

# Wake up NHA! Absence of FOBs leaves many in lurch

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Residents of over a dozen colonies are being put to inconvenience due to the incomplete work of National Highways Authority of India (NHA) on NH-44 near MMR Gardens in Old Bownpally. NHA has been putting up metal barricades on NH-44, including barricading slip roads, between Bownpally and Medchal. Though the authorities have taken up these measures ostensibly to prevent jaywalkers from getting on to the National Highway, they seem to have forgotten to put up foot over bridges (FOBs) for pedestrians to cross over to the other side. A national-level authority with enough funds at its disposal cannot do such a shoddy work, leaving pedestrians in the lurch. It is high time that NHA puts in place FOBs before closing the roads abutting NH-44 — said

The garbage dumped inside the park beside East Street on Necklace Road has become an eyesore. The park has become a dump yard for restaurants in the area as there aren't enough garbage bins in the area. Authorities concerned are urged to take steps to get the garbage cleared at the earliest and also install garbage bins for the benefit of the public — **Jayanta Bhattacharjee**



**COP WITHOUT HELMET**  
A cop was recently spotted riding without a helmet at Amberpet, urge the police to levy heavy penalties on police personnel found flouting the norms — **Anvishal**

# Multiple myeloma confused with other issues, often misdiagnosed

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Hyderabad: With scarce knowledge of multiple myeloma, a type of blood cancer that affects the bones, most of the cases reaching tertiary care centres are in the advanced stage, in which complications like kidney failure set in and bone marrow function gets completely affected. Experts at a three-day conference — Indian Myeloma Congress 2020 — at Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) that concluded on Sunday pointed out the need to spread awareness among family physicians over the disease for better treatment outcomes. They said that multiple myeloma is often misdiagnosed because of its symptoms which can be easily confused with other health complications, and patients end up seeing general physicians, nephrologists and even haematologists. "Since the cancer cells accumulate in the bone marrow, the haematological function is impaired, which results in low haemoglobin (anaemia), pain in bones, extreme weakness and kidney failure. As patients usually report these symptoms to general physicians, many cases go undiagnosed until it's in advanced stages," said Dr Sashivudu Gundeti, head of

department, Oncology, NIMS and organising secretary of the conference. Among the latest procedures available across the globe, India currently does not have CART-cell therapy, a type of immunotherapy in which the stem cells from the patient are altered and returned to the patient. "The cells then go and attack the cancer cells. The method may take a year or two to be developed in the country," added Dr Gundeti. During the conference, it was also announced that NIMS, which sees 80 to 100 new patients each year, would extend free bone marrow transplant to poor patients.

# TSRTC, pvt bus operators cash in on festive rush

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Hyderabad: Cashing in on the Sankranti rush, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) and private bus operators have hiked the bus fares. The TSRTC has hiked ticket fares by 20% to 30% while private bus operators are charging around ₹600 to ₹1,000 for bus tickets between Hyderabad and Vijayawada.

The TSRTC Garuda bus ticket from Hyderabad to Vijayawada, which used to be ₹300 per head has been increased to ₹600. Sources said that the TSRTC has set a target of earning ₹6 crore additional revenue in festive season.

Moreover, even though the TSRTC has announced that they will run over 600 extra buses for Sankranti, passengers are having to wait for the buses for hours on end. "We wanted to go Eluru so we waited for a bus to Vijayawada. We ended up waiting for about two hours to catch the bus. As a Vijayawada resident, I am aghast at the way they are taking only about a minute," said VS Suresh Kumar, a resident of Sanathamburam.

Further, the number of buses being provided are insufficient to meet the demand. Sources allege that private bus operators are creating an artificial shortage. "Many people began booking tickets online much ahead of the festival, but a few operators have purposely kept the websites dysfunctional in order to sell the tickets at high fares," said a source on condition of anonymity.

# Strictly implement Chinese manja ban: Forest officials

**Times News Network**

Hyderabad: Telangana State Forest Department officials along with environmental and wildlife NGOs have sought strict implementation of the nationwide ban on Chinese manja, the sharp thread used to fly kites. Citing a new slogan, "This Sankranti is for birds," forest department officials reiterated the National Green Tribunal (NGT) order imposing total ban on natural or synthetic thread coated with glass material used to fly kites.

# International kite fest from today

The fifth edition of the International Kite and Sweet Festival will be held at Parade Grounds in Secunderabad from January 13 to 15. Over 40 international kite-flyers from 15 countries and 60 kite-flyers from the city are participating. Alongside, a sweet festival will also be held.

Forest officials are also taking steps to spread awareness among people. "We are sensitising people about the traditional cotton variety of thread," said A. Shankaran, senior officer, Telangana State Forest Department. "We have about five mobile patrolling teams to conduct raids and seize Chinese manja from not just sellers but also vehicles transporting them. The vehicles transporting these threads will also be seized."

Forest officials sent letters to the police requesting them to seize manja being sold illegally.

# HELPLINES

Forest department  
**1800-425-5364**  
or **040-23231440**,  
for reporting on birds trapped and/or injured by manja

Greater Hyderabad Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GHSPCA) and People for Animals (PFA)  
**8886743881**,  
on spotting a bird entangled in manja

# PENALTY

Violation under Environmental Protection Act, 1986  
**Imprisonment up to 5 years and fine up to ₹1 lakh or both**



A kite seller arranges his wares at a shop in Dhooplet market in the city. Officials are taking steps to sensitise people on the use of the traditional cotton thread, which is biodegradable.

Injuring and killing wild animals and birds under Section 31 of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

Imprisonment of 3 to 7 years and fine not less than ₹10,000

**'Stop toll collection during Sankranti'**  
Somalreddy Venkat Reddy, Congress MP from Bhuvanagiri Lok Sabha constituency, urged transport minister Puwada Ajay Kumar to exempt collection of toll tax at gates located in the Bhongir Lok Sabha segment till Sankranti was over. He said during Sankranti hundreds of vehicles are stranded at toll plazas on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada highway for hours. **nv**

# Ex-minister says don't tweak Pothireddypadu

**Times News Network**

Hyderabad: Former minister and national dissent management authority chairman Shashidhar Reddy on Sunday urged chief minister K Chandrababu Naidu to not allow Andhra Pradesh chief minister Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy to increase the capacity of Pothireddypadu head regulator from 40,000 to 80,000 cusecs and divert more water to AP.

Referring to AP chief minister Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy's proposal to double the water intake from Pothireddypadu head regulator, Shashidhar said that the farmers of south Telangana districts would be adversely affected if the AP CM has his way. "Why is KCR so

# Unleash your creativity at Times NIE Colour Splash

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lent on this issue. KCR should raise the issue during his proposed meeting with Jagan on Monday and issue people of Telangana that the interests of Telangana would be protected," Shashidhar Reddy said at a media conference.

He urged KCR to disclose the Telangana people the present status of Pothireddypadu head regulator and the quantity of water that has been drawn over since the works were completed. "When the then CM YS Jaganmohan Reddy proposed to increase the capacity of Pothireddypadu head regulator in 2004, Late P. Jannabhan Reddy and I had fought with our own Congress government to safeguard the interests of Telangana," he said.

Times NIE is all set to organise its much-awaited event Colour Splash 2019-20, the biggest painting competition of the year. Colour Splash is an annual event which invites students from schools across the city to unleash their creativity and imagination on the canvas without any inhibitions. The event aims at encouraging budding artists to showcase their talent at a grand scale. Children not only get a chance to meet with fellow students from other schools but also experience an atmosphere of healthy competition. Colour Splash also tests the creativity of the participants to a large level as the theme for the competition is announced on the spot. The competition will be held in two categories, Juniors (from classes IV to VIII) and Seniors (from classes VIII to XII). The Junior category will have two sub-categories of Crayons and Watercolours while the Senior category will have the sub-categories of Abstract and Watercolours. Considering the enormous participation of students in the past years, Times NIE is

Colour Splash is being organised at four different centres this year on January 21, 23 and 24. "Tuck in your bundle of brushes and get ready to create magic on the canvas with your stroke of innovation!"

**TIMES NIE COLOUR SPLASH WILL BE HELD AT THE FOLLOWING VENUES ON THESE DATES**

- Hyderabad Next Galleria Mall @ Hitech City on January 21.
- Hyderabad Next Galleria Mall @ Panjagutta and Hyderabad Next Galleria Mall @ Ibrahim Manzil on January 22.
- Hyderabad Next Galleria Mall @ Mossarambagh on January 24.

The reporting time for all the days will be at 9:30 a.m. To enrol for the competition, contact your teacher co-ordinator and send in the registration forms to [hnie@gmail.com](mailto:hnie@gmail.com) by Monday, January 13.

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# CHAY BISKOOT

**Dakhni messages flood Tiranga rally**

People at Tiranga rally rolled out several funny one-liners in typically Hyderabad dialect condemning the citizenship law. Heard was a woman taking potshots at central leaders saying "Nakko re bhat ye CAA", while a placard said, "Humare Dada chur shadi kar, documents kounse dadi ke pass hai, nahil malum (my grandfather had four wives, I don't know which grandfather has the documents). And how can the Hyderabad bryand be missed. "Biryani mangne to detun, documents mangne to teen time detun," (if you ask for biryani I will give it, but if you ask for documents, I will hit you). —Nabliinder Bommalu

# Tree-man hogs the limelight

Photographers who are passionate about their jobs usually go to any lengths during assignments to get a decent shot. As getting the right angle or perspective was very tricky, on one such assignment recently, where hundreds of people gathered to attend a trade union protest meeting, one photographer hogged the limelight as he nonchalantly climbed a tree and stood on a branch to get a shot of the crowd from the top angle. Although frightened in the beginning, the audience enjoyed the show-stopping moment when the photographer started waving at them after taking the picture. The person delivering the speech also joined the fun by clapping for the photographer, who was enjoying all the attention. —Moulika KV

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NOW OR NOTHING

# "HAVE NO DOUBT ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE ECONOMY HAS BOTTOMED OUT"

— Rakesh Jhunjhunwala

Rakesh Jhunjhunwala in his first interview of this decade, tells what's next for investors as markets hit all-time high. Watch him share the big ideas, his views on economy bounce back and expectation from the upcoming budget, in an unmissable chat with Nikunj Dalmia on ET NOW.

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