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HAPPY ONAM!

Why Vikas Khanna served pink appams to Nooyi

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NEW DELHI: Vikas Khanna wanted to serve Indra Nooyi, the worldwide head of beverage and snack giant PepsiCo, a breakfast that would make her remember her childhood. So, on Tuesday morning, he served her pink appams.

The setting was right. They had breakfast at Vasantha Bhavan, an eatery in Chennai, Nooyi's hometown. It was the day before Onam. But pink appams?

Appam, made from fermented rice batter and coconut milk, is white, with a little



■ Nooyi and Khanna at breakfast in Chennai on Tuesday HT PHOTO

bit of brown around the edges. Not for Khanna, though. He added urad dal, bajre ka atta, oats, and an unexpected ingredient that turned it pink. "I used beetroot juice to

make the batter, and a little bit of milk," Khanna told HT over the phone. He also made pesarattu, the green gram pancake from Andhra Pradesh, with oats, idli with oats,

and payasam with oats.

"We had a great time enjoying some of my favorite traditional dishes while exchanging ideas on how we can adapt these time-honored recipes with a knowledge of nutrition," Nooyi said in an email through her public relations agency.

The oats in everything would have brought back childhood memories with a twist, but Nooyi would hardly mind it — PepsiCo owns the Quaker Oats.

But there is more. "Indra said this tastes like temple cooking," said Khanna. He will happily settle for that.