

No kids' stuff this

One would not question a UN diplomat, even a former one. But children are children. On Sunday, when former UN undersecretary-general Shashi Tharoor interacted with underprivileged children, the most unexpected questions were posed to the writer. Do you like prose or poetry? After a long pause, Tharoor said both. A diplomatic reply?

And when it was his turn to pose questions to them, one girl said she wanted to be a collector. When Tharoor asked

SALT AND PEPPER

her why, pat came the reply. To serve the people of course! Interacting with these children made me introspect, said Tharoor.

Shh, it's Rahu Kala



time either. Recently, when he held a

Believers don't step out during Rahu Kala, the inauspicious time of the day. Public works minister H D Revanna doesn't hold press conferences during this

meeting with the railway department to discuss the speedy execution of pending projects in the state, scribes wanted to know the outcome of the meeting. They could get the brief from the infrastructure principal secretary V P Baligar, but not from Revanna. When scribes wondered why, Revanna himself clarified: "You (scribes) are asking me at the wrong time. The time is inauspicious for me to speak." But he did say these few lines during the Rahu Kala!

Jumbo love story

This 'Menaka' was successful in luring 'Manikanta', the most arrogant among all the park elephants at Bannerghatta Biological Park. But she may not be able to cavort with him for long. For, the guardians are out to separate this *jodi*. The animals behave normally when they are not together. But the moment one spots the other, they go wild with love, say the officials. They say they have no choice but to keep them apart as they refuse to listen to their mahouts when they are together. Manikanta recently tried to even attack his mahout. Both Menaka and Manikanta were rescued from temples in Bangalore. The park officials are now looking for a separate shelter to house Menaka.

Will Menaka send an urgent trunk call to her beloved to rescue her? Watch this space.



Pizza and pizazz

Visit any government office, you see the peon carrying tea for his 'sahabru' (boss). That was then. And this is now; you see the peon carrying pizza instead. The government staff truly believe that this is corporate culture! The officials at the industries department eagerly wait for this delicious pizza break. As the pizza boy enters the office, he is questioned, "Why are you late?" "Traffic jam, sir," the boy replies and he is forgiven. Then the pizza is distributed. Even the guests get to have a piece.

It's nice to know that government officials enjoy their pizzas. When will they learn to imbibe true corporate culture? Of cutting red tape, meeting deadlines and delivering quality work?

(Contributed by Seethalakshmi S, Anil Kumar M, Amit S Upadhye and R Jayaprakash)