

Wife: Dough baker or dough winner?

SHE BEST TAKES CARE OF HOME AND HEARTH

► My wife loves being a homemaker

To be a homemaker was my wife's conscious decision. She does everything at home single-handedly and is adept at it. I wanted a home-maker for a wife anyway. And I got married to a woman who was from a rural background. If she really wanted to work, I wouldn't have objected though. But she is very happy being a home-maker. We have 4-5 companies of our own and she needn't go anywhere else to work. She is somewhat active in our business too. Besides, we are also into social service.

► Juggling work and family

As husband and wife, we manage our work very well. My wife is totally engaged in taking care of our daughters and looking after our home. Sometimes, she takes care of my office assignments too. A woman has to work if there is compulsion, so that the family runs smoothly. By and large, I don't think there's a need for her to work. She has her freedom to do anything.

► Taking charge in my absence

Whenever I am tied up with work, my wife takes care of everything. She even does my own shopping. I can't imagine my life without her. Right from paying the electricity bill to the corporation tax and even managing bank accounts, and attending school and college meetings. Without her, I wouldn't be able to handle this burden. My home looks good because of her.

► Good food, homemade food

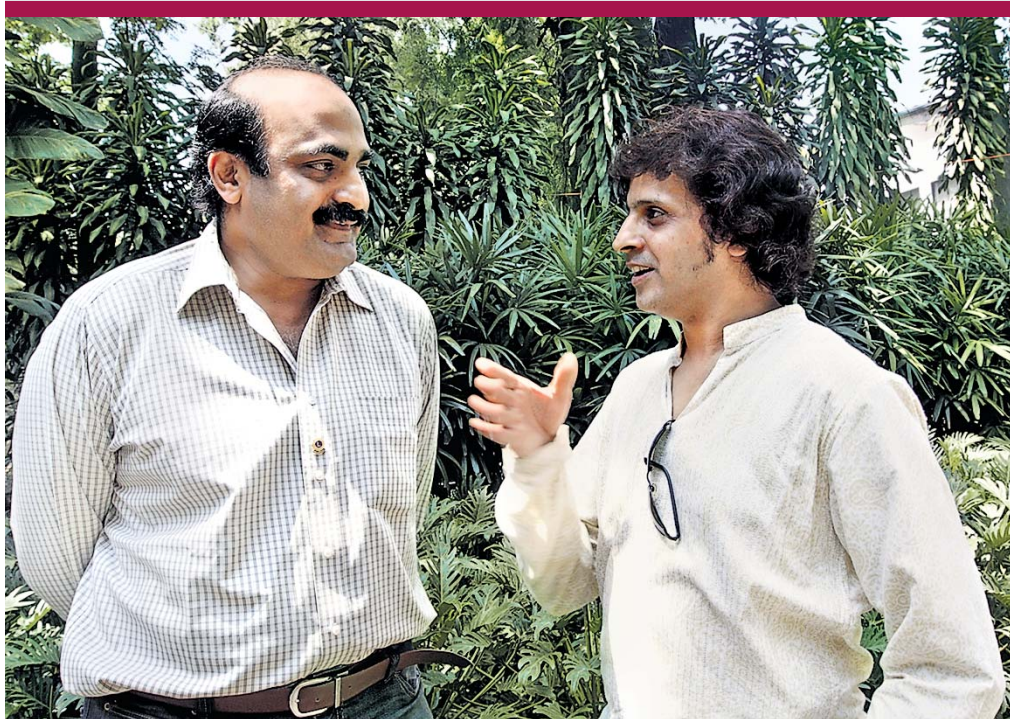
If your wife is a homemaker, you get to eat good food everyday. The working class splurge all their money eating out, which actually spoils their health. Most of the time, these people end up eating more junk food than healthy food. But in our home, we don't face that problem. It's not that we don't go out to eat, but we don't make it an everyday affair.

► Choice is always the woman's

I have a daughter who is pursuing an MBA. Since the day she enrolled, she's been telling me that she wants to work. And I completely agree with what she says. After all, it's her decision. Nowadays, a family cannot meet ends with just one person's salary. I want my daughters to be on their own feet. Women are more dedicated to the family than men. Even when I travel out on work, my wife plays an important role in my work. And without her participation and encouragement, I wouldn't have been



Women asserting their rights is passé. *dna.sunday* engaged husbands in a dialogue about their significant other. Renowned Kathak dancer **Rajendra** (right) whose wife is an equally busy dancer, and **C Hemanth Kumar**, a businessman, whose wife is a home-maker, discuss the role played by their wife in their hectic lives



Women are versatile and talented

Women are versatile in every sense. They play many roles and do a wonderful job by building bonds and nurturing them. I believe that everyday is women's day. The kind of job that a woman takes up depends on her talent. There's nothing wrong if the wife earns more than her husband. I don't think ego holds any place between a couple. My wife plays an important role in my life and without her, I cannot work the way I do.

Provide women with support

Home-making is not wrong but if we have a support system or if we can appoint someone to take care of the house, the woman's talent can be developed and she can contribute much to the society. For those who recognise and respect the power of women, everyday is women's day. Being independent is good for women but there should always be harmony between the couple, as far as earnings are concerned.

SHE MUST STEP OUT TO DISCOVER HERSELF

► She works non-stop

For my wife, Nirupama, and me, 24 hours of the day are not enough for our dance. To pursue the art form relentlessly is very important to her. In fact, she works more than me. Being independent is good for women but there should always be harmony between the couple, as far as their earnings are concerned.

► Husbands should help at home

At home, when needed, I take care of little things — I am very happy doing this. I have seen many husbands work at home and they are happy. I know a family in the US — he is a scientist who has quit to pursue music and he takes care of his children, while his wife works. Even a healthy matriarchal society is perfectly alright.

► We don't compete

We aim for nothing short of excellence in our dance. So, there is absolutely no competition between us. We help each other grow. If I need any help, she is always there, and vice versa. Not just us, I have seen couples who are both professionals, although from different fields, between whom there is no competition. So there's harmony.

► We are very lucky

We have great support from other family members. My brother and sister-in-law take care of everything at home. We don't do anything. We only dance all the time. We are so lucky. My sister and mother have both been very supportive to Nirupama, me and our art. In our case, our family has supported our decision not to have children. This decision was so that we could focus entirely on art. Our art is our children. Bharatnatyam and Kathak — we have immortal children.

► Encourage her talent

Home-making is not wrong but if we have a support system or if we can appoint someone to take care of the house, the woman's talent can be developed and she can contribute much to the society. For those who recognise and respect the power of women, everyday is the women's day. The Indian scriptures say: *Ahalya Draupadi Sita Tara Mandodari tatha pancha kanya smare nityam mahapatka nashanam*. It is believed that if you remember those five women of the epics, all your sins will be washed away.

Moderated by: Sindhu Murthy

Ex-devotee seeks to expose 'KRISHNA LEELA'

Nithyananda called himself an incarnation of Lord Krishna and treated women devotees as gopikas, says the devotee

D Ram Raj, CHENNAI

Chennai police on Saturday booked a fresh case against spiritual guru Swami Paramahansa Nithyananda on a complaint filed by his former devotee Nithya Dharmananda alias K Lenin of Athur in Salem district. Chennai police also decided to transfer the case to Karnataka, where Nithyananda (who has his headquarters at Bidadi, about 30 km from Bangalore) reportedly "betrayed" the trust of his devotees. Lenin accused Nithyananda of "misbehaving" with "beautiful" women and "forcing" them into compromising positions with him. Lenin also handed over a CD containing "raunchy bed room" scenes of Nithyananda to the Chennai police commissioner.

Lenin, in his complaint, stated that he was spiritually attracted to Nithyananda in 2004. In 2006 he shifted to the ashram in Bangalore as a staunch devotee, he said. There he found Nithyananda misbehaving with "innocent women" stating that he was incarnation of Lord Krishna and beautiful women devotees were his gopis. He would try to hug and molest them. Some disturbed women devotees stopped visiting the ashram, while one woman also tried to commit suicide, Lenin alleged. Lenin also claimed that he often found "actress Ranjitha" and Nithyananda in compromising positions. Lenin claimed that he was very upset as well as spiritually let down by his guru and hence decided to secretly tape Nithyananda's romp with Ranjitha in December 2009, Chennai police commissioner T Rajendran told reporters on Saturday.

Lenin also alleged that Nithyananda had threatened to "kill" him on February 18 and February 19 this year when he visited Salem for the inauguration of his new ashram. Nithyananda suspected Lenin of secretly taping his "bedroom scenes", invited him into his van and threatened to kill him. Lenin, however, escaped from Nithyananda by stating that he wanted to answer nature's call. Lenin asked the police to save the innocent "masses" from the clutches of "Nithyananda", who had blatantly betrayed their trust, according to the complaint. "As all the incidents reportedly occurred in Karnataka, we have decided to transfer the case to that state," Rajendran stated.



Tamil Actress attempts suicide

Ranjitha, the Tamil actress seen in the sex tape of Swami Nithyananda, apparently attempted suicide. Sources in TN revealed that she tried to kill herself over the sex scandal, which has snowballed into a major controversy with all the media attention. AGENCIES

'Nithyananda is in Kumbh Mela'

Even as speculation continues over the whereabouts of Swami Nithyananda, his lawyer claimed that the godman had not absconded but was in Varanasi. "He is attending the Kumbh Mela," M Shreedhar, his lawyer, said. AGENCIES

Kerala priest arrested for sexual abuse

Thiruvananthapuram: A Christian priest has been arrested in Kerala for alleged sexual abuse of a minor girl inmate of a hostel run by Orthodox Church in Malappuram district in September last year. The victim is a student of Catholicate Higher Secondary School run

by the church. Father K G Joseph was arrested and produced in a local court on Thursday. However, he was later granted bail. Police are also investigating the death of the girl's elder sister, who succumbed to suspected food poisoning at the hostel last October. —AGENCIES

Maoists say they could rule India much before 2050

Kolkata: A day after Union Home Secretary GK Pillai said Maoists had plans to overthrow the Indian state by 2050, top Naxal leader Koteswar Rao alias Kishenji on Saturday claimed it would be achieved much before that date.

"We will overthrow the Indian government much before 2050," Kishenji said from an undisclosed location. He claimed the Maoists had their own army with the help of which it would overthrow the Indian state much before 2050.

He said the Maoists had offered a 72-day peace offer and "the question of regrouping does not arise. (Union Home minister P) Chidambaram is trying to divert the attention of the people from the real problem."

He said it was for the Centre to act on the peace offer. "We are fully prepared for a long-term revolution against the government and so we don't need any specific time to re-structure ourselves."

On Pillai's contention yesterday that some ex-army personnel were helping Maoists, he said "we don't need the support of any army man. For the last 30 years, we know the type of war we do better than any

military officer."

Reiterating that the repeated offer of talks by the Maoists had been turned down, Kishenji said "we have repeatedly offered talks to the government but it has been turned down." Claiming that innocent people were being killed in the name of tackling Maoists, he said "we are trying to save them from state-sponsored terrorism."

Kishenji said that their repeated requests for talks were rejected

He also denied West Bengal Director General of Police Bhupinder Singh's claim that arrested Maoist leader Telegu Dipak had links with ULFA and Kashmir militants. "A lot of rumours are being spread deliberately about the arrest of Telugu Deepak. He does not have any connection with any terrorist organisation."

He said Deepak was not a member of the Maoist military commission as the ultras did not have any such organisation.

JD(U) split over bill

Puneet Nicholas Yadav, NEW DELHI

The women's reservation bill has sharply divided the Janta Dal (United) into two camps, with Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar throwing his weight behind the controversial bill much against his party president Sharad Yadav's stated position.

After Kumar made it clear on Friday that he was in favour of the bill being passed, sources say several JD (U) MPs have indicated their willingness to support the legislation, much to the chagrin of their party chief. The bill is slated to come up for

consideration in Rajya Sabha on Monday. The JD (U) has seven members in the upper house and sources indicate that at least three party MPs were in favour of the bill's passage. While JD (U)'s Rajya Sabha MP Shiv-anand Tiwari has already announced his support to the bill, sources say NK Singh too is also likely to support the bill. The ailing party leader, George Fernandes is unlikely to attend the proceedings on Monday.

Also both women Lok Sabha MP's, Ashwamedh Devi and Meena Singh said they would support the bill.

Indian women clicked for her

British photographer Lesley Saunders has travelled around the world, but it's Indian women that fascinate her. She is holding an exhibition, The Real Women Of India, in New Delhi on March 8



Lesley Saunders, an IT professional from the UK, took to photography as recently as in 2009. The pride of the 80-something-year-old lady scaling a hillock, the contented smile of a shy young lady in a colourful yellow sari, the pensive look of a young bride-to-be, a teenage gypsy girl taking on challenges of the world and a woman in a bright red sari walking away from the vagaries of her daily routine found place in Saunders's camera film. Being a culture hungry traveller, Saunders has seen and encountered many cultures during her travels. However, it's the Indian women who made a lasting impression on her mind.

Her images portray the strength, beauty, steadiness and contentment of Indian woman. In October last year, Saunders made her debut presentation of The Real Women Of India in Bangalore. The exhibition was held in support of ROKO Cancer, a breast cancer awareness charity. The success of last year's show resulted in her nomination as the ROKO Cancer's Global Champion Extraordinaire and more 'The Real Women of India' shows were planned in other parts of India, London, Paris and New York.

The photographer's work has even been recognised by some of the top photography magazines and mainstream media in India as well as in other parts of the world. And this year, she is back with her exhibition on 'The Real Women Of India' in Delhi on March 8, in support of ROKO.

The exhibition will be held at The Art Mall, #5 Shivaji Marg, Najafgarh Road, New Delhi West from 4:30 pm onwards. For more information, log on to www.elleje.com

Women on top

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Mazumdar-Shaw has contributed \$10 million to Bangalore Cancer Centre and committed \$3 million to Hyderabad Business School. She also donates \$2 million annually towards the health insurance of villagers.

Rohini Nilekani, who supports many NGO activities, has donated \$40 million over the years to supporting causes such as education, microfinance, health care and environment. Last year, too, Rohini was part of the Forbes' list. Anu Aga is director of Thermax and the company donates 1% of its profits to charity. Kiran Nadar, who of HCL Technologies cofounder Shiv Nadar, has opened an art museum. The leaders were selected on the basis of their contribution to causes like disaster relief, education, health, culture and sciences.

All biz roads lead to Bangalore

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Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB), the nodal agency for allotting land to companies, has identified 50,000 acres (mostly dry land) across the state for industrial purposes out of which 12,000-13,000 land has already been acquired.

A host of auto, steel and aviation firms are lining up big-ticket investment plans for the state. Two-wheeler maker Hero Honda is investing around Rs2,000 crore to set up a facility near Hubli airport which will be spread over 200 acres. The project will be completed in 18 months, added Nirani.

Japanese car maker Toyota has got the approval to pump in another Rs3,000 crore into

its Bidadi facility. The plant, which manufactures Innova and mid-segment luxury car Corolla at the unit, has already lined up Rs1,200 crore investment blue-print in the first phase.

Aviation majors are also upping their investment. Aerospace component maker Dynamatic Technologies is looking at an investment of Rs600 crore to set up a manufacturing facility near Devanahalli.

In the same league, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) has also evinced interest to invest Rs1,000 crore to set up a facility within the auto component and aerospace hub near Devanahalli.

The minister also confirmed that leading aircraft manufacturer Airbus has expressed

interest to set foot in the state. The talks are at a very preliminary stage, he said. When asked about farmers protesting about the state government acquiring fertile land, Nirani said: "Out of the total land bank, around 4,000-5000 acres could be fertile land, but we will not go ahead with the proposal without the farmers' consent." Tata Metaliks, manufacturers and suppliers of pig iron, is also looking to set up a plant in Haveri.

JK Cement has also joined the fray by announcing a three million tonne facility, spread across 3,000 acres that will come up in Kudagi village in Bijapur district.

The state government had approved investment proposals close to Rs 1.38 lakh crore in the first phase ending January 5.