

SUNDAY millennium post

PUBLISHED FROM DELHI & KOLKATA

VOL.12, ISSUE 291 | Sunday, 22 October, 2017 | New Delhi | Pages 16 | Rs 3.00

NO HALF TRUTHS



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DON'T CAST ASPERSIONS ON VICTIMS, COMPLAINANTS: HC TO POLICE

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SIMPLY COMPLEX

Sangh arm SJM sends SOS to Govt: Don't ink anti-Indian eRetail pact



OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: RSS-affiliate Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) on Saturday urged the Government to not enter into any agreement on e-commerce at the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations starting on Sunday, arguing that such a move would benefit global e-tailers at the cost of domestic retailers. "We are hearing from some reports that the e-commerce chapter is expected to be concluded during this round of negotiations in RCEP. This is a matter of great concern for all Indians," SJM co-convenor Ashwani Mahajan said in a letter to Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

The RCEP is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between 16 member states, including India. The proposals in RCEP include removal of tariffs on e-trading, which will severely impact retailers as well as customs duty revenues and therefore government spending. "Introduction of e-commerce chapter will immensely benefit big foreign e-commerce giants like Chinese Alibaba and US Amazon, at the cost of small domestic retailers," he said. The SJM also alleged that China was pushing interests of 'Alibaba' for duty free access of its manufactured goods into the Indian market using the e-commerce route and similarly American giant e-corporations were also advancing their demands through RCEP member-nation Japan. "These rules seek to free up all regulation on their activity through provisions such as free data flows, no disclosure of source code and so on," Mahajan said.

Vilification of Taj Mahal shows BJP's intolerance
PINARAYI VIJAYAN

In today's paper

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Starvation death: Victim's mother thrown out of Jharkhand village

RANCHI: The mother of the 11-year-old girl who died of starvation on September 28 was on Saturday thrown out of her village in Jharkhand's Simdega district. According to reports, the locals accused her of defaming the village. The scared woman later took shelter in the panchayat building. The Simdega district administration has asked the local officials to look into the matter. The death came to light after it was reported on October 15 by an organisation working on food security related issues.



tem (PDS) shop as their ration card was not linked with the Aadhaar card. The Simdega district administration has so far maintained that the girl Santoshi was suffering from malaria and died due to her ailment. The state's health department has, however, rubbished the claim. Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das, who visited Simdega on Tuesday, sought a detailed inquiry report from Deputy Commissioner Manjunath Bhajantri in the alleged starvation death.

The state government has after the girl's death announced that food grains can be procured from the PDS shop by showing the ID proof.

DECISION MADE NOT BY RBI BUT BY GOVT UNDER PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING ACT

Yes, linking Aadhaar with bank account is must: RBI

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the country's central bank, stated categorically on Saturday that the linkage of biometric identity number Aadhaar with bank accounts is mandatory, thus bringing to an end the confusion triggered among the people by a section of the media which had created the impression that such a linkage is not compulsory. The RBI clarified that it had, indeed, never issued any direction linking Aadhaar with bank accounts and that this was a decision of the Union Government itself.



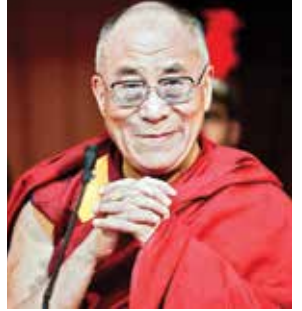
Elaborating on the issue, the RBI explained that the linkage of Aadhaar number to bank accounts is mandatory under the Prevention of Money Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Second Amendment Rules, 2017. "The Reserve Bank clarifies that, in applicable cases, linkage of Aadhaar number to bank account is mandatory under the Prevention of Money Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Second Amendment Rules, 2017 published in the Official Gazette on June 1, 2017," the RBI said. These rules have statutory force and, as such, banks have to implement them without awaiting further instructions, it said.

It was in a response to a Right to Information (RTI) Act application filed by Moneylife India (and carried by it on October 18) that the RBI said, "The Government has issued a Gazette Notification GSR 538(E) dated 1 June 2017 regarding Prevention of Money Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Second Amendment Rules, 2017, inter-alia, making furnishing of Aadhaar (for those individuals who are eligible to be enrolled for Aadhaar) and permanent number (PAN) mandatory for opening a bank account. It may be noted that Reserve Bank has not yet issued instruction in this regard".

Meeting Dalai a hostile act against us: China

He is a politician under cloak of religion

K J M VARMA



BEIJING: China on Saturday warned that it would consider as it a "major offence" if any country or foreign leader hosts or meets the Dalai Lama as it deems the Tibetan spiritual leader a "separatist" trying to split Tibet from it. "Any country or any organisation of anyone to accept to meet with the Dalai Lama in our view is a major offence to the sentiment of the Chinese people," said Zhang Yijiong, Executive Vice Minister of the United Front Work Department of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC). "Also, since they have committed to recognising China as a sole legitimate government representing Tibet, it contravenes their attempt, because it is a serious commitment," Zhang said on the sidelines of the once-in-a-five-year congress of the CPC.

Zhang said China would not accept the arguments of foreign countries and leaders to meet the 82-year-old Dalai Lama as a religious leader. "I want to make it clear that the 14th Dalai Lama, the living Buddha handed down by history is a political figure under the cloak of religion," he said. Without naming India, he said Dalai Lama fled to the "other country" in 1959 "betraying his motherland and setup his so called government in exile". That "so called government" has the mission of a separatist agenda to split Tibet from China, he said. "For decades, the group with 14th Dalai Lama as the leader never stopped to achieve that political agenda," he said. "There is no legitimate government that has recognised the Dalai Lama group, he said, adding that fewer countries and leaders are hosting him. Some countries may say the Dalai Lama is not a political figure but a religious figure and their officials meet him not in his political capacity. "But that is not true and not right because every official represent their government and they are political figures," Zhang said.

BJP is demon-eting TN film for rapping GST: Rahul

OUR CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI/ NEW DELHI: Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday hit out at the Tamil Nadu BJP for demanding cuts in actor Vijay-starrer 'Mersal', which has apparently mocked the GST. The comments come a day after Union Minister Pon Radhakrishnan demanded removal of dialogues in the flick which he termed as "untruths" about the GST, rolled out by the BJP-led NDA government on July 1.

ding leader in the party and a screen writer. The super-hit movie had powerful dialogues espousing reformist and egalitarian ideals. Chidambaram had asked what would happen if the movie were to be released today. Replying to the tweet, Tamil Nadu BJP leader and national secretary H Raja said if that were to happen, people would not allow the government to run temples by quoting a popular dialogue from it.

Kamal Haasan backs Mersal



CHENNAI: Veteran actor Kamal Haasan on Saturday threw his weight behind the makers of Vijay-starrer 'Mersal', asking those opposing the just-released Tamil movie over references to the GST to "counter criticism with logical response". In a Twitter post, Haasan said: "Mersal was certified. Don't re-censor it". "Counter criticism with logical response. Don't silence critics. India will shine when it speaks," he said. Haasan had a few years ago threatened to leave India in wake of protests against his film 'Vishwaroopam'.

383 police killed in line of duty in last one year: IB

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: As many as 383 police personnel, including 56 belonging to the BSF and 42 from the Jammu and Kashmir, have laid down their lives in the line of duty in last one year. Director of Intelligence Bureau Rajiv Jain said on Saturday. Addressing the Police Commemoration Day, where Home Minister Rajnath Singh led the nation in paying tribute to martyrs of police forces, Jain said the 383 police personnel were killed while performing various duties across the country from September 2016 to August 2017.

US SECY OF STATE TILLERSON TO VISIT INDIA, PAK THIS WEEK

Modi wants peace with Pak... but not at cost of India's security: USA

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON DC: Prime Minister Narendra Modi cannot "pursue peace" with Pakistan in a way that "cuts his own security", a top Trump administration official has said, asserting that it is in the interest of Islamabad to build confidence with New Delhi to restart commercial ties.



Ahead of Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's maiden visit to India and Pakistan this week, the official, with an insight into the administration's policy over South Asia, was responding to questions on what India could do to bring peace and stability in the region, in particular with Pakistan.

We're curbing Kashmir radicals: Army chief

JAMMU: Army chief General Bipin Rawat said on Saturday that radicalisation in Kashmir is being addressed with a "lot of seriousness", as he blamed the social media for its rise. Rawat, on a day-long visit here, also brushed aside the issue of alleged braid chopping incidents in the state as a "routine matter" which the civil administration and the police would deal with. "Radicalisation is

taking place. It is a worldwide phenomenon that radicalisation is taking place. We are addressing it with a lot of seriousness," Rawat told reporters here when asked if radicalisation was taking place in the Kashmir Valley. Rawat, who presented President's Standards to 47 Armoured Regiment, said that the Jammu and Kashmir government, the police, the admin-

CONG REJECTS MEDIA REPORT THAT BOTS ARE BEHIND SURGE IN 'GANDHI MESSAGES' RETWEETS

Smriti smells Russia-Indonesia-Kazakhstan connection to Rahul's Twitter popularity

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani on Saturday taunted Congress Vice-President Rahul Gandhi over the rise in the number of people retweeting his messages and sought to link this with Twitter accounts in Russia, Indonesia and Kazakhstan. The Congress, however, immediately rejected the charge as "factually wrong".



The latest war of words between the BJP and the Congress over Rahul Gandhi's rising popularity on Twitter broke out after news agency ANI suggested that "bots" or web robots, which can produce automated mass retweets, were behind the increases in number of people



retweeting Gandhi's messages. However, the veracity of report could not be independently ascertained. Irani took to the microblogging website to suggest that the retweets were from fake accounts abroad. "Perhaps @OfficeOfIRG planning to sweep polls in Russia, Indonesia & Kazakhstan ?? #RahulWaveInKazakh," she said in a tweet which tagged the media report. Questioning

whether automated bots were mass retweeting Gandhi's tweets, the report said that on October 15, 'OfficeOfIRG' retweeted US President Donald Trump's tweet praising American-Pakistani relations with a caption 'Modi ji quick, looks like President Trump needs another hug'. The tweet quickly reached 20,000 retweets and currently has touched 30,000, the report claimed, adding that a close

analysis of this tweet showed that these alleged 'bots' with a Russian, Kazakh or Indonesian characteristic were routinely retweeting the Congress vice-president's tweets. An Internet bot is a software application that runs automated tasks (scripts) over the Internet. Congress Rajya Sabha MP and Gandhi family loyalist Rajeev Shukla jumped to the party vice president's defence, saying that social media connects the whole world and retweets originating from Russia, Kazakhstan and Indonesia should not be considered out of place. "They (the BJP) are afraid of Rahul Gandhi and his popularity," he told TV channels. Another Congress leader and



Weekend Break



The Final Lap Begins

Year 2017 saw A-listers performing below par because of their content. With just two months remaining, the audience and industry pins their hopes on the remaining films

Even as the film industry enters its final quarter, all eyes and hopes are on the remaining releases to revive tinsel town — three out-and-out commercial and five content-laden flicks. Who will get the cash registers ringing? The industry weighs in.

BHAKTI MEHTA, SURAN-JANA BISWAS

It is that time of the year when everyone starts analysing the year that has been for the film industry. So far, business hasn't been good.

There were high expectations and many failures. Many films failed at the box office, many failed to live up to expectations.

Tubelight, *Jab Harry Met Sejal* and *Jagga Jasoos* are the biggest examples.

While the biggies failed to impress, content-driven films marched ahead to victory at the ticket counter. Five little movies that did big business were — *Hindi Medium*, *Shubh Mangal Saavdhan*, *Lipstick Under My Burkha*, *Bareilly Ki Barfi* and *Newton*. From the biggies, it was only *Raees*, *Kaabil*, *Toilet: Ek Prem Katha*, *Badrinath Ki Dulhania* and *Judwaa 2* that worked.

With few weeks to go for this year to end, three biggies are hoping to create magic at the BO — *Golmaal Again!!!*, *Padmavati* and *Tiger Zinda Hai*. While *Secret Superstar* may not be considered a traditional 'biggie', it can surely be called one with Aamir Khan as its main promotional attraction, whose movies have been consistently setting new records since *Ghajini*.

Not to be left behind, content-driven films waiting to make a mark at the ticket counters before the year is over are — Manoj Bajpayee's *Rukh*, Sidharth Malhotra, Sonakshi Sinha and Akshay Khanna's *Ittefaq*, Irrfan's *Qarib Qarib Single*, Vidya Balan's *Tumhari Sulu* and Excel Entertainment's *Fukrey Returns*.

Will the biggies out-do the content-driven films at the box office? Which category will make the business of movies profitable once again this year? While one's guess is as good as any, some things are best left to the experts to decode:

VIVEK KRISHNANI

Managing director, sony pictures entertainment, india

2017 has been a red herring year for us because we have been

squarely told by audiences that if our content isn't good, it won't work. Star power has given way to content and that's also why so many leading stars are consciously pushing the envelope by doing films that are different and don't just depend on them.

There are great hopes from *Golmaal Again!!!*, *Padmavati* and *Tiger Zinda Hai* — each of these films has already generated great buzz and are likely to be blockbusters but that's also because either there is a new story to tell or because there is a huge franchise value attached to it.

ABBAS-MUSTAN
Director

Of course, pan-India, commercial films will definitely do well. All these films — *Tiger Zinda Hai*, *Padmavati*, *Golmaal Again!!!* — are going to be big hits because they are meant for a family audience. Content-driven films are doing well, but not that great as their budgets are very low. Of course, they are earning well. If the script is good, a film definitely works well, whether commercial or content-driven.

REMO D'SOUZA
Director

Yes, I feel these films will revive the collections at the box office. Looking at the success of *Judwaa 2*, it feels that these commercial films will taste success at the box office. All the three biggies look great and have a lot of potential. They will help us get over the bad phase that we are experiencing right now. I think a good film with good entertainment value will achieve success. People should enjoy the film and that's how it works. Content-driven films will definitely balance out the commercial equation.

GUNEET MONGA
Producer

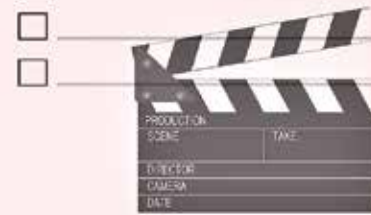
It is not so much that most films have performed poorly at the box office this year. It is because most A-lister films have performed below the mark. What's common between all of them is that the content failed to appeal to the audience. However, we have seen that few smaller-scale films have performed well, be it *Haraamkhor*, *Lipstick Under My Burkha*, *Newton* and films like *Hindi Medium*, *Bareilly Ki Barfi* and *Shubh Mangal Saavdhan*.

FILM LIST

Films to see



- Golmaal Again!!!
- Fukrey Returns
- Padmavati
- Rukh
- Tumhari Sulu
- Ittefaq
- Secret Superstar
- Tiger Zinda Hai
- Qarib Qarib Single



hard work that goes into making a film; I wish everyone would achieve success.

RITESH SHAH
Writer

They all seem to be big ticket entertainment and likely to fill box office coffers. Luckily, they belong to different genres but, God forbid, if they don't, we will be left asking — what kind of films should we be making, mass entertainers or realistic, quasi-realistic high-concept films?

ATANU MUKHERJEE
Director

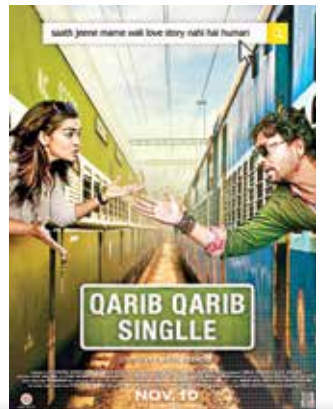
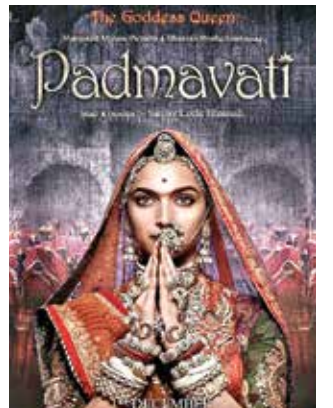
I think these are the few most-awaited movies of this year. If they work, the box office will surely revive. Yes, I am hopeful about that. Content-driven films are being appreciated across the country. As more such movies are made, we can expect a substantial balance between content-driven films and commercial movies.

JASPAL DHINGRA
Distributor

The films that haven't worked at the box office are those with weak content, worked pretty well at the box office. Stars who do not get any importance have done miracles. You can take a look at *Subh Mangal Saavdhan*, *Bareilly Ki Barfi*. Their content has made them successful. Most of the times, we have concentrated on the star cast with no content. While Shah Rukh's and Salman's films usually do well, this time, due to lack of content, they didn't. There is hope that *Padmavati* and *Tiger Zinda Hai* will make up for the losses. They are big banner films and the makers are efficient as well.

ARUN MEHRA
PROPRIETOR, AUM MOVIEZ

Judwaa 2 did well, no doubt, but it is relatively a smaller budget film compared to *Tubelight* or *When Harry Met Sejal*. These films have high costs of distribution and *Judwaa 2* can never make up for the losses of Salman, Shah Rukh, or Aamir. We certainly hope that they can help recover the losses, because not only the distributors, even the exhibitors are at a loss. Right now, it is too early to say.



CARNIVAL: ODEON COMPLEX



Golmaal Again (UA) Hindi, 2D
09:30 AM 12:30 PM 03:45 PM
07:00 PM 10:15 PM

Movies this week

Secret Superstar (UA) Hindi, 2D
10:15 AM 01:15 PM 04:15 PM 07:30 PM
10:45 PM

DT CINEMAS: DLF PLACE, SAKET



Secret Superstar (UA) Hindi, 2D
09:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:20 AM 12:15 PM
01:15 PM 03:30 PM 04:30 PM
05:00 PM 06:45 PM 07:45 PM 10:00 PM
11:00 PM 11:35 PM

Golmaal Again (UA) Hindi, 2D
09:25 AM 10:00 AM 10:45 AM 12:40 PM
01:15 PM 01:40 PM 02:00 PM 04:05 PM
05:15 PM 07:25 PM 08:15 PM 08:30 PM
10:45 PM 11:00 PM 11:45 PM
Judwaa 2 (UA) Hindi, 2D 04:30 PM
Mersal (UA) Tamil, 2D 07:35 PM

DT CINEMAS: SAVITRI COMPLEX GK2

Golmaal Again (UA) Hindi, 2D
08:20 AM 02:05 PM 08:30 PM 11:35 PM
Secret Superstar (UA) Hindi, 2D
11:00 AM 05:20 PM

PVR: DIRECTOR'S CUT, AMBIENCE DELHI

Golmaal Again (UA) Hindi, 2D
09:00 AM 10:50 AM 12:25 PM 02:00 PM
03:50 PM 05:10 PM 07:15 PM 08:20 PM
10:40 PM 11:30 PM
Secret Superstar (UA) Hindi, 2D
09:00 AM 09:30 AM 12:10 PM 12:55 PM
03:20 PM 04:20 PM 06:30 PM 07:45 PM
09:40 PM 11:10 PM

PVR: NARAINA, DELHI

Secret Superstar (UA) Hindi, 2D
08:30 AM 10:00 AM 11:45 AM 01:15 PM
03:00 PM 04:30 PM 06:15 PM 07:45 PM
09:30 PM 11:00 PM
Golmaal Again (UA) Hindi, 2D
09:00 AM 10:30 AM 12:15 PM 01:45 PM
03:30 PM 05:00 PM 06:45 PM 08:15 PM
10:00 PM 11:30 PM

PVR: RIVOLI, DELHI

Golmaal Again (UA) Hindi, 2D
09:00 AM 03:30 PM 10:00 PM
Secret Superstar (UA) Hindi, 2D
12:15 PM 06:45 PM

WAVE: RAJA GARDEN

Golmaal Again (UA) Hindi, 2D
09:15 AM 10:40 AM 12:05 PM 01:40 PM
02:10 PM 02:55 PM 04:40 PM 05:45 PM
07:40 PM 08:35 PM 10:45 PM 11:25 PM
Secret Superstar (UA) Hindi, 2D 10:30 AM
11:00 AM 01:30 PM 04:30 PM 05:05 PM

07:30 PM 08:00 PM 10:25 PM 10:55 PM

PVR PROMENADE: VASANT KUNJ



Dangar Doctor Jelly (U) Punjabi, 2D
04:50 PM

Golmaal Again (UA) Hindi, 2D
09:00 AM 09:55 AM 10:20 AM 10:50 AM
12:15 PM 01:10 PM 01:35 PM 02:05 PM
03:30 PM 04:25 PM 05:20 PM 06:45 PM
07:40 PM 08:35 PM 10:00 PM 10:55 PM
10:55 PM 11:50 PM
Secret Superstar (UA) Hindi, 2D
09:35 AM 10:30 AM 11:25 AM 12:50 PM
01:45 PM 02:40 PM 04:05 PM 05:00 PM
05:55 PM 07:20 PM 08:15 PM 09:10 PM
10:35 PM 11:30 PM
Judwaa 2 (UA) Hindi, 2D 07:40 PM

SATYAM CINEPLEXES: JANAK PLACE

Golmaal Again (UA) Hindi, 2D
09:00 AM 10:15 AM 12:15 PM 01:30 PM
03:30 PM 04:45 PM 06:45 PM 08:00 PM
10:00 PM 11:15 PM
Secret Superstar (UA) Hindi, 2D
09:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 01:15 PM
03:15 PM 04:30 PM 06:30 PM 07:45 PM
09:45 PM 11:00 PM

PVR: MGF, GURGAON



Mersal (UA) Tamil, 2D
11:20 AM 02:40 PM 05:40 PM

Secret Superstar (UA) Hindi, 2D
09:35 AM 10:40 AM 11:45 AM 12:50 PM
01:55 PM 03:00 PM 04:05 PM 05:10 PM
06:15 PM 07:20 PM 08:25 PM 09:30 PM
10:35 PM 11:40 PM
Golmaal Again (UA) Hindi, 2D
10:10 AM 11:15 AM 12:15 PM 01:25 PM

02:30 PM 03:30 PM 04:40 PM 05:45 PM
06:45 PM 07:55 PM 09:00 PM 10:00 PM
11:10 PM 11:50 PM
Dangar Doctor Jelly (U) Punjabi, 2D
09:00 PM

PVR: MGF, GURGAON



Judwaa 2 (UA) Hindi, 2D 09:00 AM

PVR SELECT CITY WALK

Golmaal Again (UA) Hindi, 2D 09:30 AM
01:30 PM 04:00 PM 08:00 PM 10:30 PM
Secret Superstar (UA) Hindi, 2D 10:15 AM
12:45 PM 04:45 PM 07:15 PM 11:15 PM

PVR PLAZA CP

Secret Superstar (UA) Hindi, 2D
09:45 AM 04:15 PM 10:45 PM
Golmaal Again (UA) Hindi, 2D
01:00 PM 07:30 PM

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Printed & Published by Jaiyendra Kumar Sharma on behalf of Front Row Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at The Indian Express Pvt. Ltd., A-8, Sector-7, Noida-201 301 (U.P.) and published from First Floor, Pratap Bhawan, 5 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi 110 002. Editor: Durbar Ganguly, Executive Editor: Arya Rudra. Email: durbarganguly@gmail.com, Tel. No. 011-47777500

“Let’s fix the problems with GST instead of re-censoring a movie”
– Manish Sisodia on Twitter

Despite dwindling pollutants, Delhi’s air quality continues to be ‘severe’

Commuters fume as snag hits services at Metro’s Blue Line

Among the 17 monitoring stations maintained by CPCB, eight recorded ‘severe’ air quality



Delhi’s Akshardham temple on a foggy morning PIC/PTI

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The volume of pollutants markedly came down in Delhi on Saturday with their rapid dispersion caused by a strong wind movement, a day after Diwali fireworks pushed the city’s air quality into the ‘severe’ zone for the first time this year. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), which attributed Friday’s high pollution levels to calm wind movement and a low mixing height (where air and suspended particles mix), said the situation will improve further by Sunday if favourable conditions prevail. “The wind speed is expected to pick up and reach up to 9 km/hour, which is adequate enough for the dispersion of suspended particulates. Yesterday (Friday) and the day before, wind speed and mixing height were extremely low, which led to the rapid build up of pollutants near the surface,” Dipankar Saha, CPCB’s air lab head, said.

The improvement was captured by the pollution monitoring stations. Six out of the eight stations maintained by SAFAR (System of Air Quality Forecasting and Research), an agency under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, had air quality index (AQI) in the ‘very poor’ category, a shade better than ‘severe’. Among the stations maintained by the CPCB, nine out of 17 were in the ‘very poor’ category, while the rest recorded ‘severe’ air quality. A ‘very poor’ AQI comes with the warning that people may develop respiratory illness on prolonged exposure while exposure to ‘severe’ air affects healthy people and seriously impacts those with existing respiratory or cardiovascular diseases. At 12 PM, the 24-hour rolling average of PM2.5 and PM10, ultra-fine particulates, which are up to 30 times tinier than the width of a human hair, were 206 and 357 microgrammes per cubic metre (ug/m3) respectively, as against Fri-

day’s 407 and 595. Their 24-hour safe standards are 60 and 100 and anything beyond that is considered harmful as these particles enter the respiratory system and can manage to reach the bloodstream, causing irreparable damage to humans and animals. Diwali fireworks left Delhi gasping on Friday as night-long bursting of firecrackers despite a Supreme Court ban on their sale had plunged the air quality into the ‘severe’ zone for the first time this year. Pollution in Delhi breached emergency levels on the Diwali night and the air quality worsened the day after, but compared to last year’s post Diwali period, the city is relatively better off, the pollution monitoring agencies concurred in their reports on Friday. The CPCB, the country’s apex pollution regulator, had on Friday recorded an air quality index (AQI) of 403 in Delhi, 402 in Noida and 412 in Ghaziabad, all in the severe zone, or the most polluted category, on October 20. In a direct indicator of the impact of firecrackers, the SO2 (sulphur dioxide) levels that otherwise remain very low in the region, had increased by more than three times in several locations, including R K Puram, Shadipur and Punjabi Bagh on October 19, the Centre for the Science and Environment (CSE) said. Delhi Environment Minister Imran Hussain had reviewed the situation during a meeting here on Friday. The government had issued a statement following the meeting, saying major changes in the level of pollutants were observed after 8 PM on Thursday when the fireworks started. On Friday, the US Embassy’s pollution monitor recorded ‘hazardous’ air quality with the index scoring an alarming 878, which the mission considers “beyond its air quality index” (AQI), which ends at 500? But unlike previous years, the run-up to Diwali festivities was much cleaner this time.

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Delhi Metro services on the Blue Line were affected on Saturday for around 45 minutes due to a technical glitch, causing hardship to several commuters on the occasion of Bhai Dooj festival. The snag occurred when the pantograph – which supplies power from the overhead wire to the train – got entangled in the overhead equipment (OHE) of a train between Rajiv Chowk and R K Ashram Marg section, while approaching Rajiv Chowk station at 9.20 am. As a result, from 9.20 am to 10.05 am, train services were regulated on Line-3 in short loop between Yamuna Bank and Noida/Vaishali, between Karol Bagh and Dwarka Sector-21 and in single line between Karol Bagh and Yamuna Bank section. A spokesperson of Delhi Metro rail Corporation (DMRC) informed that the OHE team undertook the restoration work in the affected section on down line and the train was removed from service at 10.05 am, after which services were restored. On a day when the festive mood was bound to invite a large rush of passengers, the disruption of Metro services did not go down well with commuters. Many of them took to Twitter to express their anger and frustration, slamming the DMRC over the poor services accorded to commuters despite the recent fare hikes. DMRC is yet to release an official statement behind the exact reason that caused the delay. The recent snag in services comes in the face of the second fare hike this year by Delhi Metro. Despite boasting of being the most comfortable and punctual mode of public transport in the capital, technical snags have been very frequent, especially on the Blue Line of the Metro. The Blue Line of the Delhi Metro network consists of 44 stations between Dwarka Sector 21 and Noida City Centre, with a branch line consisting of eight stations from Vaishali to Yamuna Bank.

Couple found dead inside hotel room in west Delhi

ZAFAR ABBAS

NEW DELHI: A man and a woman allegedly committed suicide inside a hotel in west Delhi’s Rajouri Garden. The bodies of the couple and a suicide note were discovered on Saturday evening by the hotel staff.

At 5.20 pm on Saturday, Delhi Police received a call from Hotel Aman Deluxe that a couple who had checked in on Friday were not opening the door to their room. A police team soon arrived at the spot and broke open the door, only to find the couple lying dead on the bed.

Further inquiry revealed that the couple, both reportedly in their mid-twenties, had checked in around 8.30 am Friday as husband and wife. The male victim had entered his name as K Suresh, resident of Putuvalli Pallippad in Alappuzha, Kerala. Police have not yet identified the female victim.

A suicide note written in Malayalam, believed to be written by the deceased male, was recovered by cops. In the three line note, the victim had apologised to his mother and said that he and his wife did not wish to live together anymore.

Police said that around 9.30 am, the couple had asked for parathas with curd and two cups of tea for breakfast. The couple had consumed the tea but left the food untouched inside their room. “Initial investigations reveal it to be an act of suicide. Further investigations are in progress,” DCP West, Vijay Kumar said.

Cops felicitate elderly man who helped nab bike-borne snatchers

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Trying to rob the wife of a senior citizen proved costly for two bike-borne men, who tried to snatch her earring but were taken down by the agile old man who caught hold of them before passersby helped nab the miscreants. The brave efforts of 63-year-

old Ravindra Pathak were recognised by Delhi Police, who felicitated him. The incident occurred around 6.30 am on Friday, when Pathak – a retired gardener with Delhi Development Authority and resident of Nehru Vihar – was on a morning walk with his wife Bhawani. As the elderly couple

reached Adarsh Lakhpat School in north east Delhi’s Karawal Nagar, two miscreants on a motorcycle slowly passed by them. Suddenly, they snatched Bhawani’s earring and sped away. The alert Pathak immediately caught hold of the robber’s shirt seated in the backseat and grabbed him. The other cul-



Ravindra Pathak being felicitated by Delhi Police PIC/MPOST

prit, meanwhile, accelerated his motorcycle to flee the spot. However, an auto-rickshaw driver passing came right in front of the biker and stopped him. Soon, other passersby nabbed the two thieves and handed them over to the cops. Unfortunately, the robbers secretly passed off the earring to a third unknown person, who could not be identified by Pathak. The entire incident was recorded in a CCTV camera. “Showing exemplary courage, Ravindra Pathak helped police in arresting two robbers Javed and Aarif, who are involved in more than 19 cases of robbery and snatching of different police stations,” said A K Singla, DCP, North East Delhi.

Bartender’s murder in Saket: Accused arrested from Odisha

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The accused in the murder of a bartender, whose dismembered body was recovered from a refrigerator in south Delhi’s Saket, has been arrested by Delhi Police from Odisha.

Badal Mandal, a native of West Bengal, had been on the run since October 10, after he allegedly killed his friend and colleague Vipin Joshi. Mandal then chopped Joshi’s body into three pieces and stored it in the refrigerator at his house in Saket’s Saidulajab area, and before fled the city.

The body was found by the police on the evening of October 14.

“Mandal has been arrested by our team. He was brought to Delhi on Friday,” Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Chinmoy Biswal told reporters on Saturday.

During interrogation, Mandal revealed that the prime motive behind the murder was to avenge Vipin, who had reportedly developed a relationship with the wife of the accused. Believing that Joshi



Accused Badal Mandal in police custody on Saturday PIC/MPOST

was having an affair with his wife, Mandal he decided to eliminate Joshi.

Both the accused and the victim lived in the same area and worked as bartenders in the same restaurant in South Delhi. Cops said that Mandal had planned the murder well in advance.

When Joshi disappeared on October 10, his family approached police and lodged a missing complainant. As part of their search for Joshi, cops reached Mandal’s house on October 14, but found that he was not at home.

However, they found Joshi’s dismembered body inside Mandal’s refrigerator. As he was

missing, Mandal became the prime accused in the case. “We then formed several teams to locate him as he was our prime suspect,” Biswal said.

After Delhi Police found him in Odisha, he confessed to his crime. He told police that since he suspected Joshi of having an affair with his wife, he decided to murder him.

On October 10, he called Joshi to come to his place, where the two consumed liquor. After getting Joshi highly intoxicated, Mandal took a meat cleaver and stuck him.

Panicked, the accused cut Joshi’s body into three pieces and hid it in the refrigerator.

Three held for killing youth in Mandoli village

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police have arrested three persons, involved in the murder of a man in Mandoli area of north east Delhi which took place on the intervening night of October 19 and 20.

The accused, who killed the victim over an altercation, were identified as 24-year-old Raza, a resident of Sushila Garden, 22-year-old Mukeem, a resident of Muradabad in Uttar Pradesh, and Sebu, a resident of Ganga Shai Colony in Mandoli.

Late on October 19, a PCR call was received at Harsh Vihar police station that a man had been found dead near Daya Nursing home in Mandoli village. Police reached the spot, and the victim was identified as 21-year-old Sandeep, a resident of Mandoli. MPOST

LG gives nod to proposal to empower PWD engineers

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal has approved a proposal by the Public Works Department (PWD) to delegate financial powers to the department’s engineering officers to speed-up decision-making processes.

The engineer-in-chief, who earlier did not have financial powers, can now take a decision on works that cost between Rs four crore and Rs five crore.

A senior government official said that the move also intends to ensure the accountability of area officers concerned and completion of projects on time.

Earlier, the chief engineer and the secretary had financial powers only to carry out works such as maintenance of



LG Anil Bajjal (second from right) at Yamuna river takes part in the Yamuna Mahaarti on Saturday PIC/MPOST

roads, installation of road signs, marking of roads among others, the official said.

According to an order issued by the Delhi government’s finance department, an executive engineer can take decisions on projects that cost less than Rs 30 lakh.

“The Lieutenant Governor has given his nod to the proposal seeking financial pow-

ers for engineering officers at various levels. According to the order, a superintendent engineer can execute the department’s works costing between Rs 30 lakh and Rs one crore,” the official said.

The principal chief engineer has been given financial powers to execute works that cost between Rs two crore and Rs four crore, he said.



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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fit a GPS vehicle tracking system so that it can be tracked anytime. 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove stereo while parking for a long time and leave no valuables in the car.

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GUJARAT POLLS

Cong invites Hardik, Alpesh and Mevani to join hands

OUR CORRESPONDENT

AHMEDABAD: Hoping to garner support of various communities in Gujarat polls, the state Congress on Saturday invited Patidar quota stir spearhead Hardik Patel, Thakor community leader Alpesh Thakor and dalit leader Jignesh Mevani to join hands with the party to defeat the ruling BJP.

Apart from these leaders, the Congress also hinted at forging a pre-poll alliance with Sharad Pawar-led NCP and bringing on board Chhotu Vasava, the lone JD(U) MLA from the state.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, state Congress chief Bharatsinh Solanki expressed confidence that the party would easily win over 125 seats, out of total 182, with the "support and blessings" of all these leaders and parties.

"Though the BJP is trying its best to win the polls, it will not succeed in stopping the Congress' victory march to Gandhinagar," he said.

"We respect as well as endorse the cause for which Hardik Patel is fighting. I appeal to Hardik to support the Congress during the polls. We are also ready to give him a ticket if he wants to fight elections in the future," Solanki



Hardik Patel, Jignesh Mevani, Alpesh Thakor

told reporters.

"Similarly, we also invite Alpesh Thakor and Jignesh Mevani to join hands with the Congress. I also invite Chhotu Vasava, who helped us in the Rajya Sabha polls, to support the Congress," he said.

Though the NCP had "betrayed" Congress in the RS polls, the party's doors are still open for them if they also want to overthrow the BJP from Gujarat, he added.

In the Rajya Sabha polls, two NCP MLAs claimed to have voted for BJP candidate Balwantsinh Rajput despite their promise to vote for Congress leader Ahmed Patel.

JD(U)'s lone MLA Vasava, whose party has formed the government in Bihar with the support of BJP, had voted for Ahmed Patel, who eventually won the election.

Vasava had said after the Rajya Sabha elections in Gujarat in August this year that he

had decided to vote for the Congress candidate as he was "unhappy" with the ruling party's works for the poor and tribal population that he represents. He was elected from Scheduled Tribe-reserved Jhagadia assembly seat in Bharuch district in south Gujarat.

Solanki also claimed that some Aam Admi Party (AAP) leaders from Gujarat were also in contact with his party and may join hands with it ahead of the polls.

Senior AAP leader Kanubhai Kalsariya had met Rahul Gandhi during the latter's visit to central Gujarat early this month. "Just like Kalsariya, many other AAP leaders are in touch with us. They may join the Congress soon," Solanki claimed.

He claimed that his party has emerged as a strong contender in the upcoming polls.

The Congress is out of power in Gujarat for 22 years.

AAP comes out with first list of 11 candidates

OUR CORRESPONDENT

AHMEDABAD: Aam Admi Party (AAP) on Saturday declared its first list of candidates for eleven Assembly constituencies in Gujarat including Rajkot (West), while stating that it would not contest from the seats where it is weak.

Rajkot (West) is currently represented by chief minister Vijay Rupani. AAP is going to field businessman Rajesh Bhut from the seat.

Delhi minister and AAP's Gujarat election in-charge Gopal Rai told reporters here that the names were finalised at a meeting of the party's political affairs committee in Delhi on Friday.

There are a total of 182 Assembly seats in Gujarat.

The election schedule is yet to be announced.

The constituency-wise candidates announced by the AAP today are: Anil Verma (Bapunagar), Ramesh Patel (Unjha), Rajesh Bhut (Rajkot (West)), J J Mewada (Danilimda), Nimeesha Khunt (Gondal), M D Manajaria (Lathi), Arjun

Rathwa (Chhota Udepur), Rajendra Patel (Padra), Hanif Jamadar (Karjan), Rajiv Pandey (Pardi) and Ram Dhaduk (Kamrej).

Of these, nine constituencies are currently represented by BJP MLAs, while Danilimda in Ahmedabad and Chhota Udepur are with the Congress.

"We will be fighting these elections with a pledge to rid Gujarat of BJP. We had earlier said we will fight against the BJP on select seats. We want to give a direct fight to the ruling party, and we will not contest from any seat where we are weak and where there is possibility of division of votes which may help the BJP," Rai said.

Among AAP's candidates, Manajaria is a retired deputy collector and Mewada is a retired deputy superintendent of police. Verma is an educationist while Rathwa, Patel and Khunt are social activists.

Rai said the party will contest from only those seats which fulfil the criteria decided by its high command. Candidates for more seats would be declared in coming days.

Pakistan firing claims one more life in J&K

SRINAGAR: An Army porter was on Saturday killed and a girl injured in firing by Pakistani troops along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kamalkote sector of Baramulla district in Jammu and Kashmir.

"There was unprovoked ceasefire violation by Pakistani troops along the LoC in Kamalkote area," an army official said.

A civilian working as a porter for the Army was killed "when the Pakistani troops resorted to indiscriminate firing," the official said.

The Indian army personnel were giving a "strong and befitting" response to the ceasefire violation, he said.

Meanwhile, sources said a girl was also injured in the Pakistani firing. She was taken to a hospital in Uri town for treatment. There has been a sharp increase in ceasefire violations by Pakistan this year.

On October 12, an army jawan and a porter were killed and six others injured when Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire and shelled forward areas along the LoC in the Poonch district. Eight civilians, including a two-year-old girl, were injured on October 18 when Pakistani troops shelled civilian hamlets and forward posts along the LoC in Poonch and Rajouri districts.

Earlier this month, a Home Ministry official had said that Pakistani troops targeted Indian territories more than 600 times till September 30. Eight civilians and 16 security personnel were killed in the firing.

AGENCIES

Cong, NCP slam MNS for evicting hawkers

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI: The Congress and the NCP slammed the MNS for forcibly evicting illegal hawkers from a railway bridge and claimed that Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is "hand-in-gloves" with the Raj Thackeray-led party.

"The Chief Minister was well aware of the threats given by Raj Thackeray and given his track record, the chief minister should have ordered the round up of MNS workers before their given deadline ended. But, the CM is hand-in-gloves with the MNS and hence, North Indians are allowed to be tortured," Mumbai Congress chief Sanjay Nirupam told reporters here.

He added that the government has failed to enforce the Street Vendors Act, which seeks to protect hawkers.

"Had they enforced it, there would have been a survey done and illegal street vendors would have automatically been evicted by law. However, the chief minister is protecting goondaism," he said.

"The CM should take action against MNS workers or the Congress will hold protests to protect the rights of street vendors," Nirupam added.

Thackeray had on October 5 met railway officials and had submitted a list of issues related to Mumbai locals with a deadline of 15 days. "If things don't get better, we will see," Thackeray had said.

NCP leader Dhananjay



MNS chief Raj Thakre

Munde questioned if the "violence" by MNS workers was in connivance with the Chief Minister.

"What Raj Thackeray's party workers did can be analysed later. The first question is what has the government done after 23 people lost their lives on Elphinstone bridge."

Was responsibility fixed on those responsible," the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council questioned.

"The Chief Minister keeping silent despite a threat by Raj Thackeray and now his men indulging in violence raises a doubt and makes us question if there is connivance between both of them," he added.

A group of activists claiming to be affiliated to the MNS today drove away more than two dozen illegal hawkers from a railway bridge in Thane.

Around 25 activists descended on the Satis bridge this morning and evicted the hawkers, numbering about two dozens, who were selling their wares there.

Journalist-RSS worker shot dead in UP

GHAZIPUR (UP): An RSS worker and journalist Rajesh Mishra was on Saturday shot dead by three motorcycle-borne assailants, who also wounded his brother, in Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur, police said.

The assailants, who came brandishing firearms, shot at Mishra (40) when he and his brother Amitesh were at their shop in Brahmanpura Chhatti area where they sold building material, circle officer Hridayanad Singh said.

Mishra was associated with Hindi daily Dainik Jagran, one of the largest selling newspapers in the country.

Mishra, who was shot in the head, was declared brought dead at the district hospital. His brother, who was shot in the abdomen, has been referred to a Varanasi hospital for further treatment.

Additional Director General of Police (law and order) Anand Kumar said in Lucknow



RSS worker Rajesh Mishra

that two of the attackers have been identified.

"Of the three assailants, two have been identified, and soon all of them will be arrested," he added.

Shantanu Bhowmik, a journalist working with a local news channel, was beaten to death while covering a clash in Tripura last month.

Senior journalist Gauri Lankesh, an outspoken critic of Hindutva politics, was shot dead in Bengaluru by unidentified assailants on September 5. Police are yet to make any arrest in the case.

AGENCIES

Girl assaulted for protesting eve-teasing in Mumbai

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI: A 16-year-old girl was left with a fractured nose after she was assaulted by a man in her neighbourhood in full public view allegedly after she protested his passing lewd comments at her.

The incident, which took place on Tuesday, was captured on a CCTV camera. The video, purportedly showing Imran Shahid Shaikh (19), who was known to the girl, attacking her, has gone viral on social and mainstream media.

"On the complaint of a victim, police had registered an offence against the man and arrest was made accordingly. Next day he was produced before the court and released on bail," Pramod Khoparde, Senior Police Inspector of Nehrunagar Police Station told PTI.

The video footage showed a man repeatedly hitting the girl, who slumped to the ground. The passersby did not come to her help before the man had left the scene.

According to a police official, the incident took place on October 17 near SRA Building in Shramjeevi Nagar at 7 pm when the girl was going to her class with a friend at Adarsh Nagar in Thakkar Bappa Colony in Chembur.

"When she was near the building, she saw a group of youths, seated inside a parked auto rickshaw, arguing loudly. The girl asked them not to make noise and then walked some distance with her friend," the official said.

However, enraged at being rebuked by her, Shaikh came out of the autorickshaw and hit her repeatedly, he said.

"Shaikh hit her on the nose with a metal object, after which she collapsed on the ground, bleeding from the nose profusely," the official said, adding Shaikh then threatened her and fled the spot.

"The people, who witnessed the incident, did not stop Shaikh from beating her," he said.

The girl was taken to a hospital, where she was found to have suffered a nose fracture, the official said.

The girl, however, told national TV channels that Shaikh was harassing her for the last few days and that when she complained to her mother about it she sent her elder sister to talk to the man's mother. However, nothing changed and Shaikh continued to pass vulgar remarks at her when she was on way to attend classes.

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Congress, Lalu come together, attack PM

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PATNA: The Congress and RJD supreme Lalu Prasad on Saturday came together on the 130th birth anniversary of Bihar's first chief minister and freedom fighter Sri Krishna Singh and attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Prasad was the chief guest at the birth anniversary programme of Singh, which was organised by the Congress here.

The BJP and its allies held a separate programme, a little away from the venue of the Congress' event, to recall the contributions Sri Babu, as Singh was known.

The event was attended by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, former chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, Meghalaya Governor Ganga Prasad and other NDA leaders.

Away from the political programmes, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar joined Governor Satya Pal Malik and Assembly Speaker Vijay Chaudhary in garlanding Singh's statue at the secretariat premises.

Making clear the future political move of the Grand Alliance after Kumar's JD(U) broke away from the coalition, Prasad spoke about his close relations with the Congress and the Congress leaders, in



turn, praised him. "The Congress is an all-India party and we (RJD) are solidly together with each other," Prasad said and urged the Congressmen to avoid fighting among themselves after whoever was elevated to the post of the party's state unit chief.

He also made a scathing attack against the prime minister over demonetisation and the Goods and Services Tax (GST), which he said had created woes for the common man.

"The RJD chief alleged that central agencies such as the CBI, ED and Income Tax were after him and his family "on the direction of the BJP". But when the rise in turnover of a company owned by BJP chief Amit Shah's son during the NDA rule came under the scanner, he was not even questioned by these agencies, he added.

Prasad also used the opportunity to hit out at Kumar. "He (Kumar) is finished politically after joining hands

with the BJP," he claimed. The Congress leaders present on the occasion, including former Lok Sabha speaker Meira Kumar, former Kerala governor and MP Nikhil Kumar and Akhilesh Singh, in turn, heaped praise on Prasad.

"Laluji has courage. Stopping the chariot of (LK) Advaniji (in October, 1990) was not a small thing," Meira Kumar said.

The host of the programme, former RJD leader Akhilesh Singh, who is now with the Congress, said, "Laluji has always been a well-wisher of (Congress president) Sonia Gandhi and (vice-president) Rahul Gandhi."

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Ten labourers were killed on the spot and 22 others injured in the incident, the police said. While 11 of the injured were being treated at the government hospital in Miraj, the rest were undergoing treatment at a rural hospital in Tasgaon, they said.

According to the police, six of the deceased have been identified so far.

10 labourers killed as truck overturns in Maharashtra



OUR CORRESPONDENT

SANGLI (Maha): A truck ferrying labourers overturned in the district's Manerajuri village on Saturday, killing 10 of them and injuring 22 others, the police said.

The truck, which was also carrying tiles, was coming from Vijapur in Karnataka. It flipped over at a sharp turn amid low visibility near Tasgaon town in this western Maharashtra dis-

trict early this morning, they said.

Ten labourers were killed on the spot and 22 others injured in the incident, the police said. While 11 of the injured were being treated at the government hospital in Miraj, the rest were undergoing treatment at a rural hospital in Tasgaon, they said.

According to the police, six of the deceased have been identified so far.

Journalist killing case: Photos of five suspects released

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MOHALI (Punjab): Almost a month after the killing of a senior journalist and his mother here, Punjab police on Saturday released photographs of five suspects who carried out a recce of the victims' house.

The photographs, procured from CCTV camera footage, showed five suspects -- of whom three were turbaned -- roaming around the house of the victims on the evening of September 22, police said.

Senior journalist K J Singh and his bed-ridden 92-year-old mother were found dead at their Phase 3B2 residence here on the afternoon of September 23.

According to the post-mortem report, 64-year-old Singh had received around 17 stab injuries while his mother was strangled to death. Police had said Singh's throat was slit.

"We have released photographs of five suspects. They appear to be young," H S Atwal, the Mohali SP and member of the special investigation team set up to probe the case, said here today.

Police investigation has revealed that these suspects were making a video of the journalist's house on the evening of September 22.

The victims' relatives and other people have already been questioned in connection with the killings. The victims' car which had been missing since the killings was also yet to be traced.

NATION BRIEFS

PORTALS OF KEDARNATH, YAMUNOTRI SHRINES CLOSED FOR WINTER

DEHRADUN: The portals of the Himalayan shrines in Kedarnath and Yamunotri were closed for the winter season on Saturday amid elaborate rituals. The portals of Gangotri shrine were closed on Friday. The only temple in the Char Dham pilgrimage circuit yet to be closed is Badrinath. Its closure is slated for November 19. The gates of the temple in Kedarnath were closed at 8.20 am after 'Samadhi puja' and 'Shuddhikaran' ceremonies were held at the sanctum sanctorum in presence of temple committee officials and Rudraprayag District Magistrate Mangesh Ghildiyal, chief executive officer of Shri Badrinath-Shri Kedarnath Mandir Samiti B D Singh said.

UP DOUBLES EX-GRATIA FOR KIN OF COPS KILLED ON DUTY TO RS 50 LAKH

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced on Saturday that ex-gratia amount given to the kin of policemen killed on duty will be doubled to Rs 50 lakh. This include Rs 40 lakh (up from Rs 20 lakh) given to the family of slain policemen and Rs 10 lakh (up from Rs five lakh) given to their parents. After paying tributes to slain personnel at the Police Lines here on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day, Adityanath said, "The state government is with the family of martyrs and is taking necessary steps in their interests." He said that soon after his BJP formed the government "it started seriously working on making the state crime-free and corruption-free". "Law and order situation has to be improved further. A lot of work has to be done in this direction," he added.

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI: Police should refrain from casting aspersions on the character of victims, complainants or their families while probing a case, the Bombay High Court has observed.

A bench led by Justice SC Dharmadhikari, in a recent order, said that a police official must display sensitivity and maturity to ensure that his or her actions do not affect a citizen's dignity and reputation.

The observations came while the bench was hearing a petition filed by a city resident seeking that the Mumbai police be directed to trace his brother, who went missing two years ago.

As per the plea filed last year, the petitioner's brother, a customs house

agent, left home one morning in October 2015, never to return. A missing persons complaint filed with the police yielded no results. Therefore, the petitioner approached the HC seeking its intervention.

The Pydhonie police station that was probing the case, informed the court that while it was trying its best, it was grossly understaffed. Accordingly, Justice Dharmadhikari passed an order in October last year transferring the probe to the Mumbai police's crime branch.

However, during a hearing last week, the court was informed that even the crime branch had made little progress in the case in the last one year.

The petitioner said that the crime



branch had ignored his suggestion that a former colleague of his brother be questioned since she had received about 50 phone calls from his brother the day before he went missing. The crime branch on the other hand told the court that it suspected that the petitioner's brother had left the house of his own accord.

The crime branch said that the petitioner's brother was addicted to alcohol, and that because his son had died a few years ago, he remained frustrated and sad all the time.

"He was addicted to drinks. His addiction and his vices frequently resulted in disputes and quarrels with his family members, including his wife."

"The suggestion is that on account of these frequent disputes and the untimely death of one of the sons, the missing person out of sheer frustration, has left the place of residence and work and is hiding himself," the crime branch said.

The petitioner however, vehemently disputed the submission and the court agreed that the crime

branch must not proceed with such assumption.

"The petitioner's brother is praying that the investigating machinery should try and trace out his missing brother. The family suffers if such aspersions, as are cast by the investigating machinery, find place in the court records or in public documents," the bench said.

"Eventually, everybody has dignity, reputation and self respect to preserve and protect. We expect investigating officers to be mature and sensitive enough not to indulge in such acts in future," it said.

The court has now suggested that the crime branch also should take help from the Gujarat police since the petitioner's brother belonged to Gujarat.

Business

“Agricultural cooperation between the US and India allows the two countries to exchange innovative ideas and promote technical knowledge

Chandrababu Naidu, Andhra Pradesh CM

Govt fixes Sovereign Gold Bond rate at Rs 2,971 per gram

NEW DELHI: The government has fixed the purchase price of Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) at Rs 2,971 per gram.

For the subscription period from October 23-25, the issue price will be Rs 2,971 per gram with Settlement on October 30, a Finance Ministry statement said on Saturday.

This is part of SGB calendar announced till December spread over 12 weeks. As per the calendar it will open for subscription from Monday to Wednesday of every week starting from October 9 until December 27. The first tranche under this closed on October 11.

The settlement will be made on the first business day of the next week for the applications received during a given week.

"The Government of India in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, has decided to allow discount of Rs 50 per gram from the issue price to those investors who apply online and the payment

is made through digital mode," it said.

For such investors, the issue price of gold bond will be Rs 2,921 per gram.

Under the scheme, the bonds are denominated in units of one gram of gold and multiples thereof. Minimum investment in the bonds is one gram with a maximum limit of subscription of 500 grams per person per fiscal year (April-March).

"The maximum limit of subscribed would be 4 kg for individual and HUF and 20 kg for trusts and similar entities per fiscal (April-March) notified by the government from time to time.

The annual ceiling will include bonds subscribed under different tranches during initial issuance by the government and those purchase from the secondary market.

Investors in these bonds have been provided with the option of holding them in physical or dematerialised form. P11

Modi hails IFFCO's steps for farmers' upliftment

To mark its golden jubilee year, IFFCO is conducting training programmes for farmers at 125 locations across the country

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that cooperative major IFFCO's initiatives to train the farming community on right use of fertilisers, advanced techniques and cash-less transactions will help in doubling farmers' income by 2022.

"IFFCO's contribution in the upliftment of farmers and co-operative organisations is praiseworthy," Modi said in a message on the occasion of the cooperative's golden jubilee year.

The cooperative has also played an important role in implementation of urea neem-coating programme rolled out by the government to curb black marketing of urea, the prime minister said in his letter to IFFCO managing director U S Awasthi.

Modi praised IFFCO for conducting programmes across



the country to train farmers and co-operative members about digitisation and cash-less transactions in the agri sector and right use of soil nutrients, among others.

Stating that the govern-

ment has fixed a target to double farmers' income by 2022, Modi said IFFCO's initiatives to connect farmers with best farm techniques would be helpful in achieving this goal.

57 cooperatives, IFFCO is today an amalgamation of over 36,000 Indian cooperatives.

On its 50th year, it is conducting training programmes for farmers at 125 locations across the country.

IFFCO posted a turnover of over Rs 22,500 crore during last fiscal. Its total fertiliser production stood at around 85 lakh tonnes and it sold nearly 110 lakh tonnes last fiscal.

The co-operative has five plants in India and three overseas.

Apart from its core business of manufacturing and selling fertilisers, IFFCO is also engaged in general insurance to rural telecom and rural retail businesses.

IFFCO's MD Awasthi this month completed 50 years in fertiliser sector, of which around 25 years are in the current organisation. P11

Clean environment is not responsibility of SC alone: India Inc

NEW DELHI: In the wake of rising pollution due to bursting of firecrackers, industry body Assocham on Saturday said clean environment should be a combined responsibility of the Centre, state governments, civil society and public at large, and not of the apex court alone.

The industry body said enforcement of the Supreme court order banning sale of firecrackers should have been ensured by the Union Environment Ministry, Delhi government, the state governments of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana in the entire NCR.

Air pollution in Delhi soared to alarming levels on Diwali night, because of bursting of firecrackers despite a Supreme Court ban on their sale in the NCR, said a survey.

"The economic interest of the traders and the manufacturers was involved but once the Supreme Court banned sale of fire crackers, the enforcement of the order should have been ensured by the Union Environment Ministry, Delhi Government, state governments of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana in the entire NCR," Assocham Secretary General D S Rawat said.

Stating that the air pollution in the NCR was 18 times more than the limit allowed, Assocham said though there was a voluntary compliance in the select areas, the ban was largely defied through sale of fire crackers on the sly inside the localities.

"The levels of PM 2.5 had risen, though there was a consolation of slightly less damage," the chamber said.

It further said there is a need for a well-coordinated action plan to control the air pollution not only during Diwali but throughout the year.

The entire government machinery should prepare an action plan in consultation with the civil society, traders, crackers manufacturers, Assocham said, adding that this action plan should be presented before the apex court along with the NGT. P11

Tata Steel Netherlands workers protest Thyssenkrupp merger

NEW DELHI: A workers' group of Tata Steel's Netherlands unit has raised concerns over the proposed Tata Steel-Thyssenkrupp merger of their steel operations in Europe in a 50:50 joint venture.

The major concern of Central Works Council (CWC) of Tata Steel Netherlands (TSN) is that, as per the MoU, the Supervisory Board of TSN will no longer be independent and that TSN's Board of Directors will not be properly constituted, a company statement said.

However, Hans Fischer, CEO of

Tata Steel's European operations has assured that the company will follow due diligence in consultation with all relevant stakeholders as Tata Steel progresses in the transaction.

"We have now entered a period of due diligence with Thyssenkrupp following the signing of the MoU," he said.

He said the company has held a number of meetings and had constructive discussions and briefings with groups representing "our employees" including the European Works Council, the CWC and the



UK Steel Committee besides the Supervisory Board and Board of Management of TSN

"These discussions are a priority for us as we seek their support for the joint venture. Tata Steel will follow due process in consultation with all relevant stakeholders as we progress in the transaction," the CEO said. On the other hand, the CWC said there is no clarity as to how the new business will be financed and where the liabilities will be placed in the business. The MoU also raises many other questions, in particular

regarding the impact on the downstream activities, it said.

The CWC observes that, "we are at the start of a long and uncertain journey which, based on current indications, is unlikely to turn out well for TSN and its employees".

It has informed the Board of Directors and Supervisory Board of TSN that it will not be supporting these plans.

The CWC said it will draw on the support of external experts and employees of TSN can rest assured that the CWC will not simply roll

over and accept decisions by the shareholder which are not good for TSN, and in particular for TSN employees. The steel workers in Germany are also not in favour of the JV. Last month, post announcement of the JV, thousands of steelworkers had come on streets in protest over the planned merger which is expected to cost up to 4,000 jobs.

On September 20, Tata Steel had signed an agreement with German steel giant Thyssenkrupp to merge their steel operations in Europe in a 50:50 joint venture. P11



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Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

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“Diwali gives us all the opportunity to reflect on life, teach respect and honour and to reflect on the events of the past in order to change the future
British Prime Minister Theresa May

Suicide bombing at Afghanistan mosques: Toll rises to 63



KABUL: Suicide bombers struck two mosques in Afghanistan during Friday prayers, a Shiite mosque in Kabul and a Sunni mosque in western Ghor province, killing at least 63 people at the end of a particularly deadly week for the troubled nation.

The Afghan president issued a statement condemning both attacks and saying that country's security forces would step up the fight to "eliminate the terrorists who target Afghans of all religions and tribes."

In the attack in Kabul, a suicide bomber walked into the Imam Zaman Mosque, a Shiite mosque in the western Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood where he detonated his explosives vest, killing 30 and wounding 45, said Maj. Gen. Alimast Momand at the Interior Ministry.

The suicide bombing in Ghor province struck a Sunni mosque, also during Friday prayers and killed 33 people, including a warlord who was apparently the target of the attack, said Mohammad Iqbal Nizami, the spokesman for the provincial chief of police.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for either attack, the latest in a devastating week that saw Taliban attacks kill scores across the country.

The US government strongly condemned the attacks in Kabul and Ghor, as well as other attacks carried out across Afghanistan this week.

"In the face of these senseless and cowardly acts, our commitment to Afghanistan is unwavering. The United States stands with the government and people of Afghanistan and will continue to support their efforts to achieve peace and security for their country," said State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert in a statement.

In the Kabul attack, eyewitness Ali Mohammad said the mosque was packed with worshippers, both men and women praying at the height of the Muslim week. The explosion was so strong that it shattered windows on nearby buildings, he said.

Local residents who rushed to the scene to help the victims were overcome with anger and started chanting, "Death to ISIS" a reference to the Islamic State group which has staged similar attacks on Shiite mosques in recent months.

Abdul Hussain Hussainzada, a Shiite community leader, said they are sure that Afghanistan's IS affiliate was behind the attack. "Our community is very worried," Hussainzada told The Associated Press.

Spain to dismiss Catalonia's government, call elections

MADRID: Spain said on Saturday that it will move to dismiss Catalonia's separatist government and call fresh elections in the region in a bid to stop its leaders from declaring independence.

Speaking after an emergency cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy said his government had no choice after the administration of Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont acted in a way that was "unilateral, contrary to the law and seeking confrontation" in holding a banned independence referendum in the northeastern region.

Taking Spain into uncharted legal waters by using Article 155 of the constitution, which allows Madrid to wrest back control of rebellious regions, Rajoy said he was asking the Senate to give him permission to dissolve the Catalan parliament and "call elections within a maximum of six months".

He is also requesting that all of Puigdemont's government be stripped of their functions, which "in principle will be carried out by (national) ministers for the duration of this exceptional situation."

The national Senate will now have to agree to these unprecedented steps - a process that will take about a



week. Rajoy's conservative Popular Party holds a majority in the Senate. As the measures enjoy the support of other major parties, they are highly likely to pass.

Catalonia sparked Spain's worst political crisis in decades with the chaotic referendum on October 1, which Puigdemont said resulted in a 90 per cent vote in favour of breaking away from Spain.

But turnout was given as 43 per cent as many anti-independence Catalans stayed away from the vote, which had been ruled illegal by the Constitutional Court, while others were hindered from voting by a police crackdown.

as 43 per cent as many anti-independence Catalans stayed away from the vote, which had been ruled illegal by the Constitutional Court, while others were hindered from voting by a police crackdown.

AGENCIES

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Man with knife attacks 4 in Munich; arrest made

BERLIN: A man with a knife attacked four people in Munich on Saturday and then fled, police said.

A suspect was arrested a few hours later, and authorities were working to determine whether he was the assailant.

Police received initial reports of an attack in the Haidhausen area, just east of downtown Munich, at about 8:30 am, spokesman Marcus da Gloria Martins said.

They determined that a lone attacker apparently had gone after passers-by indiscriminately with a knife.

The assailant attacked six people - five men and one woman - at different sites in the area, with four of them wounded and none seriously, da Gloria Martins said.

They mainly had superficial stab wounds and in one case had been hit, he added.

After the attack, police took to Twitter to warn people in the Rosenheimer Platz area to stay indoors and cautioned them to avoid the area around the



nearby Ostbahnhof railway station and a park amid conflicting accounts of the direction in which the suspect fled.

Police also issued a description of the suspect, who they said appeared to be about 40 years old and had a black bicycle, gray trousers, a green jacket and

After the attack, police took to Twitter to warn people in the Rosenheimer Platz area to stay indoors and cautioned them to avoid the area around the nearby Ostbahnhof railway station

a backpack. They described him as having a "corpulent figure" and added that he had short blond hair and was unshaven.

About three hours after the stabbing, police arrested a man matching that description who initially tried to evade officers.

"We can't yet confirm whether he is the perpetrator," da Gloria Martins said.

There was no immediate word on a possible motive.

AGENCIES

'Syria army retakes desert town from IS'

DAMASCUS: Syrian troops and militia retook the desert town of Al-Qaryatayn from the Islamic State group today ending a three-week-long fightback by the jihadists, state media said.

It was the latest in a string of reverses for IS in Syria this month that on Tuesday saw US-backed forces capture its emblematic bastion Raqqa.

The jihadists had seized Al-Qaryatayn on October 1 in a surprise counteroffensive against the Homs province town which they had lost to Russian-backed government forces in April last year.

"Units of the Syrian Arab Army in cooperation with allied forces have restored security and stability in the town of Al-Qaryatayn after eliminating the Daesh terrorists," the state SANA news agency reported, using an Arabic acronym for IS. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor of the war, said that more than 200 jihadists had pulled out of the town during the night, withdrawing into the vast desert that stretches all the way to the Iraqi border. There was no immediate word on the fate of the town's residents during IS's three-week reoccupation. Al-Qaryatayn was a symbol of religious coexistence before the civil war broke out in 2011, with some 900 Christians among its population of 30,000.

Tender Notice
e-Tenders are invited by the Commissioner of Police, Kolkata on behalf of Governor of West Bengal for "Supply, installation, configuration, testing, implementation & maintenance of Computer Aided Dispatch System for Dial 100 Police Control Room of Kolkata Police". For details interested bidder may visit the website www.wbtenders.gov.in after paper publication. The last date for submission of e-Tender is on 17.11.2017 up to 15.00 hrs. for Commissioner Of Police
ICA-T4844(3)/2017 Kolkata

'INDIA SHOULD MAKE OWN DECISIONS ON TIES WITH IRAN'

WASHINGTON: India should make its own decisions on the relationship with Iran based on its interests, a top US official has said, days after President Donald Trump condemned Tehran as a "fanatical regime" and threatened to terminate the landmark nuclear deal. At the same time, the countries should take a hard look at their business partners in Iran, the senior Trump administration official said when asked about India developing the strategically located Chabahar port in Iran, which will give it access to Afghanistan and then to Central Asia. "India should make its own decisions based on how it sees its interests," the official said. An agreement on the Chabahar port was inked by India and Iran in May 2016 after detailed discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. As per the pact, India is to equip and operate two berths in Chabahar Port Phase-I with capital investment of USD 85.21 million and annual revenue expenditure of USD 22.95 million on a 10-year lease. Ownership of equipment will be transferred to Iranian side on completion of the 10-year period or for an extended period, based on mutual agreement. "What we're asking is for all countries to take a very hard look at who you're doing business with in Iran and to understand who are the beneficial owners of these companies," the US official said.

AGENCIES

Hundreds pray for safe return of missing Indian toddler in US

HOUSTON: Hundreds of people from different walks of life in the US have participated in a prayer vigil for the safe return of a 3-year-old Indian girl who disappeared nearly two weeks ago in Richardson city in Texas.

Sherin Mathews vanished on October 7 after her adoptive father Wesley Mathews told police he left her outside their home at 3 am as punishment for not drinking her milk. The special needs toddler, according to the reports, was adopted by the Indian-origin couple from an NGO in Bihar's Nalanda last year.

Wesley Mathews, 37, was arrested for suspected child endangerment for the treatment of his daughter Sherin. He was taken into custody after reporting the incident to authorities and has been released on bond, according to police.

While police in Richardson city in the US state of Texas are yet to make a breakthrough in the case, the FBI has seized nearly 50 items, including cell-phones, laptops, a washer and a dryer from the home of Sherin. A vigil was held for the



safe return of Sherin. A priest placed a sign outside the Mathews' family home calling on the girl's parents to "tell the truth."

Her parents both remain "uncooperative," according to police.

Attendees were holding signs like "stop hiding" and "bring her home." "Come out and tell the truth so everyone can move on and have peace. Our heart and tears goes to this sweet little girl. Wherever you are God keep you with peace...please mom come out and speak up...you will be the one going to be with a broken heart that will never be repaired," said Saly Cherian,

a resident attending the vigil. "My eyes are filled with tears to see the unity of religions and cultures," said Suji Paris Long, who organised the vigil.

"The fact that the mom isn't even helping definitely frustrates me," said Kim McManus, another person attending the vigil.

"My eyes are filled with tears to see the unity of religions and cultures," said Suji Paris Long, who organised the vigil.

"The fact that the mom isn't even helping definitely frustrates me," said Kim McManus, another person attending the vigil. "The story just doesn't add up. But I am just continuing to hold on to hope," McManus said. Investigative experts feel it is what the public is not seeing that could be the most important to a resolution in the case.

"There is no question that most of what the FBI and law enforcement are doing, you don't know about," said Alex del Carmen, a Criminologist with the Tarleton State University.

AGENCIES

Trump says he'll allow release of Kennedy assassination files

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said on Saturday he will allow long blocked secret files on the 1963 assassination of John F Kennedy to be opened to the public for the first time. The November 22, 1963 assassination - has spawned multiple theories challenging the official version that Kennedy was killed a lone gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald. So the release of all the secret documents has been eagerly anticipated by historians and conspiracy theorists alike. Trump's announcement followed reports that not all the files would be released, possibly to protect still relevant intelligence sources and methods.

AGENCIES

WORLD BRIEFS

3 KILLED OUTSIDE PIZZA PARLOR IN PUERTO RICO; 3 INJURED

SAN JUAN: Police in Puerto Rico say a shooting outside a pizza parlor has left three dead and three injured in the northern city of Bayamon. A police statement says the wounded include a 1-year-old in critical condition, a 15-year-old girl and a pregnant woman. The shooting took place Friday night near Palace of the Pizzas. Police say they do not yet have a motive.

MAN ORDERED TO STAND IN SCORCHING HEAT FOR OVERSPEEDING

KARACHI: A Pakistani court has handed down an unusual punishment to a 34-year-old man for hitting a policeman with his motorcycle standing at a traffic signal for two hours every Friday for a whole year holding a placard on speed awareness. Muhammad Qasim was convicted of rashly riding a motorbike and injuring a constable deployed for former president Gen (ret'd) Pervez Musharraf's VVIP movement on September 27, 2015 in the port city of Karachi. A Judicial Magistrate sentenced Qasim to stand on the busy MA Jinnah road holding a placard inscribed with the message: "Be careful! Driving negligently and carelessly can kill" every Friday for two consecutive hours till October 11, 2018. "I was told by the magistrate to either repeat this exercise for 12-months or go to jail," Qasim said. Five policemen testified against Qasim, telling the judge that the accused was riding against traffic.

KOLKATA METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Abridged e-NIT No. KMDA/EM/SEC/EE/UNIT-13/2017-18 (2nd Call)
Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle-II, E-M Sector, KMDA, Block-C, 2nd Floor, Unnayan Bhavan Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700 091 invite online tender from eligible prequalified tenderer for the following work: **Name of work:** Electrical wiring & allied works of Conventional Centre at Noyapara Road adjacent to Radha Cinema Hall, Nawabganj, Ichapur under North Barracore Municipality. **Estimated Amount:** Rs. 22,15,230/-; **Earnest Money Deposit:** 2% of Quoted Rate; **Time of Completion:** 01 months. **Last date & time of request for tender:** 03.11.2017 at 14.00 hours. For details please contact the above office or visit our both websites. K-494
Visit Website: www.kmdaonline.org/www.wbtenders.gov.in

KOLKATA METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Abridged e-NIT No. KMDA/HOUSING/EE/DIV-I/Circle-I/UNIT-126/2017-2018
The Executive Engineer, Division-I, Circle-I, Housing Sector, KMDA (Erstwhile KIT), Unnayan Bhavan, DJ-11, Sector-II, 1st Floor, Block-A, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700 091 invites online e-tender from reliable resourceful, bonafide and experienced firms/companies/individual contractors/joint ventures/consortium for the following work: **Name of work:** Engagement of Security personnel for safe guarding of Subhas Sarobar area for six months round the clock in three shifts in KIT Scheme No. LXXV; Rs. 25,05,746/-; Rs. 50,115/-; (2) Day to day cleaning, sweeping of floor, toilets, fitting, fixtures & safe guarding of Block-A and Block-G, 1st Floor of erstwhile KIT wing office; Rs. 13,85,280/-; Rs. 27,710/-; **Time of Completion:** 6 months for Sl. No. 1 & 12 months for Sl. No. 2. **Last date & time of submission of bids online is:** 01.11.2017 up to 17:30 Hrs. for Sl. No. 1 and 14.11.2017 up to 17:00 Hrs for Sl. No. 2. For details contact the above office or visit our both websites. ICA/T-4828(3)/2017 K-499
Visit Website: www.kmdaonline.org/www.wbtenders.gov.in

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OIL INDIA LIMITED (OIL) invites Bids through its E-Procurement Portal "https://etender.srm.oilindia.in/ir/portal" against (i) IFB No. CDO6090P18 for "Laying / Construction of 400mm NB diameter, 6.5 km long gas pipeline from OCS-3 TO CGGS, Madhuban", (ii) IFB No. CDO6096P18 for "Thermal Insulation of Steam Lines, Product Lines, Fired & Non Fired Vessels, Chimneys of Fired Vessels, etc. of Production Installations for a period of 02(Two) years extendable by 01 (One) year". The details of IFBs and procedures for applying & participation can be viewed using "Guest Login" provided in the E-Procurement portal and also in OIL's web site www.oil-india.com. The link to OIL's E-Procurement portal has also been provided through OIL's web site. All corrigenda, addenda, amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. to the tender will be hosted on the website and in the e-tender portal only and no separate notification shall be issued in the press. Prospective bidders are requested to regularly visit the website and e-portal to keep themselves updated.

Indian juggernaut up against Kiwi grit



PIC/PTI



PIC/PTI

'WILL GIVE REST TO KEY BATSMEN AHEAD OF OVERSEAS TOURS'

MUMBAI: With two hectic and crucial overseas tours lined-up, India captain Virat Kohli on Saturday said they will give much-needed rest to some key batsmen of the team to manage their workload. After playing against New Zealand and Sri Lanka at home, India will embark on a tour of South Africa, involving three Tests, six ODIs and three T20 Internationals in January next year. The South Africa series will be followed by a gruelling and lengthy tour of England where India will play three T20s, three ODIs and five Tests starting July, 2018. Kohli also said that its not just the batsmen, the team management will also rotate the bowling unit in the coming weeks to keep them fresh for the overseas tours. "Yes, we have spoken about it (the schedule), it's become quite hectic. That's something we will definitely have to sit and discuss in future. Because, if you look at New Zealand, they haven't played any cricket after Champions Trophy. There has been such a good lay off. It can be the difference in doing well in a big tournament and performing poorly," he said. AGENCIES

MUMBAI: Hardly challenged in a dominating run this season, India will once again start overwhelming favourites when they take on an inconsistent-but-gritty New Zealand in a three-match ODI series, starting here on Sunday.

The Indians are on a high after comprehensively thrashing world champions Australia earlier this month. And the Black Caps will have to come up with really a special effort to make a mark against the rampaging hosts. Banking on settled batting and bowling combinations with most of the columns ticked, the hosts appear to be too well-groomed a unit for the comfort of the visitors. Although India suffered a resounding loss to South Africa on a better of a track at this very venue three seasons ago, they went on to win three series on the trot in their backyard and are now a force to reckon with in the upcoming series.

In fact, since surrendering to Australia back in 2009-10, India have lost only to Pakistan

(2012) and South Africa in 16 bilateral rubbers, a clear indication of how dominant they have been in familiar conditions.

Considering that the 4-1 result over Australia was achieved without skipper Virat Kohli being in top form and despite the absence of prolific opener Shikhar Dhawan, it was a huge achievement. Vice-captain Rohit Sharma scored 296 runs, including a century and two fifties at an average just below 60. The ever-dependable Ajinkya Rahane hit 244 runs that included four half-centuries, while all-rounder Hardik Pandya amassed 222 runs. The ever-reliable Mahendra Singh Dhoni had a subdued time with the bat against Australia. If they continue to fire with the same intensity, it would be difficult for New Zealand to contain the home team on a Wankhede track, which is expected to provide the ideal pace and bounce for the batsmen to go for the shots.

With a new-look spin attack with Chinaman Kuldeep Singh and orthodox leggie Yuven-dra Chahal, along with the left-arm orthodox Axar Patel as the back-up, India's slow bowling too sports a supremely challenging look. Among the pacers, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah are expected to trouble the Kiwis in the opening as well as at death overs.

However, New Zealanders will bank on their senior-most batsman and former captain Ross Taylor, who scored a cracking century at the Brabourne Stadium against the Indian Board President's XI in their second practice game. The form of Taylor, opener Martin Guptill and captain Kane Williamson are going to be crucial in the Kiwis trying to match the Indian batting might. Tom Latham, who also warmed up with a ton in the second practice game along with Taylor, offers some big-hitting option in the middle. But overall, the visitors' batting pales in comparison to the home team's, especially in sub-continental conditions. AGENCIES

Mali advance to semi-finals after 2-1 win over Ghana



PIC/PTI

GUWAHATI: Mali remained the last team standing from Africa as they prevailed over Ghana 2-1 in a FIFA U-17 World Cup quarterfinal match played amid uninterrupted rain that caused waterlogging here on Saturday.

Hadjj Drame (15th minute) and Djemoussa Traore (61st) scored for Mali, while Kudus Mohammed (70th) reduced the margin for Ghana at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium.

Last edition's runners-up Mali started on an attacking note with Lassana N'diaye finding the ball at his feet in a dangerous position on two different occasions, but Ghana's defence was equal to the task.

On the lookout for a goal, Mali were rewarded for their attacking play when Drame put them ahead with a beautiful strike, giving Ghana goalkeeper Danlad Ibrahim no chance.

This was Drame's third goal in the competition.

While two-time former champions Ghana struggled to play their natural game in te puddles of water, Mali seemed to thrive in these conditions and went into half time with a one-goal advantage.

Mali doubled the lead, quite

deservingly so, in the 61st minute through Traore. A gaffe by Danlad, who raced off his line to make a clearance, ended up handling Traore's shot into his own net.

There was a glimmer of hope for Ghana when Mohammed converted a penalty after Sadiq Ibrahim was felled by Fode Konate.

Having struggled to come to terms with the conditions for a major part of the game, Ghana, in search of the equaliser, showed urgency in the last 20 minutes of regulation time.

The egging by a handful of their supporters in the stands also failed to change Ghana's fortunes.

In the first half, Ghana did manage to find the net but Ibrahim Sulley's effort was disallowed as there was a foul on a Mali player.

Ghana played the last few minutes of the game with ten men after injury forced Gideon Mensah off the pitch.

The result meant it was a repeat of the U-17 African Cup of Nations final where Mali beat Ghana.

Mali will meet the winner of the match between Spain and Iran in the semi-final. AGENCIES

New regulations make things exciting, professional: Kohli

MUMBAI: India skipper Virat Kohli on Saturday said the new ODI playing rules will make the game more exciting and professional.

India will play its maiden series under the new ICC ODI regulations when it takes on New Zealand in the first ODI of the three-match series, here on Sunday.

"There are few rules which are very different. The batsman reaching the crease and after that the bat bouncing off being not out. The rule of umpires' call in DRS (Decision Review System). So there are few rule changes which are quite interesting. There is one about catching as well," Kohli said at the pre-match media conference on Saturday.

"So I think guys will need awareness about the new rules. They are always difficult to keep a check on initially, but I think we all will get used to it."

"But it's a good thing, new regulations will make things much more exciting and bit



PIC/PTI

more professional I guess. You have to keep in mind a lot of things while you are on the field and this just adds to that and helps you focus more on what needs to be done during the course of a game," Kohli added.

Among the new rules, a prominent change that will come into effect is that teams will no longer lose a review under DRS if a leg-before referral returns as "umpires' call".

With the change in the DRS rule on umpires' call, the current system that allows top-up of reviews after 80 overs in Test

matches will be removed. The ICC has also empowered umpires to send off players for misconduct, including violence. All other offences would continue to be dealt under the ICC Code of Conduct.

There would be restrictions on bat dimensions (thickness of edges and depth of bat). Besides, batsmen will not be deemed run out if the bat is in the air after crossing the crease. The batsman is currently ruled out if the bat is not grounded when the stumps are disturbed. According to Kohli, who is set to play his 200th ODI game on Sunday, rankings hardly matters for a cricket team. "We don't think of rankings. Points are tied. We had a rest period, South Africa are playing games in that period, so you can't really pinpoint some things, you can't be frustrated sitting at home that your ranking is gone and stuff like that," said Kohli after India were displaced from the top ICC ODI rankings by South Africa on rating points. AGENCIES

Feel stadium's soul, visualise, play: Brazil's coach to boys

KOLKATA: Bracing up to face traditional rivals Germany in a big-ticket FIFA U-17 World Cup quarterfinal here, Brazil coach Carlos Amadeu on Saturday sounded philosophical as he urged his players to get a feel of the Salt Lake Stadium, visualise and play.

Resembling a mathematics teacher with a whiteboard and marker, the Brazil coach was seen teaching his wards for about 30 minutes, ahead of their training session.

"This is a work we are used to do when we come to a new stadium. We try to keep it in mind to watch the stands, to imagine about the match, to look at the field. It's not only about knowing the grass, they have to feel the soul of the stadium."

"It's really an important stadium for the city and India. We are imagining about the 60,000 that will be here for tomorrow (Sunday). It will be huge for us," coach Carlos Amadeu said in the pre-match news conference. AGENCIES

PK hits out at FIFA LOC for ignoring former India footballers

KOLKATA: The legendary PK Banerjee on Saturday said it's an insult for Indian football that many top former players like Shyam Thapa, Prasun Banerjee and Subhas Bhowmick were not felicitated during the FIFA Under-17 World Cup opener in New Delhi earlier this month.

He also hit out at the local organising committee for adopting a 'lottery system' to distribute tickets among former footballers.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had felicitated the greats of Indian football including Banerjee, IM Vijayan, Bhaichung Bhatia, Sunil Chhetri, Bhaskar Ganguly and Bembem Devi.

"It's a huge loss of faith for Indian football community. In cricket we all know about the star players. But footballers are habitually ignored. How will the football's popularity grow if such is the attitude," Banerjee said at a news conference at his residence, on the eve of the high-voltage Brazil-Germany quarterfinal. Banerjee mentioned the names of his brother Prasun Banerjee, Shyam

Thapa, Arun Ghosh, Subhas Bhowmick, Mohammad Habib and Sudhir Karmakar and urged the LOC to felicitate them during the final here on October 28.

"I'm not naming Prasun just because he's my brother. He was one of Asia's top footballers and the first Indian footballer to enter the Parliament. If someone as notable as Prasun is ignored, you may think of others..."

"What would be the motivation left for the next generation to sacrifice all their lives for the sake of Indian football? I'm saying this not just for the sake of Bengal, or the country but for the entire youth community who are taking up football."

He also said it's shameful that the LOC is distributing tickets with a lottery system for the final.

"It's truly shameful that the stars of yesteryears are given tickets by a lottery system. Of course the common people deserve to watch the final but one must never forget the past and the contribution of these former footballers." AGENCIES

GEARING UP FOR GERMANY



Brazilian footballers during a practice session ahead of the match against Germany

PIC/PTI

U-17 WORLD CUP: SPAIN UP AGAINST IRAN

KOCHI: European champions Spain are the overwhelming favourites as they brace up to play rank outsider Iran in their quarter-final match of the FIFA U-17 World Cup here on Sunday. Going by form and pedigree, the three-time runners-up have their nose ahead, but the Asian surprise package has show tremendous grit and purpose on its way to the last eight stage in the ongoing edition. Spain will be brimming with confidence after prevailing over another European heavyweight France, the dazzling array of talents giving coach Santiago Denia plenty of options. Denia rates captain Abel Ruiz highly, and the La Masia product reposed his coach's faith with a fine outing against France. While the likes of Ferran Torres, Sergio Gomez and Antonio Blanco are tasked with creating opportunities, centre forward Ruiz is normally expected to do the rest. Ruiz has already become the highest scorer for Spain at the under-17 level with 21 goals. AGENCIES

Dominant India maul Pak 4-0 to enter Asia Cup final

DHAKA: A dominant India continued their unbeaten run in the tournament and thrashed arch-rivals Pakistan 4-0 to sail into the final of the 10th men's Asia Cup hockey tournament here on Saturday.

The sixth ranked India, who just needed a draw to seal a place in Sunday's summit clash, produced a superlative performance after the change of ends to pump in four goals -- three field strikes and one through penalty corner.

Satbir Singh (39th minute), Harmanpreet Singh (51st), Lalit Upadhyay (52nd) and Gurjant Singh (57th) were the scorers for India.

By virtue of this win, India not only topped the Super 4 stage with seven points, but also continued their domination over Pakistan.

It was India's fourth win over Pakistan this year, having beaten them twice in the Hockey World League Semi-finals in London and once in the pool stages here.

The defeat knocked Pakistan out of the final race and India will now play either Korea or Malaysia, who play



PIC/PTI

later in the day, in the final.

Contrary to the result, the Indians were slow to get off the blocks, while Pakistan were the better side in terms of possession in the first two quarters.

Pakistan had three chances via penalty corners to take the lead in the first quarter, but wasted all.

The Indians secured the first penalty corner in the final minute of the opening quarter, but Harmanpreet messed up the opportunity. After Ramandeep Singh's shot was saved by Pakistan goalkeeper Amjad Ali in the 23rd minute, India defended well to deny

their rivals from another short corner.

Minutes later, Harmanpreet hit the cross bar from India's second penalty corner as both the teams failed to break the deadlock at half time.

But India looked more organised after the change of ends and dominated the proceedings in the final two quarters.

Satbir gave India the lead in the 39th minute after receiving a fine back stick pass from Lalit. Minutes later, Harmanpreet's effort from India's third set piece was saved by Amjad Ali. AGENCIES

Srikanth into Denmark Open final

ODENSE: India's Kidambi Srikanth stands one step away from his third Super Series Premier title after he dished out a superlative display to outwit Hong Kong's Wong Wing Ki Vincent in straight games to reach the men's singles final of the USD 750,000 Denmark Open, here on Saturday. The 25-year-old Indian, who clinched the Indonesia Open and Australian Open this year besides reaching the final of the Singapore Open, defeated Wong 21-18 21-17 at the Odense Sports Park here. A 2-2 head-to-head record in career meetings - all of which had gone to the decider - meant nothing as Srikanth towered over Wong, showing better control and anticipation in the 39-minute semi-final duel. AGENCIES

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male **Age** : 30 years, **Height** : 5'8", **Complexion** : Sallow, **Build** : Medium, **Face** : Long, **Identification** : 'श्रीम' written in hindi on right hand, wearing red colour T-shirt and blue colour jeans pant, was found unconscious on 12.10.17 road side near Shivaji Park Metro Station, Opp. Maharaja Banquet, Punjabi Bagh, Delhi. He has been admitted in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, vide MRD No. 323105 on 13.10.2017 and is under treatment. In this regard a FIR No. 564/17 dated 13.10.2017 u/s 279/337 IPC has been registered at PS Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the person may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO : P.S. Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi
Tel. : 011-25224162, 25217008

DP/7082/WD/17

Appeal for Identification



General Public is hereby informed that a dead person male **Name** : Unknown, **S/O** : Unknown, **R/O** : Unknown, **Age** : About 35 years, **Height** : 5'7", **Face** : Oval, **Complexion** : Shallow, **Built** : Thin, **Hair** : Black & Grey Short, **Beard** : Black, **Wearing** : Red & White Check Shirt & Black Pant was found in near DTC Depot, Hari Nagar, Delhi on dated 16.10.2017 at 10:00 pm. Admitted in DDU Hospital vide MLC No. 11110/17 DDU Hospital. Died during treatment on 17.10.2017. The dead body of the deceased has been preserved in DDU Hospital Mortuary for 72 Hours. In this regard, a **DD No. 46A dated 16.10.2017** has been lodged at PS Hari Nagar, Delhi and this information uploaded on ZIPNET No. **UWDHN20170027**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this male but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S., Hari Nagar, Delhi
Ph. : 011-28125719, 8750871128

DP/7081/WD/17

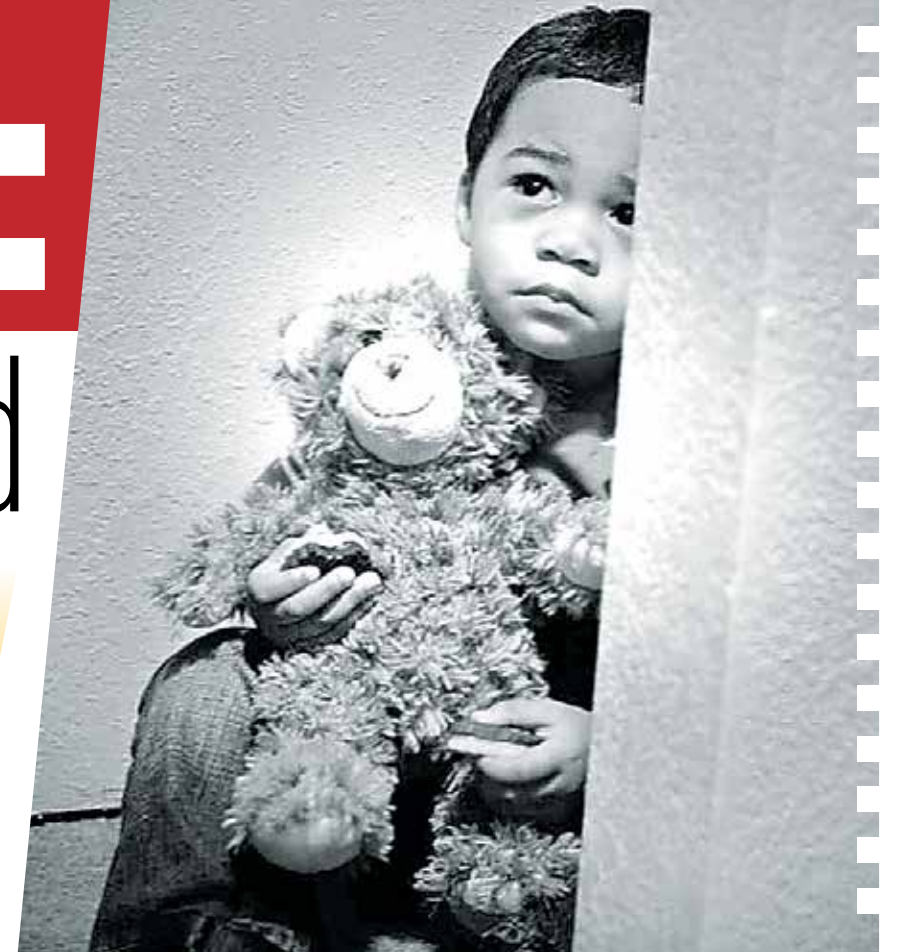
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In retrospect

Child Abuse:

Putting an end to childhood

Some recent cases of child abuse have shocked the nation. Parents with a hope of a better future send children to schools but unfortunately, some come back with horrific unforgettable memories, **Abhay Singh** writes why



“The uncle is very bad I will not go to school again,” were the words of a five-year-old victim to her parents after being sexually assaulted inside a school. A day before the incident she was happy but in following 24 hours her life changed; after coming back from school, she did not eat well, stopped talking to her parents and did not go to play outside with other kids. These symptoms can be noticed in many children who face abuse. Some recent cases in Delhi-NCR have shocked the nation, while parents with a hope of a better future send children to schools, unfortunately some come back with horrific and unforgettable memories.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines child abuse and child maltreatment as, “all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.”

Several complaints of child abuse have been coming to the office of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) through emails, letters and in POC SO e-box. In most cases, minors have been blackmailed through photographs, or some persons had misbehaved with them in school or at home. It has also been found that due to social stigma, sometimes complainants do not write their names in the complaint. Child rights body deal with the cases keeping in mind the safety of the children. “When we meet the victims we find them in a state of shock owing to the trauma they had faced. We instil confidence into the minor victims through education so that they can achieve something in their life and get out from their horrific past,” said Yashwant Jain, NCPCR official. This has been the daily routine of Jain after joining the child rights body. Jain stated that after they come to know about such incidents, quick action is taken. “We investigate several things, questioning every person related to the case, in the process,” said the NCPCR official. There are several reasons of abuse – sometimes it is social isolation, non-interactive parents leading their children to feel neglected. Even, negligence from the school authority in providing safety and security is a major problem. Homeless children are most vulnerable to abuse, which is why many homeless families have been keeping stray dogs with them to alert them of approaching strangers.

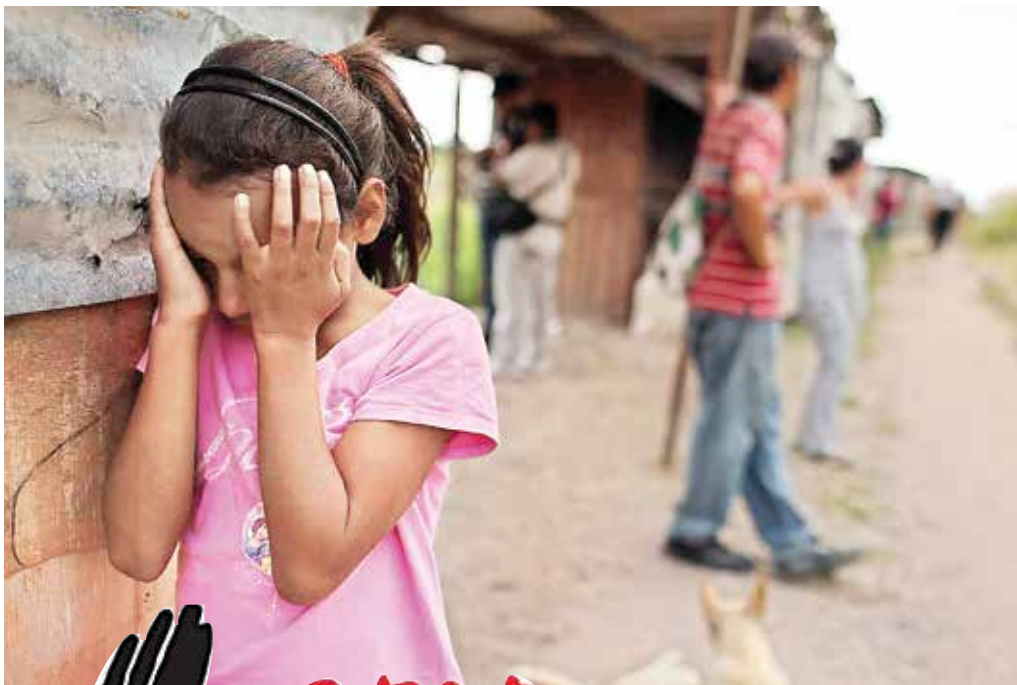
PEDOPHILES

The definition of a paedophile as per the Oxford dictionary is: a person who is sexually attracted to children. Further, several other sources define Pedophilia as, “a psychiatric disorder in which an adult or older adolescent experiences a primary or exclusive sexual attraction to prepubescent children.”

A major breakthrough took place when Delhi Police arrested a serial rapist from New Ashok Nagar in East Delhi earlier this year. The accused, Sunil Rastogi (38), a pedophile had sexually assaulted several minor girls. The victims were threatened by Rastogi of dire consequences if they spoke about the abuse. Even though the girls did not reveal the incidents to their respective families, a behavioural change in the children concerned the parents and on further questioning, the incidents were revealed. Recently, three blind minors aged between 14 to 15 years had been facing sexual harassment from quite some time by a British national who was arrested from RK Puram area, last month. The accused, as per preliminary investigation, is found to be a pedophile.

VICTIM'S FAMILY TRAUMA :

A five-year-old girl was sexually assaulted by a peon inside a school premises in Shahdara district. On the day of the incident on September 9, at around 2 pm when the school got over she came home with her father. “My daughter used to be very happy earlier; but that day she did not eat properly, when she sat with me on the dining table I noticed a change in her behaviour,” said the victim’s father. The girl remained quiet the entire day and later



assaulted by a peon inside a room. Police sources claimed that during questioning of school staffs they have alleged that security measures like CCTV cameras were not present in the school.

Another minor, a six-year-old was sexually assaulted by a peon inside the school premises Malviya Nagar on October 4. Like every day, the girl took her lunch box and went to school but when she returned it was not like everyday talks between mother and daughter. The girl was scared and she cried while narrating the incident to her mother; it shocked the family. Talking to *Millennium Post* her father stated that the minor girl has been studying with the dream of becoming an engineer. He added that after home, school was the place where parents think children are safe but the incident has put up a question in their minds. “Why are such incidents happening inside the school?” questioned the father. Police claimed that they have sent a detailed three-page advisory related to safety and security to 395 schools in south Delhi. Deputy Commissioner of Police (south) Ishwar Singh stated that they have sent the advisory to the particular school also but they found lapses in safety measures in the school.

According to advisory in the wake of recent incidents of killing, sexual assault, harassment happening in

schools, the school officials and staff need to be alerted about potential hazards and the threat to the safety and security of the students.

POLICE DATA

From the year 2016 till August 2017, Delhi Police had registered more than 2500 cases of rape and molestation of minors. The safety of women in

the Capital remained the top priority of the city police as they have arrested more than 9000 people involved in rape and molestation of women. Police data accessed by *Millennium Post* claimed that around 3672 accused were arrested for being involved in rape cases from the year 2016 to August 2017, whereas more than 6000 people were arrested on the charges of molestation. The data further claimed that in the year 2016, around 902 cases of rape and 918 cases of molestation of minors were also registered by the city Police. This year, as per records till August, around 629 cases of rape and 482 cases of molestation of minors were registered.

AWARENESS ABOUT CHILD ABUSE

“The only way to stop child abuse is to raise awareness about the issue, not only amongst children but also amongst parents. Parents often tend to assume that the child is lying, or they choose to push it under the carpet, that gives a boost to abusers,” says Ananya Chakraborty, Chairperson, West Bengal Commission For Protection of Child Rights.

Speaking about general awareness of child abuse in the country, Chakraborty says: “People, in general, are not aware of child sexual abuse. Even though some are aware of the issue, sometimes they try to avoid the social stigma by protecting their own family members, which is not right. Most child sexual abuse cases happen within the family or among known members. Moreover, it is very important to believe, and stand by the child.”

Considering the growing menace of cyber crimes targeting children, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has now enhanced the scope of POC SO e-box to handle cyber bullying, cyber stalking, the morphing of images and child pornography. Child victims themselves or their friends, parents, relatives or guardians can report cyber crimes by pressing the e-box button available at the Commission’s website: www.ncpcr.gov.in. They can also register their complaints on email id: pocsoebox-ncpcr@gov.in or mobile no.: 9868235077.

The NCPCR had launched an awareness campaign on the protection of children from sexual abuse. According to Rupa Kapoor member of NCPCR, soon an initiative in which more than 90 per cent cinema halls in the country will be displaying an advertisement providing awareness on the protection of children from sexual abuse. “Awareness among people is very important, with Indigo Airlines we have recently launched the initiative where messages about Child Sexual Abuse will be printed by airlines in their e-ticket itinerary and bus grab handle,” said Rupa Kapoor.

How can young children be protected and educated about their rights? “In schools lessons on good touch and bad touch are given to small children; besides children must also be taught about 1098, the helpline number. They should know that if something happens, they can call 1098 asking for help, and things would be taken care of,” explained Ananya Chakraborty.

“In Bengal, we have issued a directive to all police stations that every time a child sexual abuse case is reported they have to inform us within 24 hours. We are very pro-active here, and try to get actions the moment we come to know of it,” said Chakraborty.

EFFORTS BY DELHI POLICE:

After a five-year-old girl was sexually assaulted by a peon inside the premises of a private school in Shahdara, Deputy Commissioner of Police Madhur Verma stated that Delhi Police commissioner



“Children must also be taught about 1098, the helpline number. They should know that if something happens, they can call 1098 asking for help, and things would be taken care of

Ananya Chakraborty,
Chairperson, West Bengal Commission
For Protection of Child Rights

Amulya Patnaik has directed district DCPs to contact and pursue with the school authorities in their respective areas to enhance the security of children in schools. According to police, the school authorities must get a police verification done for the staff employed especially bus drivers, conductors, peon and other support staff. They should employ supporting staff from authorized agencies only and keep proper records.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

According to NGO Shaktivahini, little children who can barely stand, are married off flouting all laws; little ones are sacrificed, trafficked and sold; as others are locked, abused, sodomised – the list is endless. And there are all those realities that never make the news. Rishi Kant from Shakti Vahini said that the most vulnerable ones are the poor girls and women who live in rural areas. With no money in hand, the traffickers easily lure them on the pretext of job and then traffick them. The young women who are mainly sold off as brides and brought to Haryana-Punjab are called “Paro” or “Molki”. It has also been found that these women are also being used as the farm worker and are being sexually abused and resold to other men that again provide a market for trafficking of women.

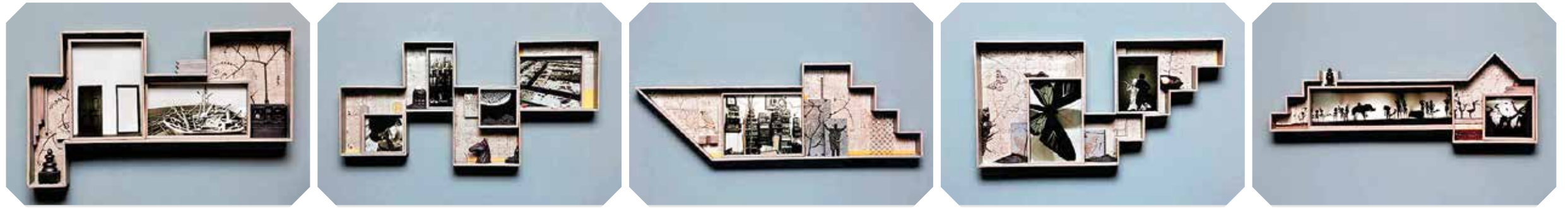
Rescued by an NGO Empower People, a trafficked victim stated how she was trafficked at the age of 9 from Kamrup district in Assam as a domestic worker and then she was sold by the woman to an old man. She also mentioned that she might have been sold for ten thousand rupees. After living with the old man with a short span of time she ran away from there as they were abusive and brutal.

“We rescue the victims of trafficking and then we work for their rehabilitation,” said Shafiq R Khan from Empower People.



UNVEILING CRYSTAL Cities in Mumbai

Panda's ideas of realism and his brilliance of evocative patterns are seen in the manner in which he weaves human behaviour with islands of existential fantasy, writes Uma Nair



Echoes of resonance and intensity come to the fore in Jagannath Panda's solo unveiling Crystal Cities that travels to Dr Bhau Daji Lad Museum from Vadehras in Delhi. Odisha born Panda who hails from a family of pundits is a voracious reader and his realistic brilliance is used for creating works that have a satirical slant. At Vadehras his sculptures though only four in number have a salient story to tell.

BIRD HEADS

Monumental bird heads of fibreglass created out of mixed media are a mélange of acrylic, fabric, plywood, glue, fibreglass, rexine, iron, plastic, and crystal. "When I create these fibre glass sculptures I'm making a statement about society and the little gaps that exist in our everyday life," says Panda. Profiteer is a magnificent crows head that has infinite details-while the naturality is attractive in a domineering way it has an intriguing lower side that mirrors a metropolis. "The many elements of this metropolis is the reality," says Panda. "What you see on top is the ugly face of domination and greed and evil. The metropolis is dark and it is created out of toys that I take from my son and his friends. I find that toys give me an architectural advantage and they are able to speak at many levels, about different levels of society."

"The Custodian of Untold Truth' is another riveting creation that seems more of a spectacle. It is the bottom created out of a spade and a mirror that speak to us about equivocal echoes. "I have always tried to mix mythology with reality," says Panda. "So when I create details from my sculptures, I use motifs from traditional Indian art, and interiors and décor with images from Western and Indian contemporary culture, to explore the effects of globalisation and rapid development of our country. I feel in the name of exploitation and greed and selfishness there is one part of society that gets left out and no one addresses these issues of untold truths."

METROPOLIS ON WOODEN BOARDS

The ground floor at Vadehras has a small room dedicated to his wooden works that run like a recurring series in architectural articulations. Panda posits many generations and their existence, there is an overlap of his deepened understanding of the religion of stylised gods, culled from his connections with ancestral Orissa, and the many chaotic indices of the skyscraper apartment blocks of the living habitations, in a developing

high rise settlements of India. His ideas of realism and his brilliance of evocative patterns are seen in the manner in which he weaves human behaviour with islands of existential fantasy.

"I like to work with the juxtaposition of diverse materials, I have used photographs taken all over the world, drawings and small toys again from my son's collection, they become the found objects that create stories at many levels," he explains. "When I use so many elements in a single work it enables me as an artist to speak with multiple voices. I have always had a great deal of interest in architecture and design and I use the standard technique of collage as well as assemblage to create these little works that speak of dwelling in a metropolis." Interesting how these collages are so seamlessly assembled that they become testimonies of urban dwellings, they become surreal statements that serve as functional and fictitious vessels of both memory as well as a mirror to a life of challenges, in which experiences and dreams are stored even as it reflects contradictory realities."

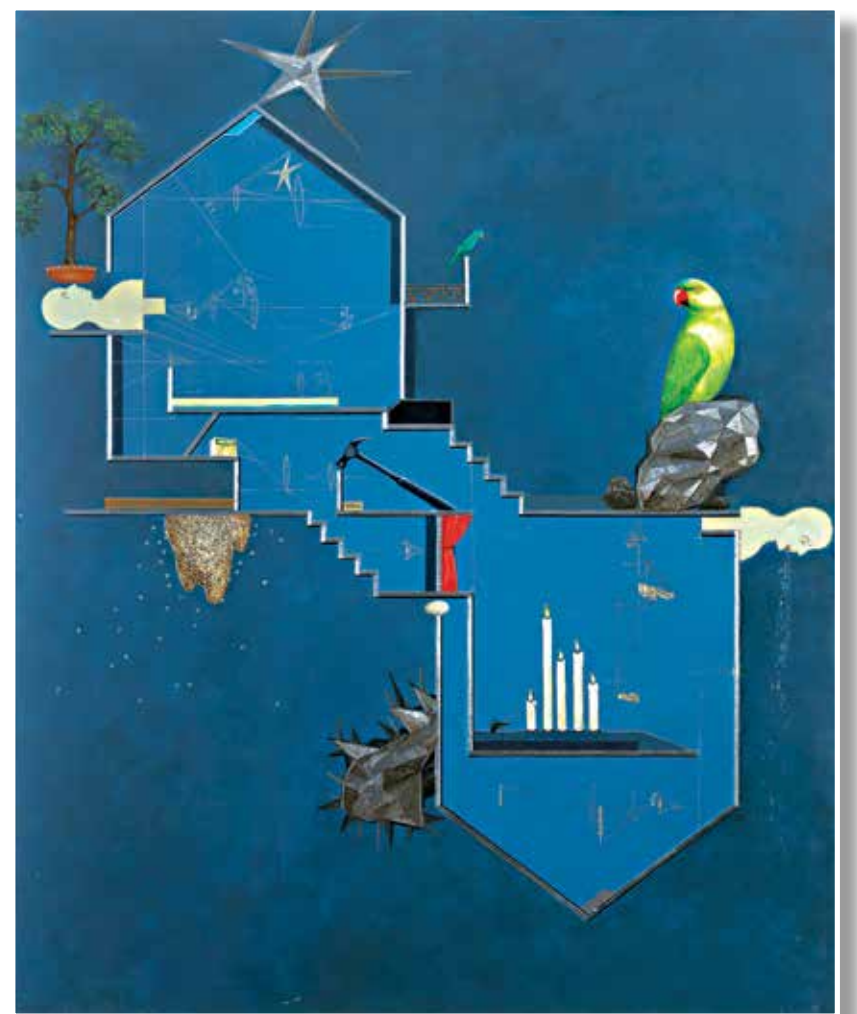
PARADOXES OF CRYSTAL CITIES

In his paintings, Panda has a knack for making the natural and the manmade collide as well as coalesce. Panda illustrates not just the everyday paradoxes that are inherent in India's development and prosperity and profound destruction of the environment, but he also tells us how human beings, and traditional value systems are eroded by modernisation. In his 'Alchemy of Dwelling I and II' he creates a corollary of contextual conversations in the interiors of a home — the cross section shows souvenirs and objects that become collectibles, but these two canvases are also a poignant commentary on the continual cycle of destruction, construction, and regeneration at play in modern-day urban households.

"I tried to create a scenario in which the interiors of a home can actually tell us that it can reflect the personal journal and patterns of livelihood among India's new and visible metropolis dwelling communities," says Panda. "It's the story of how the modern has come to be equated with the urban and we have steadily constructed a language of alienation that is contained paradoxically within images of our settlement so there is no sentiment, there is only consumption and excesses."

This show that travels to Mumbai is a testimony of how easily Panda moves from sculpture and installations to painting, as he effortlessly exploits the possibility of narrative unfolding that the mediums afford.

Irrespective of small or large format, Panda works through the patterns of opposites, the enforcement of structures and the evacuation of life forms, where time is contemporary but is defined by the imminent loss of value systems. Panda's understanding of the matrix of the shifts of power gives us a modern-day commentary of contemporary, economic and social tensions that arise and awaken a new dialogue of political poetics.



Irrespective of format, Panda works through the patterns of opposites, the enforcement of structures and the evacuation of life forms, where time is contemporary but is defined by the imminent loss of value systems



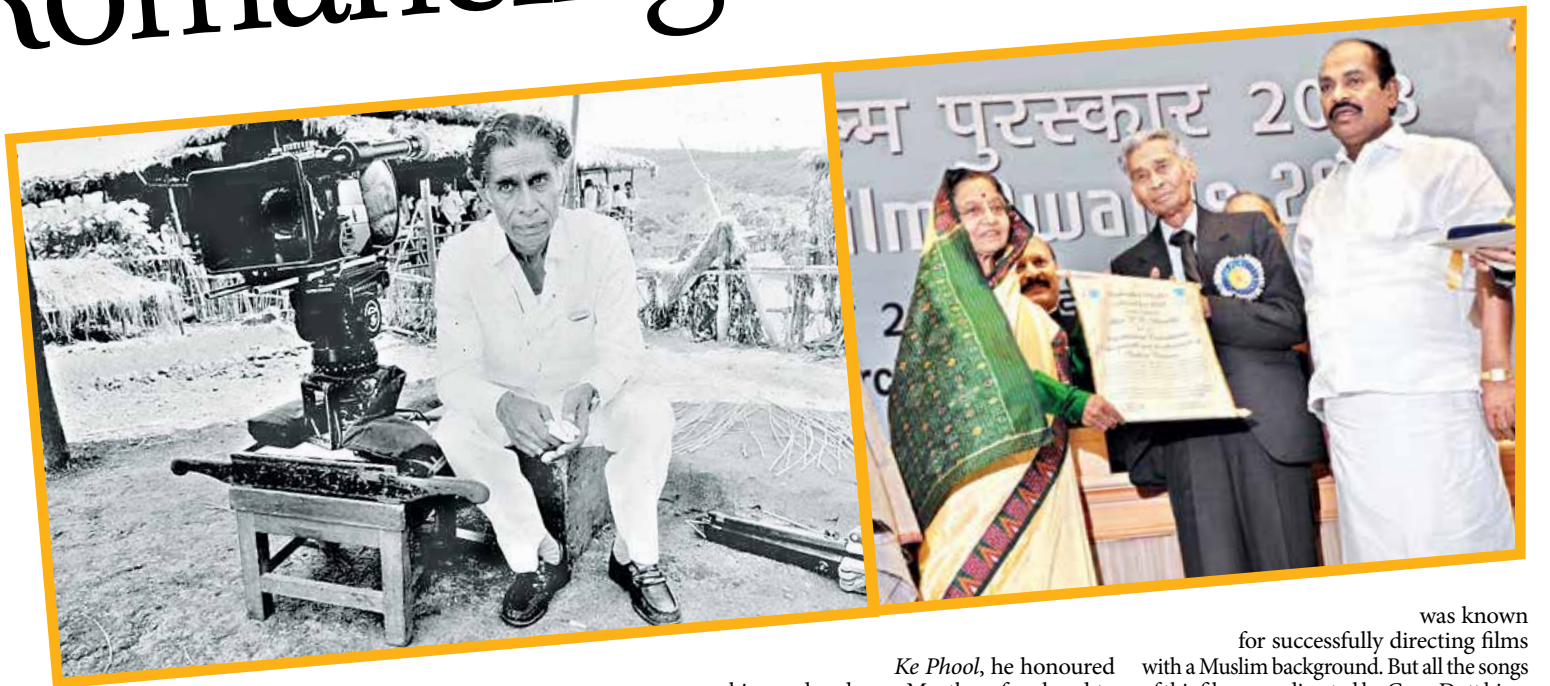
IMAGES: VADEHRAS





Venkatarama Pandit Krishnamurthy was the first cinematographer to be bestowed with the highest award – Dadasaheb Phalke award, for his distinguished contribution in Indian cinema, writes Sharad Dutt

VK Murthy: Romancing With Lens and LIGHT



The dateline: March 20, 2001. Venue: Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The octogenarian VK Murthy in a blue-grey suit slowly stepped towards the dais to receive the ultimate honour for his genius on celluloid – the prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke Award – from the then President Pratibha Patil. The packed auditorium gave him a standing ovation. This thundering applause was a proud moment for the entire cinematographer fraternity of the Indian film industry. Murthy was the first cinematographer to be bestowed the highest award for his distinguished contribution in this arena.

In his glorious career as cinematographer for half a century (1951-2001), Murthy had all the Guru Dutt films to his credit, barring *Chaudavi Ka Chand*. When the era of colour dawned, he went to London to acquire skills in colour photography. During his training, he had an opportunity to work with the camera unit of the all-time classic, *Guns of Navarone*.

Venkataramana Krishnamurthy, better known as VK, was born in Mysore on November 26, 1923, in a lower-middle-class family. Son of an Ayurvedic Pandit, he lost his mother when he was barely nine. A childhood spent in poverty and hardship, the passages of Murthy's lifespan are stranger than fiction.

One of his cousins, a pit musician in an orchestra was instrumental in bringing him closer to the world of moving images. As a growing child, he was extremely curious to learn about these images on the big screen. It so happened that he came across an advertisement about a film coaching school in Bombay. In pursuit of his dreams, he wanted to join this school. And how? With great difficulty, he managed to raise 40 rupees and left for Bombay defying stiff resistance of his father. He embarked on a journey to an alien city where he didn't know a soul. Being completely oblivious of the local language was another handicap.

After reaching Bombay, he tried to locate the film school at the given address somewhere in the suburb, Andheri. Murthy's dreams were shattered, as no such film school existed in this locale as advertised. But he got the better of his despondency, and pushed his luck, trying to meet people in the film studios. No, go. He was never allowed to enter the studios by the guards at the gate. A dejected Murthy came back to Mysore and started learning violin. He practiced eight to ten hours a day playing Carnatic music, soon became proficient, and gained enormous popularity as a violinist.

In 1942, when Gandhiji gave a clarion call for Quit India Movement, like many youngsters Murthy also joined the movement and was imprisoned for three months. But destiny had something more promising in store. The grand old man and visionary Diwan of Mysore, Sir M Visweswariah, a leading architect of the water system in the Mysore State launched an institute of vocational training in Bangalore for aspiring

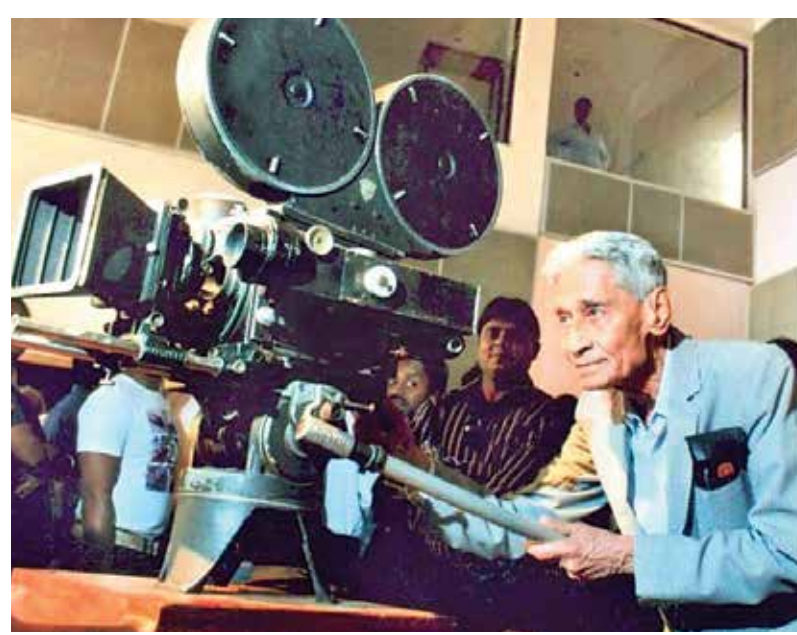
youngsters. Named after the Maharaja of Mysore, Sir Jayachamarajendra Polytechnic was the very first institution of its kind in the country. Popularly known as SJP, it was also the beginning of the first professional authorised institute of Cinematography in India.

An excited Murthy managed a fare to Bangalore and faced the interview board. He passed the muster given his confidence, and the administrator asked him to join the first batch right away. Murthy had mixed feelings. He was selected, alright, but had no resources to pay sixty rupees for the fees. One of his childhood friends, Srinivasan, came to his rescue and the issue was resolved. Murthy waded through his diploma course with flying colours and once again landed in the city of his dreams, Bombay, with the certificate in his hands.

Although, he was a trained cinematographer, it was not a smooth sailing in Bombay. For immediate survival, his other passion came handy. He played violin as a background score for some films. Soon enough, he was spotted by producer-director Mohan Sehgal, who got him a job as an assistant cameraman to Dronacharya, the renowned cinematographer of those times, for seventy-five rupees a month.

Feroodin Irani, the cinematographer of Mehboob Khan, Fali Mistry and Dwarka Diwecha were much respected cameramen in the industry. Fali Mistry was looking for an able assistant for himself. He had trained scores of assistants. And Murthy swung this job as an assistant to Fali Baba, as fondly addressed on the sets. Mistry liked Murthy, and it won him a raise of fifty rupees. He joined Mistry for one hundred and twenty-five rupees per month.

In 1951, while still assistant to Mistry, Murthy met Guru Dutt on the sets of *Baazi* who was directing this film for Dev Anand. V Ratra was the cameraman of *Baazi*. Guru Dutt was shooting a song sequence, 'Sunu gajar kya gaye', and asked Ratra to take a particular shot through a mirror, as cabaret girls were singing and dancing with the heroine Geeta Bali. Ratra tried it a couple of times but didn't succeed. Since Murthy



'Once Murthy and I were not able to take a shot in which Chhote Sarkar (Rehman) and Chhoti Bahu (Meena Kumari) were sitting on the bed. We could not find a suitable angle. Guru Dutt suggested an angle and Murthy took the shot in one go,' said Abrar Ali

happened to be around, he sought Guru Dutt's permission to attempt this shot. He succeeded in the second take, and this scene can be seen in the film, where Dev Anand is standing in a bar watching the dancing girl in a mirror. Murthy followed Dev's reflection in the mirror in a close-up and panned towards Dev, who was moving towards the dancer. In these shots, Murthy used the tracking and trolley movements. After the pack up, Guru Dutt offered Murthy to work as his cameraman in *Aar Paar*, his home production.

Murthy was an integral part of Guru Dutt's team. In fact, they were made for each other. Murthy had a kitty of sweet and sour memories of working with Guru Dutt in

Jaal and *Baaz*. Guru Dutt was the co-producer and director of *Baaz*, and also made his debut as an actor. But this film flopped and he suffered heavy losses. Thereafter, he started *Aar Paar*, but wanted to complete the film in a short time. Once Murthy was doing the lighting when Guru Dutt lost his patience. He took the shot without a final okay from him. During the lunch break, Murthy didn't join the unit. When Guru Dutt came back on the set, he saw Murthy sulking and virtually in tears. He consoled him and said, "Murthy, I am in a tearing hurry to complete this film. Don't worry, I promise that I will make a film for you and you will get ample opportunity to do your best." Later, when Guru Dutt made *Kagaz*

Ke Phool, he honoured his word and gave Murthy a free hand to showcase his talent.

After producing two crime thrillers and a light-hearted satirical comedy, Guru Dutt produced and directed his first classic, *Pyaasa*, which was close to his heart. This film had a triangle with three layers – a quest for life, longing for recognition, and a struggle against the social systems. There were black and white shades of stark reality. Murthy, indeed, got enormous creative space to play with lights and lenses. According to Murthy, "Guru Dutt was fond of close-ups. He would often say that an actor expresses eighty percent with his or her eyes and the rest is twenty percent. After taking the 'establishing shots', he would insist on close-ups."

Murthy vividly remembered three shots of *Pyaasa*. When the protagonist Vijay (Guru Dutt) was wandering in red-light area, he asked Murthy to take the cutaways of dancing girls and capture their plight by taking these shots in haze. Similarly, in the shots when Meen (Mala Sinha) is confronting Vijay, his looming shadow says everything. And in the concluding shots, when Vijay and Gulabo (Waheeda Rehman) walk hand-in-hand with their back towards the camera, it is a heart-rending silhouette.

In *Kagaz Ke Phool*, too, Guru Dutt gave full liberty to Murthy. Being a keen photographer himself, Guru Dutt knew a great deal about lighting. This poignant film is an epitome of black and white photography. Murthy made optimum use of lighting for the shots. For the beam shot in the pensive song, 'Waqt ne kiya kya haseen sitam', Guru Dutt had to wait for days till Murthy finally achieved it. Murthy narrated an interesting anecdote about the premier of *Kagaz Ke Phool*, which was attended by the film fraternity in large number: "After the film was over, Shammi Kapoor shouted, 'Where is the hero of the film?' Someone pointed towards Guru Dutt, but Shammi Kapoor hoisted me up and went around the lobby screaming, 'Here is the hero of the film.'" Murthy won a Filmfare award for this venture.

After the disaster of *Kagaz Ke Phool* at the box office, Guru Dutt took a vow not to direct a film. He produced *Chaudavi Ka Chand* and asked M Sadiq to direct it. Sadiq

was known for successfully directing films with a Muslim background. But all the songs of this film were directed by Guru Dutt himself. After the roaring success of *Chaudavi Ka Chand*, Guru Dutt produced another classic, *Saheb Bibi Aur Ghulam*, and entrusted the direction to his friend and writer of his films, Abrar Ali. Once again, Murthy was at his creative best in this film.

In an interview, Abrar Ali revealed, "Once Murthy and I were not able to take a shot in which Chhote Sarkar (Rehman) and Chhoti Bahu (Meena Kumari) were sitting on the bed. We could not find a suitable angle. Being the producer, Guru Dutt was always present on the sets. He suggested an angle and Murthy took the shot in one go."

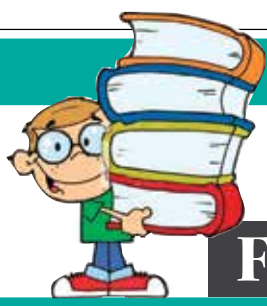
Murthy also remembered one more shot of *Saheb Bibi Aur Ghulam*: "In the mujra song, Saajia aaj mujhe neend nahi aayegee, the dancing girls were not going well aesthetically with the main dancer (Minu Mumtaz). We had to take the shot the same day. I adjusted the lights and dancing girls were seen in a silhouette." Murthy received his second Filmfare Award for *Saheb Bibi Aur Ghulam*.

After the demise of Guru Dutt, Murthy did some films like *Love in Tokyo*, *Jugnu*, *Naya Zamaana*, *Barood* and *Suraj*. When Kamal Amrohi launched *Pakeezah*, the original cameraman was Joseph Wirshing of Bombay Talkies. Unfortunately, he passed away and RD Mathur of *Mughal-e-Azam* fame took over. He also brought in Murthy for *Pakeezah*. Amrohi struck an instant rapport with Murthy and he was roped in for *Razia Sultan*, too.

Murthy belonged to the *guru-shishya parampara*. For his disciple Govind Nihalani, he shot the television serial 'Tamas'. He was also the cinematographer of Shyam Benegal's serial 'Bharat Ek Khoj'. Although Murthy served the film industry for half a century so industriously, it is sad that his services were not utilised by the Kannada film industry. Nevertheless, in 2005, a brilliant biography on his life and achievements, 'Bisilu-klu' (The Shaft of Light), in Kannada, was a tribute by Uma Rao.

A perfect gentleman, one would always hear Murthy's voice whenever he picked up the phone, "What can I do for you?" That warm and friendly voice was silenced on April 7 of 2014 at the age of 90. And so did an era of cinematography come to an end!





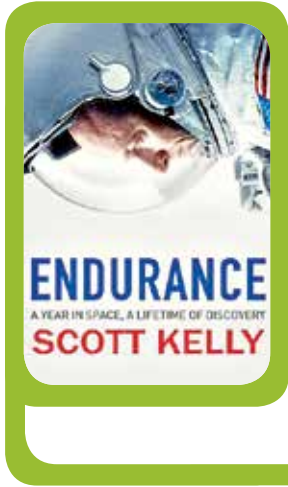
FRESH OFF THE SHELF

Read



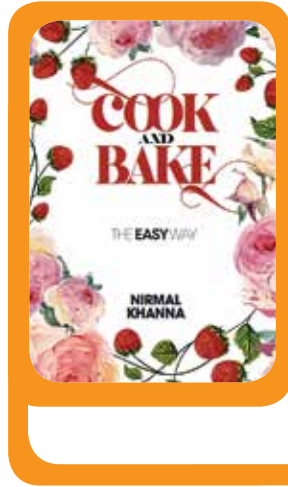
4321
Author: Paul Auster
Publisher: Faber & Faber
Price: ₹330

On March 3rd, 1947, Archibald Isaac Ferguson, the only child of Rose and Stanley Ferguson, is born. From that single beginning, Ferguson's life will take four simultaneous paths. Four Fergusons will go on to lead four parallel and entirely different lives. Family fortunes diverge. Loves and friendships and passions contrast.



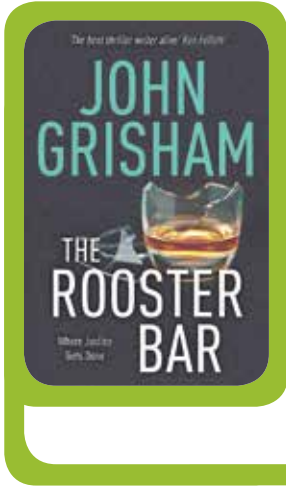
ENDURANCE
Author: Scott Kelly
Publisher: Random House UK
Price: ₹385

The veteran of four space flights and the American record holder for most consecutive days spent in space, Scott Kelly has experienced things very few of us ever have and very few of us ever will. From a natural storyteller Endurance is one of the finest examples of the strength of the human will and the boundless galaxy.



COOK AND BAKE
Author: Nirmal Khanna
Publisher: Spenta Multimedia PVT Ltd
Price: ₹1499

With over 100 beautiful full-colour photographs across 260 full colour pages in a premium hard cover format, has been lovingly updated for the modern cook and contemporary tastes. One can trust Nirmal's guide to preparing healthy soups and salads, sumptuous cakes and desserts.



THE ROOSTER BAR
Author: John Grisham
Publisher: Hodder & Stoughton
Price: ₹299

Law students Mark, Todd and Zola wanted to change the world - to make it a better place. But these days these 3 disillusioned friends spend a lot of time hanging out in The Rooster Bar, the place where Todd serves drinks. As third-year students, they realise they have been duped.

Rare accounts of South Asian Women Rulers

Hasna has written a great deal from her experience and from primary sources, her rendering of military take overs in Asian countries will remain a valuable input



In South Asia women have held top leadership positions for many years. Many women ruled in South Asia from ancient times but their stories are not well known

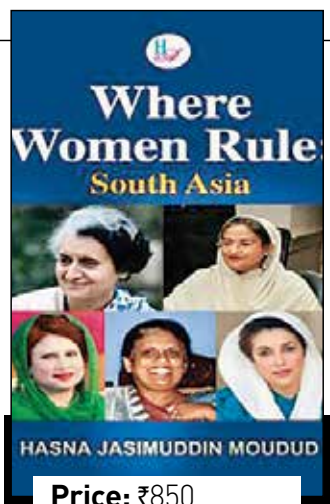
OUR CORRESPONDENT

Hasna is author of a number of books. She is a former lecturer of Dhaka University and professor of Development Alternative University, Dhaka. She has held visiting scholar's positions at Oxford University, George Washington University and Harvard University. She is now affiliated at Harvard University South Asian Institute. Hasna Jasimuddin Moudud's book starts with a quote from a Hindu philosopher, astronomer and mathematician, Varahamihira of 6th century AD. "On women depend dharma (religion) and artha (wealth), tell me truly, what faults attributed to women have not also been committed by men? Men in their audacity treat women with contempt, but they really possess more virtues than men. One's mother or wife is a woman. Men in privacy utter flattering words to women, but there are no such words after death, while wives in gratitude clasp the corpse of their husbands and enter fire."

It truly amazes me to find Hasna's knowledge and ability to handle Hindu mythology and ancient history so comfortably in her book. She has earlier contributed to scholarly study of ancient Indian history and his-

tory of old Bengali Mystic Buddhist poetry with ease when she wrote the second edition of Mystic Poetry of Bangladesh which I also published this year in 2017. She is not a new talent. Hasna's book Women in China was the first book I have published in 1978 from Bangladesh in a first attempt to introduce Bangladeshi authors to India and a greater readership outside Bangladesh.

Where Women Rule is a different kind of book but Hasna does not miss the opportunity to educate the reader about what it is to be pan Indian and part of a composite culture in South Asia. The present book is Hasna's own account about women who rule or ruled in South Asia. She writes, "From housewives to leaders, women who have changed South Asia have shown courage, shared immense popularity and have sacrificed their personal lives, it has not been easy. Together they have created more space and places for women. I have been fortunate to personally know or closely observe many leading Asian women leaders like Indira Gandhi as prime minister of India, Benazir Bhutto as prime minister of Pakistan, Aung San Suu Kyi, prime minister-elect of Myanmar, Corazon Aquino as a house wife and as president of the Philippines, Sirimavo Bandaranaike as prime minister and



Price: ₹850
Publisher: Alpha Editions

Chandrika Kumaratunga as president of Sri Lanka, Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina both as housewife and as prime minister and leader of opposition in Bangladesh. Each one of them has been a pioneer in being the first woman to lead their people or hold the

top office. In 2008 in USA, Hillary Clinton ran unsuccessfully for the democratic presidential nomination. In South Asia women have held top leadership positions for many years. Many women ruled in South Asia from ancient times but their stories are not well known."

She further recounts her own country's unique position in the world having two women leaders who have been head of the government or leader of opposition since 1990. She recounts, "It is not a freak incident that two women in Bangladesh have led the largest political parties since 1991. They are two very powerful women leaders who have played major roles in ousting military dictators and have survived military interventions including prison."

Hasna asks the question, why so many women have been elected prime ministers and president in this poor and populous region where the position of women is far from equal and why more are likely to follow? Then she goes ahead and offers her wanting 'an outlet to recount my personal glimpses and amazing experiences in the context of South Asian heritage, politics and culture, the idea of this book was thus born.' She has many stories to tell. With great fondness she describes the chapter on Indira Gandhi. "Indira Gandhi known as 'India is Indira' and 'Indira is India. She also recounts her encounters with Benazir Bhutto and others. What is so different about this book? Hasna says she has known most of the leaders as house wife, as prime minister, president or leader of opposition. Hasna Moudud had access to leaders which very few authors have. It is a rarity. Her accounts make it very lively and offer insights we otherwise would not have.

When this book was sent for editing in India the editors had a hard time but agreed to most of Hasna's points of view. After all, she has written a great deal from her experience and from primary source. Her rendering of military take overs in Asian countries will remain a valuable input. Her husband former prime minister and vice president of Bangladesh also underwent jail under the military without charge or trial. So she is sympathetic to all who suffer under rule. She says they come with an agenda of cleansing corruption and then take over and indulge in corruption.

Hasna was directly elected as member of parliament from a coastal constituency and she defeated her opponent who is currently Secretary General of party in power. She has guts and courage. It will be interesting to see how she deals with selected leaders on charges of corruption and nepotism and the culture of political dynasty. Hasna has won United Nations Award Global 500 Roll of Honor in 1992.



SOJOURN - STUDYING THE MIND OF MIRA

OUR CORRESPONDENT

This book is a psychological study of the mind of a 36-year-old single woman, Mira, who reminisces of her past life in a span of twenty four hours, culminating into an awaiting surprise at her doorstep. One day out of her monotonous life has been chosen by the author to delve into the deeper recesses of her mind that harbour childhood pains, a distorted parent child relationship and an overarching love relationship that paved the way for a dreamy future but was put to halt in between.

A dream that elicits the start of the narrative journey of this woman, Mira, is followed by an amalgamation of the everyday chores with her emotional abundance. She is reminded of Veer, the man she loved, when she goes out for her morning jog, she is reminded of him while taking a bath, she is reminded of him by every gush of air that touches her face, and to the extent that she has to leave all her work and sit in introspection at her most favourite place set in the heart of a small district in Sikkim - Pelling.

The overlap of her thoughts with the air of the mountains and the crisp, biting snow, not to forget the tingling warmth of the mountain sun is what has been the recipient of her emotional outburst and the vignettes of her past that lay entangled to herself and were then unravelled through the calming effect of Nature.

What follows in the narrative is a dive into her consciousness evoking memories of her past, starting from the first time she met him, to the last time they met. The cage of memories enclosed a love story juxta-



Rashi Shrivastava, author

posed with familial relationships, the ups and downs and the early adulthood fears of people in love.

As she returns to the present, there is a symbolic turning over of a new leaf, a new life to be precise, only to be rewarded with a moral dilemma towards the end.

What should be the end is something that the author wants to leave for the readers to judge, pertaining to their personal understanding of love, relationships and moral rights or wrongs.



Price: ₹249
Publisher: Become Shakespeare

Up close and personal: Five decades of friendship with MF Husain

An honest and incisive biography of the iconic painter, penned by Ila Pal, herself a noted artist, this book takes you a step closer to the life and craft of MF Husain. The author shared a long-lasting friendship with the late painter and, as a result, offers insights that one would not have access to otherwise.

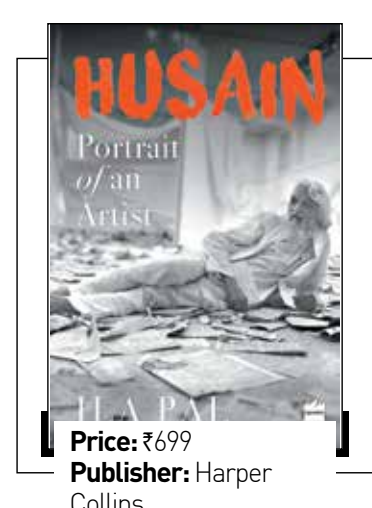
On a rainy day in 1955, Pal saw Husain for the first time, standing in the portico of the Jehangir Art Gallery in Mumbai. Six years later, in 1961, she actually met the star painter, "the tall wiry man, with a salt-and-pepper-beard". It was the beginning of a long and enriching association between an eager student of art and Husain, a journey that lasted 50 years.

The cover of this biography features an image of Husain, probably in his last days, reclining on the floor. It has not been overburdened with words and endorsements by celebrities. Dressed in a white kurta and pajama, Husain appears carefree, perhaps tired after a long day's work. Scattered around him on the floor are newspapers -- and the background has been faded to keep



the late artist in focus.

This also true for the rest of the book as, despite dealing with a range of issues from the world of art, the biographer never loses focus of her subject. Pal shares tidbits of his life, takes the readers on a journey to places that Husain visited and recalls



Price: ₹699
Publisher: Harper Collins

the many conversations they had together. The book also delves into the artist's exile from his homeland at the fag end of his life, exploring the question of creative licence in a climate where people's sentiments are easily hurt and where censorship rules the

roost like never before.

Renowned across the world as an iconic artist, Pal maintains that Husain was about many other things at the same time. He was a curious boy from Pandharpur, a painter of billboards, a maker of toys, an aesthete, the inveterate progressive artist he soon became, and later a filmmaker and style icon who walked about barefoot with a long brush in hand.

Even though Pal's journey with the artist began as a student, and she wanted to learn the craft under his guidance, Husain resisted the term "guru". A decade into their companionship, Husain spelt out why the concept of "guru" was incompatible with growth -- and regressive for a contemporary painter.

"Every new painting is an assertion of one's individuality, of one's breaking away from the past and from the masters, however great," Husain told the author and she quips, in the book, that this small incident was what removed the invisible barrier between them and they met thereafter as friends. Filled with anecdotes about his charisma, his sharp wit, his sense of wonder



about the world at large and his insatiable hunger for love, this warm and personalised biography traces his evolution through his many avatars. It attempts to unravel the enigma of Husain, who is considered the master of contemporary Indian art, and the auctions of whose works at Christie's and Sotheby's changed the Indian art market forever.

"Husain's passion for painting was rooted in his love for life. Forever eager to experiment, he was unwilling to confine

his life and art to the boundaries of the known... Husain did not create masterpieces in each medium he tackled, but by undertaking a different creative process, he constantly rejuvenated his intrinsic creative urge. Through every creation Husain saheb reassured us that he was still a seething and unrestrained creative force," Pal writes.

Apart from all that is expected in a biography of a widely revered artist, this offering also goes further and chronicles the impact that Husain had on the art world. IAMS

Routes

Bandhavgarh:

WHERE THE APEX PREDATORS

roam free

*Bandhavgarh is the definite place to be, for those who seek an adrenaline rush during their vacation, and those who enjoy being part of the natural biosphere, writes **Lahari Basu***



Tiger cubs become independent when they are about eighteen months, but it is not until they are around two to two-and-a-half years, that they fully separate from their mother, and gradually start to move out in search of their own territory," informed Rajesh Kr Dwivedi, our safari guide, as we rode into the dense forest of the Tala zone in Bandhavgarh National Park, for an adventurous gypsy ride.

The national park is famous for treating its visitors with innumerable tiger sighting. With maximum visibility during the summer, the area boasts of 71 resident tigers, informed Ravi Pathak, safari driver. Bandhavgarh, in Madhya Pradesh, is one of the most invigorating places to be for a naturalist and a photographer. It is not only famous for the alluring presence of the majestic Bengal Tigers in the forest, but also the quietude ruling the area. Situated in the heart of India, Madhya Pradesh holds multiple awe-inspiring sights across the state for tourists to indulge in. But one of the most important reasons for the thriving tourism population is a large number of tigers that seem to call out to photographers, and wandering souls, over and over again.

Bandhavgarh is divided into three zones for its two-legged visitors, while the oblivious four-legged ones care not an ounce

about zones: Tala, Magdhi, and Khiltauli. The first zone is best known for tiger sighting.

With safaris planned twice a day, visitors packed with enthusiasm and wrapped in jungle-print shirts and caps, set out for an adventure in the hope of sighting the king of the jungle. Some return with a wide smile on their face if they had been lucky to cross paths with a tiger, while some return slightly disappointed for not sighting the big cat. Even though one does not get to see a tiger, the very liberating presence of the calm, green and fresh air will motivate one's mind and body.

An early morning safari following the gypsy trails into a dark forest, with the gradual enlightenment of dawn, is a scene out of a fairy tale. When fluttering butterflies race with your gypsy, or a magnificent antler sambar deer hops away into the bushes to hide from an audience, you know you're having one of the best times in your life. You might have spent four to five hours before you know it, roaming in the jungle surrounded by the smell of moss, rustling leaves on tall trees and gorgeous birds flying high. Even though it is the Bengal tiger which gets all the attention, the forest is

home to several other animals like the spotted deer, barking deer, sambar deer, langur, sloth bear, multiple pretty birds and innumerable colourful butterflies.

Bandhavgarh derived its name from a hill in the Tala zone, that was once a ruled by the Maharajas of Rewa. Climb-



ing uphill in a safari gypsy, one will still find the moss-covered horse stables of that era, the king's court and a very interesting piece of art – a 35 foot long idol of Lord Vishnu known as 'Seshshaiya,' and a large

Shivling by a small pool fed by the seeping waters in the hill coming down from a few rainfed lakes at the top. It is said that the statues were carved out of one single stone each! The beauty of that moss green on the dusky rock is any aesthetic soul's delight. Regional folklore suggests that Bandhavgarh Fort was constructed by kings of the Gond Empire who constructed 12 ponds, of which only a few remain. But the Bandhavgarh Fort derives its name from the most prominent hillock of the area, which is believed to be given by Lord Rama to his brother Lakshmana to keep watch on Lanka; Bandhavgarh (*bandhav* stands for brother, and

garh for fort).

Most people are aware of how tigers mark their areas by urination, a lesser known act of claiming a territory is by engraving scratch marks on the barks of tall trees. When a tiger stands up on its hind legs to scratch on a tree, its aim is to reach as high as possible to disable competition. "When a younger or a new tiger comes in the area, they must challenge the existing ruler by trying to reach above the already engraved scratch marks. If he succeeds marking higher than the current tiger, he growls and calls out for a challenging fight which will finally decide



ALL PHOTOS/ LAHARI BASU

the fate of the two. In most cases, it is a younger tiger, between the age of 5-10 which challenges an elder and eventually fights and become the next ruler of the territory. Upon the call of challenge, both tigers get into a dangerous fight, which either gravely injures or kills one, enabling the other to claim the prize – the large territory, the tigress in the sub territory and their cubs. If the cubs are too young, the new king kills them to establish his own line of descendants," informed Dwivedi, winner of The Billy Arjun Singh Memorial Award for Best Wildlife Guide in 2010.

During my first safari, I was quite confident to get a glimpse of one of the famed tigers of Bandhavgarh, but hours passed on, and my confidence seemed to vaporise, especially when we came across a couple of lucky tourists who caught a glimpse of a tigress there. Fate hadn't been so unkind, and with some patient waiting, we tiger-enthusiasts got to see not one, but two magnificent tigers. As the guard informed, the animals in the forest were used to empty roads, with no humans barging into the forest to click their photographs, so they were shying away trying to avoid human contact (the national park remains closed for during monsoon, and we took one of

the first safaris after it reopened). Therefore, even though we saw a couple of tigers from close quarters, they were too snob to simply turn their back on us disabling us to admire them for too long. It was as if the tiger said, "No, I'm not posing for you guys, I need some privacy," turning away from us seconds after it came into view.

The mere fact of the tigers granting an audience was overwhelmingly blissful and made my visit to Bandhavgarh a fruitful one. One might not be as lucky to sight a tiger at the very first safari, but one can always try, morning and evening! The national park is open around the year except for monsoon, June 15 to September 30, a time most dreaded by the guides and safari drivers.

Bandhavgarh is the definite place to be, for those who seek an adrenaline rush during their vacation, and those who enjoy being part of the natural biosphere. The entire ambience of the place hit the right chords in my mind and I couldn't help but hum this song throughout my stay there:

*Birds flying high/ You know how I feel/
Sun in the sky/ You know how I feel/ Breeze
driftin' on by/ You know how I feel
It's a new dawn/ It's a new day/ It's a
new life... For me
And I'm feeling gooooooood...*



Gaurs were introduced to the national park in 2012



Remains of stables from the time of the Maharaja of Rewa



A langur stops to look around the forest before heading home



The idol of Lord Vishnu, known as Seshshaiya



STORIES IN A FRAME

KHAJURAHO - CELEBRATING LIFE



Built between 950-1050 AD by the Chandela Dynasty, the temples at Khajuraho depict various forms like meditation, spiritual teachings, kinship, wrestling, royalty and erotic art. It is one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India. Known for the beautiful stone sculptures Khajuraho group of monuments pull thousands of tourists from across the globe to Madhya Pradesh every year.

PICS: LAHARI BASU

SEND YOUR ORIGINAL SNAPS ALONG WITH YOUR NAME AND A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE STORY BEHIND THEM TO MPSUNDAYPOST@GMAIL.COM. IF WE LIKE THEM, WE'LL PUBLISH THEM!



BRAIN DRAIN

SUDOKU

				8	1			
			5	7				2
	4			1				9
7			4			3		
	3							8
2	1	4						5
4						8		
		8	9					7

WORD SEARCH

B S E W H G N I D D U P D A E R B E E E N
 R R I S Y C A R R O T C A K E F D S K R F
 O I P O T U H A M L A R E P L A S A T E U
 W A E R F R V E E A E E S A E U C R L L D
 N L L I A O A M E S E I N R O T I C P B G
 I C P N L I O T L S R R B M R F G I L B E
 E E P V S N S L R C R C O L T R N U O L
 S S A E B S A I E E E C H E S E S N M C T
 M P E A D B E L N G T S A C C B N A S H T
 A O R U M S P L N P Y T H K A I O M Q C I
 J S N U G P S I B R U O U N E O O U A R
 E T R K A N G A R M C D A B A L R N A E B
 L U I T E I I E D O U N D M O N A R P T
 L E G R I Y B R L A A R B I L S C O E B U
 Y A E P A W B A E S N R C E N R A L S A N
 R D L A A M T R P M O A D T E G M L S K S
 O N A R T E I L E S R U P P I E S S L O
 L U T F C E I S I A R D E M S U P E L A R
 L S O A L T E A U T D S D S E T R O T V B
 S B K I A C A K S A L A D E K A B F K A E
 W E A T R P I N E A P P L E D E L I G H T
 D S C R E M E B R U L E E P A S T R I E S

- AMBROSIA
- APPLE CRISP
- APPLE PIE
- BAKED ALASKA
- BAKLAVA
- BANANA SPLIT
- BREAD PUDDING
- BROWNIES
- BUTTER TARTS
- CARROT CAKE
- CHEESE CAKE
- CHOCOLATE CAKE
- CINNAMON ROLLS
- CREME BRULEE
- CREPES
- ECLAIRS
- EMSPANADAS
- FLAN
- FRUIT CRUMBLE
- FUDGE, GELATO
- GINGERBREAD
- ICE CREAM
- JELLY ROLLS
- LEMON BARS
- MACAROONS
- MERINGUES
- MONKEY BREAD
- MOUSSE
- NUT BRITTLE
- PARFAIT
- PASTRIES
- PAVLOVA
- PEACH COBBLER
- PINEAPPLE DELIGHT
- PLUM SQUARES
- RAISIN PUDDING
- RUM BALLS
- SORBET
- STRAWBERRY SHORT CAKE
- STRUDEL
- SUNDAE
- TIRAMISU, TORTES
- TRIFLE

Finish the proverb:

Where a woman rules, streams run _____.

7	6	5	9	2	8	1	3	4
3	4	9	1	5	7	6	8	2
1	8	2	6	3	4	5	7	9
2	5	4	3	8	1	7	9	6
6	7	8	2	4	9	3	5	1
9	1	3	7	6	5	2	4	8
8	2	1	4	7	3	9	6	5
4	9	7	5	1	6	8	2	3
5	3	6	8	9	2	4	1	7

chuckles
PUNISHMENT
 Sam: Dear sir, I want to ask you something.
 Teacher: yes Sam, ask me, what do you want?
 Sam: Sir, do you punish anyone for something they did not do?
 Teacher: No Sam. Why should I?
 Sam: Thank you sir. That's a relief. I haven't done the homework.



Trending

Fun with Words



Some weird English words you might be interested in

- Abibliophobia:** This words refers to someone who is afraid of running out of things to read!
- Bloviator:** This is the opposite of pauciloquent and refers to people who talk for a long period of time or who inflate their story to make themselves sound better. This also refers to someone whose words are empty and have no meaning.
- Collywobbles.** This refers to a weird feeling in one's stomach or an overall bellyache. It is derived from the Latin phrase cholera morbus, meaning it came from the disease we all know as cholera.
- Gardyloo:** This is actually a Scottish term, but it sounds really nifty! The definition is a funny and gross one; this is what people living in Edinburgh shouted out their windows as a warning before dumping their slop buckets out of their windows. At least they gave a little bit of a warning to those below!
- Ratoon:** Don't worry, this isn't referring to a raccoon and rat mix breed or an ROUS (rods of unusual size), it is, in fact, referring to that small shoot or growth that comes from the root of a plant. You will see a lot of these in the spring and summer as things are growing.
- Quire:** You can always say "two dozen sheets of paper" or you can say "quire." It means the same thing! Interesting, huh? There are quite a few single words for many phrases.

GASTRONOMY (Festive special)

CHEESE AND HERBS LOADED NACHOS WITH REFRIED BEANS

INGREDIENTS

- Cornitos Cheese and Herbs 150 g Pack
- Nacho Crisps 175 g
- Cornitos Refried beans 50 g
- Avocado cubes 100 g
- Lettuce 50 g
- Tomatoes deseeded & diced 10 g
- Mint Leaves 150 g
- Grated Cheddar Cheese 50 g
- Sliced Jalapeno 50 g
- Sliced Black Olives 50 g
- Diced Red Bell Pepper 330 g
- Cornitos Chunky Pineapple Salsa 20 g
- Sour Cream 2 finely chopped
- Garlic cloves 10 g
- Cumin seeds 50 g finely chopped
- Onion 10 g
- Smoked Paprika 10 g
- Salt to taste



METHOD

Place lettuce at base of the platter, and arrange a layer of Cheese and Herbs Nacho Crisps on top. Layer the Refried beans and other chopped veggies over Nacho Crisps and Sprinkle grated cheddar cheese. Repeat the same layering procedure till a four to five layer Nacho Crisp pyramid is created. Season it well. Place the platter in a preheated oven for 45 seconds till cheese melts. Garnish with dollop of sour cream and mint. Serve hot with Cornitos Chunky Pineapple Salsa



QUINOA, BEETROOT & ORANGE SALAD

INGREDIENTS:

- Quinoa 50 gms
- Hot water 150 ml
- Beetroot 1 small
- Fresh Orange 1
- Assorted Lettuce 100 gms
- Olive oil 1 Tbs
- Balsamic Vinegar 1 Tbs
- Roasted Almond 2 gms
- Salt & Pepper To taste

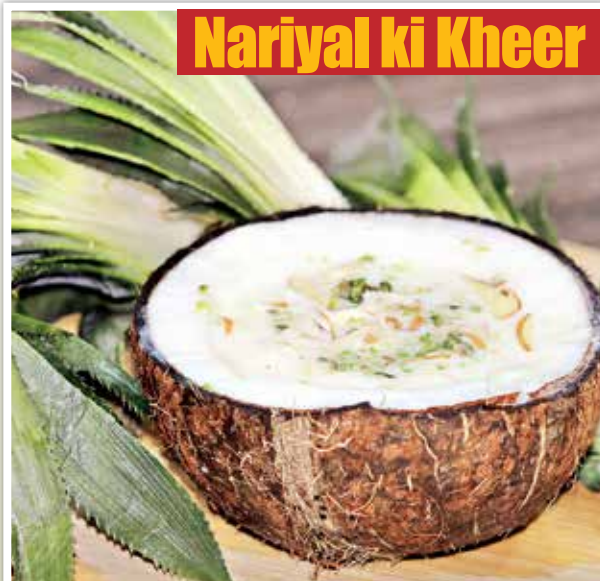


METHOD: Take a bowl, put 150 ml of hot water, soak the quinoa for 10 minutes. Then strain quinoa, put that quinoa into a fresh bowl. Add some seasoning like olive oil, balsamic vinegar, put assorted lettuce, mix it properly, then put it in a fresh serving plate. Take the beet root, cut it into small cubes and marinate with seasoning salt & pepper and balsamic vinegar and olive oil, put these in the same plate of quinoa and top up with peeled orange slices.

(Courtesy: Chef Mrinmoy Acharya of Ciclo Café)



Nariyal ki Kheer



INGREDIENTS:

- Milk 1 litre
- Khoya 50 gm
- Coconut milk 250ml
- Sugar to taste
- Coconut cream 100gm

PROCEDURE:

Heat the milk and reduce it to 50 % Add sugar, coconut milk, khoya and bring it to a boil. Keep it aside for chilling. Cut the fresh coconut into half and take out the fresh creamy layer in it. Chop the fresh coconut cream layer and add it to the chilled milk prep. Serve cold

(Courtesy: Chef Gautam Chaudhry)



Isn't 2017 running faster than ever? Before it slips away, take little time out to sit back, relax, breathe and analyse... Should you? Would you?

ROOPSHA DASGUPTA RAY

Festivals and special calendar days are always warm and nostalgic. These days open the floodgates of the time gone by. Diwali essentially lights up the dark and to me is a reminder: the year is almost over. The next big celebration would be Christmas. Isn't 2017 running faster than ever?! Before it slips away, take little time out to sit back, relax, breathe and analyse... Did you? Should you? Would you?

Did you?

Spend time with family
The increasing desire of more and many have taken most to a different shore. We keep ourselves too busy to reach the next level of better life. Stop. Breathe. Time is precious, irreversible, never to return. Pause and learn to prioritize moments. Do what is most important. Digital distractions and mobile connectivity has brought the world to our palms but are pushing us away from real time, real surroundings and real relationships those wait to get us. Spend time with family. They need you.

Love enough?
Others and you? Sometimes we are too busy loving all and neglect the need to love oneself. Love yourself to respect who you are and let go of the broken tooth that needs to leave. Don't hold on to relationships, jobs, situations that bleed you. Love yourself enough



REMINISCING THE PASSING YEAR...



More often than not we create our own hard times by being angry and vindictive. Learning to let go is a constant affair. Let go to be at peace

Holding on leads to bitterness which in turn decreases our happiness. Let go to be at peace.

Would you?

Remember the wish list you had created when the new year had begun? I have realised that in the next few weeks of this remaining year, I shall try to fulfill the ones that are yet to be done. I would. Would you?
May the year end with the best. Faith, hard work, honesty and prayers move mountains. Keep moving... stay happy!

(Send your questions to roopshashotm@gmail.com)

to understand the need of self respect.

Should you...

Change something?

The way you look. The way you dress. The way you react. The way you act. The way you hide your feelings. The way you think. Change is the only constant. Rigidity towards self improve-

ment is destructive. Spend time with yourself to dig deep and think about the changes you need to bring for a brighter tomorrow.

Let go...

Should you let go of the cloud that engulfs and creates the darkness? More often than not we create our own hard times by being angry and vindictive. Learning to let go is a constant affair.

You share your birthday with



PARINEETI CHOPRA

Born on October 22, 1988, Parineeti Chopra is a Bollywood actor who has received several awards and nominations, including a Filmfare and National Film Award. In addition to her acting career, Chopra is a humanitarian and is a prominent celebrity endorser for brands and products. The cousin of actor Priyanka Chopra, Parineeti initially aspired to pursue a career in investment banking, but after obtaining a triple honours degree in Business, Finance and Economics from Manchester Business School she returned to India during the 2009 economic recession and joined Yash Raj Films as a public relations consultant. She made her acting debut with an acclaimed performance in the 2011 romantic comedy 'Ladies vs Ricky Bahl,' which earned her the Filmfare Award for Best Female Debut. In 2012, she garnered wide critical acclaim for her lead role in the box office hit romantic drama 'Ishaqzaade,' winning the National Film Award – Special Mention. She subsequently received praise for her performances in the successful romantic comedies 'Shuddh Desi Romance' and 'Hasee Toh Phasee.' After taking a break for three years, Chopra returned to screen as an aspiring singer in 'Meri Pyaari Bindu' this year, which also saw her making her playback singing debut.



Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, MP & Union Cabinet Minister, also an eminent animal rights activist and environmentalist answers Millennium Post readers queries related to animal welfare issues

My dog has been diagnosed with arthritis. How do I take care of her other than the medication?

A.1. Canine massage: You're not the only one who can benefit from a nice relaxing massage. The benefits of massages include easing sore muscles, stress reduction, decreased blood pressure, increased flexibility and circulation, and a boost in overall well-being. You can learn animal massaging techniques from the Net and give one to your dog. Massage therapy can be advantageous in noticing lumps, bumps, or sore places on your pet.

2. Heating pads: Just like in humans, heat can be soothing for aches and pains in dogs. Certain brands make doggy heating pads that use specific wavelengths of light for therapeutic and healing benefits includ-

Canine massage for arthritic dogs

The benefits of massages include easing sore muscles, stress reduction, decreased blood pressure, increased flexibility and circulation, and a boost in overall well-being

ing pain relief, releasing trigger points, muscle relaxation, and reducing inflammation. Other dog bed brands have created warming pads that go inside the bed or crate, creating a warming comfortable environment for your dog.

3. Weight control: Maintaining a healthy weight in dogs with arthritis is not only a good idea for their heart, but it can lighten the load they carry on their joints. The heavier your dog is, the more joint stress he endures, leading to more pain.

4. Gentle exercise: Exercise will help your dog stay mobile and maintain a healthy weight. Controlled, gentle exercise can benefit your dog by keeping him moving and lessening stiffness in his joints. Keep exercise gentle, low impact, and for a short period of time to ensure you aren't aggravating your dog's joints. They even have doggy treadmills that will allow you to control the amount of walking, running, and incline of your dog experiences.

5. Natural supplements: Natural joint supplements are not only safe for your dog, they are effective in reducing joint inflammation, pain levels, discomfort,

and stiffness. Your dog's joint supplement should include ingredients like CM8, hydrolysed collagen II, bromelain, and MSM. Each one of these ingredients contributes to slowing joint degeneration and repairing cartilage. Joint supplements can fit as a complement to your dog's daily diet and as a major component of his arthritis treatment.

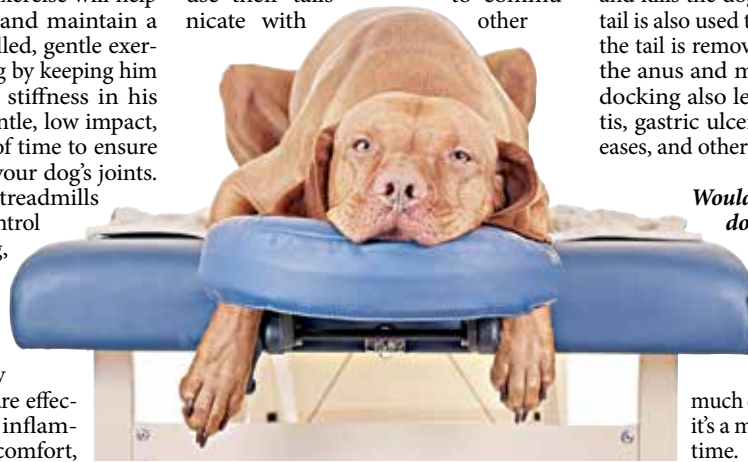
Should tail docking be done?

A: No, It is cruel and illegal. Dogs use their tails to communicate with

dogs (and with people); a dog without a tail might be significantly handicapped in conveying fear, caution, aggression, playfulness, and so on. Certain breeds use their tails as rudders when swimming, and possibly for balance when running, so active dogs with docked tails might be at a disadvantage compared to their tailed peers. Females use tails to cover their vaginas when they open for two weeks during their heat period. When there is no tail, then dust and garbage enters the open vagina and kills the dog through pyometra. The tail is also used to brush away flies. When the tail is removed, flies lay their eggs on the anus and maggots eat the dog. Tail docking also leads to vomiting, gastritis, gastric ulcers, heat stroke, liver diseases, and other problems.

Would it be necessary for my dog to have a litter before I get her spayed?

A: No. Absolutely not. All the medical evidence suggests a dog should be spayed before her first heat. It's much easier for her then because it's a much easier surgery at that time.



And the problem with letting your dog have a litter is you've just instantly contributed to the pet overpopulation problem. Now you have to find homes for all those puppies. And for each home you find, there's one less home for a dog that was already born. Plus, you can't be responsible for what the new owners do. So unless you spay or neuter all the puppies before placing them, the new owners may let their dog breed as well which will add even more

dogs to the pet overpopulation problem.

Why does my dog eat bricks or mud?

A: This is due to iron deficiency. Give your dog iron supplements and lots of green leafy vegetables to eat. This should also be treated as an indication of worms. The faeces should be examined.

(Views expressed and information provided are personal; Send your questions to manekaanimallove@gmail.com)



**U-17 WORLD CUP
INDIA 2017**

India was not bound to dominate the proceedings at the FIFA U-17 World Cup. But there were some positives to take away from the tournament, writes Sridhar Venkatesh

mp
Game On

FIFA U-17 World Cup:
No points, but Indians played with great passion



Late in the first half, fullback Rahul Kannoly's left-footed volley hit the framework of the goal. This was the closest India got to score their first goal in the first 45 minutes. With a spirited performance in the first half, the Indian colts ensured that they would not be trailing when they returned to the dressing room.

What the Colombians had on their side, however, was the possession. And it was this possession which transformed into a goal in the second half. At the 49th minute, winger Juan Penalzoza made a penetrating run through the left flank, successfully taking on no less than three defenders and tucked the ball into the bottom right corner to give Colombia the lead.

This goal was perhaps what charged up the Indian colts, who began making probing runs into the Colombian third with more gusto than before. Their efforts did finally pay off, as in the 82nd minute a corner taken by Ninthoinganba was pounced upon by lanky midfielder Jeakson Singh to give India its first ever goal in a FIFA tournament. The crowd went wild and the team was more charged up than ever.

Little did the Indian boys realise that the ecstasy of their equaliser would be their undoing. Having lost their concentration for a while, the Indian defence loosened up a bit, only for Penalzoza to capitalise again and score the winner for Colombia. The game ended in heartbreak for India once again, but it also shows



On October 9, during India's second match against Colombia, an 82nd minute corner taken by Ninthoinganba was pounced upon by lanky midfielder Jeakson Singh to give India its first ever goal in a FIFA tournament. The crowd went wild and the team was more charged up than ever

India's maiden FIFA Under-17 World Cup campaign went very much the way it was expected to go. In a group filled with heavyweights such as Colombia, USA and Ghana, India was not bound to dominate the proceedings. The Indian colts were unable to win any point from their three games – all played at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium – as they had to play an opposition physically and skilfully more superior to them on all occasions. However, to say that there were no positives to be taken from India's performances would be an unfair statement.

The criteria for progression to the knockout stages in the U-17 World Cup, as seen commonly in most FIFA tournaments, are based on points, goal difference and goals scored. In its first game on October 6, India faced off against a USA team filled with youngsters gifted with both the physique and the skill-set required for playing at the highest level.

The US team boasted of strong, gifted forwards like Timothy Weah, Ayo Akinola and skipper Josh Sargent. While Sargent had accumulated 18 goals from 30 appearances for the U-17 team before reaching India, Akinola had amassed an impressive 24 goals in 25 games. Weah, on the other hand, is playing his trade at French giants Paris Saint-Germain at the club level. This is proof enough that the front line of strikers playing for the Americans was far more experienced than their Indian counterparts.

The game had begun on a rather encouraging note, with India keeping their opponents at bay for a majority of the first half. Things, however, took a drastic turn in the 30th minute, when star striker Sargent was fouled inside the Indian penalty box and won a penalty for his team. Sargent made no mistake and converted from the spot to give USA a lead. The second half began with USA dominating the Indian side, and the Americans soon got the well-deserved fruit for their labour. A freak goal by defender Chris Durkin off a mis-

directed corner clearance by Indian goalkeeper Dheeraj Moirangthem gave USA its second goal in the 51st minute.

The two-goal lead for USA caused them to take things a bit lightly, resulting in India creating a chance in the 83rd minute. With the ball having reached his feet while inside the USA box, Anwar Ali struck a ferocious right foot, only to hit the US woodwork. The resultant counter presented the US team with the opportunity, that midfielder Andrew Carleton grabbed with both hands in the 84th minute. USA thus went on to win the game comfortably, 3-0.

Luckily for India, more embarrassment was avoided, thanks to the fine anticipatory skills of goalkeeper Dheeraj Moirangthem Singh, who made some impressive saves. India's defence, however, was not up to the mark and failed to win balls in crunch situations. The forward line did indeed disappoint a lot, as strikers Abhijit Sarkar and Anwar Ali could not capitalise useful chances.

The second match against Colombia was perhaps India's most credible chance of opening its account in group A. The South Americans had lost their first group encounter against Ghana by a solitary goal and the game showed that the Colombian boys were not as skilful as one would have expected them to be. The October 9 game against Colombia was, in many ways, India's pathway to the knockout phase. Alas, it was not to be.

Once again, a boisterous crowd participated in India's endeavour to make a fight out of India's second group fixture at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, with each forward run and each tackle to snatch the ball off the Colombians' feet inviting loud cheers and whistles from the fans.



glimpses of brilliance from India's young Manipuri keeper Dheeraj, who made five brilliant saves in the course of 90 minutes.

India's final game was against a Ghanaian side, who were coming after a narrow defeat at the hands of USA. That, however, did not dim their spirits in any way, as they were firing on all cylinders against India, in the last fixture of Group A on October 12. India made four changes to their starting line-up, as did Ghana. Most notably, Nongdamba Naorem filled the right flank to add pace for the Indians.

However, once the game began, the difference in quality was particularly glaring. Ghanaian skipper Eric Ayiah scored twice in both halves, in the 43rd and 52nd minutes, which was enough to demoralise the Indian defence. Once they got going in the second half, there was no looking back for the Ghanaians. Second half substitutes Richard Danso and Emmanuel Toku both struck for their side, in the 86th and 87th minutes respectively, to give the four goals to India's zero.

While there were signs of promise for the Indians in the games against USA and Colombia, the game against Ghana was not one of those. The Indian boys were outclassed by their Ghanaian counterparts in terms of their tactical astuteness, as Ghanaian coach Samuel Fabin made very effective changes after learning from his defeat against the United States of America in the previous game. More importantly, Ghana physically towered above India, both literally and metaphorically. However, fans once again poured out in great numbers to appreciate the efforts of the Indian youngsters, who once again played their heart out in spite of their lack of finesse.



“All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way
- Leo Tolstoy

Simply Complex

Directed by Atanu Mukherjee, *Rukh* is an intriguing, suspenseful, and realistic film which revolves around a son who can feel the strength from his father but also feels the misery his mother is going through. It is the circumstances his family endures that sees him attempting to unravel the truth about his father's death



Team *Rukh* — director Atanu Mukherjee and actors Manoj Bajpayee and Adarsh Gourav — tease their upcoming film in a conversation with team Box Office India

BOI: Rukh's trailer looks intriguing. What inspired you to make a film like this?
Atanu Mukherjee (AM): The primary reference was from real characters and situations around us. That is what initially motivated me to develop the story and as we kept on developing, we made it more fiction than fact.

BOI: Manoj and Adarsh, talking about your characters, whose has real-life references and how relatable were they for you both?

Adarsh Gourav (AG): To start with, while my character has grown up in Mumbai, I came to the city in 2007. So, in that sense, I could relate to the characters. In the places where I couldn't relate to the characters, I decided to speak to my friends. Something happens in the film due to which my character is sent to a boarding school. I gathered information from my friends about their boarding school experiences. That helped me understand how that changed my character's perception towards life, how the distance from his family changed his opinion towards them. That's how I started preparing for the film.

Manoj Bajpayee (MB): I come from a middle-class family and the problems that middle-class families go through is not only a problem of the family that we are showing in the film. This is a common problem faced by each and every middle class family in their day-to-day lives. The struggle is always on. It starts from getting up in the morning till the time one goes off to sleep. There is not a single moment where the family isn't facing the difficulties of survival; it is all about surviving the next moment. Some families crumble and some don't. This family is trying very hard to keep afloat in troubled waters.

Adarsh plays the son where he feels strength from his father but also feels the misery his mother is going through. This has also affected his school life. It is the circumstances his family endures that sees him attempting to unravel the truth about the death of his father. It is intriguing, suspenseful, full of realism in terms of relationships, friendships, conflicts and betrayal.

BOI: Manoj, what is that one thing about the role that made you decide that you

had to be a part of this film?

MB: It is the script. *Koi aadmi aise likh saktai hai?* There is so much simplicity in it. It is something that anybody can read and understand. Yet, he talks of such complex things in a relationship, a middle class family, his life. He is also trying to tell the story of a mature father-son relationship. In this one single story, many complex relationships are explored with a lot of suspense, drama and intrigue. That is why I wanted to be a part of this film. Adarsh is playing the main lead and we're playing the secondary roles, but I wanted this film to be a part of my career.

BOI: How was the dynamic on the sets?

MB: We were serious while shooting but we had our own share of fun and jokes going around. I like to relax on set because the subject is very complicated. It needs a lot of focus and attention. I keep pulling everybody's leg. That is my time pass!

AG: I think Manoj sir was the first villain I saw on-screen in *Satya*.

MB (cuts in): That was not a villain, by the way!

AG: Okay, it was the first gangster I saw. Although I was too young to understand what the film was about, his work was so realistic and powerful, it impacted me, deeply. I was very nervous when I found out that I was playing Manoj sir's son, because I had Sardar Khan and Bhiku Mhatre on my mind. When I met him, I realised he is such an easy person to work with. He makes you feel extremely comfortable. He never made me feel that I'm working with such a big actor. I got to learn so much from him. Even at this age, he gets up at five in the morning.

MB (cuts in): At this age? I am not 70!

AG: What I mean is a person with so much experience is still so dedicated to his work. And it is very inspiring to work with people like him. I think he treats every film like it's his first. It is a big learning curve for somebody like me who has just started his career. Atanu is very clear and focused about what he wants.

MB (cuts in): He is not even on social media. So focused.

AM: He is just behind me to get on social media.

AG: Yeah, we all want that. I think it is very important for an actor to not be confused when playing a part. Even before the film started, I was so sure what

Atanu wanted. We were both on the same page.

BOI: Atanu, did you always have Manoj on your mind for this project?

AM: Yes, he was my first choice. Even when I was writing the script, I wanted to meet him and pitch the film.

MB (Cuts in): You better give me the lead role in the next one!

AM: Sure! So then I got in touch with him and narrated the story. We had shot a small clip as a treatment scene and I realised that he kind of liked it. Obviously, he wanted to read the script. He was quite interested to come on board. That was a very exciting moment for me. I wasn't expecting that. He was my first choice and he said yes to me.

BOI: Being a first-time director, did it make you feel nervous to work with an actor of Manoj's calibre?

AM: Initially, yes, I was nervous. But then, we met a couple of times during the reading sessions. We began understanding each other. I understood his interpretation of the story. So that made us comfortable.

BOI: Since this film deals with a sensitive issue, was it sometimes emotionally draining? Was it difficult to come out of that zone?

AG: Absolutely. I feel there are some scenes where you need to invest a lot. There are different ways of doing it. Once you are off set, you go back home. It is quite refreshing. Returning home, for me, was a breather to be myself again. It gave me an extra boost of energy to go back to set the next day. Even though the scenes were emotionally tiring, I had an incred-



'The struggle of a middle-class family is always on. It starts from getting up in the morning till the time one goes off to sleep. There is not a single moment where the family isn't facing the difficulties of survival; it is all about surviving the next moment. Some families crumble and some don't', says Manoj

ible time doing them.

MB: There are two sequences where I felt I was just there. Some magic happened. It is one of those times when you are completely in the zone and your co-actor is also in the zone. There is a scene where I am talking to my wife, where she is worried about some family problems. They might have to sell everything; I still remember some magic happened during that scene. My co-star, Smitha Tambe and I were simultaneously in the same zone. Another such scene was with Kumud Mishra, where I am bewildered about how to deal with a friend's betrayal. I just hit him with my

finger while enacting the scene.

AM: These are the scenes where you, as a real person, go through the same thing as the character. The mental status is similar. The scene with Kumudji and Manojji and the scene with his wife reveal the involvement of the actors.

MB: In the shot, I just nudged him with my finger. It was immense betrayal I experienced as the character. Kumud actually felt the pain when I hit him in the scene. I didn't mean to hurt him though.

AM: Everything was improvised. I remember Manojji telling me, 'I feel like doing it, so let's just do it.'

BOI: What are each of your projects in the pipeline?

AM: I am developing a couple of more ideas.

MB: Only develop the idea which has me for the lead role!
AG: I was in drama school for a year, so I was writing stuff and directing plays there, apart from acting in them. I wrote a play called *Aiyyo Raju* and I am taking that play to Theespo. We keep making short films as well.

MB: I have *Aiyyari*, *Baaghi 2* and two international films, *Love Sonia* and *In The Shadows* (Gaalii Guliyaaan) coming up. According to me, *Gaalii Guliyaaan* is my best performance so far and it has created a lot of buzz. I will also shoot for a film *Bhosle*, which I am co-producing. I have been looking for a producer for four years to make this film. It is slightly controversial which is why it is difficult to find a producer. It is about an old man, who, after retirement, does not want to return to Mumbai.

