



(From left) Dr MVS Sastry, president, RICAREA; Mandava Prabhakar Rao, CMD, Nuziveedu Seeds; Dr Jayaprakash Narayan, president, Lok Satta Party; Dr M V Rao, MLC, and Dr William Dar, Director General, ICRISAT, releasing a special souvenir in Hyderabad.

# MS Swaminathan Award conferred on two scientists

*The M S Swaminathan Award, instituted by Indian Council for Agriculture Research Retired Employees Association and city-based Nuziveedu Seeds Private Limited, was conferred on two scientists*

## SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

The 4th M S Swaminathan Award was on Saturday conferred on Dr R Sai Kumar, director, Directorate of Maize Research, Indian Council for Agriculture Research (ICAR), and Dr N Shobha Rani, principal scientist & head, crop improvement section at the Directorate of Rice Research, for outstanding work in their respective fields of agriculture. The Indian Council for Agriculture Research Retired Employees Association (RICAREA) and city-based Nuziveedu Seeds Private Limited instituted the biennial award, which is into its fourth

edition now. Dr Jayaprakash Narayan, president, Lok Satta Party, and Dr William Dar, director general, ICRISAT, presented the award to the recipients at a ceremony held in the city. For the first time since its inception, the award has been shared by two scientists. R Sai Kumar was chosen for outstanding work done by him as a maize breeder in the development and release of 14 maize hybrid varieties. Dr N Shobha Rani was honoured with the award for her contribution to genetic enhancement of Basmati and other quality rice varieties.

The award, which is one of the country's highest honours

for outstanding work in the field of agriculture, consists of Rs 2 lakh in cash, a medal and a citation.

Mandava Prabhakar Rao, chairman and managing director, Nuziveedu Seeds, said: "We are very proud to be associated with such a prestigious award because as a company we place a great deal of importance on the role of innovation in furthering the agricultural future of this country. The work done by these two remarkable scientists further encourages and reinforces our belief in finding scientific ways and means to address the challenges in the agricultural sector of our country".

## READERS' MAIL

### Road in bad shape

A particular stretch of SP Road, Secunderabad, from NTR statue till Paradise flyover, is being reconstructed. Now the work is over. But the authorities have not filled the stretch of potholes created along the road till Paradise flyover. The dust and sand is spreading all over. Vehicles can easily trip. A few minor ac-

cidents have taken place. If it rains, the road will be full of mud and it will become even more slippery. Since the road is very busy and always full of vehicles and traffic, the GHMC should repair the road as early as possible before any major accident takes place.

- Srikant Rao, Begumpet

**SEND READERS' MAIL TO:**  
hydhans@thehansindia.in

Fax: 040-27163210, Post: *The Hyderabad Hans, The Hans India, Plot No 6, Anupuram Colony, Dr A S Rao Nagar, ECIL, Secunderabad-62*

# An engineer's brush with art

Managing projects is one thing and indulging in one's hobbies is another. Pratapa Venkat Subba Rayudu, an engineer who draws and writes in his leisure, believes there is more to life than work

## NAVIN PIVHAL

Pratapa Venkat Subba Rayudu is a 44-year-old engineer working as a project manager in HBL Power Systems. He has another interesting side to his personality that has got him awards and a mention in the India Book of Records. A person with a deep interest in art, he recently made it to the India Book of Records for writing 'Sri Rama' 1,30,000 times on 2,000 palm leaves. It took him a year to complete this task. He used to take out an hour daily from his busy schedule and indulge in his passion. Pratapa bows down to nature and hence wrote 'Sri Rama' on palm leaves.

"I personally collected all the leaves. To save paper, I wrote on leaves. I used a permanent marker to write on the leaves. Even if water spills on them, it will not spoil," Pratapa says.

Pratapa also collects rocks and paints on them. His subjects comprise all that he sees. He has painted around 300 rocks till now. He uses water colours to paint the rocks.

"People think of rocks as useless things, but I paint on them and they look beautiful and can be used as decorative pieces. I use simple water colours to paint," he adds.

Pratapa has collected articles on anti-pollution and has compiled them into a book. He asks visitors to learn tips from the articles and make small changes that can save environment in a great way.

"I try to create awareness among people. These articles have lot of information and tips to protect environment. People tend to skip these things while reading newspapers. So, I cut it out whenever I come across them and share with others,"



Pratapa's paintings on rocks



Ramakoti on talapatras (palm leaves)



Pratapa Venkat Subba Rayudu

he says.

Apart from painting, he also writes Telugu short stories, poems and jokes. Till now, he has written 300 short stories, 250 poems and 300 jokes. His works have been published in leading Telugu dailies. Pratapa has

received Bhava Tarangi Best Writer Award. He has also published a book 'Snehabandham', which is a collection of 33 short stories.

Hailing from West Godavari, he has lived in Hyderabad for 35 years. He says he is proud to be a Hy-

derabadi. And he devotes himself to art to get respite from his daily routine.

"I am inclined towards art and it gives me much needed relief from my work and it de-stresses me. Other job holders go to movies etc to get respite, but I draw, write

and educate people about protecting environment," Pratap says.

Pratap is currently writing 'Sri Rama' on rice grains and his target is to write on 1 lakh or 2 lakh rice grains. He says it will be completed with 3 months.



# The contours of Justice City

*Nalsar Colony, also called 'Justice City', is leaving no stone unturned to ensure that there is no damage to the ecosystem, now or in the future*

## T P VENU

Flanked by the Shamirpet Lake on one side and nestled in a rugged rocky terrain is Nalsar Colony. A colony housing about 30 families of Nalsar University, it is appealing in more ways than one. In just 12 years, it has evolved into a model colony. Keeping the eco-system in mind, the colony was developed without tampering with the terrain.

Tucked away some 20 plus kilometers from the city, the 'Justice City', as the colony is also called, is blessed with verdant greenery and rocks. When the Shameerpet Lake is full, a lot of birds make their way to the campus.

### Piped natural gas

It could be a case of being at the right place at the right time. The mother station that supplies natural gas is located just oppo-

## Colony Beat

site Nalsar. Officials staying in the quarters were the first to avail of piped gas supply. K A Chidambaram, an employee at Nalsar, says, "It was in our house that the first connection was given. It has been a boon; we no longer worry to book gas cylinders." N Suresh another employee, says, "Earlier we had to get gas cylinders from Alwal. It was difficult. Moreover, we get the gas bill, just as we get our electricity bill. Life is so much easy."

### Eco-friendly measures

The university authorities have taken all possible measures to make sure that a fine ecological balance is maintained. Street

lights are powered by solar panels and at the far end of the faculty quarters a huge pit collects rain water.

The buildings too are practical and not showy. Grey and white buildings blend with the greenery. A stadium, convention centre, Vice Chancellor's residence, a guest house and staff quarters are spread out on the 50-acre campus.

In the next couple of years, more hostels would be added and the number of quarters for the staff would also increase. One thing is sure: the boulders, rocks, age-old trees and the inherent greenery would be in tact regardless of any future construction



activity, says a senior staff member. We can take it for granted. After all, it is an abode where everyone swears by justice.

(Clockwise) Kitchens get piped natural gas, lush greenery marks the colony, buildings in grey and white blend with nature and solar panels that power street lights Photos: Ravi Giragani

# Capturing heritage for posterity

## Continued from PI

The original entrance of the Purani Haveli, quite huge, is being used as a school now. "Purani Haveli was the original palace of the Asaf Jahi rulers and later they moved to the Falaknuma Palace," said Anuradha. Photographers were busy capturing these old structures from different angles. More than 30 photographers participated in the walk. With the Metro Rail coming up, it is feared that a few of these old structures would be demolished. "We wanted to catch these disappearing roots, buildings, open skies and heritage. In a matter of time, these structures would not be here," said Chandra Shekar, team administrator, HWS.

Arches of different sizes and with beautiful designs can be seen everywhere. Arches decorate entrances and are a sign of houses or buildings nearby. "A number of rulers and administrators stayed in this area. So many palaces were here," said Anuradha.

Daira Hazrath Mir Mohammed Momin was the last stop. Mir Mohammed Momin was a poet, philosopher from Iran. "He planned Hyderabad city that was full of open spaces, gardens and buildings with open spaces," Anuradha said. This graveyard has graves of important people like famous classical singer Bade Gulam Ali Khan, all Salar Jung, Mir Momin and his son.

"We call these events photo walk where a team of novice and expert photographers come together to learn from each other. But today's walk was very different from others. We walked into the center of the heritage that protects and nurtures the culture that originated in Hyderabad. The key points covered were Darush Shifa Jamia Masjid, Alawa e Sartouq, Purani Haweli, Masjid e Lashkar Jung, Alijah Kotla Masjid, Masjid e Abu Tameem Mohammedi and Masjid E Amrullah Shad Saheb. It was the right amalgamation of astute photography and a short but in-depth awareness capsule on the Islamic way of life in Hyderabad," said Subhansu Mandal, a photographer.

Another interesting aspect of the walk was the visit to the Kalyani tombs in the company of a descendant of the Kalyani Nawabs of Bidar, Nawab Kamaluddin. "Photographers also document history. It is important that they understand the history and the people living in the area. We involved the locals in our walk and learnt many things. We had hobby photographers with us and it was heartening to see many women who participated. It was hot, but no one seemed to be tired," shared Anuradha.



Members of HWS walk the roads of old city along with locals