

India shining at Melbourne Games

Bangalore, March 23 After the smashing performance in the commonwealth games with a sparkling gold by Kunjarani Devi in 48kg weightlifting it was another episode of success for India. Samaresh Jung won five golds in the games. There were more reasons for the family to celebrate as Anuja Jung, wife of Samaresh won the gold in the women's 50m rifle three position shooting event at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. Anuja fired a total of 670.7 (574+96.7). India stood third with 34 medals in the tally, Australia topped the list and England followed it.

"Sensex to reach 11,500 mark by december," says experts.

After the all time high of 11,000 sensex fell back to 10,912. Leading the charge at the Sensex was Reliance Industries. The counter gained 1.6 per cent or Rs 12 in early deals. Hindalco, Larsen & Toubro, SBI, Ranbaxy Laboratories and Reliance Energy also gained over a percent each. It was a good week once again for the capital goods sector. Dr Reddy's Laboratories however slipped 0.5 per cent or Rs 7. HDFC Bank, Bharti Televentures and HLL are the other stocks trading weak. There were speculations that Sensex would reach the 11,500 mark by this december.

WEATHER

BANGALORE : In south India (Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep), rain and thundershowers occurred at a few places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands and isolated over Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry, Kerala and Lakshadweep. Weather was mainly dry in the rest region. The Uttara Kannada region of karnataka experienced heavy rains over the week.

Even if I lose elections, don't deprive me from serving the country as the chairman of some corporation...



Egg lovers have no reasons to fear

ANUSHA JHA

"I love eggs," read a banner at the demonstration organized by the NECC here today. Around 12 companies, all related to hatcheries, held a demonstration near Corporation circle.

Dr Kiran T.S., manager Technical at Venkateshwara Hatcheries Pvt Ltd said that the fear of Bird Flu had brought down the sales by seventy five per cent. "Daily, a loss of Rs 2 Crore is being incurred by the poultry industry," he informed. He said that the chicken prices had come down to Rs 9 per kg when the production cost itself is Rs 28 to Rs 30.

An egg now costs only 65p whereas the production cost is Rs 1.50. "It is not a food borne disease," he emphasized. Eating eggs is completely healthy. He said that it was sad that the media hype had created unwarranted fear in the minds of people. He said, "Everyday hundreds of people die due to Typhoid, AIDS and other diseases. But just because there have been two deaths due to bird flu, a panic has been created."

He also said that due to this attitude towards eggs, thirty lakh farmers had been affected. He said that not only the poultry industry, but all its associated industries were bearing the brunt of suspected bird flu.

"80 per cent of maize grown in India is used in poultry industry," he said. In the absence of rearing of chickens, no one is buying maize either which has affected the industry, he said.

He said that that around two hundred farmers would join the association shortly. Then they would present a memorandum to the District Collector.



Was the parrot the forerunner of tarot card reading?
TWO Photo

Lockless, lightless and doorless; cobbler kiosks by BMP



An empty cobbler kiosk behind Kempe Gowda bus station.
TWO Photo

ANUSHA JHA

Dharmalingam is not happy with the shiny new kiosk given by the BMP. Last year, BMP had launched designer cobbler kiosks with much fanfare. Till date there are around fifty kiosks in the city, but not even half of them have not been occupied till now.

Mr Ramamurthy informs that had moved into the new kiosk behind Kempe Gowda Bus station just two months ago. Before that he used to ply his trade at Mysore bank circle. He had to change his location due to orders from the BMP, he said. He complained that his business has been affected due to the change of place. "Here there is hardly any crowd," he said. He explained that earlier he used to earn Rs 100 per day, but now his earnings had come down top Rs 40 to Rs 50.

"There are no lights, no doors, no locks," he further adds. This causes problems in transporting his tools and materials daily back and forth from home. He showed that there was provision for a locker in the kiosk, but informed that he had not received any key.

Mr Munnuswamy, another cobbler at Majestic Circle, says that he had to change his location after plying his trade at Janata Bazaar for forty years. He too echoes the sentiments that his earnings have been affected. He said that since the kiosks were open from two sides, at times of rain or strong sun, it became difficult to use the kiosks. He also said that the kiosks should have had pull down shutters. As of now, he has put up a hanging of some sort behind him, to display the shoes.

However, Ms Lakshmi Devi, Assistant Revenue Officer, BMP, said that the kiosks were made open from two sides so as to discourage cobblers from moving in with their families and using it as a house. "It causes footpath nuisance," she said. She agreed that most of the kiosks in the city were unoccupied but expressed ignorance about the reason for it being so.

She accepted that during rains the cobblers might face problems. But as of now, she said, the authorities had no plans of changing the design of the kiosk.

Show me the list

Auto drivers are supposed to display the new fare list but few do.

HARSIMRAN SHERGILL

The auto drivers are making the most of the three-month time period given to them by the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) for the meter conversions. After the auto rickshaw fare hike from Rs 10 to Rs 12 for two kilometers from March 15, the auto drivers are supposed to follow a chart issued by the RTA.

Eight out of ten auto drivers didn't have the chart displayed in front of this TWO reporter, while four out of ten did not have the chart with them at all. To add to this, when asked about displaying the chart, B.V Raghevendra, General Secretary of the Auto Rickshaw's Drivers' Union took responsibility of only the drivers that come under his union saying that those who do not display the list, will be dealt with only when a case is filed against them. Majority of the auto drivers do not display the new fare list to the commuters, often charging more than the enlisted amount.

DCP Traffic (East) M.A Salim, shrugged the issue off his shoulders says, "Our job comes only when a case is filed against an auto driver." He adds that it's not their responsibility to check whether auto drivers are following rules or not. In such a scenario where the RTA is given instructions that the auto drivers do not follow, the only option left for a commuter is to find out union the auto driver belong to and file a complain with them or go to the traffic police station and file and



An auto rickshaw driver without displaying the new fare list.
TWO Photo

complaint.

Parambir Singh, a regular commuter by auto rickshaw says, "After the fare hike, there have been a number of incidents when the auto driver did not have or display the list and charged using approximate figures, most often round figures." Five days after the hike, while most auto drivers keep the list without displaying it, it is the commuter who pays the price.