

## 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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12



## 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 NRIC. 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

**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 dhandha? Aren't Muslims our people? For how many days will you isolate them?**

### 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 body 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

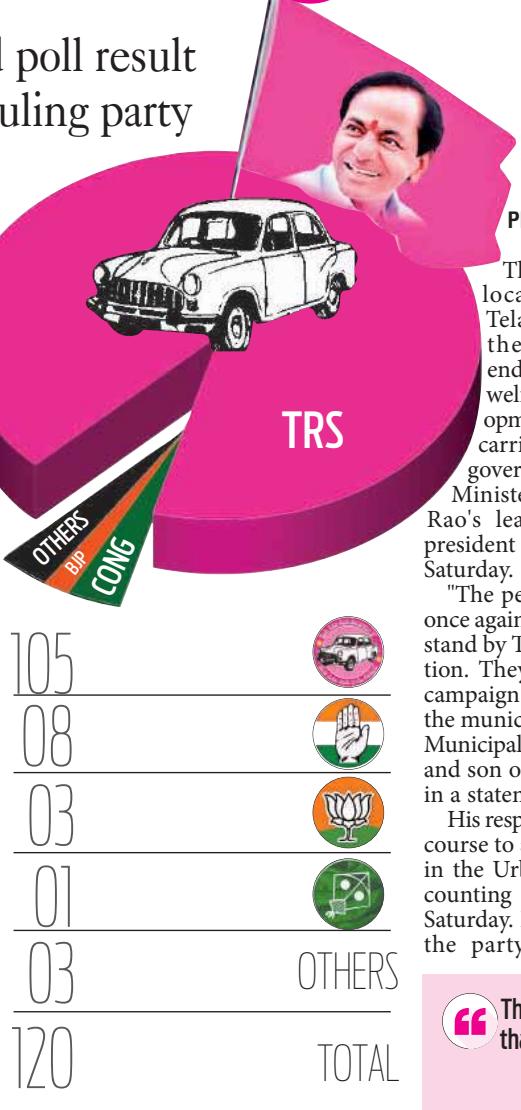
was distant second with majority in three municipalities. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimineen (AIMIM) won a municipality each.

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.

*Continued on Page 3*



## Jana Sena-BJP's joint Long March postponed due to Delhi elections

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

**Jana Sena sources said that the BJP's top leaders are busy campaigning for the Delhi elections and are so busy that did not even react to the YSRCP government's plan to abolish the Legislative Council in which the national party has two members.**

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 Telanganaites 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."

They said that the BJP's top leaders are busy campaigning for the Delhi elections. "They are so busy that did not even react to the YSRCP government's plan to abolish the Legislative Council," the sources said.

The YSRCP government is likely to take a decision in this regard at the Cabinet meeting and initiate a discussion in the Assembly on Monday.

It may be recalled that on January 16, the Jana Sena and BJP officially announced an alliance in Vijayawada. Jana



Sena chief Pawan Kalyan also met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi recently.

Leaders of both the parties have clarified that they would wage a united fight against the Jaganmohan Reddy government.

While the Jana Sena has no presence in the House of Elders, the BJP has two members.

Both the parties are now learnt to be studying the latest political situation in the State and are said to be waiting for the outcome of the hearing in Capital cases in the AP High Court on February 26.

## Poll result is endorsement of the TRS govt by the people: KTR

PNS ■ 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 Chandrasekhar 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 alleged 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



**"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

Tithi : Pratipada: 04:30 am (Next Day)

Nakshatram: Shrawana: 04:35 am (Next Day)

Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)

RahuKalam: 09:40 am – 11:04 am

Yamagandam: 01:52 pm – 03:15 pm

Varjyan: 07:04 am – 08:47 am

Gulika: 06:53 am – 08:16 am

Good Time: (to start any important work)

Amritakalam: 05:24 pm – 07:07 pm

Abhijit Muhurtham: 12:06 pm – 12:50 pm

#### VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Partly Cloudy

Temp: 33/19

Humidity: 47%

Sunrise: 06:49

Sunset: 06:07

Current Weather Conditions

Updated January 25, 2019 5:00 PM

YUJAYAWADA

WEATHER

Temp: 33/19

Humidity: 47%

Sunrise: 06:49

Sunset: 06:07

Current Weather Conditions

Updated January 25, 2019 5:00 PM

## Eggs pelted on protest camp trigger TDP-YSRCP clash

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA



Galla Jayadev

site where the protest was being staged.

Later, Guntur MP Galla Jayadev, in a tweet message, condemned the cowardly act, attributing it to YSRCP workers.

He alleged that violence and threats were the only weapons at the disposal of the YSRCP to solve problems instead of making efforts to set right matters in the wake of its

proposal to set up three Capitals in the State.

TDP Tenali unit president Mohammad Abdul Kuddus alleged that YSRCP workers had attacked him and others while they were staging a dharna peacefully. He said though the police personnel were present at the venue, they did not make any effort to prevent the assailants from going on a rampage.

Police and the municipal authorities were planning to remove the tents pitched by the agitators, he added.

Elsewhere in the Capital region, farmers and local residents staged a Maha Dharna at Tullur and Mandamad. Farmers and women observed 'Deeksha' at Velagapudi, Krishnayapalem and Errabalem villages.

## 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 Bijendran Singh, Naib Subedar Narendra 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.

## Padma Bhushan PV Sindhu

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

### WINNERS ALL



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.

From Telangana, Chintala Venkata Reddy was bestowed with the Padma Shri for his contribution to the development of agriculture while Vijayasarathi Sribhashyam was conferred the award for literature and education. From Andhra Pradesh, Yadagopala Rao and Dalavai Chalapati Rao were named for the award in the arts category. 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 Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 12 posthumous awardees.



## CAPSULE

Purandara Dasa  
Aradhanotsavam  
concludes

**VIJAYAWADA:** The three-day-long Aradhanotsavam of Carnatic music patriarch Purandara Dasa concluded at the Asthana Mandapam in Tirumala on a grand note on Saturday. Organised under the aegis of Dasa Sahitya Project of TTD, nearly 2,500 followers of Purandara Dasa rendered bhajans. The artists of Haridasa Rasa Ranjani also rendered Purandara Dasa sankeertans. Special Officer of Dasa Sahitya Project Anandathirtha Charyulu supervised the arrangements.

Privileged darshan  
on Jan 28-29

**VIJAYAWADA:** The privileged darshan for senior citizens, physically challenged and parents with five-year-old children on two days in a month is slated for January 28 and 29. As a part of the programme, the TTD is providing 4,000 tokens on January 28 to senior citizens, who crossed 65 years and physically challenged in three time slots, including 1,000 tokens at 10 am, 2,000 at 2 pm and 1,000 tokens at 3 pm slot. The TTD appealed to devotees falling under this category to make use of this darshan facility. Similarly, on January 29, parents with five-year-old children will be provided Srivari darshan facility from 9 am to 1.30 pm through Supatham route. It may be noted that during normal days, parents with one-year-old are provided Srivari darshan through Supatham route.

Retired bank  
staff demand  
redressal of  
grievances

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Bank Retirees' Federation secretary A Yella Rao appealed to authorities concerned to solve their long-pending demands forthwith. He was addressing the bank retired employees, who staged a protest in response to the call given by the All India Bank Retirees' Federation at Dharna Chowk in Vijayawada on Saturday.

He said the interest offered by banks to senior citizens was six per cent, which is not sufficient, hence, they demanded nine per cent hike. The upper limit laid down by banks on deposits was Rs 15 lakh, which should be removed so that the retired bank employees can deposit their retirement amounts in the bank.

He demanded officials concerned cancel the GST 18 per cent on health insurance to retired employees. He recalled that retired bank employees are still drawing pension on the old basic, which need to be revised, as is done with other employees.

He further stated that 15 per cent family pension was given to the family, which needs to be enhanced to a minimum of 30 per cent. He said that on January 30, they will stage a protest demanding redressal of their grievances.

# Benz Circle flyover to ease traffic congestion

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Traffic woes of commuters would come to an end at last as the Benz Circle flyover would be thrown open to people soon.

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Srinivas (Nani) on Saturday said Benz Circle flyover, which connects the two National Highways passing through the city, would be opened to people soon. He said people, who faced traffic snarls during the construction of the flyover, will have a sigh of relief within a week's time.

He said the State government has nothing to do with the flyover as it is the Central



government-funded project. He reminded the TDP leaders

strived for the construction of the flyover and added that

though their party is not in power, they would fight on public issues against the YSRCP government.

MLA Gadde Ramamohana Rao recalled that for the past 20 years people of Vijayawada have been demanding the construction of flyover at Benz Circle. In 2015 under the leadership of N Chandrababu Naidu, the construction work of the flyover was started. He recalled that the project was started with the support of Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and MP Nani. He expressed his happiness over the completion of the flyover as it would be opened soon.

## CITY GEARS UP FOR REPUBLIC DAY



Vijayawada Railway Station illuminated on Saturday on the eve of the Republic Day

## Govt to make Krishna district leprosy-free

C PRADEEP

■ VIJAYAWADA

The State government has been taking pro-active steps to provide better medical and healthcare facilities to people. As a part of this exercise, it has taken up various initiatives to extend advanced medical facilities to patients suffering from leprosy in partnership with the World Health Organisation (WHO). Apart from this, the government has been implementing several welfare schemes for these patients and their families.

Significantly, there has been a decline in the number of leprosy cases in Krishna district in the current financial year when compared to figures in the last few years, said the Additional DM&HO, AIDS and Leprosy, J Usha Rani.

In an exclusive interview with The Pioneer, she said that the department would be organising an awareness fortnight on leprosy across Krishna district from January 30, the 'Anti-Leprosy Day', that coincides with the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

She said that about 4,000



medical and para-medical staff would be involved in the efforts to create awareness about the disease at schools, colleges, hostels and other places in the district. Various means of communication would be used during the leprosy fortnight awareness programme to create awareness among people through

announcements on public address systems, scrollings on TVs, FM Radio, 'Burra Katha', rallies, pamphlets distribution and others, she said.

Deputy para medical officer G Pratap Kumar said that leprosy was caused by mycobacterium leprae bacterium, also known as 'Hansen's disease', which is a chronic infectious

disease that damages the peripheral nerves and targets the skin, eyes, nose and muscles. The symptoms can be noticed as the disease progresses in an individual. The disease is not hereditary and it can be cured completely within six months to one year based on its severity in an affected person. He said that there are about 236 leprosy

patients as on December 31 2019. The prevalence rate of the disease has dropped to 0.48 among 10,000 people compared to 2018-19, the annual new case detection rate was reduced from 9 to 6.53 among 1,00,000 people with respect to previous years and about nine re-constructive surgeries were performed, he said.

He further stated that there are about 1,177 deformity cases and 228 patients receive old age pension of Rs 3,000 each besides 32 widow pensions and 98 physically challenged pensions. He said patches on the face, ears and the back, hair loss on eyebrows and eyelids, numbness of feet and palms, blisters on feet and hands and others are a few symptoms of leprosy. One should consult the doctors at PHCs and government hospitals for diagnosis.

He said that if a patient is detected with leprosy, based on the severity of the disease, he would be prescribed medication for six months or one year, a single dose of Profelax is also given to the family members as a precautionary measure.

Krishna District Collector Md Imitiaz released a poster 'Spars' as a part of the awareness programme on leprosy that will be carried out across the district in all the villages, mandals and towns from January 30

There has been a decline in the number of leprosy cases in Krishna district in the current financial year when compared to figures in the last few years, said the Additional DM&HO, AIDS and Leprosy, J Usha Rani

## Cycle expedition held as part of Bharat Parv

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

As part of Bharat Parv celebrations and on the eve of the Republic Day, a cycling expedition was organised by INS Satavahana on Saturday. In all, 45 enthusiast cyclists started at 5.30 am to cover a distance of 45 km to Thantadi Beach in Cheepurupalle East.

Rear Adm Puneet Chadha, VSM Chief Staff Officer (Operations), Eastern Naval Command, Commanding Officer INS Satavahana, along with 22 officers and 21 sailors from different age groups participated in the early morning ride, which was flagged off by K Suresh, Log (FA)1, the youngest member of the team.

The objective of the ride was to inculcate the spirit of 'Dekho Apna Desh' and spread this year's central theme of Bharat Parv 'Ek Bharat, Shreshth Bharat.'

## Lalithaa Jewellery opens 25th outlet in Kakinada

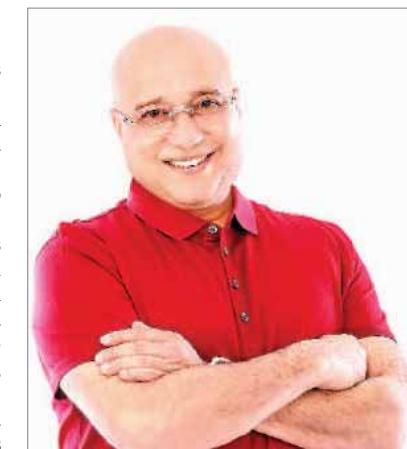
ANNOUNCES COST PRICE SALE IN ALL ITS SHOWROOMS IN SOUTH INDIA

PNS ■ KAKINADA

Lalithaa Jewellery, which was retailing with just one showroom 10 years ago, has grown meteorically, and now, opened its 25th outlet here on Saturday.

To mark the occasion and to express its gratitude to customers, Lalithaa Jewellery has announced cost price sale in all its 25 showrooms in South India. The entire range of gold jewellery will be offered for two per cent less in VA charges, while the entire range of diamond jewellery will be offered at Rs 3,000 less per carat. This is lower than their already lowest price in the market.

Lalithaa Jewellery sells its ornaments at manufacturing price, one of the main reasons for its growth. The brand is also credited for introducing transparency in the jewellery



pricing, by introducing the 'click and compare' concept in which customers can take the estimate slip and mobile picture of any jewel in Lalithaa Jewellery and openly compare

prices with other showrooms in the market.

Chairman of Lalithaa Jewellery M Kiran Kumar, says "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 of customers."

## 'Learning should be like a perennial river'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Learning should be like a perennial river and people should be lifelong learners, opined Sreenivasa Vivekananda Peesapati of TCS, Hyderabad. He was the chief guest at the national-level Techno Fest 'SITAR-2K20' organised by PVP Siddhartha Institute of Technology.

Speaking on the occasion here on Saturday, Vivekananda said that engineers should emerge as leaders and added that techno fest like SITAR would be an excellent platform for students to acquire organisational abilities and also to have an exchange of ideas.

Principal K Sivaji babu said that attitude is vital for students. He opined that technocrats

need to have strong technical skills in the emerging areas and they need to acquire proficiency in communication skills.

Academy president N Venkateswarlu apprised students of the need to inculcate in themselves passion for knowledge and zeal for innovation. He added that technology is growing at a rapid pace and students need to keep themselves abreast of latest technological trends.

In all, 1,700 students from 47 engineering colleges participated in various competitions.

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In all, 1,700 students from 47 engineering colleges participated in various competitions.

## HIGH-PROTEIN DIETS UP HEART DISEASE RISK

IANS ■ 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, which 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-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. Past work by Razani's team and other groups has shown that immune cells called macrophages work to clean up plaque in the arteries.

But the environment inside plaque can overwhelm these cells, and when such cells die, they make the problem worse, contributing to plaque buildup and increasing plaque complexity.

"In mice on the high-protein diet, their plaques were a macrophage graveyard," he added.

## VIJAYAWADA BULLION RATES

<b>GOLD</b>	₹ 40,110 (10 gm)
<b>SILVER</b>	₹ 20
<b>RUPEE</b>	₹ 47,000(1kg)
<b>RUPEE</b>	₹ 800

## CHICKEN RATES ₹/kg

Dressed/With Skin	₹147
Without Skin	₹168
Broiler at Farm	₹102

## EGG RATES ₹/100

HYDERABAD	360
VIJAYAWADA	395
VISAKHAPATNAM	410

RETAIL PRICE ₹3.95  
(IN VIJAYAWADA)

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 'ALL AND  
SUNDAY'

# Jagan government firmly in 'fast backward' mode

**A**ndhra 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 rollercoasted 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. Throw 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.

## CAPSULE

### Governor exhorts new voters to cast votes

**VIJAYAWADA:** Governor Biswa Bushan Harichandan called upon those who attain the age of 18 should cast their votes. He was the chief guest at a programme organised in connection with the National Voters' Day at Tummalapalli Kshetrayya Kalakshetram here on Saturday. The Voters' Day is being observed since 2011 on January 25. The Governor presented awards to those who have extended their best services during the elections. Addressing a gathering, the Governor expressed his delight to be a part of the Voters' Day programme and said everyone should know the power of casting vote, which was provided by the Constitution. He termed that right to vote as a strong weapon in a democratic nation and exercise their vote to elect their representative.

## Anil Kumar refutes TDP allegations

**PNS ■ AMARAVATI**

The TDP party can do nothing with the existing majority in the Council, opined Minister for Irrigation Anil Kumar Yadav and flayed Yanamala Ramakrishnu for his derogatory comments on ministers.

Speaking to the media here on Saturday, the minister said that Yanamala had backstabbed former Chief Minister NTR. "In 1983 when Yanamala was the minister, the then Chief

Minister NTR in view of not to misuse even a single penny of public money had cancelled Legislative Council. Later, on July 8, 2004, N Chandrababu Naidu, who was the Chief Minister said that there was no need for the Council as it burdens people," he reminded and said that now Yanamala and Naidu are talking of rules and regulations. Then who were the ones, who violated the rules in 1983 and 2004?, he questioned.

It was absurd for BJP State in charge Sunil Deodhar and new alliance partner Jana Sena leader Pawan Kalyan claiming that the

Contesting that everything written in this article was false

and with mala fide intention,

has sent a register notice to the legal team of Nara Lokesh

the Sakshi editorial team. On



**With the latest survey bolstering the image of the government with a good rating for the CM, the YSRCP is now poised to turn it to its advantage in the campaign for the forthcoming local body elections**

cial juncture when the YSRCP government's recent decisions had churned a nationwide debate in the media, the rating has given the much-needed boost to the morale of the YSRCP's rank and file.

India Today conducted the poll with certain parameters relying most on the welfare and development programmes

taken up in each State. The media house announced the results based on the votes polled on the performance of the Chief Ministers.

Taking over the reins of the government on May 30, 2019 after being sworn in the Chief Minister, Jagannath Reddy, had implemented all the promises mentioned in his

election manifesto within six months. During this period, his government had won nationwide appreciation for his schemes and also drew a mixed response to certain of its decisions, the prominent ones being stalling of works at Amaravati and announcement of the three capitals concept.

The decision of the Andhra Pradesh government on power purchase agreements (PPAs), 75 per cent jobs for locals in the new industries to be set up in districts, introduction of English medium education in schools to the exclusion of Telugu medium instruction (Telugu, however, is made mandatory subject for all students), and the three capitals concept have been discussed extensively in the national media.

All these decisions did not go well in the national media with some newspapers making incisive criticism of these schemes.

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With

**'20-20' FORMULA UNDER SMART CITIES MISSION**

# Best performing cities to team up with worst ones

PNS ■ VISHAKHAPATNAM



With some of the 100 selected smart cities lagging behind in implementing projects under the Mission, the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has decided to pair up 20 best cities with 20 worst performers.

The move is aimed at improving the rank of cities whose performance is not up to the mark despite having availability of sufficient funds for the execution of various projects.

Smart Cities Mission Director Kunal Kumar told PTI that some cities are lagging behind, which need to be pushed through guidance by best performing cities.

"Under the 20-20 formula floated by ministry secretary

Durga Shanker Mishra, the 20 best performing cities will be made sister cities which will team up with 20 cities which

need to do well in implementing projects," he said.

The mission director said that the ministry will announce

the exact pairings of these cities under 20-20 formula in the next 15 days.

For instance, a best performing hill city will team up with another non-performing hill city for executing projects and dealing with problems be it related to road infrastructure, water, electricity and others.

Kumar said that the ministry does internal rankings of 100 selected cities every week based on their performance under the Mission.

Another official, who did not wish to be named, said that Surat, Ahmedabad, Nagpur, Ranchi, Bhopal, Kanpur, Indore, Visakhapatnam, Agra, Varanasi, Pune and Udaipur are among the 20 best performing smart cities.

Smart Cities Mission,

launched in 2015, is aimed at ensuring all-round developments of a city which has advanced facilities for its citizens.

Meanwhile, a two-day 3rd Apex Conference of Smart Cities concluded here on Saturday where CEOs of selected cities participated.

Surat was ranked the first among other 100 cities in overall category.

According to the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, which is mandated to implement the Smart Cities Mission, the value of tendered smart city projects is so far over Rs 1,62,000 crore.

The value of work orders issued so far is around Rs 1,20,000 crore and the value of all completed projects is more than Rs 25,000 crore.

## Judiciary has failed us: Margaret Alva

PNS ■ JAIPUR



Senior Congress leader Margaret Alva on Saturday said the Citizenship (Amendment) Act "negates" constitutional guarantees and rights given to all Indians and that the judicial system which is supposed to be the protector and the interpreter of the Constitution "has failed us".

Speaking at the 'Of the People, By the People: The Indian Constitution' session at the ongoing Jaipur Literature Festival here, the former governor of Rajasthan said she had expected the courts "to be more active and more vocal" on the matter.

"Of late identity is being associated with religion. I don't know how or why this has begun to take root. We have been told that certain people are welcome and certain are not, some get automatic citizenship and others do not. To me this is a negation of the constitutional guarantees and rights given to all Indians," she said.

The 77-year-old politician said even when courts, in repeated judgements, have said the basic features of the Constitution cannot be touched, "how then today are we debating the whole question of what is secularism?"

"Today I would have expected the courts to be more active and more vocal and I am more than disappointed that our judicial system, which was supposed to be the protec-

tor, the interpreter and the defender of the Constitution and the constitutional rights of the citizens, has failed us," she said.

She lamented that the institution, which was supposed to defend the basic features, the fundamental rights of citizens has gone "silent" at a very crucial time in the Indian history.

"Most welcome," Khan said when asked about the Opposition move against him. "Everyone is entitled to their opinion. I am the constitutional head of the state. It's my duty to advise, counsel, encourage and warn the government.

It's part of my duty as per the Constitution and as interpreted by the Supreme Court also," he told media on the sidelines of a programme here.

Khan said there was no confrontation with the government, but reiterated that the state's move to approach the apex court against CAA without informing him was not right.

"There maybe some difference of opinion but it cannot be termed as confrontation," Khan, who has been over log-gerheads with the state government for past few weeks, said.

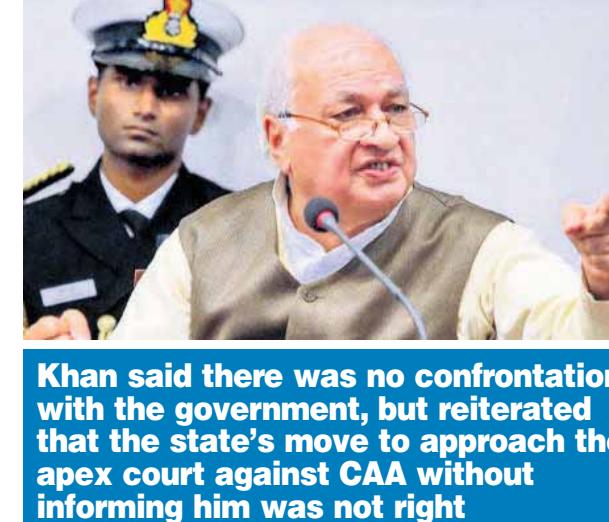
The former Rajya Sabha member also urged people to take part in the "civil disobedience movement".

"If anyone comes to your doorstep, don't fill any forms, tear them down. Just do not cooperate," she added.

On reports that the Governor had expressed dis-

## Kerala Govt welcomes plan to move resolution against him

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



Welcoming the Opposition Congress plan to move a resolution against him in the state Assembly over the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on Saturday said he was functioning as per the Constitution.

The governor's statement came hours after Leader of Opposition Ramesh Chennithala said the party will move a resolution in the Assembly, seeking his recall for "violating" all democratic principles and "publicly questioning" the pride of the legislature.

"Most welcome," Khan said when asked about the Opposition move against him. "Everyone is entitled to their opinion. I am the constitutional head of the state. It's my duty to advise, counsel, encourage and warn the government.

It's part of my duty as per the Constitution and as interpreted by the Supreme Court also," he told media on the sidelines of a programme here.

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"There maybe some difference of opinion but it cannot be termed as confrontation," Khan, who has been over log-gerheads with the state government for past few weeks, said.

On reports that the Governor had expressed dis-

content over the reported mention of the Anti-CAA resolution passed by the Assembly, in the policy address to be read by him on the first day budget session, Khan said he had just informed the government on how to "improve the content of the documents" submitted to him.

"In the constitutional provision with regard to the policy address itself, it is mentioned that the speech should be about the developmental aspects of the state.

As far as I understand, Governor is of the opinion that since the Citizenship Act is not under the jurisdiction of the state government, there was no need for it to be mentioned.

Also, since the matter is sub-judice, it was not right to

mention it in the Assembly," a Raj Bhavan official said.

Chennithala has said that he has given a notice to Speaker P Sreeramakrishnan seeking his permission to move the resolution in the Assembly under the rule 130 of the legislative business.

He accused the Governor of publicly challenging the unanimous resolution passed by the state Assembly against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019 enacted by the Parliament during its winter session.

"Even the single member of the BJP in the Kerala Assembly did not cast his vote against the resolution passed by the Assembly against the CAA. But, the Governor has made public statements saying it was unconstitutional," he told reporters.

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## 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.

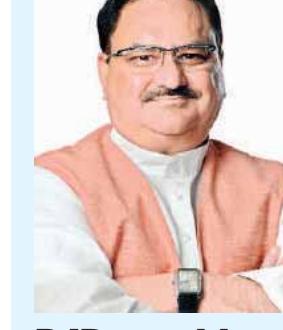
He recorded a video of the incident too, it said.

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.

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.



### BJP president Nadda meets veteran leaders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP president J P Nadda met veteran party leaders L K Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi on Saturday as a courtesy call and said their blessings will help him strengthen the party.

Nadda was elected BJP president on Monday and he called upon the two leaders, both of whom are his predecessors in the job, at their residences.

"Received blessings of respected Advani ji after meeting him. Advani ji is a source of inspiration for us party workers. I will work relentlessly to further strengthen the BJP with your blessings," Nadda tweeted. Advani is the longest serving president of the BJP.

## Locusts spotted in 3 districts; farmers worried

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Locusts were spotted in some villages of Punjab's Fazilka, Muktsar and Bathinda districts triggering fear among farmers as the destructive swarms are known to devour the vegetation wherever they settle.

The Punjab Agriculture Department (PAD), however, said necessary arrangements were in place to tackle a possible locust attack while ruling out any damage to crops at this stage.

Farmers from the three districts have urged the agriculture department officials to take urgent steps to tackle the pests.

"We have found locusts in our fields... they are not in large numbers though," said a farmer from Fazilka.

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



**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**

## 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 inval-

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



For this I congratulate all the voters of the country.

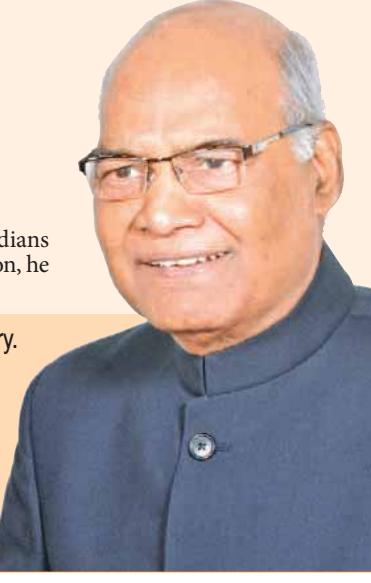
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— RAM NATH KOVIND, President of India



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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



**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

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 U d d h a v 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



**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 Varvara 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

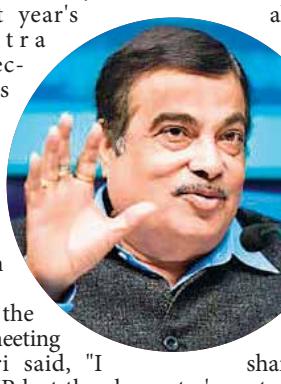
The Election Commission on Saturday imposed a 48-hour campaigning ban on BJP candidate from Delhi's Model Town constituency Kapil Mishra following his controversial tweets, poll panel officials said.

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 Fadnavis.

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



## 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 his 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.

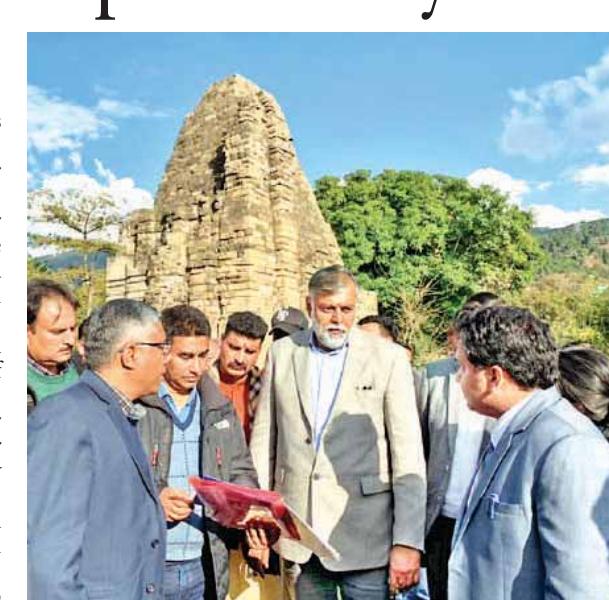
Along with his, the apex court had also rejected the curative petition of another death row convict Akshay Kumar (31).

Other two convicts Pawan Gupta (25) and Vinay Kumar Sharma are yet to file curative petitions before the Supreme Court.

The 23-year-old para-medical 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

## 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 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'.

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 Ficci, 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.

On the concluding day of 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

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# 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 standalone 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 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.

vious 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

## 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 as

its partners 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

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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 percent 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 Jagann Mohan 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.

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.

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.

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



## Bajaj-Triumph bike to roll out in 2022

PNS ■ PUNE

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

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.

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

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



**Debashish Govt nominee on SBI board**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The State Bank of India (SBI) on Saturday said the Central government has nominated Debasish 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 process in WTO trade matters.

The multiparty appeal arbitration arrangement will guarantee that the participating WTO members continue to have



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

## 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.

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



\$45.19 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."

## Global growth to get boost: Lagarde

PNS ■ DAVOS

"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.

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 Yadavinder 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.

"Honda is proud to lead

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.

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# 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

**C**ould 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 to 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 traveling, 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 has been 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 within 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.

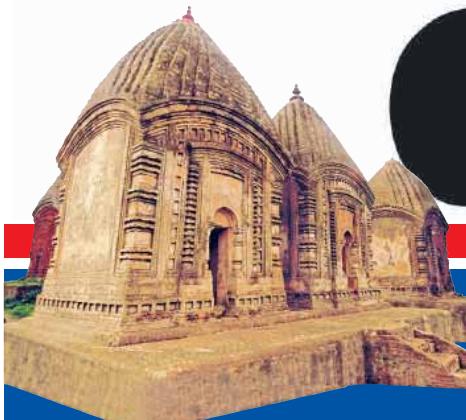
Even though he can predict what the other person is thinking, it doesn't bother him since what he does is used for the positive purpose.

"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.



# agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

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

09

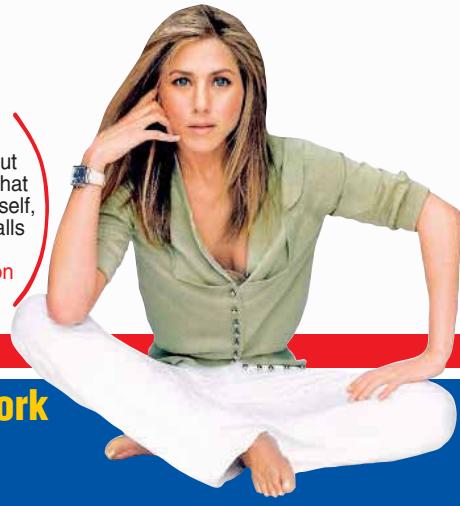
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11

**Habit tendencies and work**

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

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



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 antenna 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 dusty 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.

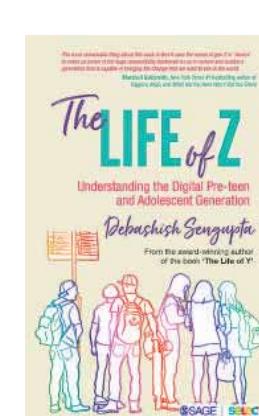
While writing the book 'The Life of Z: Understanding Digital Pre-Teen and Adolescent Generation' I had the opportunity of talking to countless zeners, their parents, teachers, tutors, child counsellors, child psychologists, pediatricians and I came across such contrasting stories. There are a group of 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 anxieties; 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

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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 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-

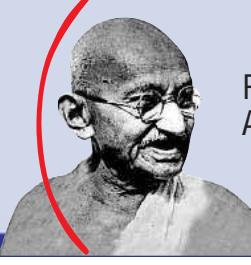
tant to have a good handwriting, but it is also like an exercise that strengthens finger muscles and improves general health condition. Ishaan does not know whether to believe his mother or his teacher or his doctors.

Who do you really blame here?

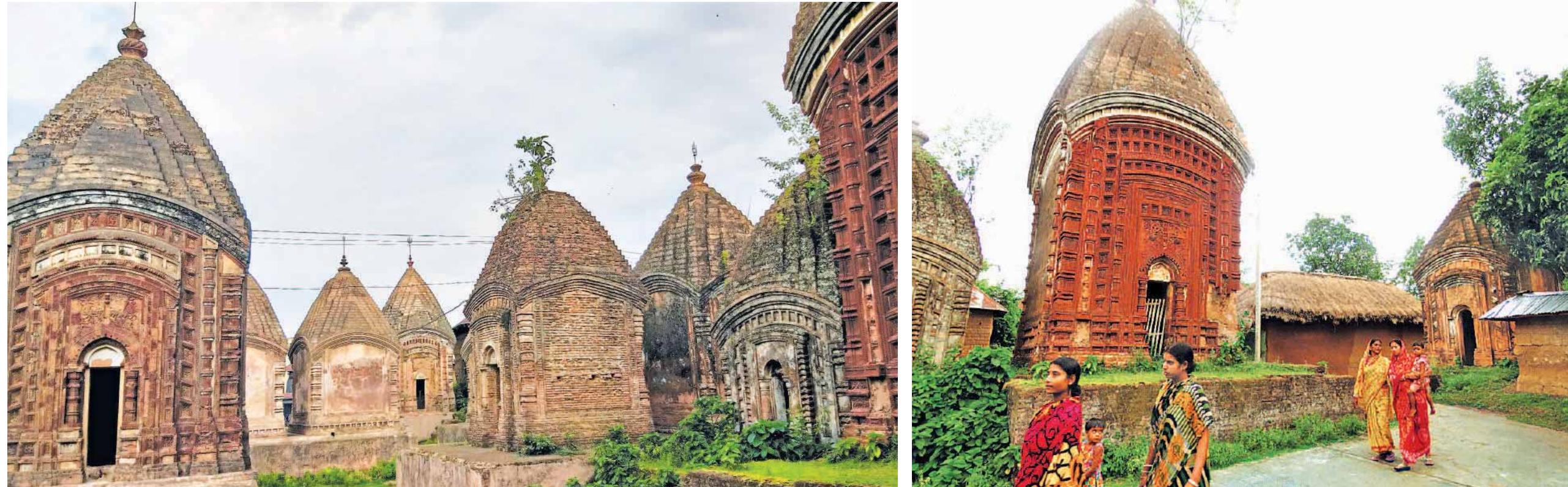
Hard to tell. But one thing is absolutely clear that the older generation has to assume responsibility. The contrasting stories also make it clear that right understanding and right guidance of the older generation can do wonders, but failure is seldom an option. The parents/teachers have to stop projecting 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 synchronized 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 *Madhyambari*. The second and third clusters are located very close to each other and appear as one. They are known as temples of *Rajbari* and *Sikhbari*. The last group of temples which are in equally bad condition is known as *Chayer taraf*. Apart from these temples, there is a hexagonal *rasmash*.

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 uncontrollably. In a few temples, walls are defaced



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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, worshipping, 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.

*Mahishasuramardini* 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 *rasmash* (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 at least making that effort to promote it as a unique heritage site of the state. At an individual level, a local resident named Gopaladas 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



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 wise 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

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

Vijayawada, January 26, 2020

# Bring serenity to YOUR HOME



## 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.



**T**he 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' plant nursery, says, "It all depends on the taste of the consumer.

Some prefer their plants as a centrepiece 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

in tough conditions while being aesthetically pleasing, include snake plant, spider plant, peace lilies the cacti or succulent varieties ferns, rubber plants and more."

**ANUSHKA PRADEEP** writes about what needs to be done to decorate a home with plants

**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

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



**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.

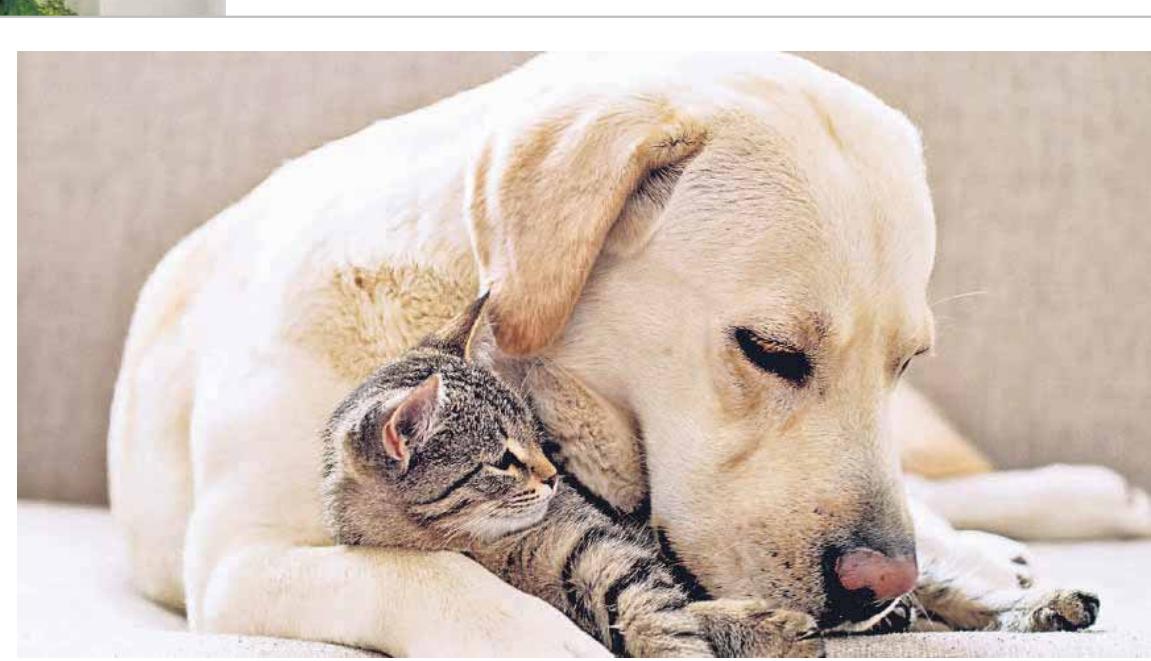
best preferable to use inexpensive things that are easily disposable,” Bharadwaj added.

“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.

# 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



**E**very 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

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



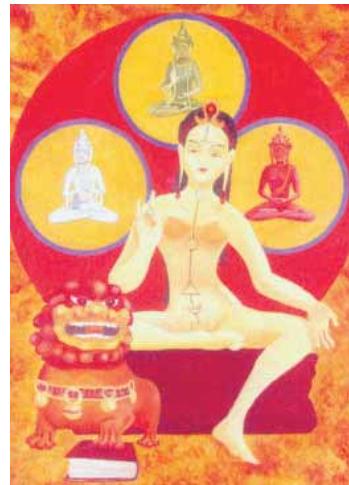
MADHU KOTIYA



### 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 bond 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 set 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.

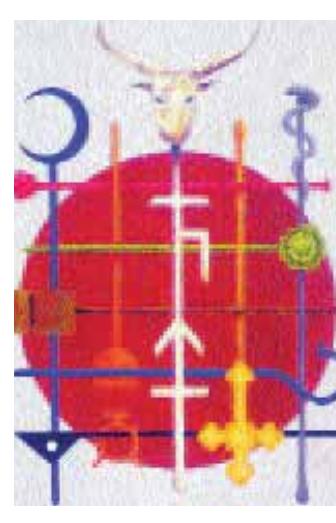
Lucky number 10  
Lucky colour Red  
Lucky day Monday



### 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.

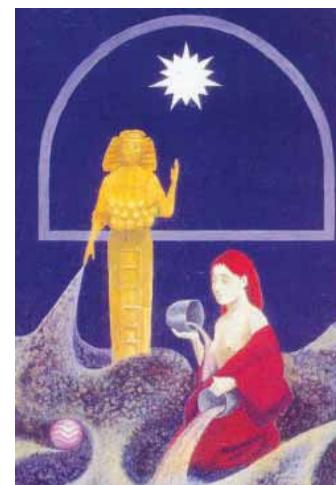
Lucky number 22  
Lucky colour Yellow  
Lucky day Saturday



### 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.

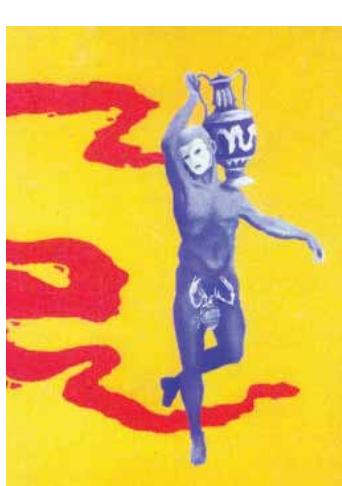
Lucky number 5  
Lucky colour Peach  
Lucky day Thursday



### 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.

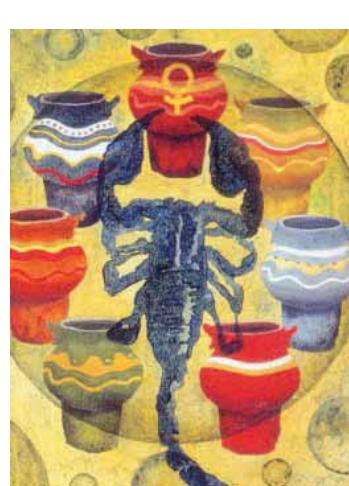
Lucky number 23  
Lucky colour Pastel Blue  
Lucky day Thursday



### 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 not to 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.

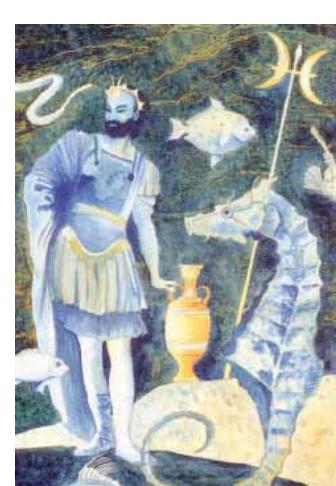
Lucky number 13  
Lucky colour Orange  
Lucky day Tuesday



### 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 feel 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



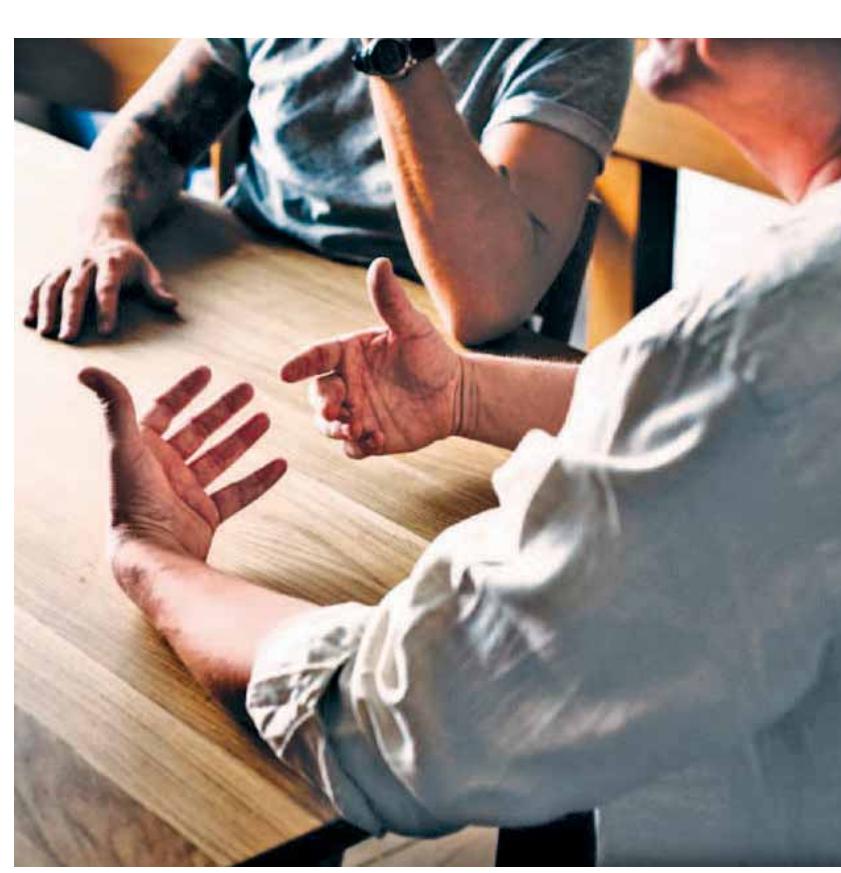
**ASTROTURF**  
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

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 contend with just his family business, which being considerably big demanded full-time engagement. His sense of insecurities 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 positioned 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 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.

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Write to him at G-102, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110 025 Tel: 91-11-49848475/9818037273 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com

## Habit tendencies can derail venture

**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 artistes 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.

**Excellence 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.

**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.



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 Varalakshmi 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.

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

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 off-beat 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

M y 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

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With K Chandrashekhar Rao



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

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



With Rahul Gandhi

Neekevvaru, 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.

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.

**'Sweetie gaadu' is my stress buster...**

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


**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

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...**

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