

CITY FEED

OG MANDINO



Failure will never overtake me if my determination to succeed is strong enough

POWER GALLERY

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Young guns fire a salvo!



MADHYA PRADESH and Rajasthan are witnessing a different ball game of politics. As Ashok Gehlot was preparing to make his son contest for General elections, Sachin Pilot announced that no member from his family will contest elections. Jyotiraditya Scindia too has found a new way to stop two top leaders of his party from letting their family members contest elections. Scindia, has got his wife Priyadarshini active in the field.

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Mantriji's playing beautifully

A minister's speeches are being discussed at length in the state capital and seem to be making headlines every day. Taking inspiration from Rau's kachori, which is known for its flavourful taste, this minister has been spicing up the political world with his speeches. He seems to know the recipe of staying in media's light by heart! On Friday when Aishwarya Rai Bachchan came to attend a function in Indore, the minister was seen sharing the stage with her. He spoke of beauty and intellect charming his audience.

Two CMs have set their eyes upon Sushma's seat



THE parliamentary seat that gave India a Prime Minister, an External Affairs Minister and Chief Minister is now being eyed upon by two former CMs of state. Ever since Sushma Swaraj declared not to contest elections, this 'lucky' seat has grabbed the attention of many. While Shivraj

Singh Chouhan's wife Sadhna has been proactive in the region, Digvijaya Singh too wants one of his close aides contest from here. When Singh was the 'Raja' of the state, he made his 'Rajkumar' (Patel) file nomination from here against Swaraj. But Patel goofed up in submitting Form B, which gave Swaraj a clean sweep of 4 lakh votes.

Lotus may have wilted but Tiger Abhi Zinda Hai!

As they say, time is the only constant change. A leader, who was the only face of BJP for all these years in MP, has now lost his power and presence in party. Thanks to the Assembly elections! When BJP was preparing a list of speakers who were to speak on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's campaigning in state, the list skipped the name of former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

BUILDING EMPIRE



THREE IS COMPANY: L-R: Founders of CIS Kuldeep Kundal, Amit Agrawal and Abhishek Pareek

PHOTO: NITESH VERMA

From running after job security to creating jobs

Unlike Rancho, Farhan and Raju from '3 Idiots', these three friends Kuldeep, Amit and Abhishek, shared a common dream and realised it too

TEJSHREE PURANDARE • INDORE

Rajkumar Hirani's 2009 block buster '3 Idiots' follows the friendship of three students - Rancho, Farhan and Raju - at an engineering college. The satire about social pressures under Indian education system is narrated through parallel dramas, one in the present and the other ten years in the past. We take you on a similar journey, however, in this one, there's no parallel drama but a real success story of three college friends who shared the same passion, worked in unison and created their own empire in 15 years.

"You have just six months to prove yourself. If you fail, you'll have to quit whatever you are doing and take up a job," warned parents of Kuldeep Kundal (38), Amit Agrawal (37) and Abhishek Pareek (38) when they were toying with the idea of creating something of their own. This was in 2002 when three best friends Mandsaur's MIT College decided to quit their first job that they had taken up in IT companies after earning their degrees in engineering.

Kundal says, "Way back in 2003, internet had just arrived and people used to visit cyber cafes to surf the net or to chat. However, with the advent of internet pornography too became rampant. Therefore, we decided to create something that can put an end to this menace. After brain smacking for quite some time we designed Cyber-I through which the café owner could moni-

TAKING THE RISK DURING RECESSION

▪ KULDEEP KUNDAL

I used to earn Rs 4,000 a month. When I quit my job to start something of my own, my parents were quite disappointed.

They thought if I work somewhere, there'll be at least job security.

▪ AMIT AGRAWAL

I come from a middle-class family and my parents were government employees. They just couldn't believe my taking the risk at a time when the market was in a really bad shape.

▪ ABHISHEK PAREEK

I come from a small village near Kota in Rajasthan. I worked in Indore for a salary of Rs 2,000 from which I used to pay Rs 1,000 as house rent and another Rs 1,000 for the tiffin center. My father used to send me money for my other expenses. I feel I embarrassed him until I quit that job.

tor a user's system."

He adds that they gave then SP a demo of the software, and he liked it to an extent that he called a press conference and launched the software. However, it was just the beginning. "While Amit and Abhishek designed the software, I used to wander shop-to-shop and café-to-café giving demos and trying to sell it," Kundal says, adding that cyber café owners lapped up the idea and the project was a huge success.

Buoyed by the triumph, the trio then created a website for Cyber-I which too got phenomenal response from across the country. However, they got their big break in form of an assignment from a Spanish company. They created the software, which normally takes a month's time to develop, in a mere 48 hours. This was followed by a project from an Iceland-based company that wanted a software that could help parents keep an eye on the activities of their kids on their mobile phones.

Soon Cyber Infrastructure (CIS) was born. It has presence in five countries; the UK, US, Singapore, South Africa and India. Having an annual turnover of Rs 70 crore (only from one Indian company) they employ young techies in the hundreds. Last year, they started operations in Los Angeles and Atlanta. Starting from a small garage, in a decade-and-a-half, the trio now runs one of the fastest growing software companies in the country that too from their sprawling one lakh sq ft lavish office.

SUNDAY READ

Laptop bai clicks business worth Rs 5 cr



Anita Nagdiya who is only 12th pass is providing mobile banking to the rural poor

DIVYA RAJE BHONSALE / JAFFER MULTANI • INDORE / AGAR MALWA

If four things are followed - having a great aim, acquiring knowledge, hard work and perseverance - then anything can be achieved." That's what late president Dr APJ Abdul Kalam had once said. And it seems Anita Nagdiya, a resident of Sutheli village in Agar Malwa district, has espoused this mantra quite meticulously.

A Class 12 graduate, Anita is known as 'Laptop Wali Bai'. Always carrying her laptop, she has become a mobile banker and in a career span of around

two years, she has done online transactions worth Rs 5 crore. So what is her job exactly like? Anita trained herself in government's Self Help Group (SHG) to learn computer and online banking. She acts as a bank agent for villagers, and helps them in their banking transactions. "Whether is opening an account, transferring money or any other work related to banking

or government schemes, I do it for them. This helps me in generating income for myself, as I get paid for every transaction by the bank(s)," said Anita, who is currently pursuing her graduation while working.

She underwent training in Ujjain for a month before becoming a 'bank sakhi'. "When I completed my training, I was given a loan of Rs 1.50 lakh by the government to start my business," she added. Currently, she owns her office in village Tanodia, and has recently brought a car with her own money. Around 30 women are training under her.



SETTLERS CITY

Cosmopolitan nature of this city induces to stay on



Retd. Army Col. AK Ram Singh who has chosen to settle in the city conversing from comfort of his home.

PHOTO: NITESH VERMA

Through this series, we celebrate migrants who chose this city to make it their home. We bring out stories of individuals who have contributed to the city in their own way.

YASH VARDHAN SINGH • INDORE

When Colonel A K Ram Singh took early retirement from the Services in 1999, he didn't think twice before moving to Indore. While his decision of settling down here was mainly influenced by the presence of in-laws and relatives, the city's reputation as an educational hub and the 'friendly' people also played its part.

Col. Singh met his better half Anita Ram Singh during the college days in Chandigarh. They met during a debate competition and became friends. The friendship soon blossomed into love. "It was because of her that I chose Indore and with time I understood the city. The city has a very good standard and comfortable living environment," Col. Singh told Sunday First Print.

After taking VRS from the services following a slip disk problem, Col. Singh chose to settle at Indore in 1999. "I was 48 then and both my kids were studying. The

The city has a peaceful ambience. It's purely a cosmopolitan city, with all the benefits of a large town and ease of a mid-level town. And with relatives also near you, it became the perfect choice

COL. A K RAM SINGH

city was surrounded by industrial hubs and after VRS I was looking for working with some good company. I joined Gabriel in Dewas and worked in administrative roles for some more years," Col. Singh said. He found the people very helping and easy to bond with.

The in-laws had moved to India after Partition and were given options of cities to choose from. After observing and examining for some days, they decided to settle here in Indore. Father-in-law Vidya Sagar Haseeja started 'Central India Motors' in Indore and the family stayed back in Indore after that.

"My in-laws had a family business of automobiles, but we had a different business. We were into business of serving the nation and that is our passion too. My grandfather S Ram Singh served in the army as doctor, while my father Kumar Ram Singh was in the air force. I served in the army, my elder son Lt. Col Arjun Ram Singh too is serving in the army and is posted at Siliguri."