

*If we desire a society that is democratic, then democracy must become a means as well as an end*



**Letters to  
the Editor** 

## Retrograde step

**T**he YSR Congress government's decision to place Telugu Desam Party chief N Chandrababu Naidu and his son Nara Lokesh under preventive detention is a retrograde step. The YS Jaganmohan Reddy government must realise that putting down TDP workers with an iron hand could prove to be counterproductive in the long-run.

**NJ Ravi Chander**

Bengaluru

## Nationalism redefined

Nationalism can be defined in many ways but in short, it is a sense that requires oneness, unity in diversity and respect, love and pride towards the nation by its citizens. Today, it is amply clear that the concept of nationalism is being redefined to acquire votes. One cannot be called a nationalist just because of her/his religion, caste or

community. In the same way, one cannot be labelled as anti-nationalist if s/he has a different political ideology, as in a democratic set-up all the people cannot follow one single ideology. We must show our love and respect towards our nation but that does not mean we should become aggressive.

**Mohd Faheem**

Hyderabad

## Ecology and economy

Insect pollinators like bees, moths and butterflies, certain species of flies and beetles are responsible for cross-pollination of over 80% of globally important crops. They serve three primary industries with pollination services — agriculture, apiculture and forestry— thereby integrating ecology with our economy. Unfortunately, insect pollinators, particularly honey bees and native bees, are showing an alarming decline due to anthropogenic factors such as industrial agriculture, pollution and climate change.

Recently, Farming Smarter, an applied research organisation from Southern Alberta, Canada, started an experiment in the conservation of insect pollinators. By using a combination of local grown annual and perennial crops and wildflowers, it has been experimenting to establish small plot pollinator sanctuaries to attract insect pollinators in large numbers. The results show that annual and perennial crops with varying flowering periods could extend the bee foraging cycles beyond the conventional season and help insect pollinators forage for an extended period with an adequate supply of nectar and pollen through a significant part of the year. Further, such sanctuaries can help establish local ecosystems, conserve insect pollinators and enrich biodiversity. This technology could serve as a model for South and Southeast Asian countries in their conservation efforts.

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