



DAY'S DIARY
Tibet to India

Tibetan spiritual leader Tenzin Gyatso, known as His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, escaped from Tibet and reached India on this day in 1959

THE JOURNEY

On March 17, 1959, as Chinese troops crushed a Tibetan rebellion, Tenzin Gyatso slipped out of the Norbulinka, his summer residence in Lhasa, and arrived in India on foot



LITTLE LHASA

He and around 20 of his entourage reached Dharamshala in the Himalayan mountains. He was followed by around 80,000 Tibetans, who settled here, giving the place the name 'Little Lhasa'



EDUCATION FOR TIBETANS

Realising the importance of modern education for the children of Tibetan refugees, he impressed upon Nehru the need to create a Special Section for Tibetan Education

'Puneeth turns a director's vision into reality'

PG 4

STARTUP WATCH

BACKSTORY
Yield Asset Real Estate Tech is a Bengaluru-based startup established in June 2020 by real estate and asset management expert Rajesh Binner, and fintech entrepreneur Riaz Maniyar. It is a prop-tech platform that enables fractional ownership of commercial spaces, with an aim to disrupt the monopoly of ultra HNIs (High Networth Individuals).

FINANCE FUNDA
The startup has raised a seed fund, which the founders were unwilling to disclose.

USP
According to the founders, the idea is to bring commercial real estate ownership to the common man. They focus on creating a friendly real estate environment to generate both passive income and long-term wealth in a stable manner in most market conditions.

TARGET AUDIENCE
It aims to target anyone who would like to own commercial real estate assets with a ticket size of ₹25 lakh.



Rajesh Binner (top) and Riaz Maniyar

MONIKA MONALISA

THESE days, the smart phone is as good as several machines put together – calculator, watch, and of course, a camera. And with more advanced lenses in phones, the nature of photography has changed a lot. Photographers from different specialisations, like wildlife, wedding and macro, don't mind clicking some photographs using their smartphones instead. The size of the equipment may be becoming smaller but the scope it provides is only getting larger. The biggest perk? Accessibility, says shutterbugs.

Phone photography has become such a rage that there are now professional classes on it. Sreekumar Krishnan, who takes workshops on phone photography, can go on and on about the advantages of his favourite subject. "Phone photography is basically a point and shoot formula, which was the concept of photography when it started. It was later that complexities like zoom and other features were added. Now with phone photography, everything has come full circle again. These formats come handy during street photography," says Krishnan.

This trend has also become a game changer when it comes to lugging around equipment. Especially when phone cameras started going beyond five mega pixels. "Ever since phones like Samsung S6 and iPhone 6 came out, the cameras have been high-end. The resolutions are so good that the pictures have print quality. Phone photography might even take over other forms of photography, except for certain genres like wildlife," says Krishnan, who won the first prize at iPhone Photography awards 2019, for a picture he shot on his phone.

For Hari Prasad Vasishtha, a wildlife and event photographer, it's all about taking a good picture. "Most work-related photography is done on the DSLR that I use. But during other times, you get one chance to capture a moment that won't happen again. That's when a phone camera comes handy," says Vasishtha, who has been a professional photographer for the last eight years. He is also a part of many photography groups on WhatsApp and social media. "In these groups, we discuss meetups and new tricks or



Phone cameras may be small but the big picture is that they are now becoming the go-to option for many shutterbugs

SMART PHO(NE)TOGRAPHY

hacks we learned. A subject that is discussed a lot is phone photography, which is fast growing now. There's a lot to discuss when it comes to the quality and techniques used for a better frame," says Vasishtha.

Besides being compact in

JOIN THE CLUB

Focus Photography Club (Facebook)

Wildlife Action Photography (Facebook)

Indian Wildlife Photography (Facebook)

Photowalk Bengaluru (Instagram)

size, phone cameras can be lighter on the wallet too. Many shutterbugs can now take up their passion without shelling out a huge sum of money on a professional DSLR. Sandhayashree Kudli got hooked to macro photography three years ago but was not keen on investing in a DSLR at that point of time. "For macro photography, you don't need to buy a camera with a big zoom lens. Now there are macro zoom lens available, which you can attach to your phone camera," says Kudli, adding, "And these lens start from a price range ₹4,000. It's definitely more economical."



Smartphone photography by (1) Hari Prasad Vasishtha, (2) Sandhayashree Kudli and (3) Sreekumar Krishnan



Fun and festivities

City celebs seem to have had a blast during Holi. While Anuja Chauhan posted pictures of her family with flower garlands, coloured faces and her "pink hair", Nicole Faria shared photos of her rocking some creative Holi-themed makeup. Director Prashanth Neel too posted a photo on his Instagram story of his two munchkins covered in different colours.



Full steam ahead

IPL is just around the corner and RCB captain Virat Kohli is leaving no stone unturned when it comes to game prep. The cricketer posted a video of him jogging on a treadmill and said, "No rest days. From here on its all about speed #IPL". Here's hoping ee sala cup namde!



Hit or flop? City's environmentalists, urban experts and film fraternity weigh in on the recently-proposed film city at Hesaraghatta

MONIKA MONALISA

ENVIRONMENTALISTS and urban planners in the city are an upset lot these days. A recent announcement about film city to be established on 150 acres of land at Hesaraghatta has garnered a lot of criticism. According to environmentalists and urban planners, the project will not just hamper the wetland but also needs better planning for a township like this.

This is not the first time the government has proposed a film city in Hesaraghatta wetland. It was first proposed in the '80s by then Karnataka chief minister, the late Ramakrishna Hegde. But four decades on, the proposal has still not taken off for various reasons. Considering that Bengaluru does not have many rivers close by, it becomes even more crucial to save these wetlands, says Bhargavi Rao, a trustee of Environment Support Group. "Any kind of wetland is a form of water body. In the past, these were sources of water bodies in cities, which



Representational pic

REEL PROJECT, REAL IMPACT

have been buried to bring up bus stands, housing colonies, stadia etc," says Rao.

But the proposed project is leaving people concerned for reasons that go beyond its environmental impact. Ravichandrar V, an urban expert, says one must look for dry land, and not lowland or wetland, for construction. "Moreover, when you plan a mega project like this, it has to be well integrated. How well will the connectivity be? It does not make sense if the film city is in Hesaraghatta and 90

per cent of the work force comes from Bannerghatta Road with no proper transportation facilities available," says Ravichandrar.

He continues, "The next point is social infrastructure. When a township is constructed, three things that should be taken care of is living, working and leisure. If workers stay closer to film city, there should be infrastructure like school, hospitals and parks available. Earlier when places like ITI, BEL, HMP were set up, these

things were taken care of." While some members of Sandalwood feel the project might help with a studio facility, they reiterate that it shouldn't be at the cost of the environment. "It does not matter how good our real locations are. It's always good to have a studio with better facilities, where things like lighting and sound are under our control while filmmaking," says filmmaker and producer Rajendra Singh Babu. According to him, there are many reasons why a city like Bengaluru is conducive for a film city. "Apart from environmental reasons, the other aspect is that filmmaking is a creative job. The city is filled with traffic and crowds, which might not be suitable. But it's great for technical offices like sound mixing and computer gfx," he says.

Meant to be a one-stop guide to India's diverse culture and traditions, this coffee table book by FICCI FLO Bengaluru has been designed and detailed with millennials in mind

Of seasons and reasons

SANATH PRASAD

THERE'S much colour and celebration involved in Indian festivals. Even as food usually takes precedence, how many actually know the significance of the festival or even a dish prepared specially on the occasion? This book called *Rtu Rasya* is meant to decode the mythological significance of 18 festivals of all faiths.

The coffee table book was launched by the Federation of Industry and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FICCI) women's wing - Federation of Ladies Organisation (FLO), Bengaluru, chaired by Jyotika Kapoor Kalra. "We did not have a ready reckoner in the market for a book like this. *Rtu Rasya* is an exploration of the season, reason, tradition and the dishes associated with each festival," says Kalra about the book, which was launched by DGP of Karnataka Praveen Sood.

The building blocks for the book began during July 2020 when an all-women's team started researching, collating and editing the book. According to Kalra, the theme for 2020-21 was 'Made in India' stories.



The book is a tribute to our heritage with an emphasis on our festivals and related recipes

- Jyotika Kapoor Kalra, chairperson, FICCI FLO Blr

