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The concealed difficulties of Street Hawkers in Delhi

By Gaurav Chowdhury

Long working hours, uncertain amount of indispensable income, deteriorating health conditions, insecure employment and social security, 2% of total population in several cities are street vendors. Over a million Street vendors living in Delhi are left to fend for themselves.

Poverty ridden and immigrants from states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, West Bengal, etc move to metropolitan cities like Delhi in search of a better livelihood. The street vendor community have a considerable sum of women also working hard to feed their family.

Contributing to the urban distribution system and offering goods at a nominal cost, they face constant harassment, humiliation and confiscation warnings at the behest of police and local governing bodies like NDMC (New Delhi

Municipal Corporation). Also heckled by everyday buyers it's a daily battle for hawkers. Kshitij Rai, hawker,

Nehru Place said "Doing business is like fighting a battle everyday these days, customer bargains at an indispensable price sometimes which can't be afforded by them resulting to fail at the end of the day which creates panic, so as to cope up with satis-

fying the basic necessities of a poor family."

They are often, extorted by the local mafia goons and the police somewhat which we call "Sarkari Extortion", at last they end up selling more than they earn, remaining hand to mouth as all times. Another hawker with a pale face said, "we work 11 - 12hours a day and taking away 1000 bugs in hand after subtraction of all expenses is a big deal, which might come occasionally in a year, as in a festive season like Diwali."



According to Raju Yadav, resident, Sarojini Nagar, "Police used to be a big threat for struggling vendors, especially women vendors. Children of vendors used to run away when they spotted a police van in the market, since the police treated them as criminals. Harassment, misbehaviour, beating and seizing of goods were the order of the day."

NASVI (National Association of Street Vendors India) is a recognized NGO fighting to curb out the problems and

threats to the Vendors, Sampriti Phukan Malik, Legal Advisor, NASVI said, "We work together for the empowerment of street hawkers and uniting the street vendors altogether. She also told that whenever they get reports of harassment done

to any vendor, initially they try to negotiate with the concerning authorities guiding them with The Protection of Livelihood Act, Regulation of Street vending act 2014 which works in favour of the street vendors, if it works its good and well but in certain cases they had to approach higher levels."

Currently they are handling an issue where Delhi police and

letting the street vendors to do vending near Jama Masjid since last 5 months, so NASVI is gearing up to file a petition in High Court soon. Working for the betterment of the livelihood of street vendors, NASVI claims to be strengthening the regulation. At its best one can only hope that the judiciary in acts such laws that are formulated accordingly for the social rights of street vendors and implement it at its earliest. When all the participants getting involved into a meaningful dialogue – from civic authorities to shopkeepers, resident's association, vendors, only then the ongoing disputes could be resolved in equitable, mutually sustainable way.

municipal authorities are not

Five places not to miss this winter in Delhi

By Rashika Mukherjee

Winter season is all about travelling and exploring new places. The country's ever changing national capital Delhi could itself take a few weeks to explore. The overall portrait is affluent with culture and human diversity in the environment of a green eco-friendly landscape for the most part. This winter if you are planning to travel around Delhi, there are a number of architectural delights to watch out for.

"The Red Fort ,built by Emperor Shah Jehan; Garden of Five Senses, Humayun's Tomb, AksharDham Temple and India Gate are the best five places to visit in Delhi this winter," According to the Regional Director of India Tourism, Delhi Ministry of Tourism, Govt.of India Arun-Shrivastava.

The Indian capital city has a long history, including a history as the capital of several empires. The earliest architectural leftovers date back to the Mauryaperiod since then, the site has seen continuous settlement. Delhi is generally considered a close to 5000year old city, asper Ancient Indian Text The Mahabharata, since first ever mention of the city is found in this religious scripture. Delhi had been the seat of Islamic and British rulers until India's independence in 1947. Delhi isfamous for it's heritage monuments, temples and museums and sightseeing places. Indulge in some of Delhi's best local food, including shawarma, pa-

neertikka, and kulfi-falooda. Explore the busy streets of Delhi and their famous street food stalls. Experience tradi-

tional local transportation on a cycle rickshaw ride. These can be the plus points for travelling in Delhi. The city is a melting pot of cultures and traditions enriching a traveller's

experience.

"You can visit Delhi all over the year but the best period to walk around Delhi places would be from the month October to March" saidAwanish Kumar Mishra tourist information officer of Indiatourism, Delhi Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India. Situated in the northern belt, the capital city has tropical climate making it pleasant to travel and experience winters. As winter approaches tourists basically from foreign countries start visiting Delhi because the extreme cold weather of Delhi in winters affects them less.

"Early winter (late-October and November) and late winter (February) are absolutely the best times in the capital" according to some foreign tourists.

Rahul Bhatnagar a U.K based businessman from Delhi said, "The fact that I have grown up liking the taste of the Olddelhi fare doesn't mean it will suit everyone's palate. Even

though one may not sample all the food, a walk through the absolute chaos of olddelhi exploring the jewellery,



A glance of india Gate

bookand cloth shops may well

The top 5 places not to miss in Delhi in winters: The Red Fort: The Red Fort 'LalQuila', built by Emporar

Shah Jehan made of red sandstone is one of the most magnificent martyred where Sikh Guru TegBahadur also performed his last rites. It was also the residence of the Mughal emperor of India for nearly 200 years, until 1857.

worth be the effort itself."

It is located in the centre of Delhi and houses a number of museums. It was also the political centre of Mughal government and the setting for events critically impacting the region.

Garden of Five Senses: The garden of Five Senses is a park spread over 20 acres, in SaidulAjaib village, opposite Saket, near the Mehrauli heritage area in Delhi.

The park was developed by Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTDC) at a cost of 10.5 crore. Partly built over a rocky landscape with various theme areas including a section on the lines of Mughal Gardens, in addition pools of water lilies, bamboo courts, herbgardensand solar energy park.

Humayun's Tomb: Located near the crossing of Mathura road and lodhi road, this magnificent garden tomb is the first substantial example of Mughal architecture in India. It was built in 1565 by Humayun's senior widow BegaBegam. Inside the walled enclosure the most notable features are the garden squares with pathways water

Delhi ministry of Tourism is Place of enlightenment, Akshardham Mandir Delhi was a delight

channels, centrally located well proportional mausoleum topped by double dome. AksharDham: A traditional temple bestowed to Bhagwan-Swaminarayan that replicates the beauty and spirituality of India's ancient art, culture and architecture. It brilliantly showcases the essence of India's ancient architecture,

traditions and timeless spiritual messages.

The Akshardham experience is an informative journey through India's glorious art, values and contributions for the progress, happiness and harmony of mankind. India Gate: The foundation stone of India Gate was laid by His Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught in 1921 and it was designed by Edwin Lutyens. The entire arch stands on a low base of red Bharatpur stone and rises in stages to a huge moulding. During nightfall, India Gate is dramatically lightened up while the fountains nearby make a lovely display with coloured lights. Surrounding structure is a large expanse of lush green lawns, which is a popular picnic spot.

> also coming up with different initiatives like online booking of Rashtrapati Bhavan tour at RS 25 per person, special DTC buses for tourists, tourist top ten spots, special passes, light and sound show at the Red Fort etc.

'Travelling around

for me as it's heritages, street foods, shopping experience in ChandniChowk have shown me the Indian culture and tradition at it's best" said Brian Thompson a tourist from California.

Respiratory complaints on rise in Delhi

By Khalid Parvez

As a famous author David Thoreau says, "an early morning is a blessing for the whole day, we see a contradictory position of Delhi morning routine of a walk is likely to endanger your health rather than give you any benefits, because there are fine pollutants hanging in the air that get into your lungs, gradually reducing its capacity. And for those who already have respiratory problem, any exposure to polluted atmosphere is a clear invitation to trouble unless with some kind of precautions.

According to a traditional saying, morning air is the purest. In fact, pollutants such as ozone level (O3) are at their lowest level in the morning and peak only later in the day. Ozone which is also as-

sociated with compromised lungs function may impact people towards afternoon. Delhi is paying a heavy price for increased pollution levels. respiratory illness, especially, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), say expert.

According to data released by



Many cities say the worsening air quality has triggered respiratory illness in people and if proper measures are not taken, it may get worsened. Rising air pollution in Delhi is making more people sick with system of air quality and weather forecasting and research, which conducts regular air quality checks in metro cities. Delhi ranks first in air pollution in India before Chennai.

Ashish Varshney, 49, businessman, Karol bagh, said, "Morning time is the best time for walk and exposure to the environment because at that time the level of pollutant in the air is normally very lowed and as the day passes the level of foreign particles in the air increases." Delhi pollution control committee's study says that foreign particles in the atmosphere of city is around 150-200 microorganisms per cubic metre. Doctors meanwhile are seeing a steep jump in hospital admission of patients with chronic pulmonary disorder and acute bronchitis. According to them "People who have respiratory problem should avoid stepping out early mornings. There is a 20% to 25% increase in complications associated with respiratory disorder".

Dr Rahman Ali Firdaus, consultant, Chest medicine, Rahman Care Centre, says, "There are many different chronic respiratory diseases. But two are most dangerous, Asthma and COPD. Right now the atmosphere is almost polluting. I suggest these people who are already suffering from Asthma and COPD should avoid the morning walk because of two reasonsits cold and it's polluted." He added "He always advise them to go out when it's sunny. Respiratory disorder in people is increasing every minute. So people have to take care of their health. People should avoid personal vehicles and take the public transport more."

Child labour: A grave concern turning as in nightmare

rior economic activities in the

urban informal sector, largely

undertaken by children be-

By Gaurav Chowdhury

Today India is sadly the home of highest number of Child labour in the world. It is stated according to the census figures of 1991, India often known to be enriched with innumerable qualities today bags 11.29 million child labourers in its pouch. Even after 67 years of independence can we exhibit that we Indians are living in a country of largest democracy? The children engaged in child labour are fabricated in activities like agriculture, livestock, foresting, fisheries in the rural areas, whereas in urban areas children work in dhabas, eatery helpers, cleaners in trucks and a domestic servants in homes. Shanky Shekher, expert researcher on this field said "The primary reason behind child labour is poverty. Children born in poor families are not always lucky enough to inherit a good livelihood and education rather they work hard as labourers not only for

their own survival but also for their family."

On asking a 10 year old kid



selling papad in Sarojini
Nagar Market, Ganpat said
"Why you are concerned
about the age, I am just a
seller and selling this will
give me food". Another kid
working in dhaba as helper in
Rohini East, Ravi said "I
don't know what to tell, I
work just because I have to, I
get food here and the money I
get from work I give it to my
family.

Ragpicking is one of the infe-

longing to weaker sections of the society for their survival and for supplementing their family income and is the profession dominated by children aging 6 to 15 years who do not have any other skill, a 9 year old kid, Ajay, rag picker, Katwaria Sarai, said "I wake up at around 5am to collect any useful material from the garbage and dustbins and work restless till evening to

support my family", educa-

tion is not only a solution until these family gets a helping hand.

CRY (Child Rights and You) an NGO who strives to fight for the rights and prevention of Child presently active in 23 states of India. Pankaj Mehta, Associate General Manager, CRY stated "The core reason of this problem is firstly the immigrant families coming up from different poverty prone states moving to the metropolitan cities wherein the children don't get any access to education or other recreational facilities, secondly the children who are trafficked in as bonded labour,, commercial sect labour and sometimes they find themselves in decisive conditions like organ trading, sex racket, drug trials."

He also added "Enrolling a child in any institution or school who is trapped in labour is not an only solution to curb out this problem because there is a probability of falling back in labour, so they

tend to focus a multilevel task which involves addressing the root problems like economic security, livelihood of the

family, etc." According to provisions in law, if we see any child who is in a chromatic state and unwillingly working under any person or organization, you can connect with the Labour Dept, local administration, local police, Dept of women and Child development. We can also simply ring up at Child Line – 1098 and report whereabouts of the details of that child and they will rescue and rehabiliate the child and restore to its family with the help of the labour dept.

The role of youth in Indian Politics

By Khalid Parvez

Cal Thomas once said "One of the reasons people that politics is that truth is rarely a politician's objective. Election and power are". Politics in India takes place within the framework of our constitution. The introduction of youth as a new political class is a consequence of some kind of social illness in the education system.

The roots of student politics in Indian democracy is not new, they had been rooted before India gets freedom. It could be said that student leaders were also the reason behind the independence of India.

Baldev Chabra, political science student, Banaras Hindu University said, "Each and every educated youth must fight with corruption, and the

only way to fight with corruption is come forward and participate in politics directly." According to a study "Right now the average age of participating Member of Parliament in India is 52 years" Student groups often mobilize



to protest position, or lobby for political charge. Many politicians began their ascents into politics during their college years. Contemporary politicians who were heavily

involved in stident politics are Vijay Goel, Ramvillas Paswan, Azam Ali Khan, Ajay Makan, Arun Jaitley, and some from the world politicians like, Bill Clinton, Barrack Obama, Tony Blair, gordan Brown. The

> politicians were all politically active from a very young

above

and used their interest in politics to choose a direction in life. The role of youth in politics is to interpret changes in society that are beneficial to all citizens and country.

Ex. President of Aligarh Muslim University Student Union, Shahzad Alam said, "Politics provides students the platform to express their perspective in front of others. If given the right opportunity, students cannot only influence others, but also improve their leadership qualities."

Former Honorary Secretary of AMSU, Hammad Nabi said, "Students should take part in politics. Don't let anyone make decision for you. Student must get involved in politics as early as they step in college if they don't get involved now, they will be more likely to be victim in a game of politics and of our own government sustem. Believe me as I say this for our country."He added,"India need Lions not sheep's." It is a need of time that student leadership must come in

pivot politics. Clearly, the youth plays a vital role as a nation builder.

All major political parties have youth and student wings, such as Indian Youth Congress, Akhil Bharatiya Vidhyarthi Parishad and Democratic Youth Federation of India.

New Market: A shopping heritage

By Rashika Mukherjee

If you are planning to visit Kolkata, New Market is not a place to be missed. Situated right at the heart of Kolkata, New Market is a heritage shopping hub of the city since British era. West Bengal's capital city has its own share of rich culture and heritage. New Market is one of the eminent heritage of the city. Its Sprawling maze of over two thousand stalls over almost everything from clothing to cheese could itself take a whole day to explore. If you are after a bargain, New Market is worth it.

Built in 1874 as a market that would exclusively serve sahibs, so that they did not have to brush shoulders with the natives. It was rechristened as Sir Stuart Hogg's market in 1903 after the-then city commissioner. In a city where markets serve as meeting places, milestones and melting pots, it is one of the oldest and most vibrant. Along with the phuchka, rolls and chat available in Lindsay

Street outside the main building, New Market also serves up its own brand of nostalgia, a bitsmudged but not devoid of charm.

(estd.1902) which is truly historic with its original mahogany cabinetry and marble counters. Nahum's rich fruit cake, brownies, marzipans



Despite the appearance of air conditioned American style shopping malls all over KolKata, New Market which has survived two devastating fires and regular flooding remains at the core of the shopping experience in the city. "I am coming in the New Market since my childhood, we get variety of goods here on pocket friendly prices", said Anjali Sarkar, a regular customer of New Market. There are several renowned confectionaries in New Market like Nahum & Son's

and macaroons and much more are very famous. A huge section of the market is allotted to florists. There are wide range of various seasonal flowers like carnations, gerbera, gladiolas, orchids, tube roses etc. Amongst most famous are A.BosePvt.Ltd (estd.1874) and Coondoo Florists.

New Market is also has a plethora of saree shops such as Dayaram& co, Bombay silk house and Ghanashyam which exclusively sell silk sarees from all over India.

"I am a regular customer of Ghanashyam from past 10 years", said, SaritaGujral, 40, house wife.

Glitzier malls attract the youngsters but Kolkata's New Market continues to draw the old-time shopper bargain hunter and culture hungry tourist as well.

"I have been in the market for fifty years; we come from an old family which have been here for eighty years. Grandfather started his business here after coming to Calcutta. The market in that time was something fantastic, now it's gone to the dogs. The passages are being blown out and I don't think it's gonna get better. I am earning enough from this market. The customers are high in the Durga Puja time, Christmas and New Year's time.

Customers are a bit down because the malls have taken over. Basically youngsters don't like to come here. But the old customers are still New Market customers. Otherwise good business is still there" said, SudhirLalchandani, a well-known clothing material supplier. The place can be crowded and chaotic but if you are after a bargain or just an incredible experience New Market would be the perfect place to discover.

A changed era of watching football?

By Gaurav Chowdhury

In the wake of international sport leagues taking place in India, Indian sport enthusiasts have a lot to cheer about this season. With Indians opening to the idea of enjoying sporting events outdoor more and more sports oriented restaurants is the new future of eating and enjoying out. In this scenario Hero ISL (Indian Super League) is being welcomed by Indians and is organised and accompanied by many stalwarts like Ranbir kapoor, Hritik, John Abraham, Abhishek Bacchan and legendary Sachin Tendulkar along with his onetime opening partner Sourav Ganguly sparked the league, many more from varied fields like Business world, Sports world, etc joined the event. Sanjay Adhikari, football player, said "it is a fantabulous event of football and witnessing so many celebrities and business tycoons has glowed up the event"

Along with this stars, response from the sponsors is overwhelming which attracted a wide range of marketers like Hero Moto Corp, Maruti Suzuki, PepsiCo India, Amul, Muthoot Finance, etc which promises to herald the birth of

footballing nation – helping the development of football at the grassroots levels. The ISL kicked off with 65,000 people attending the opening game which swelled up to one million live fans at Guwahati. The ISL is presently the most watched non-cricketing sport in India

passé. According to a football fan "hanging out in a sports restaurant allows interaction and enjoying with friends. It's a great stress buster." Keeping pace with growing demands, New Delhi is bustling with places where you can go and enjoy the game with your friends, grab-



with 364 million viewers tuning in to catch live action on their TV sets. ISL fever is getting harder with each passing day, and as the finale is emerging, even non football fans are excited to watch who would stand as the winner of the greatest football event in India.

Football and cricket fans would agree that watching football in homes with a pack of popcorn and soft drink is bing a pint of chilled beer and good food.

Some places like Imperfecto at Hauz khas village, Baci at Sunder Nagar Market, Aniq at Greater Kailash, Soy at Khan Market, Café Pan Asian at Mehrauli do up their ambience at the time of major sporting events. They have come up with special nights with exclusive offers for this football season.

Dinesh, staff, Imperfecto, said "We decorate the surrounding according to the sport event and try to bring a sporting atmosphere starting from the food to other attracting amenities"

Pinaki Chatterjee, General Manager, Caffe 9, said "sports oriented restaurants and bars are on a booming phase and non football fans have started taking interest to enjoy the game and enter these sports oriented restaurants. Hero Indian super league has returned the fever of soccer after FIFA World Cup 2014," Pinaki Chatterjee added "we face dilemma at times when the matches are timed to be

face dilemma at times when the matches are timed to be after midnight according to IST, we can't keep the bar open the whole night, and hence we get less customers approaching."

According to a quote pro-

duced by a football lover
"There are several tactics
pitched to attract a large number of football fans, for instance Buy three get two free
offer for beer lovers, a round
of shots will be passed on
every goal scored by your
favourite team, on guessing
the first goal scorer, you can
win 1 drink, a special cocktail
menu would be offered all
through the journey of foot-

ball season."

Moreover the super soccer league ISL is proving to give a chance to the youngsters who are associated with football and somewhere they can develop and exhibit their skills in a global platform and improve the world ranking of Indian football team.

CREDITS



Starts from left Khalid Parvez, Rashika Mukherjee, Gaurav Chowdhury P.C - Kirtee Shekhar

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