest strength and it will continue to benefit from the TINA factor the most, apart from the development schemes which are indisputable.



KTR: Poll result is people's endorsement of TRS govt

HYDERABAD, The results of the urban local body polls in Telangana showed the people's endorsement of the welfare and development programmes carried out by the state government under Chief Minister K

Chandrasekar Rao's leadership, TRS working president K T Rama Rao said on Saturday.

"The people of Telangana have once again demonstrated that they stand by TRS, whatever is the election. They have rejected the false campaign of opposition parties in the municipal polls," Rao, the state Municipal Administration Minister and son of the Chief Minister said in a statement.

His response came as TRS was on course to achieve an emphatic win in the Urban Local Body polls as counting of votes progressed on Saturday.

Rama Rao, who oversaw the party's preparation for the municipal polls, said the 'victory' became possible due to the efforts of the 60 lakh members of TRS. He also appreciated the efforts of the party's 'social media soldiers' for exposing the allegedly false

campaign of opposition parties and for spreading awareness about the good work of the TRS government. Observing that there are no elections for the next four years, he said TRS would re-dedicate itself to peoples welfare. Polling for 120 municipalities and nine corporations was held amid tight security on January 22.

The TRS bagged all the 32 Zilla Parishads in the rural local body elections held last year and the party was hopeful of continuing its impressive performance in the municipal polls, TRS sources had said.



TRS' hopes dashed in Yadagirigutta

HYDERABAD Yadadri is one of the few places in the state, which has the Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao visiting frequently and pushing for major development works including temple project. Despite the works and infrastructure development in the area, people have given a decisive mandate. Out of the 12 wards in Yadagirigutta, 4 were won by Congress and 4 by TRS. Independents won in 3 wards and 1 by CPM. Congress party gave a tough competition in Yadadri Bhongir district. Likewise, in Bhongir municipality, TRS won 15 wards and Congress secured 11 wards. Defying statewide TRS wave, the Congress managed to win majority of the seats in Bhongir municipality as the counting of votes concluded on Saturday. In this backdrop, the TRS activists allegedly misbehaved with the Komatireddy brothers as they reached the counting center at Yadagirigutta. Munugode legislator Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy alleged that Alair MLA of the TRS Gongidi Sunita behaved in a high-handed way with him and accused the TRS activists of elbowing him out. Unable to stomach the Congress securing majority of the wards in Yadagirigutta, the TRS activists conducted themselves rudely towards me, the MLA alleged. He accused Sunita of forcing the police to lathi-charge the Congress activists.

STRAIGHT TALK

Telangana people have once again proved that the TRS will be victorious in any election. The TRS was the dominant force in the municipal elections. Congratulations to the Chief Minister KCR and the Working President KTR. Thank you to the general public and the entire party leadership



-HARISH RAO, Minister

A big ThankYou to the people of Telangana for an amazing result in the municipal polls. Congratulations to all the victorious candidates & best wishes to each & every TRS party supporter who worked hard for these elections. Jai Telangana !! Jai TRS !! Jai KCR !!



-K KAVITHA, Ex Mp

The ability to face the election is just any other common thing for TRS, under the precious guidance of our Chief Minister and the able execution of our working president K T Rama Rao. Thank you Telangana for showing trust



-J SANTOSH KUMAR, TRSMP

The TRS has created a wave in the municipal elections. This huge success is a testament to the functioning of the state government. The TRS is on the sidelines of any election. I sincerely thank the people who supported the TRS in the municipal elections.



-B VINOD KUMAR, State Planning Board Vice Chairman

In Nizamabad corporation, the BJP has won 28 wards. More than half of the BJP candidates have won by more than 1,000 vote margin. I thank people of Indur(Nizamabad), from bottom of my heart for giving this mandate for BJP and proclaiming their faith in Narendra Modi's leadership. It's a gift from Indur to our beloved PM and a strong foundation for 2023 assembly polls.



- DHARMAPURI ARVIND, BJP MP

Despite targeted attack by TRS from the beginning of the municipal & corporation elections process, BJP stood in the second position in the total number of divisions won in 9 corporations. Cong has been unseated from the second position.



-KRISHNA SAGAR RAO, BJP spokesperson

Police to probe case against man for false video on EVMs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Saturday allowed police to investigate a case against a man who shared allegedly false information on social media, claiming that EVM/VVPAT machines brought to give demo in his area ahead of the assembly elections were not showing correct vote count result.

Metropolitan Magistrate Abhilash Malhotra gave permission to the Station House Officer (SHO) of Sabzi Mandi Police Station to investigate the case against a Delhi-resident who allegedly posted a video, claiming that the voting machine was not showing correct results.

The police approached the court seeking permission for investigation as the case was registered for non-cognisable offences.

According to the Code of Criminal Procedure, no police officer shall investigate a non-cognisable case without the order of a magistrate having power to try such case or commit the case for trial.

The case was registered on the complaint of Shammii Kumar, a junior assistant at a polling centre at Timarpur in Delhi. In his complaint, Kumar said that he was on election duty and giving a demo of EVM/VVPAT machines for raising awareness among voters ahead of the assembly elections.

The accused cast three votes and found that the total vote count was five, following which he raised objection against the difference in vote count, the complaint said.



According to the Code of Criminal Procedure, no police officer shall investigate a non-cognisable case without the order of a magistrate having power to try such case or commit the case for trial

He recorded a video of the incident too, it said.

The complainant said that he tried to explain to the man that two other people had taken a demo before him and hence the voting machine showed that five votes.

Kumar gave Pandit a demo of the machine again and showed him the same number of votes cast by him, the complaint said.

It alleged that despite this, Pandit posted the video on social media claiming that EVM/VVPAT was not showing the correct vote count result.

Some voters do not realise importance of right to exercise franchise: President Kovind

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday lamented that there are some voters who do not understand the importance of the right to exercise their franchise and reminded them that in several democracies people had to struggle to get it.

Addressing the National Voters' Day event here to mark

the establishment of the Election Commission in 1950, the President said from the first general election to the 17th Lok Sabha polls held last year, the voters have increased the credibility of Indian democracy all over the world.

For this I congratulate all the voters of the country. But even today some of our voters do not understand the impor-

tance of their franchise. They should know that in most of the democratic countries of the world, the common people had to agitate to get the franchise and many sacrifices had to be made," Kovind said.

He pointed out that even in old democracies such as England, women were able to get equal voting rights in the 20th century, after nearly three

decades of struggle.

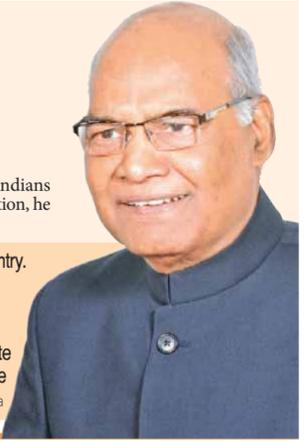
The framers of the Indian Constitution gave this invaluable

right to all adult Indians without any discrimination, he said.



For this I congratulate all the voters of the country. But even today some of our voters do not understand the importance of their franchise. They should know that in most of the democratic countries of the world, the common people had to agitate to get the franchise and many sacrifices had to be made

— RAM NATH KOVIND, President of India



Don't make edn part of 'dirty politics': Kejriwal tells Shah

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

AAP national convener and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal told Amit Shah on Saturday not to make education a part of "dirty politics" or make fun of the hard work put in by students, teachers, and parents of Delhi government schools.

The Delhi chief minister's reply came after Shah alleged that the AAP did not build new schools after coming to power and also that the condition of existing schools deteriorated.

"Kejriwal had promised to build 500 schools. Far from building new schools, the condition of existing schools is also in shambles. Seven-hundred schools do not have principals, more than 1,000 schools do not have science



Reacting to the allegation, Kejriwal invited Shah to see for himself the condition of government schools in Delhi

wing, there is shortage of 19,000 teachers. The Kejriwal government could not spend 30 per cent of the education

budget," Shah tweeted.

Reacting to the allegation, Kejriwal invited Shah to see for himself the condition of government schools in Delhi.

"Don't make education a part of your dirty politics. Please take out time and come with me to visit government schools. You are surrounded by negativity the whole day, meet our students, you will get some positivity. Do positive politics over education," he said at a press conference.

Kejriwal also said, "Don't make fun of the hard work put in by students, teachers, and parents of Delhi government schools."

He also said that former BJP minister and four-time MLA Harsharan Singh Balli is joining the AAP. Balli was also present at the press conference.

'Anyone who opposes BJP's agenda dubbed as urban naxal: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday hit out at the Centre alleging that anyone who opposes the ruling BJP's "agenda of hate" is dubbed as an "urban naxal".

A day after the Centre handed over the Bhamra-Koregaon case to the NIA, Gandhi attacked the central agency saying its "stooges" can never erase "the symbol of resistance".

"Anyone who opposes the MOSH agenda of hate is an 'Urban Naxal'."

"Bhima-Koregaon is a symbol of resistance that the Government's NIA stooges can never erase," he said on Twitter.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) took over the probe into the 2018 Koregaon-Bhima violence on Friday, a day after the Maharashtra government held a review meeting with senior Pune police officers to take a call on pursuing the matter.

The Centre's decision has angered the Uddhav Thackeray-led government in Maharashtra, which was seen to be preparing to withdraw all cases against intellectuals and social activists accused of inciting the clashes.

Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said handing over the Koregaon-Bhima probe to the NIA is against the Constitution and condemned it.



'Govt transferred Koregaon Bhima probe to NIA out of fear'

PNS ■ MUMBAI

NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday alleged that the Centre transferred the probe into the Koregaon Bhima violence case to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for fear of getting exposed.

Talking to reporters here, Pawar said that speaking against injustice was not Naxalism.

"I think the government fears that it may be exposed. So the decision has been taken (to transfer the case to NIA)," he said.

Pawar had last month demanded that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) be set up under a retired judge to probe the action taken by Pune police against activists in the Elgar Parishad case.

According to Pune police, the Elgar Parishad conclave held in Pune on December 31, 2017, was supported by Maoists and inflammatory speeches made at the event led to the caste violence at the Koregaon Bhima war memorial in the district the next day.

The Pune Police had arrested nine activists - Sudhir



Pawar had last month demanded that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) be set up under a retired judge to probe the action taken by Pune police against activists in the Elgar Parishad case

Dhawale, Rona Wilson, Surendra Gadling, Mahesh Raut, Shoma Sen, Arun Ferreira, Vernon Gonsalves, Sudha Bharadwaj and Varavara Rao - in connection with Elgar Parishad case.

The Centre transferred the probe to NIA on Friday, a day after Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and state Home Minister Anil Deshmukh met senior police officials in Mumbai to review the Koregaon Bhima violence case.



Kapil faces 48-hour ban on campaigning

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Saturday imposed a 48-hour campaigning ban on BJP candidate from Delhi's Model Town constituency Kapil Mishra following his controversial tweets, poll panel officials said.

The ban order, signed by the Chief Election Commissioner and two fellow Election Commissioners, would come into force from 5 PM on Saturday, they said.

While Twitter had taken down one of his controversial tweets on Friday following directions of the EC, an FIR was lodged against him under section 125 of the Representation of the People Act dealing with creating enmity among classes. Delhi goes to poll on February 8.

Gadkari accuses Shiv Sena of betraying BJP in Maharashtra

PNS ■ NAGPUR

Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday said the BJP did not lose last year's Maharashtra assembly elections, but was betrayed by the Shiv Sena.

He also said that the Sena not only left its ally, but also its own ideology.

Speaking at the BJP workers' meeting here, Gadkari said, "I don't think BJP lost the election. Shiv Sena left us and its own ideology. BJP has not lost the elections, but it has

been betrayed."

The BJP and the Sena, which fought the October 21 state assembly polls in alliance, had secured a comfortable majority by winning 105 and 56 seats respectively.

However, the Sena broke its three-decade-long ties with the BJP after the latter declined to share the chief minister's post with it.

The Sena then joined hands with the NCP and the Congress and formed a gov-

ernment headed by Uddhav Thackeray.

On the recently-held Zilla Parishad results in Nagpur, Gadkari said the BJP should have got more voting percentage.

"But BJP's strength is still intact in Nagpur rural and the city and those who have come together against us are afraid of our strength. They may have come together, but we will defeat them," he said.

Earlier this month, the BJP lost control of the ZP in Nagpur, the home district of Gadkari and former chief minister Devendra Fadnis.

Gadkari asked the workers to focus on expanding the party base and reaching out to the people.



Govt to reward travellers visiting 15 tourist spots in a year

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Bringing cheer to travel enthusiasts, the government has decided to reward people visiting 15 tourist spots in a year by funding their expenses.

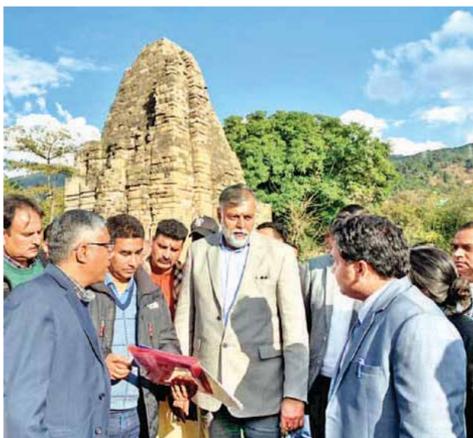
Union Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel said the move should not be construed as a monetary benefit, but as an incentive.

"The tourism ministry will fund the travel expenses of tourists who visit 15 destinations in the country in a year and submit the photos on our website," he said on Friday evening at the concluding ceremony of the two-day National Tourism Conference in Odisha's Konark.

Tourists, however, have to travel outside their home states to be eligible for contention.

"We should honour these people as brand ambassadors of Indian Tourism," Patel added.

The minister also said the Sun Temple at Konark would be included in the list of 'iconic sites'.



A special event will be organised to announce this very soon, he said.

Rupinder Brar, Additional Director General of Tourism, said the ministry has been organising certificate programmes for candidates intending to work as tourist

guides.

"But, participation of Odisha in this programme is very low and it needs to be enhanced. The state government should encourage students to take part in the certificate course," she said.

On the concluding day of

Tourists, however, have to travel outside their home states to be eligible for contention. "We should honour these people as brand ambassadors of Indian Tourism," Patel added

— PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL, Union Tourism Minister

the conference, jointly organised by the Odisha government and Fici, a Memorandum of Intent (MoI) was signed between the state and Gujarat for cross-promotion of tourist sites, officials said.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), mentioning the key frameworks and policies, will be signed soon after discussions with relevant departments of both the states, said Sachin Ramchandra Jadhav, Director of Tourism, Odisha.



Uddhav Thackeray to visit Ayodhya on March 7

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray will visit Ayodhya on March 7, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut announced on Saturday.

"Ayodhya mein jallosh! March 7, 2020," Raut said in a tweet.

Raut had announced on Wednesday that Uddhav Thackeray, who heads the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, will visit Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh to mark the completion of 100 days in power. However, he had not specified the date at that time.

This will be Thackeray's first visit to Ayodhya after becoming the state chief minister. He was sworn in as the CM on November 28, 2019.

Nirbhaya case: Mukesh Kumar moves SC, seeks judicial review

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

One of the death row convicts in the 2012 Nirbhaya murder and gang rape case on Saturday moved the Supreme Court seeking judicial review of the rejection of mercy petition by the President.

The petition has been filed by convict Mukesh Kumar Singh (32) whose mercy plea was dismissed by President Ram Nath Kovind on January 17.

"A petition has been filed under Article 32 for judicial review of the manner of rejection of the mercy petition in terms of the judgement of Supreme Court in Shatrughan Chauhan case," advocate Vrinda Grover, who is representing Mukesh, told PTI.

The warrant for execution of death sentence for the four convicts has been fixed on February 1 at 6 am.

Mukesh had moved the mercy petition after the Supreme Court had dismissed his curative petition against his conviction and death sentence.

Along with his, the apex court had also rejected the curative petition of another death row convict Akshay Kumar (31).

Other two convicts Pawan Gupta (25) and Vinay Kumar Sharma are yet to file curative



Mukesh had moved the mercy petition after the Supreme Court had dismissed his curative petition against his conviction and death sentence

petitions before the Supreme Court.

The 23-year-old paramedic student, referred to as Nirbhaya, was gang-raped and brutally assaulted on the intervening night of December 16-17, 2012, in a moving bus in south Delhi by six people before she was thrown out on the road. She was flown to a hospital in Singapore where she died.

ICICI Bank Q3 net profit rises over two-fold to Rs 4,146 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Private sector lender ICICI Bank on Saturday reported an over two-fold jump in stand-alone net profit at Rs 4,146.46 crore for the third quarter ended December 2019.

It had registered a net profit of Rs 1,604.91 crore in the October-December period a year ago, ICICI Bank said in a BSE filing.

Total income rose 17.23 per cent to Rs 23,638.26 crore during the quarter under review as compared to Rs 20,163.25 crore in the corresponding period a year ago.

The bank's asset quality improved with gross non-performing assets (NPAs) falling to 5.95 per cent of gross loans at December-end 2019, compared to 7.75 per cent a year ago.

"The net interest margin was 3.77 per cent in Q3, FY2020 compared to 3.64 per cent in the quarter ended September 30, 2018 (Q2, FY2020) and 3.40 per cent in Q3, FY2019," ICICI Bank said in a statement.

Net NPAs stood at 1.49 per cent of total advances as against 2.58 per cent as on December 2018.

"Provisions (excluding taxes) declined by 51 per cent year-on-year to Rs 2,083 crore in Q3 FY2020 from Rs 4,244 crore in Q3 FY2019," it said.

In absolute term, gross bad



"The net interest margin was 3.77 per cent in Q3, FY2020 compared to 3.64 per cent in the quarter ended September 30, 2018 (Q2, FY2020) and 3.40 per cent in Q3, FY2019," ICICI Bank said in a statement

loans of the lender stood at Rs 43,453.86 crore as on December 31, 2019 as compared to Rs 51,591.47 crore a year ago.

Net bad loans were valued at Rs 10,388.50 crore as against Rs 16,252.44 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal.

On consolidated basis, the net profit was at Rs 4,670.10 crore during the quarter ended December 2019, against Rs 1,874.33 crore in the corresponding quarter a year earlier.

Income, on consolidated basis, was at Rs 38,370.95 crore during the quarter ended December 2018-19 from Rs 33,433.31 crore in the year-ago period.

Treasury income grew by 11 per cent year-on-year to Rs 531 crore in quarter under review from Rs 479 crore in the third quarter a year ago, it said. Net interest margin was 3.77% in the third quarter.

ICICI Bank said the recoveries, upgrades and other deletions, excluding write-offs were at Rs 4,088 crore in Q3, FY2020.

SBI Debashish Govt nominee on SBI board

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The State Bank of India (SBI) on Saturday said the Central government has nominated Debashish Panda, Special Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Finance Ministry as a director on the Central Board of SBI.

He is appointed with immediate effect replacing the earlier nominee Ravi Mittal, according to a bank filing.

SBI, the country's largest bank had posted a 218 per cent jump in standalone net profit for the September quarter to Rs 3,011.73 crore. The lender had posted a profit of Rs 944.87 crore in the same quarter last year. Under exceptional items, the bank reported a net profit of Rs 3,484.30 crore on sale of partial investments in subsidiary SBI Life Insurance Company.

Fresh slippages had halved to Rs 8,800 crore from Rs 16,000 crore on a quarterly basis.

The asset quality of the bank improved with gross non-performing asset (NPA) ratio coming in at 7.19 per cent, down 276 bps yearly and 34 bps sequentially.



EU, 16 WTO members sign pact for interim appeal arrangement

PNS ■ DAVOS

The European Union and 16 WTO members including China and Australia have signed a pact to develop a multi-party interim appeal arrangement at the global trade body.

The arrangement, signed on Friday on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting, will allow the participating WTO members to preserve a functioning and two-step dispute settlement system at the World Trade Organization (WTO). This initiative was launched

in mid-December 2019 by the EU and a number of other WTO members following the effective paralysis of the WTO Appellate Body due to the blockage of new appointments since 2017.

EU Commissioner for Trade Phil Hogan said: "This statement testifies to the high importance that the EU and the participating WTO members attach to retaining a two-step dispute settlement process in WTO trade matters. The multiparty appeal arbitration arrangement will guarantee that the participating WTO members continue to have

access to a binding, impartial and high-quality dispute settlement system among them."

"Let me underline again that this remains a contingency measure needed because of the paralysis of the WTO Appellate Body. We will continue our efforts to seek a lasting solution to the Appellate Body impasse, including through necessary reforms and improvements," he added.

The multi-party interim arrangement will be based on Article 25 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU).

Brent lowest in 7 weeks amid nCoV concerns

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Oil futures came down sharply on fears that the spread of the deadly coronavirus in China will undercut demand for crude further, which has seen prices already under pressure due to worries about a potential oversupply.

Local governments in many cities across China have closed all urban transport network systems and suspended outgoing flights to prevent the spread of the virus. China is the second largest consumer of crude oil.

Brent crude rates dropped sharply to \$60.62 per barrel, down by 2.29 per cent from the previous close of \$62.07 per barrel on fears of slump in demand. Brent has become cheaper by at least 7 per cent in a week, the biggest drop since December 2018.

West Texas intermediate crude for March delivery fell by 2.5 per cent to end at



\$54.19 a barrel. For the week, the U.S. benchmark fell 7.5 per cent, the largest fall for a most active contract since May.

Angel Broking deputy vice president Anuj Gupta said: "After the trade deal between China and the US, it was believed that the crude rates will pick up due to increased demand. But the outbreak of coronavirus dashed all hopes. Owing to the slump in demand, there is a concern of oversupply which has sent the international crude oil rated in downward spiral."

Maruti Suzuki launches sports variant of Ciaz sedan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India on Saturday launched Ciaz S, the sports variant of its premium mid-sized sedan Ciaz, priced at Rs 10.08 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi).

The company also said it has introduced BS-VI compliant Ciaz priced between Rs 8.31 lakh and Rs 11.09 lakh. This will be its 11th offering complying with the stricter emission norm, ahead of its implementation from April 1. "With over 2.7 lakh happy customers and record 29 per cent market share in its segment, Ciaz is popular for its impactful exteriors, sophisticated interiors and strong performance. There was a latent need from our sedan loving customers for a Sporty version of Ciaz," Maruti Suzuki India ED (Marketing & Sales) Shashank Srivastava said in a statement.



CONCOR to be partner in developing port

PNS ■ MACHILIPATNAM (AP)

YSRCP Member of Parliament Vallabhaneni Balashowry on Friday said Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) would become a partner in developing the Machilipatnam Port.

The CONCOR had proposed Rs 3,000-crore Integrated Logistics Manufacturing Zone (IMLZ) in Machilipatnam as a part of the port project, Balashowry said.

He said a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) would be formed for the project with 40 per cent stake of Machilipatnam Urban Development Authority (MUDA) and 60 per cent of CONCOR.

In the evening, CONCOR Chairman and Managing Director V Kalyana Rama met Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy at his residence and discussed the Machilipatnam Port project.

USFDA inspects Cipla unit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Pharmaceutical firm Cipla on Friday said the US Food and Drug Administration has completed inspection of its Bengaluru-based manufacturing unit with four observations.

The company said it is committed to addressing these observations and will submit its response to the USFDA within the stipulated time.

The inspection of Cipla's API manufacturing facility was carried out between January 20 and 24.

"The United States Food and Drug Administration conducted a cGMP inspection at our API manufacturing facility in Bommasandra, Bangalore, from January 20, 2020, to January 24, 2020.

CG Power seeks Centre's nod to remove joint auditor

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Fraud-hit CG Power and Industrial Solutions has sought the Centre's approval to remove K K Mankeshwar & Co (KKM) as one of its joint auditors due to certain alleged "unexplained" payments made to the auditor from the company.

In a regulatory filing, CG Power on Friday evening said

that its Board of Directors has determined that KKM cannot be considered to be independent.

"In the course of review of payments made in the past years, the Company has come across certain unexplained payments made to M/s K K Mankeshwar & Co, one of the Joint Auditors of the Company (KKM), from the Company and its subsidiaries as well asso-



ciation of its partner with certain identified entities named in Phase-I investigation report ('Identified Entities')," it said.

The filing further said that KKM in its response confirmed the association of one

of its partners with the identified entities during the year 2016-17 which was not disclosed at the time to appointment of KKM as statutory auditors for the financial year 2017-18.



Bajaj-Triumph bike to roll out in 2022

PNS ■ PUNE

Bajaj Auto and iconic British motorcycle brand Triumph on Friday formally commenced their non-equity global partnership to manufacture a new range of mid-capacity motorcycles in the country.

The first bike under the partnership, which was forged in August 2017, will be rolled out in 2022 and will carry a starting price tag of less than Rs 2 lakh, Triumph Motorcycle Chief Commercial Officer Paul Stroud said at a press conference here.

The new bikes will be manufactured at Bajaj Auto's Chakan facility.

"The Triumph brand is an iconic brand the world over. So, we are confident that there will be a huge appetite in India and other emerging markets for these new products," Bajaj Auto Managing Director Rajiv Bajaj said.

The collaboration will explore the 200cc-500 cc motorcycle category to offer multiple product options across various segments.

Triumph bikes manufactured under the collaboration will be sold under Triumph brand, and not Bajaj auto, through exclusive network of outlets.

However, as part of the pact, the bike will be

"The Triumph brand is an iconic brand the world over. So, we are confident that there will be a huge appetite in India and other emerging markets for these new products"

exported to all overseas markets where Bajaj has a strong presence.

On the other hand, the home-grown auto maker will be able to increase its scale of operations in involving both domestic and exports markets.

"This is the first time Triumph Motorcycles has partnered with any other auto maker, its chief executive officer Nick Bloor said.

The partnership will build a new engine and vehicle platform in the mid-capacity range (200-800 cc) and offer multiple options to address different segments in this class.

Three of our BSVI-compliant models sell 1 lakh units: HMSI

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) on Friday said its three BSVI models have sold more than 1 lakh units since it launched the first such product in September last year.

The Indian two-wheeler subsidiary of Japanese auto giant Honda currently offers three BSVI-compliant products -- Activa 125 BS-VI, SP 125 and Activa 6G -- in the domestic market. Activa 125 scooter was the first BSVI-compliant model launched by HMSI in September last year, almost



seven months ahead of the implementation of the new emission norms from April 1.

The company plans to commence 100 per cent BSVI vehicle production from next month, it said in a statement. "Honda is proud to lead

BSVI transition in the two-wheeler industry, almost six months ahead of the deadline. The excitement will only grow as Honda's BSVI models line-up gets more robust and we move to 100 per cent BSVI production beginning February 2020," said Yadvinder Singh Guleria, senior vice-president (sales and marketing), HMSI.

Leading the BSVI transformation, Honda was the first two-wheeler manufacturer to start mass availability of BSVI two-wheelers, nearly half-a-year ahead of the mandated April 1, 2020, deadline, it said.

Indian smartphone market surpasses that of US with 158 mn annual shipments in 2019

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian smartphone market surpassed the US for the first time on an annual level with shipment of 158 million units in 2019, according to Counterpoint Research.

With this India has become the second largest smartphone market globally, Counterpoint said in a statement.

Smartphone shipment grew 7 per cent in 2019 over the previous year, it added.

"This is due to the growth of the mid-tier segment where Chinese brands aggressively introduced many flagship-grade features and capabilities to capture demand coming from users looking to upgrade from their first or second smartphone," Counterpoint said.

Additionally, the online channels became the preferred selling platforms to introduce these products faster into the market, it added.

"Although the rate of growth for the smartphone market was only single digit for the first time on an annual basis, India is



Anshika Jain, Research Analyst at Counterpoint Research said Chinese brands' share hit a record 72 per cent for 2019 compared to 60 per cent a year ago

underpenetrated relative to many other markets; 4G penetration among subscribers being around 55 per cent," Counterpoint Research Associate Director Tarun Pathak said.

Going forward, this demand is expected to grow further due to the ongoing transition from feature phones to smartphones and progressive diffusion of key smartphone features to the entry-level price tier as a result of hyper-competition

among multiple players, he added.

"We further expect brands to have multi-tier strategies involving partnerships in the mobile ecosystem from hardware, software and services, thus creating opportunities within different segments like entertainment, gaming, financial services and more," Pathak said.

Xiaomi led the tally with 28 per cent market share in 2019, followed by Samsung (21 per cent), vivo (16 per cent), realme

(10 per cent) and Oppo (9 per cent).

In the fourth quarter of

Global growth to get boost: Lagarde

PNS ■ DAVOS

European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde said global growth is likely to get a boost from abating uncertainties on trade issues in the wake of new pacts being signed.

Speaking here at a session on the global economic outlook on the last day of the WEF 2020 on Friday, the former IMF chief said uncertainties have abated on issues like trade and Brexit, and it is likely that income growth and low unemployment will eventually be reflected in prices.

"Trade has been dramatically low recently and didn't help growth much. So we are delighted to see trade agreements being negotiated and completed. I believe this will remove uncertainties the world over," she said.

"I think the distribution of benefits and costs as a result of trade diversion remains to be seen because it is not going to be win-all arrangements."

"There will be some downside effect and we at ECB are measuring where the chips will fall and who will lose out of that re-diversion under the various agreements," she said.

2019, the pecking order changed with vivo overtaking Samsung and moving to the second spot.

In the December quarter, Xiaomi continued to hold the numero uno position, followed by vivo, Samsung, Oppo and realme.

Anshika Jain, Research Analyst at Counterpoint Research said Chinese brands' share hit a record 72 per cent for 2019 compared to 60 per cent a year ago.

"During 2019, we have seen all major Chinese players expanding their footprint in offline and online channels to gain market share," she added. She cited examples of Xiaomi, realme, and OnePlus that have increased their offline points of sale, while brands like Vivo have expanded their online reach with Z and U series.

Apple was one of the fastest-growing brands in the fourth quarter, driven by multiple price cuts on its XR device, thanks to local manufacturing in India, Counterpoint said.

MIND BENDER

Simon Baker in the TV show *The Mentalist* wows the viewers with his cold reading and hypnosis to track down real criminals. Does this mean that there is science behind mind reading? SHALINI SAKSENA chats up self-styled mystifier and supernatural entertainer LIOR SUCHARD to tell you more

Could you give the notepad, he asks, and tells you to think of a number. You think, here comes the trick. In the meantime, he scribbles something on the paper. He then asks you to share the number you had thought of. Lo and behold! It is the number on that paper. What is new here?

After all, we all saw Patrick Jane, (Simon Baker) in *The Mentalist* using his special but fraudulent powers to solve crime. He studied the body language of the person to find out the true killer among suspects. Is there a science that allows a person to read minds and body language to predict things that common people can't pick up? Or it is just a fantastic trick by a magician to wow his audience?

Lior Suchard, renowned Israeli mentalist, mystifier and a supernatural entertainer, tells you that what he does is more than parlour tricks.

What exactly is a mentalist and how what he does different from a magician? Suchard mixes visual magic, mind reading, body language and keen sense of observation to influence people. Mentalists usually don't mix normal magic tricks for the amazing feats they do to keep their audience captivated. A mentalist will always dissociate himself from theatrical tricks that a magician performs on stage — like the Water of Ganga — the famous trick of PC Sircar Senior. From a small cauldron, at the beginning of the show, he would pour water into a basin. All through his performance, he would pour water from that cauldron, till the end of the show. The water never ran out!

The 39-year-old is in India after a long gap and there is a reason. "It has been a few years. There was a time when I used to visit often. Then I stopped. This visit comes after a long wait. To begin with, I used to come here often, do tours — visit 20 cities. After doing many shows, I collaborated with Ace Production and created a big show. But then I went away on a break. I am back now. I was supposed to come earlier, but was busy with other performance the world over but I had a window of time for this trip and created three shows — one in Delhi and two in Mumbai. Everything this time is new — the acts and crazy interactive sessions. We also wanted to combine this show which would benefit children as well. We are helping Create Foundation, I will interact with children and have a fun-filled interactive session," says Suchard who was in the Capital and staying at the Ambassador, IHCL, SeleQtions. He tells you that there is no such thing as a normal mind reader.

He decided to stay away from India as he wanted the market to miss him and also to keep his imitators at bay. Back then, when he used to visit and perform across cities, many started copying him and calling themselves mentalists, performing across India. What they were doing, Suchard says, was copying his acts. But he takes it in his stride and as a compliment. "If someone is copying you, it means what you are doing is good," he says.

"I opened the floodgates. I was always a mind-reading master mentalist. A mentalist is not a magician, I don't do card tricks, I don't levitate people, I don't do bowling tricks. I work on the mind. I know how people think. I use underground psychology influencing hypnotics, body language reading, non-verbal communication, extra-sensory perception, strong memory and mathematical skills to read the mind. I combine all these skills with my love for the stage and share an experience with audience participation," Suchard says. He goes on to prove he is good at what he does.

Pointing to a person, he asks how well one knows him. He asks him to write a name on a strip of paper and destroy it. "To get rid of the evidence," he explains. He looks at the person for a few seconds and begins. "When I look at the body language, the name that was written is that of a woman. It was a name that came immediately to you. The name you have written is uncommon. I am not sure. It has three-four alphabets, like a nickname but in this case, it is her given name. It is not accurate science; sometimes I make mistakes. But right now, the name that comes up is Mini," he tells you, leaving a trail of amazement. For Suchard, it is simple. He just observed the person and used his skills to arrive at the name.

"What I do is not a trick. What people think is real or not real, it is all part of the show. For me, the most important thing is for people to be happy, enjoy and have an amazing experience. It is not about believing or not believing, people are welcome to be sceptical; they can have fun with the show. If people believe, that's good. Albert Einstein said: 'There are two ways to live life. One is as



though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle. If you are choosing that nothing is a miracle, you are many doors. I don't try to talk about power, it is about ability. I tell people in my show that everyone has the ability to do amazing things. One just has to believe in himself," Suchard explains.

Almost all mentalists say that they are not magicians and what they do is a different art form altogether. A mentalist on the other hand has a great knowledge about psychology of human nature and understand how people think. Instead of sawing women in half or making wild animals appear from big boxes, a mentalist tries to enter the most sacred and closely guarded place — our mind. Because of this, the audience experiences incredible things like bending of the spoon, like guessing the correct number that he wrote on the paper, like coming up with the correct answer every time the dice is rolled — all this and much more even when he is not looking at the person. One can say that it is crazy thought manipulations.

Magicians, on the other hand, don't hide the fact that they are doing is a trick in a manner that entertains. The audience too understands that what he is witnessing is an illusion and what he

Mentalism has allegedly been used outside the entertainment industry to influence people for personal gain

Erik Jan Hanussen is alleged to have influenced Adolf Hitler

Grigori Rasputin influenced Tsarina Alexandra

Wolf Messing Influenced Joseph Stalin

Count Alessandro di Cagliostro Accused of influencing the French aristocracy in the heist of a diamond necklace

is actually seeing can't really be done. A perfect example is the sawing of the woman into two and putting her back again. We all know that the magician really didn't cut her into two. But this doesn't mean that they don't mix a bit of trick with mind games thrown in for a good measure. Some of us have watched the TV shows of people like David Blaine, an American illusionist, endurance artist and extreme performer, who perform mind-blowing mind-reading stunts that leaves the audience in awe.

A special mention for *The Amazing Kreskin* — an American mentalist who became popular on TV in the 1970s. The story goes that Kreskin would ask someone from the audience hide the payment he was to receive from the show. If he couldn't find it by the end of his performance, he would not get paid! Such was his talent.

One is told that while there are many great magicians, there are very few — only a handful of people who are true mentalists. "If one had to think of a name, it will be difficult for people to come up with the name on the spot. Our world is very small. We are just a handful of people who are true mentalists.

His own journey began when he

was very young. He tells you that there is no school that teaches mind reading — the high academics of mind reading. He is self-taught and tells you on a lark that maybe he should open a school that teaches what he does.

"It was a combination of things that he developed and learnt when he was young. He read a lot of books, travelled the world, he invented things and ideas, met people from radical Math calculations to spirituality. What I do moves from accuracy, to Math to precision to spirituality, meditation and Zen. It takes skills that I have into account and combines that with a lot of fun, humour and craziness that I love. I studied all this and mastered what I do today.

The mentalist has a cup of activities waiting for him once his India tour ends.

As of now, he has two TV series in the US with celebs. He is also in the process of developing a new show and going to part of a big talk show. For this he has to be on top of the game; he practices, constantly thinking of new ideas and inventing all the time.

Interestingly, what he does can be taught and learnt. "It is similar to playing the piano. If I learnt the art from a tutor for 10 years, I would know how to and be pretty good with practice. But it

doesn't mean one will become Mozart. One can be taught. I have written a book — *Mind Reader: Unlocking the Power of Your Mind to Get What You Want*. It has been translated into eight languages. The book teaches a little about how one can influence others, to read people and mind techniques. I wrote it with the belief that people can be taught to do it. But there is a point up to which one can teach. Something has to come from within just like any other art form say like a sport. One can learn to play cricket but not everyone will be a Sachin Tendulkar. I take his name since he is a good friend of mine. You need to have that little extra to be right at the top," Suchard tells you.

Self-belief and hard work are important pillars for a mentalist. "Take risks is another aspect. All these ties together to be a professional and be very good at what one does. Taking risks doesn't mean putting oneself or others in danger but it means to do things that out of the extraordinary and think out-of-the-box. There a phrase — the difference between try and triumph is the little bit of 'umph'. One needs to really hard work to even put out the simplest of acts," he tells you.

He draws inspiration from travelling, meeting people and getting into a store. He tells you that the show that he is preparing for to be aired in the US, the act that it has were thought of three years back. I drew the ideas and then thought of combining it with a few things. Some of the acts that I showcase that takes years in process. For this tour, I have totally new ideas. The good part about this collaboration is that the production house and I have a good match, I am a high-end performer and I want everything to be perfect — from lighting to sound to stage. I prepared new acts that is going to blow the minds of the audience. Some of the acts are so big that it will involve the entire audience. In this instead of one person coming on the stage while the others watched, if the audience has thousand people, each will experience it and be part of the show. This is a rarity. It is tough to do as well. When one wants to be good at something — have showmanship, charisma, performance and the acts — if one has great ideas but doesn't know how to deliver it or if one is good but doesn't know how to put out the idea, in both circumstances, it is not good. One needs to have ideas and know how to deliver it. For this tour, I am going to dazzle, confuse and make those present happy at the same time," he says.

Dazzle he did. The act that involved the entire audience showed how optimism and the metaphor of finding love, everyone found it with themselves through a crazy interactive experiment. There was mind-reading, mind influencing and predictions. Things moved with super high-end camera crew, lights, screens and sounds.

He tells you that what he does is 90 per cent real and 10 per cent trick. "I do tricks just to have fun with the audience. The 90 per cent is based on psychology and how the mind works. The human mind is the same. I don't know what one is thinking, I know how one is thinking. I can take advantage of it and influence the person. That is how I could predict the number and gave that name," Suchard says.

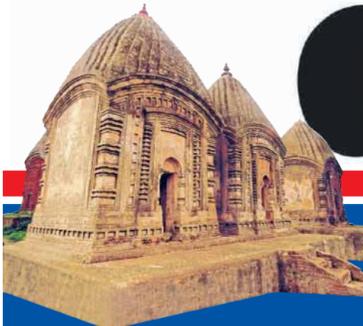
Even though he can predict what the other person is thinking, it doesn't bother him since what he does is used for the positive purpose.

"I never think of negativity. Like when I came up with the name, the person is going to call her and tell her what happened and the other person would be just as amazed. I am a perfectionist. I am constantly improvising. Sometimes, I look at the place and change my acts. Sometimes, I improvise on the spot. This means that I change my acts depending on the people gathered. I love to invent new acts," Suchard tells you. He is the best in his profession, he insists.

One can't call oneself mentalist on a whim. One has to be a purist. Mentalist is a sacred art. There are many magicians making millions of dollars from their art. But many call themselves a mentalist because it is more prestigious. Being mentalist is tough. Some people think that being in the presence of a mentalist is scary. Charlie Chaplin said: A day without laughter, is a waste day. I laugh everyday and do the same for others," Suchard says.

He tells you that people are scared because they think he can read their mind. "I am very sensitive to people. It is hard for a person to lie to me. I am not hearing thoughts of people and that could be why they are wary, what I do is a process that I have perfected over the years.

To end on a positive note: Always have happy thoughts; one never knows who might read them," Suchard says.



the pioneer agenda

Once you figure out who you are and what you love about yourself, I think it all kinda falls into place
— Jennifer Aniston



FROM THE INSIDE

The terracotta land
Temples of Maluti in Jharkhand bear testimony to India's rich yet hidden heritage

09



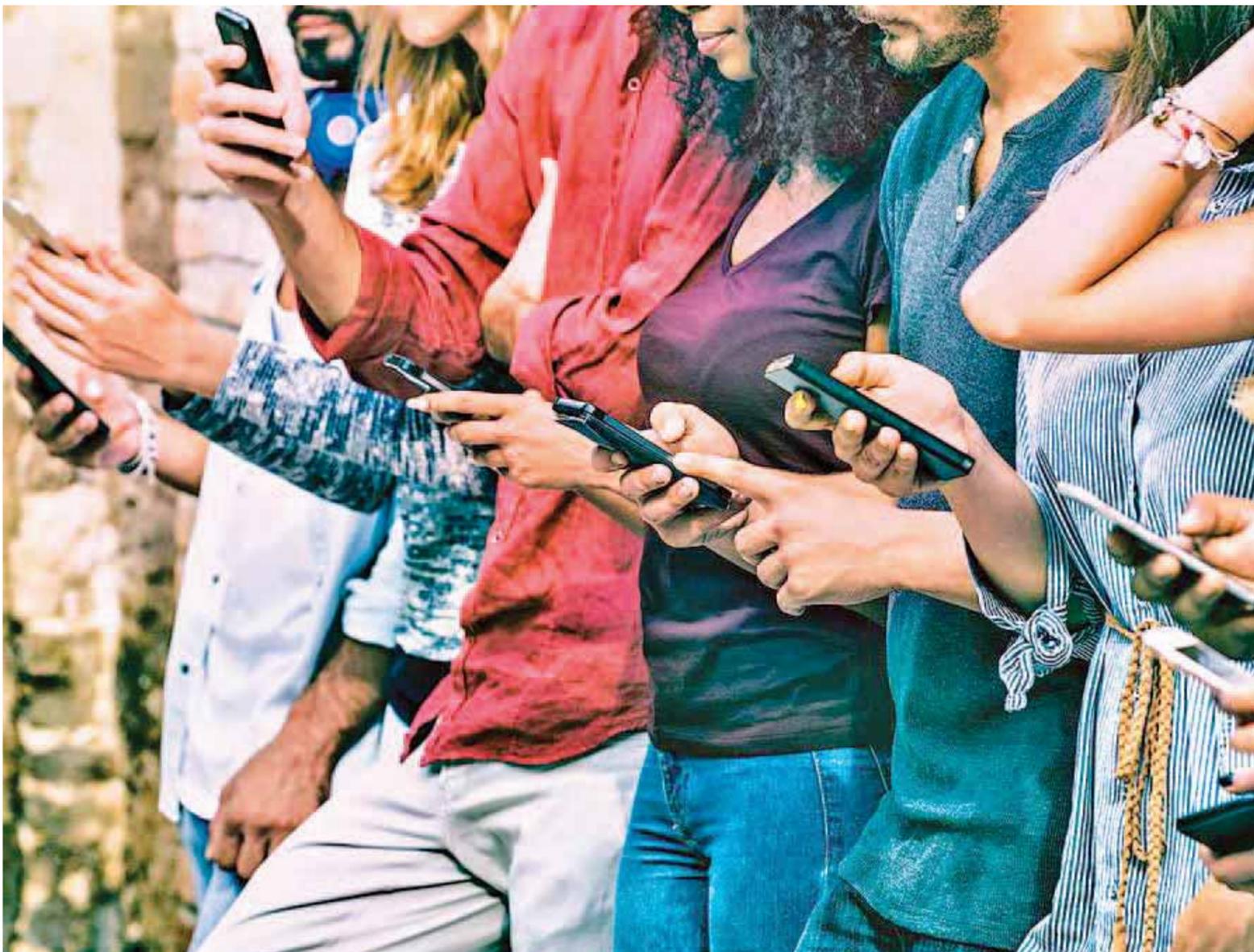
11

Habit tendencies and work
Old habits die hard, unless the thought-seeds to which they are rooted, are properly resolved

Zillion dreams, a billion schemes, a million memes, but caught in slipstreams. This is how DR DEBASHISH SENGUPTA sums up the:

LIFE OF A ZENNER

A radio buzzing in a corner, the transmission is unclear, the signal seems to be wavering. I adjust the antennae that we have fixed near the roof of the room. The voice on the side becomes better. By this time, I had repeated this ritual several times. However, the crackling commentary of the cricket match on the other side made up for all the hard work and irritation. Both my younger brother and myself are stuck with the radio for the whole day. Our parents are not at home. My mother wanted to call our grandma and therefore she went to the post office to book a trunk call. It would take few hours of waiting before her turn comes and she can speak over the government run public land phone, before returning home. We had the whole day to ourselves. It took longer than expected for our parents to come back home. They could not find a taxi near the post office and had to walk for nearly a kilometre before they found a transport. Poor mom, she had to cook the dinner after a long day. Meanwhile, India had lost the match. We spent the whole evening helping our mom in the kitchen. Another uneventful day had come to an end. But we had some excitement coming-up. Sunday was just a day away when we will catch another episode of 'Star Trek' and by that time we should also be getting a letter from my cousin brother who was sharing our secret encryption code, as he had promised in his last letter. This was to prevent elders from finding out the contents of our letter. And yes, he was also sending some photos from his recent vacation...



When I tell this childhood story of mine to my son, after listening to me with rapt attention, he tells me that there are technical flaws in my story. What? Technical flaws! I find his expression amusing, he finds it even more. He asks me: 'Why were you listening to the radio and not streaming live cricket over the Internet?; Why did your parents go to the post office to make a call and not use their mobile to make a video call?; Why did your parents not call an Uber instead of walking a long distance?; Why didn't you order food over an app instead of letting your tired mom cook the dinner?; Why did you wait for Sunday to watch your favourite show and not stream it over Netflix?; And why were you waiting for days for a letter instead of using WhatsApp or Instagram?'

Not his fault, how will his generation that has been born in the cradle of technology and rocked by social media handles understand the times when we were children. They were born in a transformed world where on one hand rapid advancements in technology have opened the realm of possibilities, including space tourism, whereas on other hand the same technology threatens our very existence.

On one hand, the world has been brought closer than ever before with networks that defy limits of distance, and on the other hand, it has been fragmented by economic, political and religious conflicts. Everyone has more friends than before, yet there is dearth of human connection. Today, they take more photos than Kodak films would ever allow, share them over Instagram, yet they will never know the nostalgia of opening an old dusted photo album.

Zeners or Generation Z, born year 2000 and after are a unique generation, shaped by transformed times. Their formative years are shaped by a world that offers them tremendous opportunities and tools on the plate, yet the uncertainty and volatility of the same makes them highly vulnerable. How do you otherwise explain the contrasts, when a 17-year-old boy discovers a planet on the third day of his NASA internship but on the other hand a 12-year-old girl kills herself after being severely cyberbullied.

Ronit has so much information

on his tablet that he can crack the most challenging quizzes, yet all that matters at the end of the day are his grades in school where he finds no use of his knowledge of the world.

The high potential, high intelligence and high ability of this generation is true on one hand, but in the world that they live in, they find their homes changing, pressures mounting and the world becoming more predatory. They find themselves prey to anxiety, depression and vulnerable to poor mental health. Their susceptibility is often disproved by many terming it as jitters of growing-up, but such people fail to count the transformed environment that actually magnifies their challenges.

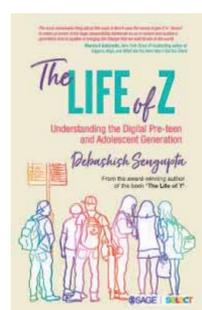
While writing the book 'The Life of Z: Understanding Digital Pre-Teen and Adolescent Generation' I had the opportunity of talking to countless zeners, their parents, teachers, tutors, child counsellors, child psychologists, pediatricians and I came across such contrasting stories. There are a group of school children who have turned their school project into an entrepreneurial journey while there are many others struggling to realise their dreams because they find low acceptance of their ideas with their elders.

There are also parents like Subalaxmi who after understanding the aptitude and personality of her child has dared to homeschool him, and her son, Akash, has excelled in many ways including being invited by a well-known scientist to work in his lab. There are parents like Mukta and Sudhanshu, who have supported

their five-year-old daughter in her pursuit of art and their five year old daughter Kamakshi's name has entered the India book of records for being the youngest Mandala artist. Interviewing Bollywood celebrity kids like Jannat Zubair (of TV series *Phulwa* fame), Ricky Patel (*Tubelight* with Salman Khan), Jineet Rath (*Talash* with Aamir Khan) their life stories are interesting and filled with insights on parenting this modern generation. But, I also came across parents torn apart by trauma whose only twelve-year-old son killed himself in Bangalore, depressed by bullying and his inability to share his anxiety; another parent who lost their child who killed himself unable to cope with a relationship stress.

Being a parent of a teenage zener myself, and in the profession of teaching and dabbling with social psychology, I can understand that parenting, teaching or counselling the zeners is not at all an easy task. This generation is nothing like we were as kids or even what millennials were when they were growing-up. They live in a different time, grow in a different environment and mature early in many ways, yet are susceptible to falling prey to online and offline predators.

There is a need to understand them and their life issues that are often complex. Without doing the same, the path is that of ignorance. Recently I came across a message shared in zest on a WhatsApp group. It read: "Today's 13-year olds have relationship stress. When I was that age, I used to close the fridge door slowly to see how the light goes off?"



ZENERS MAKE CLOSE TO 32% OF THE WORLD POPULATION AND TOGETHER WITH MILLENNIALS HOLD THE KEY TO OUR FUTURE. ANY SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS IN UNDERSTANDING THEM WILL BE CATASTROPHICAL, TO SAY THE LEAST

This was shared by a 40-something person, parent of a zener. Some thought this was funny, but frankly I do not find it funny at all. This is just an evidence of how less we understand this generation.

I would not blame the zeners, or their parents, teachers or whoever manages them. Often, we are ourselves confused or our thoughts are not integrated and zeners get confused by the varying voices. Take little Ishaan's example. He studies in an alternate school. Ishaan loves reading story books. But of late his mother has told him that she will not buy him story books as they need to care for the environment and save paper. Ishaan does not quite like reading story books on a digital reader. Anyways, he studies everything academic on the tablet and even writes his notes on that, plays games on mobile, but when it comes to story books, he like them printed. He has read in his books that environmental sustainability means not adding non-biodegradable wastes, keeping the surroundings clean and recycling wherever possible. Ishaan did not quite fathom how buying story books is not caring for the environment and is quite vocal about his disagreement.

During his recent visit to the pediatric ophthalmologist, the doctor told him to reduce exposure to digital devices as it is not good for his eyes. He hardly knows what it is to write with a pencil or a pen as he uses stylus instead. He remembers a physician who visited his school for medical check-up of kids told his class that writing is not only impor-

tant to have a good handwriting, but it is also like an exercise that strengthens finger muscles and improves general health condition. Ishaan does not know whether to believe his mother or his teacher or his doctors.

Who do you really blame here? Hard to tell. But one thing is absolutely clear that the older generation has to assume responsibility. The contrasting stories also make it clear that right understanding and right guidance of the older generation can do wonders, but failure is seldom an option. The parents/teachers have to stop projecting their childhood or their issues on the present generation pre-teens and adolescents; make a concerted effort to understand the times that they live, empathize with them and their life issues; and then manage them. Only then the efforts will be synchronised at home, at school and in the society at large, and we will be able to connect with this generation and raise them to be functional happy adults.

Zeners make close to 32% of the world population and together with millennials hold the key to our future and the future of this planet and human civilization. Any short-sightedness in understanding them will be catastrophic, to say the least.

The writer is an award-winning author of the book, 'The Life of Y: Understanding Millennials as Employees and Consumers'. His latest book 'The Life of Z: Understanding Digital Pre-teen and Adolescent Generation' (SAGE India) released recently on Amazon



A NATION'S CULTURE RESIDES IN THE HEARTS AND IN THE SOUL OF ITS PEOPLE — MAHATMA GANDHI



Spectators gathered along Rajpath to witness the Republic Day parade on January 26, 2015 were surprised to see the tableau of Jharkhand. Ever since the state was formed, it was perceived to be the land of jungles and a rich tribal culture. Beyond that were its industrial cities like Jamshedpur and Bokaro, but largely, it remained unexplored.

The 2015 tableau of Jharkhand was a re-creation of a few terracotta temples and the face of an unknown Goddess enshrined in one of those temples. It created a huge wave of interest among the audience present, as well as those who watched the televised version. For many, it was their introduction to the terracotta temples of Maluti, a small village in Dumka district of Jharkhand. Up till now people were only familiar with the Bengal terracotta temples. This small village Maluti has 72 terracotta temples, most of which are embellished with exotic panels of baked clay.

Few months later, Maluti attracted attention once again, when in newly built Ranchi airport, tourism department of Jharkhand placed a huge poster of Maluti with an objective of encouraging tourism in this almost unknown heritage village. Today, Maluti is counted among the unique heritage spots of India.

No where else can one find an instance where within a radius of 1,150 ft, a few generations of zamindars have built more than 100 terracotta temples instead of palaces and pleasure chambers. Even in Bengal, a state that houses several world class terracotta temples, there is no such distinctive a village. Incidentally, Maluti is just a few kilometres from Bengal border and its dwellers speak Bengali and not Hindi. The village cult and customs are more Bengali than Jharkhand.

Though not much information or knowledge is available on these temples, the local folklore/legend has it that this place was known as Mallahati, a zone owned by Malla dynasty that ruled Bishnupur of Bengal. It is the same place that houses many world famous terracotta temples.

The place, it is believed, derives its name from a local Goddess named Moulakshi, who has no reference in Hindu mythology. It is assumed that this Goddess came from Tantrik cult of Buddhism in which she is described as elder sister of Tara. Later, she may have been adopted by the Hindus as their Goddess and started attracting devotees. Based on this information, many believe that this place was once influenced by Vajrayana Buddhism, in which shadow of Tantrik cult is said to be profound.

A website claims Adi Shankara visited this place when he was touring India in his mission of re-emerging Hinduism over Buddhism. The conversion of a Buddhist Goddess into a Hindu Goddess may be a testimony of that forgotten past.

Legend has it that in the 15th century, a new rule was established by an orphan named Baj Basanta, who got a huge tax free land/property as gift, courtesy the then Sultan of Bengal, Alauddin Hussain Shah (1495-1525).

It is said that once during his hunting expedition, Sultan lost his pet falcon and was deeply depressed. Basanta, the village

MALUTI: JHARKHAND'S OWN TERRACOTTA LAND

Dating back to the 15th century, temples of Maluti in Jharkhand bear a testimony to India's rich yet hidden heritage, writes SOMEN SENGUPTA

boy, salvaged the falcon and got the bird back to the Sultan. Happy to have his falcon back, Sultan rewarded Basanta with a sizable land. The boy thus got famous as Baj Basanta.

Baj Basanta founded his capital at a place named Dumra. His several generations ruled the area as prominent tax collecting landowners.

In 1680, Baj Basanta's great grandson, named Rajchandra, was killed in a battle with another king of Rajnagar in Birbhum. Following the incident, his four sons shifted their capital to Mallahati. They found the place to be very peaceful. Once settled, the family branched into four and started expanding by building a plethora of temples. It is believed that all four branches started founding temples instead of building palaces and pleasure houses.

Gradually, in the next 200 years, a time came when it was found that the village had 108 temples dedicated to various Hindu Goddess and almost all decorated with exceptionally beautiful terracotta panels. Today, only 72 temples can be found in Maluti. Rest are either grounded or in a dilapidated condition.

These 72 temples are situated in 4 clusters in the village and one needs to take narrow lanes and beaten tracks to visit all. It is a different matter that the village is very small and thinly populated, and so it does not take much time to visit all clusters. Poor maintenance and lack of public awareness has marred the charm of the place to a great extent.

The first cluster is known as *Madhyam bari*. The second and third clusters are located very close to each other and appear as one. They are known as temples of *Rajbari* and *Sikhir bari*. The last group of temples which are in equally bad condition is known as *Chayer taraf*. Apart from these temples, there is a hexagonal *rasmancha*.

While all temples were originally embellished with terracotta, due to weathering and random defacing of walls, many of these temples lay painfully bare now. In many temples, panels are continuously crumbling. The temples have developed cracks and wild vegetation grows uncontrolled. In a few temples, walls are defaced



LEGEND HAS IT THAT IN THE 15TH CENTURY, A NEW RULE WAS ESTABLISHED BY AN ORPHAN NAMED BAJ BASANTA, WHO WAS GIFTED A HUGE TAX FREE LAND/PROPERTY BY THE THEN SULTAN OF BENGAL, ALAUDDIN HUSSAIN SHAH (1495-1525)

with writings and cattle roam inside. Some temples are still in use and hundreds of people continue to cause damage to its rich art works. During Diwali, on occasion of *Kalipuja*, fairs are organised at temples clusters, attracting large crowds. These fairs are yet another cause of continuous damage to the temples.

The beauty of the terracotta panels found on the walls of Maluti temples is distinct from the panels found on the walls of the various temples of Bengal. In Bengal, apart from mythology and epic references, various social aspects also feature in terracotta panels, whereas in Maluti stories of Ramayana appears to be the main theme.

The central arch and its surrounding areas are all decorated with the battle sequence of Lord Ram and ten-headed Ravana. In some panels, Ram is shown on the shoulder of Hanuman, whereas, in some temples the same warrior is shown fighting on his feet. In some panels, Ram sports a manly moustache. In a similar manner, Ravana is also visualised in different forms and shapes. He has his usual ten heads and ten hands but his postures are distinctive different and vary from temple to temple.

While Ram is accompanied by Laxman and Hanuman, Ravana is followed by demon warriors elegantly dressed up and spirited. The panoply and shoes of Ravana in every temple are beautiful and distinctive. In some panels, Ravana can also be seen fighting alone on foot.

Some of the divine figures are very unique and not commonly found in other terracotta temples. Musicians, flying demons, foot soldiers with naked swords etc are in plenty on each front wall of temples. Social sequences like a royal man on palanquin, worshiping, goat sacrifice and so on are also found aplenty.

The numbers of panels on the side walls and back wall, however, are unusually few and appear to have been removed. A row of small chariots is carved under every figure of Ram and Ravana. These rows of chariots are placed just on the apex of main entrance and again, those are very richly decorated with warriors fighting with deadly weapons, either on horses or elephants. Beautiful floral designs with various hindu motifs are etched all over the wall.

Mahishasurmardini Durga is another common feature to be found on these terracotta decorated temples. Here, she mounts an animal which neither looks like a lion nor a horse. However, some panels depict excellent horse statues. In some panels, she appears with Laxmi and Saraswati on her either sides and in some, she is depicted by herself.

Even though these temples are largely believed to be made of terracotta, there is a contention that these panels may actually be carvings on a very soft type of sandstone, locally known as *phool pathar*. Which is a possibility because in Birbhum district of Bengal, some temples are actually decorated with *phool pathar* and are commonly confused for terracotta.

The locals have also been using the hexagonal roof less *rasmancha* (platform) to celebrate Holi and *Raas Utsav* of Radha-Krishna, which is causing considerable harm to the structure.

Temples of Maluti follow the Bengal school of temple architecture but sadly not much variation found in that. Most of the temples are made in *charchala* style, that has

single pinnacle with four sides slopes. Only a few temples are made of *atchala* and *deul* style. So a monotony grips while taking a tour. However, the thrill of photography sees no bound of satisfaction when one gets to capture a plethora of similar looking temples in a single frame.

As for now, the temple village of Maluti is a victim of sheer negligence from the government side. The village remained lost to world and even to the people of its own state, the undivided Bihar, as well as Bengal even before 1979 when ASI official named AK Sinha first undertook a project on this village and submitted a detailed report of his work.

Despite this report, no basic minimum amenities were built in Maluti and the place did not find mention in any of the tourism promotional literature. In 2009, Global Heritage Fund surveyed this village and marked it as one of the fastest vanishing heritage of the world. Even after that, no major Government fund was sanctioned to protect these temples.

It is heartening to see that the present government is atleast making that effort to promote it as a unique heritage site of the state. At an individual level, a local resident named Gopaldas Banerjee who has been observing the gradual decline of the heritage has done excellent work to record and protect these temples. As someone born and bred in the village, Banerjee had heard various legends and stories from his early childhood and has penned several authentic books on the subject. He was recently felicitated by Jharkhand Government for his work of recording history.

The temples of Maluti are a burning testimonial to India's rich yet hidden heritage and if proper protection and exposure is not given these beautiful structures, all will be lost. Their dilapidated condition is only worsened by overgrown vegetation and massive water leakage from the roof and the walls. A few of the temples have already crumbled owing to neglect and many are awaiting the same fate. Though some restoration work has started recently, but no amenities can still be found for the tourists. It would be a pity if these temples are lost — a sin beyond pardoning.

Planning to travel overseas? Be well-insured

Not many are aware that there exist a variety of customised travel insurance plans that offer region or risk-specific cover, writes ROHAN KUMAR

When travelling abroad, travel insurance is no longer considered optional. Escalating costs of healthcare, theft and loss combined with availability of affordable insurance makes it a no-brainer.

Take an example of a couple honeymooning in Thailand with plans for sightseeing and adventure sports. While a regular insurance would cost a few hundred rupees, any health emergency and evacuation could end up costing tens of thousands of dollars. Hospitals, even in Asia, can easily cost US\$ 500 a day. Stolen papers, wallets, baggage — stories all too common for most travellers — are also covered in most plans. In the case of such travels, care should be taken to ensure that accidents during adventure sports are covered in the policy they purchase.

A variety of customised travel plans are region or risk-specific, like

it is mandatory for an individual to have a Schengen travel insurance policy or a health insurance plan along with the Schengen Visa. Schengen travel insurance policies generally include benefits like emergency medical expenses, repatriation, accidental bodily injury, death or permanent disability, extended protection for the family, etc in Schengen countries. Meanwhile, to provide an effortless globe-trotting experience to senior citizens there is comprehensive travel insurance that has additional benefits like cashless medical services, medical concierge services, state-of-the-art health care facilities, distress allowance, etc. Many travellers are unaware that their travel insurance can be extended if their stay is prolonged. Different insurers offer specific extension periods depending on the travel destination and the type of traveller.

There are niche products in the



market as well, depending on the kind of travel you are planning: coverage for races and adventure sports like bungee jumping, mountaineering and parasailing, plans that cover medical costs pertaining to pre-existing conditions by offering a waiver to the exclusion, kidnapping etc are some of the value add-ons available for policies. We're hearing of policies that will cover "cold feet cancellation" for guests heading to a destination wedding, or inconveniences related to being hijacked — a daily benefit if you are delayed in reaching your destination due to this.

A good idea when choosing insurance policies is to first take a look at what is covered in your existing plans — sometimes your homeowners or renters' policies will cover valuables, or your health insurance will cover emergencies abroad. Next, look at any risks you are taking on the trip(s) you are covering (scuba

diving, hiking, cruises may require a niche policy), and then choose a policy that covers them all.

Another thing to consider while buying a travel plan is to keep an eye out for the deductible. The deductible is the amount that the policyholder agrees to pay if they need to make a claim. The insurance company then reimburses the costs over and above that amount. With most travel insurance policies, the deductible is applied to emergency medical care costs. It may also extend to baggage or trip cancellation/interruption coverage. Insurers usually offer a range of deductible amounts. Generally, higher the amount, the greater the discount on the premium. So, adding a deductible is especially beneficial for people paying high premiums — e.g., those staying abroad for months at a time. The growing trend is for policies that have a zero deductible, meaning there will be no out-of-

pocket expenses if a claim is filed with the insurance company. In countries with extremely high medical costs, like the United States, finding an insurance plan with a zero deductible is always win and almost imperative.

In the event of buying insurance online (obviously the most convenient option), the customers should consider checking the travel insurance coverage, quote for the travel duration, claim settlement ratio and ease of contacting customer care. Fine print matters — accidents under the influence of intoxicants are not covered, acts of war or terrorism are often not covered — but for all purposes, if you don't have time to go through the various checklists, remember that the important thing is to be covered.

The writer is an insurance expert; CEO & co-founder, Toffee Insurance



HANGING PLANTS

For people who can give the plants only a limited amount of space, hanging plants can be a great option. Hanging plants may come as potted plants or air plants which do not even require soil to grow.

CACTUS OR SUCCULENTS

"One of the most popular plants are usually the cactus and the succulents. Though green and lively, both are types of desert plants which are less demanding, given that these plants need little water and sunlight, maintenance," says Clement.



EXPERIMENTING WITH POTS

The vessel in which the plant is placed can attract just as much attention as the plant itself. Often used pots or planting vessels include terracotta, ceramic pots, glass terrariums, wood and much more. Hence instead of sticking to cheap plastic pots, it is advisable to shift to these plant-friendly and creative looking spaces to add to the decor.



Bring serenity to YOUR HOME

Green décor not only heightens the aesthetic appeal of the home but also sets in a pleasant mood. **ANUSHKA PRADEEP** writes about what needs to be done to decorate a home with plants

The serenity and the exotic look that is provided by plants and flowers inside fancy indoor and outdoor spaces are appreciated by everyone. We offer a basic guide to the crucial factors that influence the type of plants that can be placed at home and their maintenance.

More often than not most plants are chosen for their ability to add an aesthetic quality to the interiors. "People get plants for the home to cause a shift from horizontal-living to vertical-living. Though it accommodates more people, vertical living tends to restrict the room available to each person. This may pose a challenge

when it comes to accommodating plants and animals," says Krishna Viplava, CEO of Regalias Modular India Interiors, Hyderabad. "The type of plants or planting areas can be broadly divided into two main categories, namely balcony and indoor. Flowering plants and other exquisite plants usually require a good amount of maintenance. Due to their requirement for ample sunlight and water such plants are ideal to be placed in an area such as the balcony," he says. "The opposite can be true for indoor plants," he adds. Clement, manager at the 'PaudheSe Yaari' a plant nursery, says, "It all depends on the taste of the consumer.

Some prefer their plants as a centerpiece in the living room while some are placed as side pieces in the bedroom. However it is important that the plants be placed in areas close to windows and doors so they receive adequate sunlight." Agreeably, caring for plants can be tricky. The process of taking care of each plant depends on several factors including the type of plant or climate that one lives in and more. But there are a number of very hearty house plants that are much easier to care for, and much more likely to reward your efforts with long and continued growth. "Some plants which are most forgiving in nature and can survive

FOR THOSE WITH A GREEN THUMB, HERE ARE A FEW TIPS AND TRICKS TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT PLANT FOR YOUR HOME AND CATER TO THE DECOR OF YOUR HOUSE

FLOOR PLANTS

In a room that has too much empty space, one could always consider a floor plant to complete the room to bring in a fresh sense of freshness to the decor instead of filling it up with more furniture. Make sure the size and scale of the plant are in alignment with the rest of the furniture in the room. These plants can be a great statement to the aesthetic of one's living space while being easy on one's wallet as well.



“People get plants for the home to cause a shift from horizontal-living to vertical-living. Though it accommodates more people, vertical living tends to restrict the room available to each person

KRISHNA VIPLAVA
CEO OF REGALIAS
MODULAR INDIA
INTERIORS

Building a safer home for pets



Pet owners are not only responsible for their pets' food but also the kind of home they live in. **ANUSHKA PRADEEP** writes about the measures to be taken to ensure a pet-friendly home

Every pet owner knows that while owning a furry friend can be fun and adorable, it is a huge commitment and a responsibility as well. Besides providing companionship, there are also therapeutic benefits of owning a pet. The number of households with pet dogs and cats in India accounted for approximately 17 million and 1.5 million respectively in 2018, states research published by the Statista Research Department. Speaking on factors to consider when one adopts a pet,

Dr Mellacheruvu Kiran Kumar, a veterinary doctor, says, "Smaller pets like cats or hamsters or smaller breeds/companion breeds of dogs can thrive comfortably in smaller spaces. But bigger pet breeds require a lot more space for exercise and to prevent them from suffering from obesity. This is especially crucial, keeping in mind the apartment culture nowadays." "It is advisable to have a temperature and humidity regulating systems in place. The transition period between seasons is especially risky for both pets as infections are

expected during those times," he adds. In the beginning, the potential risks of a pet turning your house upside-down is indeed very high, but pets generally tend to adapt to the household as they grow up. It is important for the owner to make necessary changes to the home to suit the pets' behaviour and needs while also ensuring that the house is safe and comfortable for them. This can be hard on owners who want to decorate their home for better aesthetic appeal while ensuring that their pets have a comfortable time. Hence we look into factors that may be inconvenient to pets and list measures that ensure the coziness and comfort of your pet at home. "Managing the decor in the presence of pets is undeniably a difficult task. But there are several ways one can mitigate the problems by taking a few basic counter measure to safeguard their pet. Trimming nails of animals regularly will benefit both the interior of the home as well as the animal itself as it will lead to less scratches to the furniture and paint, thus keeping them away from possibly toxic chemicals in construction products," advises Bharadwaj, Manager of Happy Home Interiors. "Usage of stain-resistant fabrics for sofas and chairs like faux leather, or easy to clean washable covers can benefit both the pet and the owner as it is applicable not just for sofas but for other home accessories such as pillows, curtains, bed sheets as well. This would help the owner maintain the home better despite the furry friends shedding hair or causing any other spillage. When it comes to other pieces of furniture it is



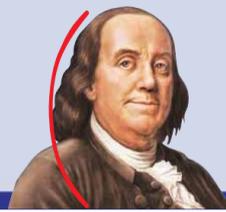
Dr Mellacheruvu Kiran Kumar

HERE ARE A FEW ADDITIONAL TIPS TOWARDS A BETTER PET-FRIENDLY HOME

- ❑ Provide steps for pets to climb onto high furniture. Else, their nails can rip the upholstery when they try climbing.
- ❑ Protect the pets by covering sharp edges of furniture.
- ❑ Store household chemicals in a locked cabinet and keep glassware and lighted candles away from the pets' reach.
- ❑ Most common household plants are poisonous to pets. Hence, research on ideal non-toxic plants before getting them home.
- ❑ Area rugs can enhance a room while protecting floors from claws and stains.

best preferable to use inexpensive things that are easily disposable," Bharadwaj added. "Carpets are considerably better to avoid slippery floors especially keeping in mind large animals such as St. Bernard, but it is important to ensure the maintenance of the carpets and rugs to ensure that there's no infestation by parasites on the carpets," Dr Kiran concluded.





EACH YEAR ONE VICIOUS HABIT DISCARDED, IN TIME MIGHT MAKE THE WORST OF US GOOD — BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



YOUR WEEK AHEAD



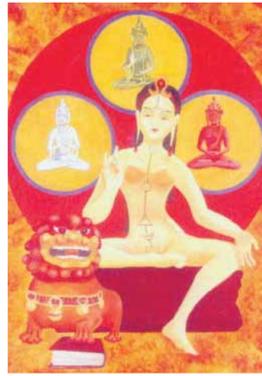
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

Your health remains good. Your theory of prevention is better than cure will work well. You are inspired, motivated and have strong will power to turn a situation in your favour. With a tremendous amount of energy and stamina, you can work non-stop and finish the pending tasks. Your workaholic approach will attain favour of your seniors. Your potential is being recognised which will work as motivation for you. Those seeking love, this week your search for the right partner will come to an end. There will be a true bonding between you and your partner. This is the right time to talk to each other and sort out the problems for a smooth relationship. Married couples will enjoy the time and cherish some memorable moments.

Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Friday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Be positive is the mantra for this week. Those facing physical problems, be careful about your diet. Make sure to exercise/do yoga, eat healthy and take proper rest. Even if you are feeling demotivated and disengaged, do not cut yourself off from the world. Seek help from a trusted person in your family or friend circle to come out of your current state of mind. Things will go well in your career. You may experience a sense of calm and emotional connect with other colleagues at work. This is a make or break period in your relationship. Evaluate everything and be very clear about what you want from life and your relationship and make a decision accordingly. Those seeking a new relationship need to decide about how they are going to approach it.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Healthwise this is not a great time for you. This week is full of anxiety, stress and worry. Make sure you have a balanced diet, exercise and fluid intake. Meditation and breathing exercises are particularly useful to you. Take time out to practice some. Work-wise, you will have a pleasant time. You may find support with colleagues and enjoy a social get-together with them. The work environment is positive and you may expect a promotion. Those seeking a new job will be successful. Love life should go well. Those facing challenges in their relations need to maintain a balanced and welcoming attitude. Those looking for a new relationship, be confident, go out and mingle with others. Things are sure to work in your favour.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Saturday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you have to be alert as there are chances of health issues popping up. Maintain a positive attitude at all times. Manage your stress level and get enough rest to heal both physically and emotionally. You may face some difficulties on the career front. Your feelings or ego may get hurt at your work. Be optimistic and face the challenges with an approach that the consequences will make you learn something new about life. Those looking for employment should probably look in a different direction or a different field. Those in a relationship, may have to face some issues. Do not stress over things and give yourself and your partner some time and space to deal with the problem. Those who are single, you have to wait for the right time to meet a suitable partner.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Monday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Health is satisfactory this week. You are advised to practice meditation and positive thinking. Doing so would work wonders for you. Those who are down with health problems or some illness should not lose heart. Take care of yourself and allow yourself to get in touch with your inner strength to heal faster. This week, work front seems to be disturbed as it is full of worries and anxiety in relation to some project work. Keep reminding yourself to not worry, stay positive. Leave aside the anxiety and focus on what you can control. Those seeking employment should do what they can to get their desired job. Be strong in your relationship with others. Some issues may pop up. You need to give space to yourself and your partner to sort out the differences.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Wednesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You will have plenty of opportunities to entertain yourself and spend quality time. This will be reflected on your health. Others will feel positive vibes in your company. On the career front, something good is likely to happen. The issues you were facing in the last few days will get over now. You may find support in your colleague or a friend. This is an apt time to discuss service matters with your boss, and your ideas will be valued and executed for the benefit of the organisation. If you are in the line for promotion, it may come to you soon. Family plays a major role in your success. Romance is in the air. Those seeking love will meet someone of their liking. Existing relations demand your attention and time. Plan a vacation to make your partner feel important.

Lucky number 28
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Your health will be good. Keep up with your meditation and yoga routine as it will keep you connected to your soul. Those dealing with health issues, need to take things seriously and take proper medication. Some of you may work yourself to exhaustion and stress may take a serious toll on your body. Give yourself a break. Your work front looks good and you may experience happiness and satisfaction at work. Those awaiting interview results will get good news. You seem to be on the right track but don't get carried away. Those who have commitment phobia, need to introspect. It is very important to have a healthy conversation when faced with problems. Don't avoid any issues in your relations and because it will only make things worse.

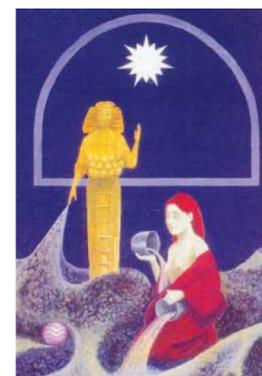
Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Saturday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week take a break from health worries and stress. Practice meditation in calm surroundings and do some spiritual thinking. This will help you develop mental strength. Don't push yourself in any task as it might have an adverse effect on you. This is the time to count your blessings. At work, things are good. Those who are not happy, stay calm, as new opportunities are waiting to open doors. A personal transformation will help you have a deeper understanding of yourself and others. Your relationship seems to be in an uncomfortable zone. Either you or your partner is going through a tough time. Examine your relationship and give your support to your partner to make the relationship work. Don't lose hope. Your time will come, just take rest and relax.

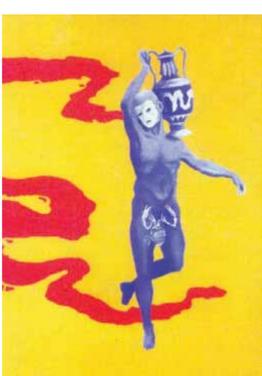
Lucky number 5
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Thursday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you will feel physically, emotionally and spiritually charged. Things are in their right place. Those suffering from heart and BP related issues would recover fast with the help of proper medical attention and their own will power. Monetary gains are on the cards. Those thinking of venturing out into a business or an expansion, go ahead. You will be successful. You may meet an influential person who could prove highly beneficial in your career. Those in services may gain higher status/position. Love demands your attention, which probably you won't be able to pay much. Your partner may get annoyed, so balance between work and love. Married life is blissful and enjoyable.

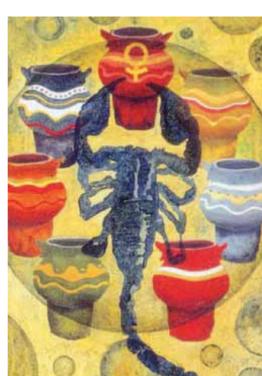
Lucky number 23
Lucky colour Pastel Blue
Lucky day Thursday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Maintain balance to have good health. Make sure you eat well, get adequate sleep and exercise the right amount. This week you seem to be enthusiastic about your work. You will show the right amount of confidence and take on new projects. A word of caution though. Be careful to not rush into things. You have the tendency to be impulsive. Think before you make any decisions. Travel on account of your work is indicated. Good news for those who are awaiting results of an interview. You will rejoice in friendship and harmonious relationships. Some of you will be celebrating an occasion with your partner. In case of stress, spend some quality time with your friends and family.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You will witness a high level of energy and vitality this week. This will keep you active. Just make sure to take out time for adequate rest as well. Women who are planning to start a family, good news is in the offing. Enjoy this time of good health. On the work front, you may get involved in a conflict or disagreement with others. This might be due to your own behaviour. If you are trying to complete a task with disregard to its impact on others, you might end up being a loser. Make sure your behaviour is impeccable. Either you or your partner is working very hard in your jobs, this might be interfering with your relationship. For a smooth relationship, spend some quality time with each other. Single seeking love, should also prioritise their life.

Lucky number 5
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Your health is not the best this week. Watch out for seasonal ailments. Drink plenty of water and avoid tea, coffee, or any kind of addiction. Focus on meditation and yoga for rejuvenation and healing. Career-wise you will get a sense of accomplishment. Those seeking jobs will get a call from the company they have been aspiring for. Your family and friends' support will boost your morale. Property matters will be solved as per your wish. In a relationship, avoid conflicts and confrontations which are likely to occur during this week. Love may face objection as your family members may not favour your love or don't like your relationship. A rift in the family might make you upset. You may have a confrontation with the elders/mother to defend your relationship.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Sunday

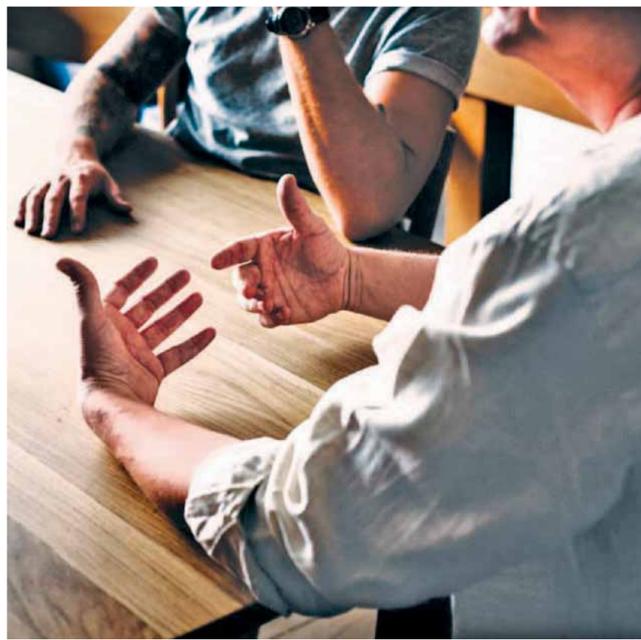
Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 987328331



Habit tendencies can derail venture

Picking up threads from the previous issue, let us now look at the prognosis of the young man's endeavour since his session with me. He was advised to reflect upon his inner frame of mind in a meditative mode, identify the inherent fault lines, acknowledge them, and make necessary amends from the root level through fresh educative inputs. He did reflect for a while, but not in a meditative mode. In fact, he used to seek guidance on how to modify his conduct. As also, on how to relate to his parents so as to keep them in good humour. The saner side of him was then driving his thought process, as would Jupiter beneficially aligned to mind signifying Moon may mean. He, thereafter, began consciously evading getting into unnecessary argument with his parents, unlike earlier when he would react to everything. That helped improve his relationship with parents over a period of time, but not without intermittent bouts of aggression. His habit tendencies would then temporarily overtake his thought process. But after offending them, he would regret, seek clarification on where and why he went wrong, and as advised, say

sorry to mend fences. Remember, habits die hard, and would not spare you unless the thought-seeds to which they are rooted in the inner realms of mind, are resolved from the base level. That is only possible through self-reflection in meditative mode. Otherwise, when caught unguarded, the inherent tendencies will come into immediate play, and evidently to one's detriment. On work front, he was not contented with just his family business, which being considerably big demanded full-time engagement. His sense of insecurity played heavy on his mind, coming as it may with the Sun placed adverse to Saturn. The trigger was, not being named a director in the company, whereas his first cousins were inducted into the board of his uncle's company. He felt that he was being denied his due. He was afraid that because of temperamental differences with parents, he would be deprived of his legacy. It could not register in his mind that they were in fact grooming him in a way that before he was handed charge, he gets time and space to get over his attitudinal limitations, so that he could lead with prudence and patience.



The man in hurry wished to hurriedly create something of his own. True to his nature, he was toying with many entrepreneurial ventures. For, mind signifying Moon is posted in a Mercury owned sign, a planet identified with multiplicity. He was advised to take up one project at a time, take it to its logical end, stabilise it, before getting into another venture. But given his habit, he kept arguing to prove his point and won't listen. He tried to enter into partnership with one start-up company that was assisting him in one of his projects. But the promoters refused. That raked up his ego, as would the Sun placed adverse to Jupiter imply. He could not digest refusal and thus got trapped in his own bind. In reaction, he rushed through partnership with another start-up company that was also assisting him in his project, just with the intent to outsmart the other company. Made disproportionate investment despite stiff resistance from his associates. Later, he realised that the return he expected may take some time. He forgot that any maiden venture has to go through mean down time before giving returns. He then lost his nerves. Following which, he on the strength of money power

began playing all tricks in his hand to take over the company, which met with stiff resistance from the original promoters. Eventually the partnership broke off and he lost heavily. If all that would not be enough, he spent heavily in branding himself. His illusionary perceptions made him ignore all advice to wait till his venture took off well, as would the Sun opposite mischievous Neptune imply. Being young, he had enough time in hand for image building. But he was in a hurry to rough shoulders with the bigwigs in the Business world. In the process he went out of proportion to pay a hefty sum to become a member of an International organisation. Now, because of economic downturn, on completion of his project, his product line is not moving on expected lines. Consequently, he is now under severe financial pressure, making it difficult to push through his product in the market.

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Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com

RAPID FIRE

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN 3 WORDS: Disciplined, committed and hardworking

WHAT DO YOU HATE THE MOST IN OTHERS: People who lie a lot and cheat others

YOUR NICK NAME: Chinni

FAVOURITE HOLIDAY DESTINATION: Australia

WHAT'S THE CITY YOU WISH TO VISIT: Australia. Although it's my favourite country, I have never been there

HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH ANXIETY/ANGER: I suppress my anger

WHAT IS WORK TO YOU: Work is life to me

CURRENT FAVOURITE CELEBRITY: Mahesh Babu. He knows his work. He is a 'bangaru bidda'

HOW DO YOU BEGIN YOUR DAY: By exercising

Very few heroines are getting powerful roles now...

Women empowerment was more in cinemas back then but people couldn't notice. Most of my cinemas were female-centric that has a strong character. I consider myself lucky that I was among those extremely few artists who did such women-oriented films. I'm glad that my character in Sarileru too was of a strong single mother who sent her sons to serve the nation. I worked hard for this star-dom and I am enjoying it now. I don't think that heroines now are getting to portray such powerful roles.

Calm, shy kid...

I have been calm, composed and shy since childhood. I was brought up in a military-like system amidst a lot of discipline and principles. Even during the initial days of my acting career, I was very calm. It is only after I started doing bold and brave films that I became more mature and aggressive.

Excelled in sports...

I used to play a lot as a kid and used to mostly come first. I had all those medals until recently, but I lost a few while moving my house and during a recent burglary at home. I was an above average student and always excelled in sports. Even now, I always ask the government to make karate compulsory for girls at school. It will keep them fit and brave, and they will become strong mentally and physically.

Taking Rs 1 from babai to drink sugarcane juice...

I would walk or take a bus to school. My parents would not give us pocket money; so, I would ask my babai to give me Rs 1. When he used to ask me why I needed it, I would say, 'I'll drink one glass of sugarcane juice before and after school'. One glass was just Rs 50 paise back then. Babai used to love me a lot. When I wanted to watch a film, I would ask him only as I was too scared to ask my parents. So babai used to watch the film first to know if there is any obscenity and only if he finds it okay would he convince my parents. My father used to scold him for pampering me. I used to love James Bond films a lot.

Serving people is top priority...

My focus is politics. I got a gap during my political stint recently and bumped into the script of Sarileru. I felt the character was strong so I did this film. But till the end, politics, serving people and fighting for them would be my priority. We are the people who brought separate Telangana and the responsibility to set things right lies on us. Corruption has increased a lot in the state.



With K Chandrashekhara Rao

Sometimes, after watching those films I would gather some courage and ask my dad directly.

Love for Lord Ayyappa...

I was a big fan of festivals, especially Diwali. All that shopping and decorations brought a different feeling altogether. I would enjoy bursting crackers. Whenever my father wore Ayyappa mala, I used to cry, asking my dad to take me along. I always used to decorate the puja room before my father prayed. My husband also wears the mala. One day I was upset I could not decorate the puja room before my husband's puja as I was down with heavy fever. But like a miracle, I was fine within an hour. That's the magic of Lord Ayyappa I feel.

Was dad's dream to see me as a superstar...

My parents, Srinivas Prasad and Varalaxmi were from Eturnagaram in Warangal. Eventually they shifted to Chennai and I grew up there. My schooling was in Chennai. My father was interested in films, but never in my wildest dreams did I think of acting. It was because of my father that I entered the film industry. It was his dream to see me as a superstar. I have realised his dream, but sadly he isn't with me.

Always a 'nanna kuchi'

I loved my father a lot. I always used to support my father and my brother used to support my mother. I was always a 'nanna kuchi'. Since childhood, I would do my work

and straight away get back home as I was brought that way by my father. That continues till date. Once my political meeting or shoot is over, I head home. I prefer staying at home with my husband and go to temples or on tours with him if I get free time. Even during my childhood, I wouldn't attend family functions.

Homemaker, if not for acting...

If not for acting, I guess I would've been a homemaker. Back then, once the family feels you are educated enough, they would get you married to

discipline my parents taught me, I worked very hard and was able to take my own decisions. After my parents died, I had only work in mind. Sometimes, I would sleep only for three hours a day and used to do 17 films a year. My work helped me grow in life and take my decisions by myself.



During early days



ON AND OFF SCREEN, A WOMAN OF SUBSTANCE

On or off screen, politically active actress par excellence Vijayashanti has proved her mettle time and again. Known for her unscripted bold speeches during election campaigns and the manner in which she gets into the skin of strong characters she plays in



With Rahul Gandhi

films, Vijayashanti pitches in an exclusive interview with THE PIONEER the need for making karate mandatory in schools to help girls become strong mentally and physically. Two minutes into the conversation, the oozes her persona as a people's person. With Sarileru Neekevaru, she has returned with a bang, though after a long hiatus. In a free-wheeling conversation with K RAMYA SREE, Vijayashanti talks about her childhood, stint in politics, her plans to act in an action-oriented film, and more.

to get 'rid' of the responsibility. Now things have changed for good and women are becoming strong and independent. I got exposed to the world only because of films and this career has influenced me and taught me many lessons.

Tied the knot in a simple ceremony...

I like simple marriages and hence got married in a similar manner. After I met my husband MV Srinivas Prasad, we expressed our feelings towards each other and tied the knot in a simple ceremony. It all happened in no time. I got married in 1988 and it's been over 30 years. Understanding is the key to a happy married life. There should be no ego between couples. People should learn to understand their partner's feelings for a happy marriage.

Taking break from films...

I took a break from films in 2006 as I felt 'films chaalu inka'. I had been acting ever since I turned 13 and had done over 200 films. My husband and I were too busy with films and felt we



During Telangana agitation

should take a break and focus on ourselves and our personal life. It's been 13 years since we took that decision and suddenly, politics happened to me. Since I wasn't doing films, I got enough time to fight for the Telangana movement and got involved in solving public issues.

Want to do an action film again...

I have always played strong characters that are loved by people, especially women. All my films were message-oriented, keeping society in mind. If I'm offered 'the best character' which keeps up with my reputation, I will surely do more films. I want to do an action film too. I will do it if I get such an offer

Parents' death at a young age shattered me...

My parents' death shattered me. I think those were the only emotional moments in my life. They left me when I was very young. While I was still growing in my career, my father passed away. Within a year my mother too passed away. So, I was all alone and had to do everything by myself. I couldn't understand anything about life. I was too young. But thanks to the discipline my parents taught me, I worked very hard and was able to take my own decisions. After my parents died, I had only work in mind. Sometimes, I would sleep only for three hours a day and used to do 17 films a year. My work helped me grow in life and take my decisions by myself.

and don't want to confine myself.

Fans broke train's window to see me...

One day I was travelling to Vijayawada for a shoot. People somehow came to know the train and the compartment number I was travelling in. A few fans broke the glass windows of the AC compartment I was in. The train stopped and people were shouting 'Vijayashanti should come out'. People's hands were bleeding and they were putting bottu to each other with that blood. That was very scary and I was frightened. I have witnessed many fan moments in my 40-year career, but this really scared me.

Lost nine kilos for Sarileru...

I work out for one-and-a-half to three hours every day. I do 50 push-ups on a daily basis and maintain a proper diet. Women face a lot of health issues once they attain a certain age. Even I faced a health issue a couple of years ago. So, I changed my entire lifestyle and started exercising and maintaining my health. I lost nine kilos in two

months for Sarileru. The director was shocked to see me very lean and wanted me to put on some weight. So, I changed my diet again and gained pounds. But I want to get fitter now and shed more weight.

'Sweety gaadu' is my stress buster...

If I get free time, my husband and I go for a walk or play with my pet Sweety. Although he is a male dog we named him Sweety because he was as cute as a female pup. Sweety gaadu is my stress buster too.



Anil took good care of me on Sarileru sets...

Director Anil Ravipudi took care of me and my character on the sets. Although I returned to the sets after 13 years, I didn't feel like lost. I was very comfortable as I have acted with Mahesh Babu earlier and the director was very cautious about my shots as he was adamant that only I act in the film. He managed to convince me (laughs).

