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NO HALF TRUTHS

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CM GIVES AWAY BANGA BHUSHAN, BANGA BIBHUSAN AWARDS



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IRAN'S PRESIDENT ROUHANI WINS RE-ELECTION



FILM PAGE 16

MIND YOUR LANGUAGE



Two soldiers martyred, two infiltrating terrorists killed

SRINAGAR: Two militants and two soldiers were killed in a fierce encounter as the Army on Saturday foiled an infiltration bid in Naugam sector of the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir. "An infiltration bid was foiled by alert troops along the LoC in Naugam sector. Two infiltrating terrorists were killed," an army official said. He said two that soldiers attained martyrdom in the operation, which was continuing till last reports were received. Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary B B Vyas on Saturday reviewed the arrangements being made for the forthcoming annual Amarnath yatra scheduled to commence on June 29 simultaneously from Baltal and Chandanwari routes. The meeting was attended by Director General of Police S P Vaid, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, Umang Narula and other civil and police officers, an official spokesman said. He said that the chief secretary reviewed the position and the preparedness till date by the various line departments for the yatra.

“People living in border areas are ‘strategic assets’, welfare activities for them must be carried out

RAJNATH SINGH

In today's paper

CITY

BISHNUPUR TMC LEADER SHOT DEAD 3

NATION

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POLITICAL PARTIES TO PICK EVMs FROM POLL PANEL'S DELHI WAREHOUSES

EC's challenge: Break used EVMs on June 3

DHIRENDRA KUMAR

NEW DELHI: Confident that electronic voting machines (EVMs) cannot be tampered with, the Election Commission has decided to offer an opportunity to political parties to crack the EVMs on June 3. The apex poll panel has also set seven basic conditions for the political parties willing to take part in the scheduled hackathon and prove their contention that the EVMs used in the February-March assembly elections were tampered with.

Defending strongly the fool-proof mechanism of voting machines, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Nasim Zaidi said, "The EVMs cannot be hacked as these are standalone machines and not connected to the Internet or any other network. One can tamper with it only after getting full access to the machine, which is next to impossible as the security measures by the poll panel are fool-proof."

The parties would have to pick the EVMs from the EC's warehouses in Delhi at their own cost and if a party fails to report at the



Chief Election Commissioner Nasim Zaidi demonstrating the working of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and VVPATs in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

allotted time without prior intimation or approval, they won't be allowed to participate as their challenge will stand cancelled, the EC statement said.

Ruling out re-programming of the machines, the CEC said that the EVMs are fitted with OTP chips and code tampering by the chip manufacturer is also not possible as it will get caught during the code integrity check. He further stressed that hacking of machines cannot be done by using external devices such

as Bluetooth or through radio frequency transmission or reception or wireless communication.

The chief election commissioner made it clear that any modified EVM would not be usable even if someone is able to hypothetically by-pass security arrangements and modify the machines.

"The EVMs are stored in a strong room in the presence of political parties. These EVMs are escorted back to the strong room post-poll and stored under 24x7

POLL HACKATHON

Only parties that participated in just held Assembly polls can take part in June 3 hackathon

Each party can appoint three people to crack EVMs

Each political party will get four EVMs of its choice

Sealed EVMs will not be part of the hackathon

If EVMs become non-functional due to tamper attempt or if challenger violates the rules set, the challenge will be struck down

security. Besides security personnel, the EVMs are also being 'guarded' by representatives of political parties. So under the given circumstances, how could one tamper with it?" an EC official said.

The EC, in its directive, has stated that the challenge to hack EVMs is open for only those national and regional parties that took part in the recently concluded Assembly elections and each party can appoint three people each to crack the machines.

1,200 still stranded by Uttarakhand landslides



DEHRADUN: Of the around 2,000 people stranded after a landslide in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district, 800 have resumed their onward journey and work is on to clear the debris, officials said on Saturday. The Rishikesh-Badrinath National Highway was closed near Vishnuprayag, one of the five confluences of Alaknanda river, between Joshimath (also known as Jyotirmath) and Badrinath, the famous pilgrim spot in the hill state.

Huge boulders had rolled down the Hathi Pahar mountain on Friday afternoon blocking the highway. Chief Minister Triendra Singh Rawat has directed the Secretary of Disaster Management Department, Amit Negi, to monitor the situation.

Chamoli District Magistrate Ashish Joshi said that

around 2,000 people were affected due to the landslide and of them 800 have been resumed their onward journey. As of now, 1,200 people are still stranded at different places in Vishnuprayag, Pandukeshwar and Govindghat.

An official said that arrangements for food and lodging have been made for the stranded people. Border Roads Organisation (BRO) personnel have been working on a war footing to clear the debris since Friday afternoon, and according to senior officials the highway will be reopened for traffic soon.

Meanwhile, Joshi said the media reports claiming that around 15,000 people are stranded due to the landslide are "absolutely wrong". "Only 2,000 people have been affected," he asserted.

Martyr's fasting kin reject offer of meeting with UP CM Yogi

SAMBHAL (UP): Family members of Sepoy Sudesh Kumar, who was killed last year in firing by Pakistani troops along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir, on Saturday rejected the administration's offer to fix an appointment with the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during his Moradabad visit on Sunday. The family members on Friday sat on an indefinite fast, demanding the chief minister to pay a visit to their Pansukha Milak village.

Stating that the condition of Kavita Kumari, the widow of Sudesh Kumar was not good, Manoj, the brother of the killed sepoy, said that district unit presidents of the BJP and the SP, Rajesh Singhal and Firoz Khan respectively, also met the family.

"Senior officials, including the

SP, the ADM, the SDM and the CO today met us with the offer of fixing an appointment with the Chief Minister during his Moradabad visit tomorrow but we are firm that we will not end our indefinite fast till he visits our village," Manoj said. ADM R P Yadav confirmed that the family was urged to end the fast and told that a meeting of two of them can be fixed with the CM during his visit to Moradabad on Sunday but they have turned it down.

Officials have been directed to arrange for a team of doctors to check the medical condition of the family members on fast. The family members of Sudesh, who laid down his life on October 16, 2016, claimed that despite promises by the BJP leaders, none of them visited the family again.

34,000 PARAMILITARY CONSTABLE POSTS UPGRADED TO HEAD CONSTABLES: RAJNATH '₹1 cr for paramilitary jawans who die for nation'

NATHU LA (Sikkim): Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday announced that the family of each paramilitary jawan who dies in action will be given a compensation of Rs 1 crore. He also declared that 34,000 posts of paramilitary constables were upgraded as head constables.

Addressing a 'Sainik Samelan' of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Force at the Sherathang border outpost, the home minister said the nation appreciates and is proud of the sacrifice of its paramilitary jawans. The paramilitary forces have been fighting the Naxals in central and



eastern parts of the country, militants in Jammu and Kashmir, and guarding the borders in inhospitable terrains.

"The sacrifice of our jawans cannot be compensated with money. But the families of martyrs should not face any difficulty. Therefore, I will ensure that family of each paramilitary jawan gets at least Rs 1 crore as

compensation," he said.

The announcement came nearly a month after the killing of 25 CRPF jawans by Naxals at Sukma in Chhattisgarh. Earlier, the home minister visited the India-China border post here and reviewed the security situation. The home minister said a lot has been done for the welfare of paramilitary personnel but much more needs to be done in the coming days. Singh asked the ITBP jawans to use the recently launched mobile app by the home ministry to register their grievances, including personal problems, so that the ministry can try to resolve them.

The home minister also promised to look into the demand of the ITBP to bring uniformity in high altitude allowances. The total length of the Sino-Indian border is 3,488 km of which 1,597 km runs through Jammu and Kashmir, 200 km in Himachal Pradesh, 345 km in Uttarakhand, 220 km in Sikkim and 1,126 km in Arunachal Pradesh. The border is not fully demarcated and the process of clarifying and confirming the Line of Actual Control is in progress. The border areas, which are located at high altitudes, have inadequate development and infrastructure facilities.

Mathew Samuel gets fresh summons in controversial Narada 'sting operation' case

PRITESH BASU

KOLKATA: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has once again summoned Narada News CEO Mathew Samuel to interrogate him in connection with the sting operation in which several political leaders were featured. Mathew was once summoned earlier and he was supposed to turn up at the office of the central investigating agency in Kolkata on May 18.

But he did not turn up and had informed the ED officials that it was not possible for him to come to its office in Kolkata due to "some health related

issues". Thus, the ED has issued him a fresh summons.

Since Mathew had informed about his inability to come to Kolkata for interrogation "due to poor health condition", the ED has asked him to turn up to its office at Kochi in Kerala on May 24. According to a senior ED officer, "he should turn up for the interrogation this time as he is at present in Kochi. A team comprising ED officers from Kolkata will be questioning him."

"Since he is the key person behind the sting operation, we have to record his statement on how he had managed to arrange everything



and in what circumstances," the officer said. Sources said that there will also be questions on the source of money used in the sting operation as he had given different state-

ments on the source of money Mathew has to come with his personal financial documents that include Income Tax Returns of the last three assessment years and documents related to Narada News. The CBI had also summoned Mathew to its office in Kolkata on May 16 and in this case as well, he didn't turn up "for health related issues".

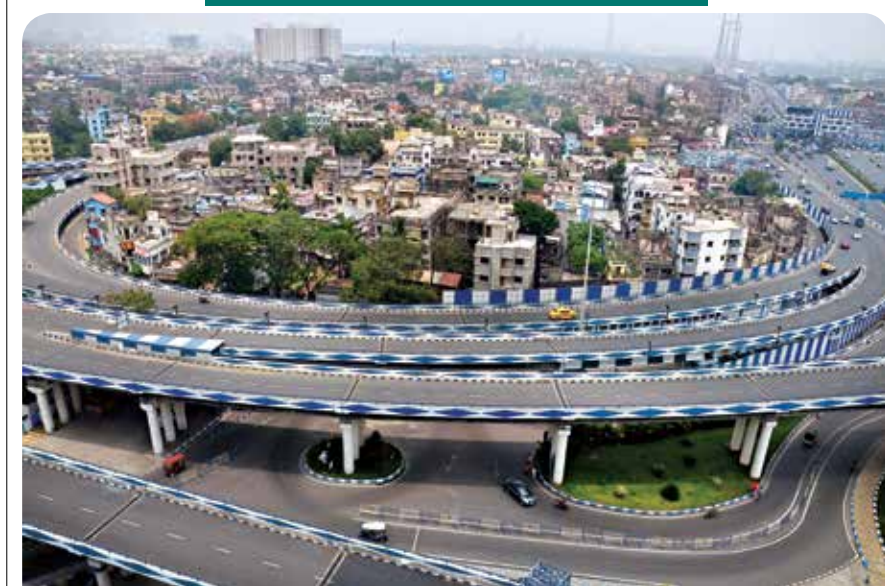
According to agencies, Samuel is not accused in the ED FIR, called the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR), and the agency wants to quiz him to get information about the sting and circumstances in which it was carried

out. Samuel has been quizzed by the CBI in this case earlier.

The CBI too is probing the case separately on charges of corruption. The agency had registered a criminal complaint in this case last month under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after studying the CBI FIR. It will probe the proceeds of crime generated in this case.

While the CBI's criminal FIR had been registered against 12 TMC leaders and an IPS officer, the ED FIR has been booked against 14 entities that include a category of unidentified persons apart from the 13 in the CBI complaint, they said.

MERCURY SOARS



The Vidyasagar Setu flyover in Howrah wears an unusually deserted look on Saturday due to the punishing temperature. PTI

Ex-CPI(M) MLA's son's Friday night joyride turns deadly for 4 labourers

PRADIP CHATTERJEE

KOLKATA: A speeding car, driven by the son of former CPI (M) MLA of Manteswar in Purba Burdwan mowed down four persons. The incident occurred near Jayram pool under Kusum panchayat in Manteswar on Friday night.

Altogether seven persons were injured in the accident. All of them were rushed to Burdwan Medical College and Hospital where two died on Friday night while other two succumbed to their injuries at the hospital on Saturday morning. Three persons were undergoing treatment at the hospital for injuries.

The accused, Hamidullah Chaudhuri, son of Chaudhuri Md Hedayatullah, former MLA of the CPI (M) from Manteswar, was driving the car at the time of the accident. He, however, fled from the

spot immediately after the accident.

Police were conducting raids to nab the accused who was absconding since the accident took place. The accused's friend, Mohammed Sayed, who too was in the car, told the police that they had consumed alcohol from a bar near Nabadwip, Nadia, and were then returning home.

On their way home, their car had first hit a motorbike following which the accused sped up his vehicle and hit a tractor. Police suspect that car was running at a speed of around 100 km per hour when the driver lost control over the vehicle and it hit a tractor laden with paddy which was stationed by the side of the Maldanga-Memari road.

The car was going to Manteswar from Kusumgram at the time of the accident. The impact of the accident was so high that the tractor fell on a nearby ditch after



the car had hit it.

The victims were sitting on the tractor when the accident took place and the local

people rushed to their rescue.

They took the injured victims to the hospital. The car was also damaged in the

Hamidullah Chaudhuri, son of Chaudhuri Md Hedayatullah, former MLA of Manteswar, Purba Burdwan, drove his car into a tractor on which the workers were travelling and fled from the spot. Chaudhuri and his friend Mohammed Sayed were on their way back from a drinking binge at a bar near Nabadwip, Nadia

injured victims and took them to victims to Manteswar Hospital from where they were shifted to Burdwan Medical College and Hospital as their condition deteriorated.

The victims were all daily wage workers who were returning home from their days work on the tractor, police said. A senior police officer said that they have already registered a case against the driver.

Further investigations are on to ascertain if the accused was in a drunken state and how the accident had taken place. The car has been seized after the accident.

Forensic tests would be done on the car. The investigation officer (IO), however, believes that the driver could not control the vehicle as it was running at top speed. The police were conducting raids to nab the accused who had been absconding since the accident occurred.

Weekend Break

“Everyone has secrets. It's just a matter of finding out what they are”
- Stieg Larsson



A perfect weekend getaway

Lose yourself in the calmness and fresh air of Henry Island located in West Bengal. The silent island is the perfect getaway for people who are tired of the hustle-bustle of city life



PORNI BANERJEE

The land which echoes enchantment and romance that can put you in trance, a place where every bit of nature's wonders are at its zenith, a site which could bring solace to your soul – it is the one and only Henry's Island. As history outlines, this place is named after a British explorer who surveyed the beach and the adjoining areas back in the 19th century.

For those who want to take a break from their mundane lifestyles and breathe in 'fresh air', Henry's Island could be a peerless weekend gateway with your friends and family. Apart from its lush greenery, the uniqueness of Henry's Island lies on the fact that it is an abode of serenity and tranquility. The gift of its nature is hidden in the pleasure of taking joy in silence, which speaks volumes unlike any other noisy, overcrowded urban set ups. Forget about gadgets and, of course, your mobiles and embrace the peace of mind you had the thirst for.

Located approximately 140 kilometers away from Kolkata, Henry's Island near Bakkhali in West Bengal is a must-visit destination because of its major attractions, including a watch-tower where one can climb and get a panoramic view of the entire beach, woods of the mangrove and the *Bheri*. If you are interested in fisheries, then *Bheris* – large shallow lakes dedicated to pisciculture – could offer you to have a look at varied types of fishes (if you are lucky enough). Nearly thirty of these *Bheris* are scattered across the beach. Fishes are also up for purchase at a government price. Some birds like Lesser Whistling Ducks, Eurasian Wigeon, Common Snipe, Black-Rumped Flameback, Kingfisher, Gadwall, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, and Streak-throated Woodpecker, among others also add charm to its beauty.

Your excursion to this silent island could be paradisaical as soon as you step a foot on it. Amidst complete calmness of its own kind, one can truly live up the moments of love with your loved ones. The cool breeze of fresh air, slight movement of leaves of the Casuarina



Ornamental display of activity by Red Fiddler Crab's

trees, sun-kissed horizon at the onset of dawn, star-lit sky at the time of the on-fall of dusk clubbed with the pacifying sounds of the natural flow of Bay of Bengal, a trip to Henry's Island is a magnanimous experience for all the nature lovers to unearth true meaning of life.

Reaching the destination by rail or road is not a tough job at all. There is an easy access of WBSTC bus service from Karunamoyee or Esplanade. Also, you can hire private cars as an alternative, which would take approximately 3 to 4 hours to reach the island. You can also take delight in the journey by train. The nearest railway station to Henry's Island is Namkhana. There are trains at regular intervals from Sealdah via Lakshmi kantapur and Kaldwip to Namkhana. If you prefer to start early, then catch the first train which starts at around 4 am.

Sabyasachi Nath, who is the resident of Kolkata and a travel enthusiast, says, "To add frolic to your journey, it is advisable to take a break at Diamond Harbour and enjoy

the beautiful sunset over the river if you start your expedition late. After travelling a certain distance ahead, stop at the ferry ghat of river Hatania Doania creek on your way to the white-sand beach as you and your car require crossing the river by launch. Also, this particular area is swarming with fishermen and comprises a small market for locals to buy their daily products."

Arya Bandyopadhyay, who is a photographer by profession and an avid traveller also highlights, "If you want to enjoy peace, Henry's Island is the ideal destination. West Bengal Fisheries Department maintains their own guest houses near the island at a decent price."

Henry's Island doesn't have much to offer in terms of food. However, it will not disappoint you. Food is available only at the resorts you check in. *Luchi-Alubhaja, rice, dal, desi-murgir jhol* and the likes are served hot and fresh. Do not expect to be 'digital' in any way – there are no ATMs in and around the private beach. So, carry cash.

Neelkantha Barman, manager of Hotel Amrabati at Bakkhali opines that "Henry's Island is blessed with its magnificent beauty. The best time to visit here is from December to January. However, areas in and around the island needs to be further maintained by the government as far as cleanliness is concerned. To reach there, vessel service should have a quicker access to tourists. I personally think that a little attention to the development of this region would certainly improve the beauty of the adjoining areas and help in promoting West Bengal Tourism."

Apart from all the other spots, Benfish harbor and Fraserganj beach are the two interesting spots on your way to the island. Moreover, Crocodile Park or the Crocodile Breeding Center at Bakkhali near Henry's Island could also be a great option to switch to. This park is less-known and has a huge collection of crocodiles – ranging from babies to old crocodiles.

The coastal area has something beautiful in its store to offer every time you visit there. Discover the surprises which describe the island as being possessed with its arresting glamour.

Movies this week



HALF GIRLFRIEND



PVR - Avani Riverside Mall, Shibpur
9:00AM 11:45AM 2:30PM 5:15PM
8:00PM 10:45PM

PVR - Diamond Plaza Mall, Jessore Road
9:00AM 10:15AM 11:45AM 2:30PM
5:15PM 8:00PM 10:45PM
PVR - Mani Square Mall, EM Bypass
9:00AM 11:45AM 5:25PM 8:10PM
10:55PM
Rathindra Cinema Hall - Sodepur
1:45PM 4:45PM 7:30PM
RDB Cinema - Salt Lake
9:00AM 11:35AM 2:15PM 4:55PM
7:35PM 10:15PM
INOX - City Center 2 Mall, Rajarhat
8:50AM 9:55AM 11:35AM 2:20PM
5:10PM 8:00PM 10:50PM
INOX - City Center Mall, Salt Lake
9:00AM 10:05AM 3:40PM 5:05PM
8:00PM 10:55PM
INOX - Forum Mall, Elgin Road
9:00AM 11:45AM 1:25PM 2:35PM
5:25PM 8:15PM 9:50PM 11:05PM
INOX - Forum Rangoli Mall, Howrah
9:45AM 1:20PM 6:55PM 9:50PM
INOX - Metropolis Mall, Santoshpur
10:05AM 12:50PM 2:10PM 7:45PM
10:35PM
INOX - Quest Mall, Ballygunge
9:00AM 10:15AM 11:45AM 2:35PM
5:25PM 8:15PM 11:05PM
INOX - R D Mall, Liluah
9:00AM 11:45AM 2:30PM 5:15PM
8:05PM 10:55PM
INOX - South City Mall, Jadavpur
9:00AM 10:25AM 11:45AM 2:35PM
5:25PM 6:50PM 8:15PM 9:55PM 11:05PM
INOX - Swabhum, Phool Bagan
9:05AM 11:40AM 2:25PM 5:15PM
8:05PM 9:00PM 10:55PM
INOX Hind - Dharmatala
9:00AM 12:25PM 5:25PM 10:55PM
INOX Insignia - Quest Mall, Ballygunge
7:15PM 10:05PM
Cinepolis - Acropolis Mall, Rajdanga Road

9:10AM 12:00PM 2:50PM 5:40PM 8:30PM
9:30PM 11:20PM
Cinepolis - Lake Mall, Kalighat
9:00AM 11:50AM 2:40PM 5:30PM
8:20PM 11:15PM

HINDI MEDIUM



PVR - Diamond Plaza Mall, Jessore
Road 9:00AM 9:45AM 12:00PM
2:45PM 5:30PM 10:50PM

PVR - Mani Square Mall, EM Bypass
9:30AM 2:40PM 5:25PM 10:55PM
RDB Cinema - Salt Lake
10:00AM 3:00PM 9:00PM
Carnival Cinemas - Down Town Mall,
Salt Lake
9:05AM 11:45AM 8:20PM 11:00PM
Cinepolis - Acropolis Mall, Rajdanga Road

9:35AM 10:50AM 3:30PM 8:25PM
11:10PM
Cinepolis - Lake Mall, Kalighat
9:30AM 2:55PM 7:15PM 8:25PM 11:10PM
INOX - City Center 2 Mall, Rajarhat
9:00AM 2:10PM 7:50PM 10:35PM
INOX - City Center Mall, Salt Lake
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INOX - Forum Mall, Elgin Road
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INOX - Forum Rangoli Mall, Howrah
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INOX - Quest Mall, Ballygunge
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INOX - South City Mall, Jadavpur
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INOX - Swabhum, Phool Bagan
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INOX Hind - Dharmatala
11:40AM 8:10PM
INOX Insignia - Quest Mall, Ballygunge
1:35PM 4:25PM 7:35PM

AMI JE KE TOMAR

PVR - Avani Riverside Mall, Shibpur
5:15PM 9:45PM
PVR - Diamond Plaza Mall, Jessore Road
12:30PM 6:05PM
Cinepolis - Acropolis Mall, Rajdanga Road
5:40PM
Cinepolis - Lake Mall, Kalighat 2:10PM 5:40PM
INOX - City Center 2 Mall, Rajarhat 4:55PM
INOX - Forum Rangoli Mall, Howrah 4:00PM
INOX - Metropolis Mall, Santoshpur 4:00PM
INOX - South City Mall, Jadavpur
1:15PM 7:00PM

JATTU ENGINEER

Bioscope - Axis Mall, Rajarhat 11:00PM
Jayanti Cinema - Barrackpore 10:15AM
Menoka Cinema - Kalighat 9:30AM
Ragini Cinema - Beliaghata 2:15PM

Talkie Show House - Shyambazar 8:30PM

POSTO

PVR - Avani Riverside Mall, Shibpur
2:20PM 3:55PM 6:50PM
PVR - Diamond Plaza Mall, Jessore Road
1:00PM 3:55PM 6:50PM 9:45PM
PVR - Mani Square Mall, EM Bypass
2:30PM
RDB Cinema - Salt Lake 4:00PM 7:00PM
Carnival Cinemas - Down Town Mall, Salt
Lake 2:45PM 5:30PM 8:15PM
Cinepolis - Acropolis Mall, Rajdanga Road
12:30PM 6:30PM
Cinepolis - Lake Mall, Kalighat
10:55AM 4:50PM 7:55PM
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11:00AM 1:10PM 4:15PM 7:20PM 9:50PM
INOX - Swabhum, Phool Bagan
11:50AM 4:15PM 7:15PM
INOX Hind - Dharmatala 2:25PM

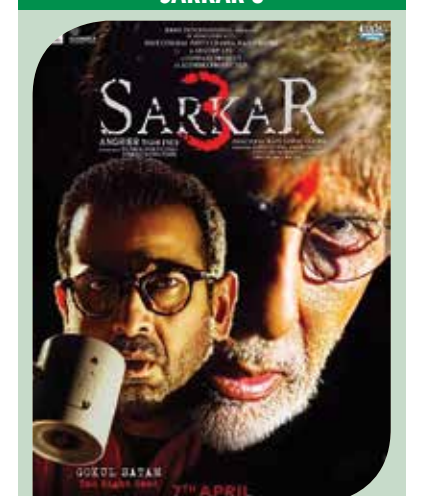
MERI PYARI BINDU

PVR - Avani Riverside Mall, Shibpur 1:20PM
PVR - Diamond Plaza Mall, Jessore Road
8:15PM
PVR - Mani Square Mall, EM Bypass
12:05PM
RDB Cinema - Salt Lake 12:35PM
Carnival Cinemas - Down Town Mall, Salt
Lake 12:50PM
Cinepolis - Acropolis Mall, Rajdanga Road
12:20PM

Cinepolis - Lake Mall, Kalighat 12:20PM

INOX - City Center 2 Mall, Rajarhat 11:40AM
INOX - City Center Mall, Salt Lake 11:40AM
INOX - Forum Mall, Elgin Road 4:15PM
INOX - Quest Mall, Ballygunge 2:25PM
INOX - South City Mall, Jadavpur 1:30PM
INOX - Swabhum, Phool Bagan 11:00AM

SARKAR 3



Elite Cinema Hall - Esplanade
12:00PM 3:00PM 6:00PM 9:00PM
INOX - Forum Mall, Elgin Road 11:45AM
INOX - Quest Mall, Ballygunge 1:10PM

BAAHUBALI 2: THE CONCLUSION

PVR - Avani Riverside Mall, Shibpur
9:15AM 10:00AM 12:35PM 3:55PM
PVR - Diamond Plaza Mall, Jessore Road
12:35PM 3:55PM 7:15PM 10:35PM
PVR - Mani Square Mall, EM Bypass
12:35PM 3:55PM 7:15PM 10:35PM
RDB Cinema - Salt Lake
9:30AM 12:45PM 5:45PM 10:00PM
INOX - City Center 2 Mall, Rajarhat
9:10AM 12:30PM 3:55PM 7:20PM

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“ Today is 20th May. In 2011, on this day, our govt came to power in #Bengal

- Mamata Banerjee in a tweet

CM Mamata gives away Banga Bibhushan, Banga Bhushan awards



OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in a star-studded event on Saturday handed over Banga Bibhushan award to Soumitra Chatterjee at a function at Nazrul Mancha this evening.

She also handed over Banga Bibhushan award to poet Nirendranath Chakaborty. There were three Banga Bibhushan awardees and eight Banga Bhushan awardees in total.

Handing over the award to the octogenarian actor Soumitra Chatterjee, Banerjee said: “We are proud to handover the award to the great actor. He has enriched Bengali cinema, has worked in Bengal for nearly six decades. Despite age, he is still working and enthralled the audience.”

Banerjee handed Banga Bibhushan award to former Director General of Police Arun Prasad Mukhopadhyay, an administrator and a scholar in police administration who had served the Centre and state government in various capacities.

Banerjee said the day was celebrated as **Veteran actor Soumitra Chatterjee receives the Banga Bibhushan award from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at Nazrul Mancha on Saturday** PIC/MPDST

the Ma, Mati Manush took oath on this day in 2011. “We remember the contribution of people in giving us the opportunity to serve them,” she said. Banerjee concluded her short speech by quoting a famous line from Tagore: *amar matha noto kore dao he tomar* adding: “In case people try to scare us, we should give a befitting reply holding our head high” and once again took recourse to Tagore and quoted a line from his poem: “Where the mind is without fear and the head held high.”

She requested the awardees to guide the state government and criticise it for its failure “But please do not misunderstand us.”

Banerjee along with Soumitra Chatterjee, Purnadas Baul, Nrisingha Prasad Bhaduri and Ajay Chakraborty lit up the ceremonial lamp to mark the beginning of the function. Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, a noted Rabindra Sangeet exponent from Bangladesh, was awarded Banga Bhushan. Chowdhury has set up a new trend in Rabindra Sangeet in Bangladesh inspiring young generations to read Tagore and sing his songs. The Chief Minister also handed over Banga Bhushan award to noted businessman YC Deveshwar for “doing business keeping the ITC headquarters in Bengal.” Dr Abhijit Chowdhury, a noted physi-

cian who has played a leading role in treating people with liver ailments was awarded Banga Bhushan. Chowdhury is one of the members of The Indian Institute of Liver and Digestive Sciences. Banerjee lauded him for his work.

Dr Dhiman Ganguly, a noted chest physician was awarded Banga Bhushan. Dr Ganguly has played an important role in treating people suffering from asthma and allied diseases for over four decades and is an example to the students of medicine.

Noted *jatra* personality Chapal Bhaduri too was awarded Banga Bhushan at the function. Film director Kaushik Ganguly sometime back made a documentary on Bhaduri which brought him to the limelight.

Khidmat Fakir, a noted “Fakir and Darbesh” singer was awarded Banga Bhushan. It may be mentioned that Mamata Banerjee has taken special measures to revive the traditional folk culture of Bengal.

Not only do the folk artists receive month stipend, the state government regularly organises function for them so that they can pursue their traditional art. Ganesh Rava also received Banga Bhushan for his contribution to the Rava dance along with Lakshan Das Baul for his melodious contribution to baul music.

Leather bigshots to invest Rs 1,000 cr for tanneries in Kolkata



State Finance minister Amit Mitra at a press meet after the meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Expressing their satisfaction with the infrastructure at Kolkata Leather Complex (KLC) and the vision of the state government, big players in the country's leather industry have decided to invest Rs 1,000 crore to set up tanneries covering an area of two lakh square metres within the complex.

Amit Mitra, the state Commerce and Industries minister, said: “There was a two-hour meeting with Mukhtarul Amin, chairperson of Council for Leather Exports in India and the delegation of businessmen led by him.”

In the meeting, they went through a detailed map of KLC and decided to invest Rs 1,000 crore to set up tanneries on an area of two lakh square metres. It will enable the generation of around 6,000 direct jobs and there will be another 4,000 indirect jobs created because of the development of the tanneries.”

He said that the businessmen were also presented with a proposition to take steps to reopen 50 small tanneries which had previously been closed due to various reasons.

Amin said: “We went to eight different states as there

is a major expansion plan. We found Bengal most suitable after going through the road-map prepared by the state government and the vision of the government has also pleased us. Thus, we have decided to invest in the state.”

He further said: “In the US, buyers are not looking to India for business in leather goods. However, Finance Minister Amit Mitra has a very good vision and we are hoping to bring business in this sector from many countries and the investment is going to take place in Bengal.”

In reply to a question on the availability of raw material for tanneries with unauthorised slaughter-houses being closed down in Uttar Pradesh, Ramesh Juneja, Regional Chairman (East) of the council, said: “It will not be a problem as we are not concentrating solely on Uttar Pradesh for raw material. There is sufficient availability in Bengal and if needed we can import it as well.”

There is around 1,100 acre of land in the KLC, where at present 385 units including tanneries and shoe manufacturing factories have come up on 312 acre of land. A solid waste management system is being developed on a plot of 50 acre.

Chandrima Bhattacharya to be made MoS Land and Land Reforms

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Chandrima Bhattacharya will be made the Minister of State (MoS) for Land and Land Reforms and Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation department in addition to her charge as MoS Health and MoS (independent charge) of e-governance department.

Before Bhattacharya had taken up the charge of MoS Land and Land Reforms and Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation department Ashima Patra, who will continue as MoS (independent charge) of Technical Education and Training and Skill Development Department was in charge of the department.

Bhattacharya, who had failed to retain North Dum Dum seat in the 2016 Assembly elections, got elected in the by-election as an MLA from Kanthi Assembly constituency.

Her work as the state Law minister and MoS Health in the first term of Trinamool Congress government was repeatedly praised by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and she was made the chairperson of West Bengal Medical Services Corporation in the rank of a Minister of State after she had lost in the 2016 Assembly polls.

Thus, soon after her victory in the by-elections by a huge margin of 42,536 votes in Kanthi, the Chief Minister made her MoS Health and MoS (independent charge) of e-governance department. Now she will be made the MoS of the Land and Land Reforms and Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation department of which the Chief Minister is the minister-in-charge.

HIDCO to conduct lottery of plots by end of June

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation (HIDCO) will conduct a lottery for four days in the third week of June to allot 75 plots to owners to set up individual homes and housing complexes.

The lottery is likely to be held for four days either from June 20 or June 21. In the first two days, the lottery will be held in New Town and the other two days it will be held in Nazrul Mancha. Around 4,600 people have applied for the plots. Firhad Hakim, state Urban Development minister inau-

gurated opening of application on January 28. It continued till April 30. HIDCO is now going through the documents that have been deposited by the applicants.

Of the 75 plots, 58 have been earmarked for individual houses and the remaining 17 for housing complexes. Of these 58 plots, 25 are meant for people belonging to the Middle Income Group (MIG) while the remaining 33 plots are meant for those belonging to the Higher Income Group (HIG). The sizes of the plots for individual houses vary anything between 2.5 cottah and 3.5 cottah and those for housing

Of the 75 plots, 58 have been earmarked for individual houses and the remaining 17 for housing complexes

complexes vary from 4.5 cottah to 5.5 cottah.

The plots are situated close to Owl More (Pyacha More) and HIDCO has put up boards so that applicants can see the land. The plots are situated close to

ECO Park. New Town is coming up very fast as a commercial, cultural and residential hub because of the facilities that are available. Every area has a children's park and as it is a green city, the green cover has been increased and is kept intact. More trees are being planted too. There is a park for senior citizens called Swapno Bhore. There is a two-storeyed building that houses a library, an auditorium and a coffee shop for senior citizens. The lottery system to allot plots for individual homes and housing complexes is absolutely transparent. Earlier, allegations of nepotism

had been made against the first chairman of HIDCO, Gautam Deb, the housing minister during the erstwhile Left Front government over allotment of plots. There was no advertisement in newspapers and plots were distributed clandestinely. Even the prices at which plots had been distributed were kept a secret.

After coming to power in 2011, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee abolished the chairman's quota and posted a senior bureaucrat Debashis Sen in the rank of the additional chief secretary as the chairman of HIDCO to maintain transparency.

Woman assaulted, molested by inebriated group of men

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: A woman lodged a police complaint alleging that she was assaulted and molested by a group of intoxicated men on Friday night in Habra in North 24 Parganas. The victim was slashed with a sharp weapon in different parts of her body and beaten up with a wooden rod. She was admitted to a hospital in a critical condition.

Police learnt that the woman had actually been attacked by her husband's friends. These men allegedly gave her unethical proposals which she refused. “She was attacked when she tried to resist them,” said a police officer.

Further investigation revealed that the husband of the victim was drinking alcohol along with his friends when the woman raised her voice in protest.

“The woman told them to leave the place immediately but the drunkards paid her no heed. Two of the men suddenly tried to molest her and later attacked her with weapons,” said a police source. The investigators suspect that the husband of the victim actually conspired to kill his wife. They are trying to ascertain if he made a plan with his friends to kill her during the altercation.

“We have interrogated the husband and will also record the statement of the victim,” the police source added.

State govt's 6 year completion: Tableaux flagged off from Nabanna

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: The state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, has ensured overall harmonious development among the different social and religious sections during the past six years, said the state Finance minister Amit Mitra. The programme, based on the theme of “Akotai Sampriti” (unity is harmony) to mark the completion of the sixth year of the Mamata Banerjee government started with the state Education minister, Partha Chatterjee and Finance minister, Amit Mitra flagging off tableaux in front of Nabanna.

The tableaux were flagged off exactly at 1.01 pm by the ministers from in front of the state secretariat. At the same time, District Magistrates flagged off similar tableaux in every district. It was at 1.01 pm on May 20 in 2011 when the Chief Minister had taken oath after putting an end to 34 years of CPI(M) misrule. The programme will continue for



a month and 30,000 folk artists will be performing in it. Mitra said during the programme that massive developmental work has taken place in the state in the past six years and the work that has been undertaken will be highlighted in the one-month-long programme that started on Saturday. “Besides the developmental works, our government has also assured harmony and a better environment in the state,” he said.

Chatterjee, who was also present at the programme, said:

“We had taken oath for the second time on May 27, 2016 and we have taken all the necessary steps to serve people. We were always with the people of Bengal and despite financial constraints, massive developmental work has been done. On the completion of the sixth year of the government, people at the grassroots level will be made more aware about the different development projects through the tableaux and the artists who will be performing in the one-month long programme.”

TMC leader of Bishnupur shot dead, four arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: A Trinamool Congress leader from Bishnupur in South 24 Parganas was shot dead by some unidentified miscreants when he was returning home on his motorcycle. The incident triggered tension in the area on Saturday morning. The victim, Ismail Pailan was a block president of the Trinamool Congress at Raspujia area under Bishnupur police station. He was returning home from Bakhra area at around 11 pm on Friday night. When he was crossing Amarjyoti Park on his way home, some miscreants stopped his way. Police came to know in the course of investigation that a quarrel broke out between the miscreants and the victim over some issue. One of the accused took out a gun and shot at him from point blank range. The victim fell on the ground after receiving bullet injury on his abdomen. Attracted by the sound of a gunshot, the local residents rushed to the spot and found the victim in the pool of blood. A local resident who is also a Trinamool Congress activist in the locality rescued the victim and took him to his house. He was put on a bed which soon became wet with blood. With the victim profusely bleeding from his abdomen, the local

residents rushed him to a private hospital in the area where he succumbed to his injuries at around 3 am.

Senior Trinamool Congress leaders went to the house of the victim on Saturday morning. The district leaders have said that the victim had been instrumental in strengthening the party's organisation and he was a popular leader in the area. The reason behind the murder of the victim is yet to be ascertained. The victim's family members alleged that Ismail had protested against various anti-social activities in the area and he also raised his voice against the syndicate business.

On the basis of the complaint lodged by the victim's family members, police have started a probe into the murder of the victim. Four persons have so far been arrested by the police for their alleged involvement in the incident. As per the preliminary investigation, police suspect that the miscreants came on motorcycles and shot at him from a close range. Police are also interrogating the accused to ascertain the reason behind the murder.

In another incident, one Kartik Majhi (45) who is believed to be a local Trinamool Congress activist was hacked to death following a land-related quarrel.

31-year-old man dies after falling from treadmill in New Town

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: An employee of a multinational technology company fell on the treadmill while exercising on Friday morning. He was rushed to a hospital in Salt Lake and declared brought dead on arrival. The body of 31-year-old Amar M was sent for post-mortem while the police informed his Mysore based family of his death.

The investigators learnt that Amar's colleagues suddenly saw him lying on the treadmill, after which he was rushed to a private hospital near Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan Stadium. The doctors at the hospital informed the police that he had probably died due to a sudden unexpected loss of

heart function and thus fainted and added that it is probably a case of cardiac arrest.

“The employee was exercising in a gymnasium on the fourth floor of DLF Tower-1 in New Town with his colleagues when the incident took place at around 8:15 am. The doctors informed us that the deceased employee had previously undergone an open heart surgery, but they were not certain about when exactly it had happened. The police also found stitch-marks on his chest,” said a police source.

New Town police also learnt that Amar had been staying in an apartment along with five of his colleagues. “We are waiting from his family members to arrive in Kolkata. No complaint has yet been lodged,” the police source

added. The doctors of the private hospital, however, told the police that they had found superficial injuries on the deceased. They claimed that it was difficult for them to spot internal injuries before the autopsy report came in.

The investigators, however, reached Amar's New Town residence and interrogated his housemaid. They then arrived at the gymnasium in DLF Tower-1 to interrogate his colleagues.

“It is an office gymnasium, so only the employees were permitted to enter. We have to talk to the gymnasium trainers to find out if Amar's physical condition was properly assessed before granting him admission or not,” said the source.

Exam for Group D staff passes off well in state

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: The examination for recruitment of Group D employees, in which around 25 lakh job aspirants appeared on Saturday, passed off peacefully with the state government taking all necessary measures to help them reach examination centres without facing any harassment.

Out of the total examinees, around 5.5 lakh were from neighbouring states and around 6,000 of them will be absorbed for the jobs of Group D staff. All the plans of the state government, as decided in the high-level meeting in Nabanna, were implemented properly resulting in a peaceful and hassle-free examination apart from one death and an accident in which three job aspirants from Begusarai in Bihar were injured.

One person died after he fell unwell while returning home



after appearing in the Group D recruitment examination while five others were injured when their bus hit a rail bridge in Purba Bardwan district on Saturday, police said.

The three job aspirants received minor injuries when the vehicle in which they were travelling met with an accident on National Highway 34 at Jodhpur in Malda. The acci-

dent took place when they were heading to their examination centres in Malda. They were rescued and admitted to a local hospital. In reply to a question on reported “answer paper leak” in Midnapore, the state Education minister, Partha Chatterjee, took a dig at the erstwhile Left Front government for not taking any step to create job opportunities during their 34-year-term

and said: “There are some people who are active to hamper the efforts of Mamata Banerjee's government in giving jobs to hundreds of people.”

In the same breath he assured that such efforts cannot foil the measures of the state government and people will surely get jobs on the basis of their performance in the examination. Additional trains, buses

and vessels were engaged to help students reach their destinations on time. Besides private buses, a total of 1,725 state-run buses plied on different routes across the state. Thousands of job aspirants reached Howrah and Sealdah stations to take bus or avail other transport facilities to reach their destinations. Buses from different important places plied since morning and around 50 buses were kept standby to engage in services if there would have been any emergency situation.

Around 79 trains operated in the city and 43 vessels ferried thousands of job aspirants across river Hooghly. The state Transport department took a unique initiative to set up help desks at different parts of the state. Officials posted at the help desks provided all sorts of information to job aspirants and directed them how to reach the venues of the examination.

“The government is bound to ensure fundamental principle of fair competition is followed and its benefits are extended to all

Chief Justice of India J S Khehar

BJP introspecting on defeat in Punjab polls: Amit Shah

OUR CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH: BJP president Amit Shah said on Saturday that the party was “introspecting” on its defeat in the Punjab Assembly polls and asserted its alliance with the SAD was intact.

“You all know that we were a junior partner (in the SAD-BJP alliance) in Punjab. We within the party are introspecting on the defeat in the Punjab Assembly election and we are also trying to bring improvement,” Shah told mediapersons here. He was asked why the ‘Modi magic’ – the charisma of Prime Minister Narendra Modi which had helped the party win in several states – failed in Punjab.

Asked whether the BJP’s alliance with the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) will continue after the humiliating defeat, Shah said, “At present, our alliance is continuing.”

He evaded a direct reply to a question whether the BJP would fight the next Assembly polls in Punjab on its own.

“Will you (reporters) leave



BJP president Amit Shah waves to his supporters on his arrival at Chandigarh Airport on Saturday

some work for us to decide or will you do it on your own. We will discuss within the party and when we take any decision, we will let you know about the same,” he said.

The Congress formed the government in Punjab after winning 77 of the 117 seats in the March election, while the new entrant AAP won 20 seats.

The SAD managed to win 15 seats and its alliance partner BJP won three seats. Two seats were won by candidates of the Lok Insaaf Party, an ally of the AAP.

Shah dismissed the claims of the BJP state unit that many AAP MLAs were in touch with it and might join the party.

“Nobody (from the AAP)

is in contact with us. A statement may have been given (on the same) which I do not know. But nobody is in touch with the BJP. If anybody is in contact at personal level then I cannot say,” he said. Earlier this month, BJP state secretary Vineet Joshi claimed that 11 MLAs of the AAP were in touch with the BJP and might join it.

On the contentious issue of the Satluj Yamuna Link Canal between Punjab and Haryana, the BJP chief said Union minister Rajnath Singh had held a meeting with all the states concerned on the issue.

“Home Minister Rajnath Singh took a meeting of all the sides recently (on SYL issue) and he is mediating regarding this matter. I feel that all the sides will find a solution on the same,” he said.

On May 12, Singh had chaired a meeting of the Northern Zonal Council here and discussed several issues including the river water-sharing.

Punjab had recently expressed inability to share water with its neighbouring states and sought a real-

istic solution, while Haryana demanded quick construction of the incomplete part of the SYL Canal. The matter is also being heard in the Supreme Court.

Putting to rest the ongoing speculations regarding change in the state leadership, Shah said that Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar will continue in office.

When specifically asked to comment on the speculations that Khattar is likely to be changed in coming days, in the wake of reports on “dissident” activities by at least 16 MLAs, Shah said, “there is no change”.

63-year-old Khattar, a former RSS pracharak, was picked up as the Chief Minister after BJP formed government in Haryana on its own in 2014, for the first time.

There were many front runners for the Chief Minister’s post when BJP came to power in the state including Anil Vij, Ram Bilas Sharma and Capt Abhimanyu, all of whom are ministers now, but Khattar pipped them to become the CM.

Rajnath: Need for infrastructure development in border areas

AMITAVA BANERJEE

DARJEELING: Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday claimed that India and China just has perceptual differences otherwise relationship between the two countries is good. Singh is on a visit to Sikkim to chair a meeting with Chief Ministers of states bordering China.

The Union Home Minister addressing the meeting at Chintan Bhawan in Gangtok on Saturday stressed on the need for infrastructure development in the border areas. “The border with China is undemarcated, extremely cold with an extremely difficult terrain. Impetus should be given to infrastructure and peace in the border areas,” stated the Home Minister.

Singh informed that Central assistance for Border Area Development Programmes (BADP) has been enhanced from Rs 990 crore in 2016-17 to Rs 1100 crore in the current financial year. The Ministry is also focusing on modern villages. “In the last financial year, 41 model villages were created for which a financial allocation of Rs 92 crore was made,” stated Singh. He further urged



Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh addresses a Press conference after chairing a review meeting of the Chief Ministers of five States on Indo-China Border Infrastructure and other issues, in Gangtok on Saturday

the State Governments to submit maximum proposals for model villages to the Central Government. The Minister stated that the issues concerning border areas should be jointly addressed by the State and the Central Government in a coordinated manner.

The Union Minister stated that along with the border security forces, impetus should be given for the upliftment of civilian people living in the border areas. Singh stated that the requirements of the people living in the border areas should be looked after and provided for. “I have requested the State Governments of the Indo-China Border states to look

into these issues,” added Singh. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat and Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu briefed the Union Minister on the issues concerning development. Issues concerning border infrastructure including border roads, border outposts, critical infrastructure and coordination between the concerned States and ITBP stationed in states were some of the main issues deliberated upon in the meeting.

The states of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh were represented by their respective Principal Secretaries, Home.

Govt may step in if triple talaq practice not changed: Naidu

OUR CORRESPONDENT

AMARAVATI: The government may have to step in and enact a law to ban triple talaq if the Muslim community fails to “change” the practice, Union minister M Venkaiah Naidu said on Saturday.

“It is for the society to take up the issue and it will be good if the (Muslim) society itself changed the practice. Otherwise, a situation may arise where the government will have to bring in a legislation (banning triple talaq),” Naidu said while addressing a meeting here.

“This is not to interfere in anybody’s personal matters, but at the same time it’s a question of justice to women. All women should have equal rights. Equality before law... that’s the issue,” the Union Information and Broadcasting Minister said.

He recalled that laws were enacted to rid certain evil practices even in the Hindu society, like child marriage, sati and dowry.

“The Hindu society discussed child marriages and Parliament passed a legisla-



tion banning it. Second is sati sahadagan, an ancient practice, wherein a woman too ended her life following her husband’s death. Now it is prohibited by law, by the Hindu society itself. Third is dowry. The Dowry Prohibition Act was passed and the Hindu society accepted it,” the Union Minister pointed out.

“When it felt that such practices were against the society’s good, the Hindu society discussed them and brought in reforms. Some more reforms are also needed and efforts should be made in that direction,” he added.

“See humans as humans and don’t separate them as

Hindus, Christians or Muslims. No injustice should be done to women by such discrimination,” Venkaiah maintained.

The minister was felicitated by several associations and well-wishers upon his recent election as chairman of the governing council of UN-Habitat.

“I feel happy whenever the world recognises India. Take the case of Kulbhushan Jadhav. For the first time in history, India went to the International Court of Justice and obtained a stay against Pakistan’s foolish act of trying to execute Jadhav. This is something we all should feel happy about,” Venkaiah noted.

Kerala girl chops off rapist’s genitals; CM says ‘brave act’

OUR CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Refusing to suffer any more, a 23-year-old law student chopped off the genitals of a man who had allegedly been raping her for the last six years and tried to do the same again last night, police said.

The 54-year-old accused Gangeshananda Theerthapada alias Hariiswami, who claims to be a sanyasi, has been arrested, the police said this evening.

Hariiswami, known to the girl’s family, had been frequenting her house in Pettah for several years to perform ‘puja’ aimed at bringing relief to her paralysed and bed-ridden father, police said quoting the victim. During those visits over the last six years, the accused would allegedly rape the girl, whenever he found a chance, according to the police.

He allegedly tried to rape her again last night but the girl protested and chopped off his genitals with a knife, the police added quoting the girl’s complaint.

The incident came to light after the man, who claims to be an inmate of Panmana Ashram in Kollam, was admitted to the

government medical college hospital here with critical injuries in the wee hours, the police said. He underwent an emergency surgery and his condition is stable now, they said.

A case has been registered against him under various sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) and IPC 376 (punishment for rape). No case has been registered against the girl, the police added.

The complainant will be recording her statement before a magistrate, police said.

The man reportedly told police that he had chopped off his genitals himself.

The management of Panmana Ashram, associated with social reformer Chattampi Swamy, said Hariiswami had come to the ashram as a ‘brahmachari’ 15 years ago but did not complete his course and had left midway.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan hailed the woman’s act as “brave” and “courageous”.

“It was a courageous step, no doubt about it,” he told reporters here and promised all support to the girl from the government.

Six robbers held in Mathura traders’ killing

MATHURA: In a major breakthrough in the killing of two jewellers, the Mathura police on Saturday arrested six robbers after a brief encounter in which about six police personnel were injured in Chaubia Para here.

The kingpin of the loot and killing, Rakesh alias Ranga has been arrested and ornaments worth around Rs 20 lakh and firearms have been recovered from him, SSP Vinod Kumar Mishra told reporter. He said Rakesh was carrying a reward of Rs 15,000 on his head.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team led by SP City Ashok Kumar, surrounded the residence of one of the accused Aditya Nagar, he said. After a brief encounter, Rakesh, his brothers Neeraj and Kamesh alias Chini, Ayush, Aditya, all residents of Chaubia Para, and Vishnu have been arrested.

Two inspectors, three sub-inspectors and one constable were injured. One constable was also attacked with a sharp-edged weapon, while Rakesh and his brother Kamesh were also injured, Mishra said, both injured robbers have been hospitalised. AGENCIES

Symbol case: Dhinakaran refuses to give voice sample

NEW DELHI: AIADMK (Amma) faction leader T T V Dhinakaran on Saturday refused to give consent in a Delhi court for giving voice sample to the police for their investigation in the Election Commission bribery case.

Dhinakaran was brought to the court from the Tihar jail in pursuance to a production warrant issued by Special Judge Poonam Chaudhry on Friday on a plea by the Crime Branch of Delhi Police seeking his consent for a voice sample.

He was produced before Chaudhry who marked the case to a magistrate’s court where he declined to give consent. Metropolitan Magistrate Abhilash Malhotra recorded the statement of Dhinakaran and forwarded it to the special judge.

Dhinakaran was arrested here on the night of April 25 after four days of questioning for allegedly attempting to bribe unidentified EC officials to get the undivided AIADMK’s two leaves’ election symbol.

His faction had hoped to obtain the symbol for the



bypoll to the R K Nagar Assembly seat in Tamil Nadu, which was later on cancelled by the EC after the alleged irregularities were reported in the media.

The bypoll was necessitated following the death of Tamil Nadu chief minister J Jayalitha who was elected from the constituency.

The EC had frozen the AIADMK’s symbol after two factions of the party – one led by Dhinakaran’s aunt Sasikala and the other by former chief minister O Panneerselvam – staked a claim to it.

Meanwhile, Special Judge Chaudhry heard arguments on the bail application of alleged middleman Suresh Chandrashekar, who was arrested on April 16, and reserved the order for May 22. AGENCIES

NATION BRIEFS

107 CHILDREN RESCUED IN KOTA UNDER ‘OPERATION MUSKAN’

KOTA (Rajasthan): At least 107 children were rescued from four cities of Kota division within five days of Operation Milap a special drive by anti human trafficking cell of the Rajasthan police. The one-month-long special drive was kicked off on May 15. The drive aims at rescuing missing children, child labourers and minors engaged in begging. The highest numbers of child labourers were rescued from Kota city in the last five days, said Dharmraj, In-charge of Anti Human Trafficking Cell.

FARES OF TEJAS TRAIN 20 PER CENT MORE THAN SHATABDI

NEW DELHI: Fares of Tejas Express train will be 20 per cent more than that of the Shatabdi Express. Equipped with modern facilities such as CCTV cameras and smoke-and-fire detection system, Tejas Express will be flagged off from Mumbai for Goa on May 22 by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu. There is an increase of more than 20 per cent in the base fare for Tejas as against the Shatabdi, said a railway ministry official.

SHOE HURLED AT BIKRAM SINGH MAJITHIA IN HIS CONSTITUENCY

AMRITSAR: A shoe was hurled at former Punjab minister Bikram Singh Majithia in Majithia on Saturday after he reached a venue where a public meeting organised by a Congress party member was going on. Majithia, who recently won the elections after defeating Congress candidate Sukhjinder Raj Singh Lalli Majithia, was confronted by some of Lalli’s supporters. While raising slogans against Majithia, they held him accountable for drug menace in state, police said.

NIA quizzes separatist leaders over subversive acts in J&K

SRINAGAR: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday quizzed three Kashmiri separatists in connection with its probe into the role of Lashker-e-Taiba chief Hafiz Mohammed Saeed and headline Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani in subversive activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The NIA team, headed by the Additional Director General, had asked Nayeem Khan, Farooq Ahmed Dar alias ‘Bitta Karate’ and Gazi Javed Baba to appear before it for their explanation on an expose on their television channel where they had claimed receiving funds

from Pakistan. After initial reluctance, the three separatists fell in line and were questioned separately by the team of NIA, which named them in its Preliminary Enquiry (PE) on Friday.

The NIA team will be gathering evidence collected by the Jammu and Kashmir Police about the burning of schools as Khan had claimed that the educational institutions were targeted as per the plans hatched from across the border.

The schools were targeted last year after banned Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Burhan Wani was killed in an encoun-

ter with security forces on July 8. Besides these three, NIA has named Saeed and Geelani in the PE, which precedes the filing of a case.

Nayeem Khan, who was suspended by Geelani from Hurriyat today, was seen on television during the sting operation purportedly confessing to receiving money from Pak-based terror groups. Geelani suspended Khan’s National Front from basic membership of Hurriyat Conference until the clarification of all the related issues comes to fore and the truth comes out, a spokesman for the headline leader said. AGENCIES

Suspected ISI agent detained

JAIPUR/JODHPUR: A suspected agent of Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has been detained by the intelligence wing of Rajasthan Police from Jaisalmer district and some documents have been recovered from his possession.

55-year-old Hazi Khan was detained on Friday from his village in Jaisalmer and is being interrogated in Jodhpur, DIG, Security, H Raghendra Suhasaa said.

Hazi Khan, a resident of Kunjarali village of Jaisalmer, has visited Pakistan three times and is suspected to have connections with the ISI, he said.

Some vital information and incriminating documents have been recovered from his possession which are being veri-

fied, he said. He is suspected to have passed on secret strategic information pertaining to the Army and the Air Force to the ISI, an intelligence source said.

“His name emerged following interrogation of two spies Haji Khan and Sadik Khan, who were arrested earlier this year under the Official Secret Act,” said the source. The accused, a local farmer, was on the intelligence radar for some time.

He is being interrogated to get details of his network and the information shared by him, the source said, adding that he was arrested earlier also, but was let off in absence of evidence against him. Haji is a frequent traveller to Pak to see his family members. AGENCIES

Jadhav will be dealt according to Pakistani law: Minister

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will handle the case of alleged Indian spy Kulbhushan Jadhav, who has been sentenced to death, “according to our own laws”, Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan said on Saturday.

The Jadhav issue would be treated as an espionage case and dealt with according to Pakistani laws, Geo TV quoted Khan as saying.

The Minister said Jadhav’s arrest helped avert several incidents of terrorism in Pakistan.

He was addressing the media after attending a passing out parade of the Frontier Corps in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

The comments came two days after the International Court of Justice (ICJ) told Pakistan to put on hold Jadhav’s execution. The Minister also spoke about Pakistan’s troubled ties with Afghanistan.

While saying that the “hearts of Pakistanis and Afghans beat together”, Khan warned Kabul not to talk to Islamabad “in India’s language”. He urged Kabul to solve its internal and external issues first instead of blaming Pakistan for all the mess, the report said. AGENCIES

Sabarmati Express blast: Court acquits ex-AMU scholar

MPOST BUREAU

BARABANKI/NEW DELHI: Former Aligarh Muslim University scholar Gulzar Ahmed Wani will walk out of jail after 16 years with an Uttar Pradesh court on Saturday acquitting him of the charge of having orchestrated the Sabarmati Express blast in 2000 that claimed nine lives.

Additional Sessions Judge in Barabanki, M A Khan freed 43-year-old Wani, a suspected Hizbul Mujahideen operative,

and co-accused Mobin in the case due to lack of evidence, defence counsel M S Khan, who represented Wani, said over phone.

Wani, who was arrested by Delhi Police in 2001 allegedly with explosives and incriminating materials, is a resident of Peeparkari area of Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir) and is lodged in a jail in Lucknow.

The blast was carried out on the eve of Independence Day near Kanpur when the train was on its way from

Gulzar Ahmed Wani, a suspected Hizbul Mujahideen operative, was arrested by Delhi Police in 2001 allegedly with explosives and incriminating materials

Muzaffarpur to Ahmedabad, claiming nine lives and leaving several others injured.

“The court of Additional Sessions Judge M A Khan acquitted both the accused of all the charges as the prosecu-

tion could not establish any of the charges levelled against them,” the lawyer said.

A case was registered by the Uttar Pradesh police at GRP police station, Barabanki for the alleged offences

“I will be visiting with the leaders in many different countries to strengthen our old friendships and unite the civilized world in a fight against terrorism
US President Donald Trump

Iran's Rouhani wins re-election

TEHRAN: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani won a resounding re-election victory on Saturday as voters backed his efforts to rebuild foreign ties and kick-start the struggling economy.

Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazel confirmed the result on state television, saying Rouhani had won 23.5 million votes — 57 per cent — compared to 15.8 million — 38.3 per cent — for hardline challenger Ebrahim Raisi.

It followed a huge 73 per cent turnout on Friday which forced authorities to extend polling by several hours.

“I congratulate the great victory of the Iranian nation in creating a huge and memorable epic in the continuation of the path of ‘wisdom and hope’, tweeted Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri, referring to the government's slogan.

Rouhani, a 68-year-old moderate cleric who spearheaded a 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, framed the election as a choice between greater civil liberties and “extremism”.

Hardline cleric Raisi, 56, had positioned himself as a defender of the poor and called for a much tougher line with the West.



But his revolutionary rhetoric and efforts to win over working class voters with promises of increased handouts gained limited traction.

“Rouhani's vote, particularly in rural areas, shows that Iranian people no longer believe in economic populism and radical change,” said Ali Vaez, Iran analyst for the International Crisis

Group, a think tank.

“They have the maturity to understand that the solution to their country's predicaments are in competent management of the economy and moderation in international relations,” Vaez said.

Rouhani's central first-term achievement was a deal with six powers led by the United States

that eased crippling economic sanctions in exchange for curbs on Iran's nuclear programme.

He gained a reprieve this week when Washington agreed to continue waiving nuclear-related sanctions, keeping the deal on track for now.

But the election comes at a tense moment in relations with the United States, with President

Donald Trump still threatening to abandon the accord and visiting Iran's bitter regional rival Saudi Arabia this weekend.

Although Rouhani has been deeply entrenched in Iran's security establishment since the early days of the revolution, he has emerged as the standard-bearer for reformists after their movement was decimated in the wake of mass protests in 2009.

“We've entered this election to tell those practising violence and extremism that your era is over,” he said during the campaign.

At recent rallies, his supporters chanted the names of reformist leaders under house arrest since 2011 for their part in the protests.

International affairs researcher Foad Izadi, of Tehran University, said Rouhani may now have the leverage to push for more freedoms, despite opposition from the conservative-dominated judiciary and security services.

“A number of years have passed (since the 2009 protests) and the country is demonstrating a high level of stability — this gives the system confidence, which means more room for change,” Izadi said. AGENCIES

Missing Indian-origin student found dead in United States

NEW YORK: A 20-year-old Indian-origin Cornell University student was found dead here after going missing this week.

Aalaap Narasipura, a senior electrical engineering student at Cornell's College of Engineering was reported missing since Wednesday.

Cornell University Police, working with the New York State Police, the Ithaca Police Department and the Ithaca Fire Department, recovered his body on Friday from Fall Creek, a short distance upstream from Ithaca Falls.

Cornell University Police confirmed Narasipura's identity. Police said the circumstances of Narasipura's death are still under investigation, but no foul play is suspected.

No other information is available at this time.

Police had searched gorges and adjacent natural areas in Ithaca. Earlier authorities had issued an advisory describing Narasipura as a dark-



Aalaap Narasipura

skinned male, 5-feet-9 inches tall.

He was last seen in the early morning of May 17 on Cornell's campus, and was wearing shorts and a flannel shirt with bright blue socks and leather sandals. Vice President for Student and Campus Life Ryan Lombardi expressed “profound sadness” at the death of Narasipura.

He described Narasipura

Cornell University Police, working with the New York State Police, the Ithaca Police Department and the Ithaca Fire Department, recovered his body on Friday from Fall Creek, a short distance upstream from Ithaca Falls

as an “ambitious student” who was scheduled to graduate early this December.

“He was active on the Ultimate Frisbee team, enjoyed taking photos, and planned to continue at Cornell to pursue a Master of Engineering degree,” he said in a statement. AGENCIES

Get your pig hands out of here: Venezuelan prez to Trump

CARACAS: Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro delivered his most scathing critique of US President Donald Trump, telling him to stop intervening and “get your pig hands out of here.”

Speaking before a crowd of supporters, a fired-up Maduro yesterday accused Trump of promoting an interventionist policy that infringes on his socialist government's sovereignty.

“Go home, Donald Trump!” he said in heavily accented English.

The remarks come a day after the Trump administration slapped sanctions against eight members of Venezuela's Supreme Court, accusing them



of damaging the nation's democracy. A ruling by the court in late March stripping the opposition-controlled assembly of its remaining powers ignited a deadly wave of unrest.

While Venezuelan leaders have lashed out at US presidents frequently in the past, Maduro had largely been careful not to antagonise Trump. But Trump's repeated criticisms of the trou-

bled South American nation appear to have struck a nerve.

Speaking alongside Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos Thursday, Trump expressed dismay at Venezuela's crisis, asking how a country holding the nation's largest oil reserves could be stricken by so much poverty and turmoil. Trump described Venezuela's current state as a “disgrace to humanity.”

Nearly two months of street protests throughout Venezuela have left at least 46 people dead. Demonstrators are demanding new elections and blaming Maduro for the nation's triple-digit inflation, rising crimes and vast food shortages. AGENCIES

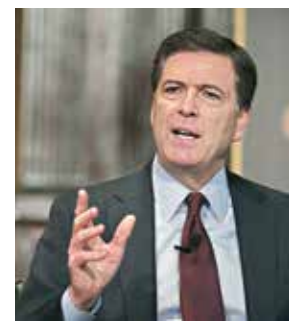
Ex-FBI chief James Comey to testify in US Congress

WASHINGTON: Sacked FBI Director James Comey has agreed to testify before a Congressional committee in an open session about alleged Russian interference in the US presidential polls last year.

A date of this open hearing would be scheduled after the Memorial Day, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence said on Friday.

“The Committee looks forward to receiving testimony from the former (FBI) director on his role in the development of the Intelligence Community Assessment on Russian interference in the 2016 US elections,” Senator Richard Burr, chairman of the Committee, said.

Comedy's abrupt sacking by President Donald Trump trig-



ged a political firestorm with an angry opposition calling for an appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate the alleged Russian influence in last year's general elections.

The president's move came days after Comey testified in Capitol Hill about the FBI's investigation into Russia's meddling into the US elec-

tions and a possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Moscow.

“I am hopeful that he will clarify for the American people recent events that have been broadly reported in the media,” Burr said.

Senator Mark Warner, ranking member of the Committee, hoped that Comey's testimony will help answer some of the questions that have arisen since he was fired by Trump last week.

“I also expect that director Comey will be able to shed light on issues critical to this Committee's investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election,” he said. AGENCIES

India, China holding series of events amid OBOR standoff

BEIJING: Amid the standoff over the Belt and Road Forum, India and China are holding a wide range of bilateral meetings and cultural events.

A delegation of Indian IT firms led by the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) will begin a week-long visit to China starting from Monday.

The delegation comprises a number of Indian companies with proven capabilities in areas like Industry 4.0, Internet of Things (IoT) and Data Analytics.

The purpose of the visit is to realise the existing complementarities between India's IT prowess and China's manufacturing sector and explore the possibilities for companies from the two countries to work together to co-create and develop world-class products for the global market, a statement from the Indian Embassy here said.

India is also holding a two-week long ‘Colours of India’ festival in Beijing and Nanjing to showcase a unique blend of Indian performing arts, Bollywood movies and photography exhibition.

As part of the event, a gala show was today held here that included Charishnu, a dance and music presentation choreographed by Bharatnatyam exponent Leela Samson. AGENCIES

DELHI URBAN SHELTER IMPROVEMENT BOARD
GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C-6)
1, Kilokri, Ring Road, New Delhi-110014
PRESS NOTICE
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Executive Engineer C-6 invites on behalf of DUSIB percentage rate e-tender in Two envelopes/two bid system, for the following works:
NIT NO. 08/EE/C-6/AE-1/DUSIB/2017-18
E-tender No. 2017_DUSIB_129264_1
Name of Work : EIUS.
Sub Head : Providing and laying CC pavement and improvement of drains in the deteriorated lanes of JJ Basti, Khark Riwara (remaining lanes).
Estimated Cost : Rs. 34,26,792/-
Date of Closing of bid : 01.06.2017 upto 5.00 P.M.
NIT NO. 09/EE/C-6/AE-1/DUSIB/2017-18
E-tender No. 2017_DUSIB_129291_1
Name of Work : EIUS (B/F and drain).
Sub Head : Providing and laying CC pavement and improvement of drains in the deteriorated lanes of JJ Basti, Dr. Ambedkar Camp, Satbari, Mehrauli.
Estimated Cost : Rs. 31,98,417/-
Date of Closing of bid : 01.06.2017 upto 4.00 P.M.
For more details visit website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER/C-6, DUSIB

INDO GULF INDUSTRIES LTD.
213, Rectangle District Centre, Saket, New Delhi - 110 017
CIN - L74900DL1961PLC011425
Website: www.indogulf.com
Email - iglmatzpur@rediffmail.com
Extract of Unaudited Standalone Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended 31/03/2017

Sl No	Particulars	Quarter ending 31/03/2017	Year ended 31/03/2017	Year ended 31/03/2016	Corresponding 3 months ended 31/03/2016 in the previous year
1)	Total Income from operations	(8.15)	(50.72)	(11.89)	(4.92)
2)	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period/year (before tax and exceptional items)	(8.15)	(50.72)	(11.89)	(4.92)
3)	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period/year before tax (after exceptional items)	(8.15)	(50.72)	(11.89)	(4.92)
4)	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period/year after tax (after exceptional items)	(8.15)	(50.72)	(11.89)	(4.92)
5)	Total Comprehensive Income (after tax)	(8.15)	(50.72)	(11.89)	(4.92)
6)	Equity Share Capital	95.67	95.67	95.67	95.67
7)	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the audited balance sheet	(384.25)	(384.25)	(333.52)	(333.52)
8)	Earnings per share (of ₹ 1/- each) (not annualised for quarterly results):				
a) Basic (₹)	(0.09)	(0.53)	(0.12)	(0.05)	
b) Diluted (₹)	(0.09)	(0.53)	(0.12)	(0.05)	

Notes:
1) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.
2) The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange website i.e. www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website i.e. www.indogulf.com
3) The Standalone financial results of the Company have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) notified under the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 as amended by the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) (Amendment) Rules, 2016. The Company has adopted Ind AS from 1st April, 2016, with a transition date of 1st April, 2015 and accordingly these results (including for quarter and year ended 31st March 2016) presented in accordance with Ind AS 101 - First-time Adoption of Indian Accounting Standards) have been restated, to comply with the requirements of Ind AS and to make them comparable with those of the quarter ended 31st December, 2016 and current quarter and year ended 31st March, 2017.
4) The format for audited/unaudited quarterly results as prescribed vide SEBI circular CIR/CFD/CMD/15/2015 dated 30th November, 2015 has been modified to comply with the requirements of SEBI circular dated 5th July, 2016 and Schedule III (Division II) to the Companies Act, 2013 applicable to companies that are required to comply with Ind AS.
5) Reconciliation of standalone financial result as previously reported (referred to as "Previous GAAP") and Ind AS for quarter and year ended 31st March 2016 presented is as under:

Particulars	Quarter ended 31st March, 2016	Year ended 2016
Net Profit/(Loss) as per Previous GAAP (after tax)	(4.92)	(11.89)
Add/Less :- Effect of transition to Ind AS	(0.00)	(0.00)
Net Profit/(Loss) as reported under Ind AS	(4.92)	(11.89)
Other Comprehensive Income (net of tax)	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income as reported under Ind AS	(4.92)	(11.89)

6) BSE Limited has revoked the suspension in trading of equity shares of the Company w.e.f 20th January, 2017.
7) The promoters of the Company, namely Bairampur Chini Mills Ltd. (BCML) entered into a Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) dated 27th January, 2017 with Ganesh Explosives Private Limited (GEPL) for sale of its entire shareholding in the Company consisting of 51,62,470 Equity Shares of ₹1/- each (53.96%) subject to compliance and completion of the formalities under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011 (SEBI (SAST) Regulations, 2011) and the conditions precedent in terms of the SPA.
Accordingly, GEPL has made an "Open Offer" for the acquisition of 24,87,491 fully paid-up Equity Shares of ₹ 1/- each, representing 26% of the total paid up equity and voting share capital of the Company at a price of ₹ 0.40 per Equity Share payable in cash under the SEBI (SAST) Regulations, 2011. Pursuant to the completion of the Open Offer formalities by the acquirer (GEPL), BCML has ceased to be the Holding Company and GEPL has now significant equity ownership and effective management control over the Company pursuant to regulations 3(1) and 4 of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations, 2011.
For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
Indo Gulf Industries Limited
Sd/-
Vimal Kumar Jain
Director

Haryana Urban Development Authority, Faridabad.
PUBLIC NOTICE
Haryana Urban Development Authority, Faridabad, invites applications from Social/ Religious/ Charitable Trusts/ Institutions for construction of place of worship/Dharamshala /Janjhar in various sectors at Faridabad. The application forms can be downloaded from the HUDA website (www.huda.org.in) The land shall be allotted on 99 years lease hold basis. The rate/premium of Land is Rs. 12750/- per Sq Mtr The details of sites are as mentioned in the table 10% of the total cost of Land as mentioned to be deposited along with application form in the form of bank draft in favour of Estate Officer, HUDA, Faridabad. In case the land is not used for the purpose for which it is allotted the same shall be resumed in accordance with the provisions contain in the HUDA Act, 1977 and regulations made thereunder. The last date for receipt of application is 27.06.2017. It may be noted that no interest shall be payable on the earnest money for the period for which it remains with the authority
Note:- If the applicant wants to Apply more than one site, the earnest money required is to be deposited with each application form separately.

Sr No	Sector/Site No	Area approx in Sqr Mtr.)	10% Earnest Money (Rs.)
Religious Sites.			
1	3 RB-II	809.37	1031947.00
2	9	809.37	1031947.00
3	21C-1, Site No.1	809.37	1031947.00
4	21D	768.90	980348.00
5	46	1092.65	1393129.00
6	62 Site No 1	566.55	722351.00
7	65	809.37	1031947.00
Social and Charitable Sites.			
1	08 Site No. 02	2314.81	2951383.00
2	64 Site No 02	3361.35	4285721.00

Mahabir Parshad, HCS, Estate Officer, HUDA Faridabad
Ph No. 0129-2220691, 2227676 visit us at www.huda.org.in
PRDH-Advt. No:-1083/11/3367/1718/50077 Dated: 18.5.17
Yashendra Singh, HCS, Administrator, HUDA Faridabad
HUDA Faridabad
Ph No. 011-24368638, 24368641
PRDH-Advt. No:-1083/11/3367/1718/50077 Dated: 18.5.17

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
N.I.T. No. : 01-17-18/W-3-01. 1. Name of work with its location : 1. Hiring of Multi Utility vehicle and Truck for misc. work of track maintenance/renewal in the S/O SSE/P.Way/DLI & SSB under ADEN/DLI 2. Approx. Cost of work : 1. Rs. 1,06,77,031/-. 3. Earnest Money : (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note :- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-ICT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016) 1. Rs. 2,03,090/- 4. Completion period of Work : 1. 24 Months. 5. Cost of tender on cash/by post : (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note :- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-ICT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016) 1. Rs. 5,000/- 6. Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender : upto 15:00 hrs on 23.06.2017. Opening of tender box at 15:00 hrs. on 23.06.2017 7. Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/2017-18/W-3 Dated: -18.05.2017. 1493/17
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General Public is hereby informed that one lady namely **Rachna D/o Sh. Arvind Singh R/o H. No. K-165, Vijay Vihar, Ph-II, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since **19.02.2017** from the area of P.S. Vijay Vihar. In this regard a **DD No. 12-A dated 19.02.2017** has been lodged at PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing/ kidnapped lady are as under: **Age 23 years, Height 5'2" Complexion Fair, Face Long**
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the lady but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this lady kindly inform to the following
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
SHO PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi Ph: 011-27052772, 27052773
DP/470/RD/17

Collection bag from Apollo 11 moon mission to be sold at auction



It is a simple, square white bag that travelled to the moon in 1969 on Apollo 11 and carried back to Earth the first sample of lunar material ever collected. That bag could fetch up to \$4 million when it goes on the auction block at Sotheby's New York in July.

The bag - which contains remnants of moon dust and is labelled "LUNAR SAMPLE RETURN" - is a collection pouch used by astronaut Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, during the Apollo 11 mission.

The bag was used to hold rocks and dust from the lunar

region known as the Sea of Tranquility.

Scheduled for July 20, the 48th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, the auction will be the first legal sale of such an artefact from the mission, Jim Hull, head of exhibits and artefacts at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), said in a telephone interview on Friday.

While there are legal restrictions on sales of material from moon missions, including lunar rocks and dust, it is believed some items have been sold in the black market. AGENCIES

Rising Pune Supergiant vs Mumbai Indians



IPL 2017		Overall in IPL		IPL 2017	
Highest total: 187/3 vs Mumbai Indians	29 Played	156	Highest total: 223/6 vs Kings XI Punjab	15 Won	91
Most runs: 421 Steven Smith	14 Lost	65	Most runs: 391 Parthiv Patel	195/3 Highest total	223/6
Most wickets: 22 Jaydev Unadkat	Head-to-Head		Most wickets: 19 Mitchell McClenaghan	5 Played	5
Most sixes: 17 Rahul Tripathi	4 Won	1	Most sixes: 21 Kieron Pollard	1 Lost	4
	187/3 Highest total	184/8			

Points table rank: 2							Points table rank: 1						
M	Won	Lost	Tied	NR	Points	NRR	M	Won	Lost	Tied	NR	Points	NRR
14	9	5	0	0	18	+0.176	14	10	4	0	0	20	+0.784

Route to Final			Route to Final		
Date	Versus	Result	Date	Versus	Result
Apr 6	Mumbai Indians	Won by 7 Wkts	Apr 6	Rising Pune Supergiant	Lost by 7 wkts
Apr 8	Kings XI Punjab	Lost by 6 Wkts	Apr 9	Kolkata Knight Riders	Won by 4 wkts
Apr 11	Delhi Daredevils	Lost by 97 runs	Apr 12	Sunrisers Hyderabad	Won by 4 wkts
Apr 14	Gujarat Lions	Lost by 7 Wkts	Apr 14	R. Challengers Bangalore	Won by 4 wkts
Apr 16	R. Challengers Bangalore	Won by 27 runs	Apr 16	Gujarat Lions	Won by 6 wkts
Apr 22	Sunrisers Hyderabad	Won by 6 Wkts	Apr 20	Kings XI Punjab	Won by 8 wkts
Apr 24	Mumbai Indians	Won by 3 runs	Apr 22	Delhi Daredevils	Won by 14 runs
Apr 26	Kolkata Knight Riders	Lost by 7 Wkts	Apr 24	Rising Pune Supergiant	Lost by 3 runs
Apr 29	R. Challengers Bangalore	Won by 61 runs	Apr 29	Gujarat Lions	Won in Super Ov
May 1	Gujarat Lions	Won by 5 Wkts	May 1	R. Challengers Bangalore	Won by 5 wkts
May 3	Kolkata Knight Riders	Won by 4 Wkts	May 6	Delhi Daredevils	Won by 146 run
May 6	Sunrisers Hyderabad	Won by 12 runs	May 8	Sunrisers Hyderabad	Lost by 7 wkts
May 12	Delhi Daredevils	Lost by 7 runs	May 11	Kings XI Punjab	Lost by 7 runs
May 14	Kings XI Punjab	Won by 9 Wkts	May 13	Kolkata Knight Riders	Won by 9 runs
Qualifier 1			Qualifier 1		
May 16	Mumbai Indians	Won by 20 runs	May 16	Rising Pune Supergiant	Lost by 20 runs
Qualifier 2			Qualifier 2		
May 19	Kolkata Knight Riders	Won by 6 wkts			

NR: No Result; NRR: Net Run Rate
BKBSportsGraphics

Final showdown: Supergiant hurdle in front of Mumbai

HYDERABAD: Aiming to complete a hat-trick of titles, the formidable Mumbai Indians will face an imposing challenge from the Rising Pune Supergiant in what promises to be a riveting 'Grand Finale' of the 10th Indian Premier League, here on Sunday.

Billed as a 'Maharashtra Derby', the summit clash is set to be a bit more than an inter-city battle with huge reputations of big stars at stake. Even on paper, there is not much to choose, especially with Pune beating MI thrice this season including a comprehensive victory in Qualifier 1. But final is a new day and MI can always be fourth time lucky.

Two-time champions Mumbai will be playing their fourth final and should have been termed as clear favourites had it not been for a certain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who will be playing a record seventh IPL final. Some of the MI stars, like skipper Rohit Sharma, Kieron Pollard, Harbhajan Singh and Ambati Rayudu, have a fair idea of how to win a mega final as they have been a part of the victorious 2013 and 2015 sides.

MI's strength has been their bench with Jos for like replacements. When Jos Buttler left, they had Lendl Simmons to fill up for him. Similarly, Mitchell McClenaghan (19 wickets) can cool his heels with Mitchell Johnson tormenting the batsmen.



Nitish Rana (333 runs) has been one of the finds but when Ambati Rayudu came back from injury, he was equally effective. Harbhajan Singh has been economical as ever but the team management had faith in leg-spinner Karn Sharma who crushed the KKR batting during the second Qualifier. In Malinga and Bumrah -- they have the best death bowlers in the business. Pollard hits big and is a livewire on the field. Pandya brothers -- Krunal and Hardik -- provide the all-round balance and above all there is Rohit, who can single-handedly turn the match on its head. But when it comes to 'MSD', the cash-rich league has been



his playground since its inception in 2008. He has played six finals between 2008 and 2015 for the Chennai Super Kings, winning the 2010 and '11 editions. The former India captain knows more than a thing or two about IPL finals. Pune skipper Steve Smith will be banking on Dhoni's experience with an aim to emulate Shane Warne, Adam Gilchrist, David Warner -- the Aussies who have lifted the silverware. In terms of performance, Dhoni hasn't exactly set the stage on fire but his contribution in two of the victories have had a telling impact. The tricky chase against Sunrisers Hyderabad during a league game was one match in which Supergiant

witnessed the 'Master Finisher' come to the fore. It was a match Pune needed to win in order to get some momentum going. And then the five sixes off the last two overs during the Qualifier 1 at Wankhede -- a match that was till then in MI's grip. It's highly likely that Dhoni will be seen in his favourite 'Canary Yellow' jersey from next season as Supergiant won't be getting an extension as per current rules. But the legend must not have forgotten how he was unceremoniously removed from captaincy and a memorable knock in the final will only be an icing on the cake. After a forgettable last season, Pune, under Smith, have found their combination this

time round. Ben Stokes has been one of those rare players, who has justified the big bucks (Rs 14.5 crore) spent on him by Sanjeev Goenka. Before leaving for Madrid (where England is having a pre Champions Trophy camp), Stokes' 316 runs and 12 wickets had a huge role to play in ensuring a smooth passage to the play-offs. The century against Gujarat Lions, while battling cramps, and brilliant overs at the death made it easier for Smith. The emergence of Rahul Tripathi (388 runs) -- son of an Army Major -- who had for sometime quit cricket while staying in Kashmir, has been one of the most endearing IPL stories of this year. AGENCIES

Federation Cup final: Mohun Bagan to start as favourites against Bengaluru FC

CUTTACK: Defending champions Mohun Bagan will be aiming to bury the disappointment of 1-League slip-up when they meet Bengaluru FC in the final of the Federation Cup football tournament, here on Sunday. The 14-time champions of the blue riband tourney -- much more than any other Indian club side, will like reassert their supremacy and book an AFC Cup berth for the next season. During the course of this season, Bagan have faced Bengaluru FC five times with their last meeting during AFC Cup Group league fixture resulting in 3-1 win in favour of green and maroon brigade. Before that, they played out a 1-1 draw in a group league fixture of the Federation Cup. While Bengaluru FC staved off a late challenge by Aizawl FC to win their semi-final bout by a solitary goal to nil, Mohun Bagan registered an easy 2-0 win over East Bengal to qualify for the final. The threat for Bengaluru comes in the form of the Mariners' attacking quadruple Sony Norde, Katsumi Yusa, Balwant



In their last encounter, Mohun Bagan beat Bengaluru 3-1 in an AFC cup match. PIC/PTI

Singh and Darryl Duffy all of which have been in scintillating form upfront, cajoling something out of nothing in the final third and all four have registered their names in the goal scoring tally. In the official pre-final press conference, Alberto Roca was wary of Bagan's attacking prowess and said, "They (Mohun Bagan) have a good attack and we have a good defence. It is important to have a good balance, but we have to be on our toes as they (Bagan) can punish us with the quality upfront."

"Mohun Bagan are favourites to win the Federation Cup and they (Mohun Bagan) deserve to be in the final," said Roca. "For us (Bengaluru FC), it is important to be in the finals of the Hero Fed Cup and tomorrow we have another opportunity to win a trophy and we have to make the most out of it," Roca added. "I will be a very happy man if we win the final tomorrow," he further added. The Blues will be missing the services of talismanic skipper Sunil Chhetri, and midfielder Cameron

Watson, who is suspended for tomorrow's final. However, Mohun Bagan's Head Coach Sanjoy Sen did not beat around the bush and stated in the official pre-final press conference that, "Mohun Bagan will be looking for nothing less than winning the trophy." "We have prepared for it and now we are ready to give our best and win the Hero Fed Cup Trophy," he added. "They (Bengaluru FC) have also studied our players, so have we theirs. It is an advantage and a disadvantage of facing a known opponent and since Bengaluru FC are one of the strongest Teams in India, it will be a very competitive final," Sen said. "We don't have any injury concerns, all Players are fit and ready to perform," quipped Sen, when inquired about injury concerns in the squad. "It is exciting for everyone in the Bagan camp to be in the final and we are prepared for the final and the final is always special for the players. We have to give our best to win the trophy for our supporters," said Mohun Bagan skipper Katsumi Yusa. AGENCIES

Indian eves whitewashed by NZ in hockey series

HAMILTON: There was no end to the Indian women's hockey team's misery as it went down 2-6 to New Zealand in the final match for a 0-5 whitewash in the series, which concluded here on Saturday. The Black Sticks were untroubled from the start with Olivia Merry converting a splendid field goal in the fourth minute of the first quarter. She starred in the first 15 minutes as she came up with another field goal in the 15th minute to give her team a strong start with a 2-0 lead at the end of the first quarter. The second quarter saw India make strong amends, earning a PC in the 22nd minute. Deep Grace Ekka was successful in converting the PC with an improvised flick to earn India's first goal of the match. This was Grace's second successful PC in the Five-Match Series. New Zealand fought back with Pippa Hayward earning the third goal for the hosts in the 27th minute to take their score to 3-1 at the end of the second quarter. India began the third quarter with positive intent, and their determination paid off



when they earned a PC in the 33rd minute. It was skipper Rani who was inch-perfect to convert the PC and narrow India's goal difference to 2-3. Soon after, India won two back-to-back PCs creating a brilliant opportunity to tie the score with the hosts. However, the chance went begging as the Gurjit Kaur's flick was deflected by an alert Kiwi goalkeeper Grace O'Hanlon. New Zealand overcame this scare to take a formidable 6-2 lead at the end of the third

quarter with three goals scored in a span of four minutes. It was Natasha Fitzsimons (37'), Samantha Harrison (38') and Kirsten Pearce (40') who ensured New Zealand put India under pressure going into the final quarter. India showed resilience in the final 15 minutes, trying to find a gap in the striking circle. While India matched New Zealand's challenge with pace, good skill work and improvised ball possession they could not quite make it count in the 25 yards mark. AGENCIES

India's golden sweep in South Asian Junior TT

NEW DELHI: After sealing their berths in the Asian Juniors, to be held in Ansan (Korea) from June 29 to July 4, the Indian paddlers continued their winning ways to complete a golden sweep of team medals in the South Asian Junior Table Tennis Championships in Colombo on Saturday. In Junior Boys, the Indians first beat Pakistan 3-0 and followed it up with another identical win over hosts Sri Lanka to complete their group engagement and claim the gold. The Manav Thakkar-led combination with Manush Shah and Parth Virmani made it a formality against the Pakistan's Fahad Khawaja, Obaid Shah and Basit Khan and then repeated it against Sri Lanka's KDV Madhusan, PD Umesh Thennakoon and Nimesh Ranchagoda for the sweep. Manush Shah won 11-7, 11-6, 11-9 against Madhusan but Manav dropped a game against Umesh before overpowering him 11-9, 11-6, 8-11, 11-4. Later, Parth completed the task with a 9-11, 11-4, 14-12, 11-8 win over Nimesh in a tough third rubber. India, finishing with eight points, were followed by Sri Lanka and logged six points from their three wins over Pakistan, Bangladesh and Maldives to be the second team to qualify for the Asian event. In Junior Girls, India and Sri Lanka had completed the four-team group events in that order on Friday itself, winning gold and silver, respectively, and qualify for the event in Korea. Archana Kamath, Moumita Datta and Priyanka Pareek did the star turn in the junior section. AGENCIES

Indian men archers strike gold in World Cup stage 1

SHANGHAI: The Indian men's compound team on Saturday defeated Colombia to clinch the gold medal on the penultimate day of the archery World Cup stage 1 championship. The team of Abhishek Verma, Chinna Raju Srither and Amanjeet Singh won the medal defeating Colombia 226-221 in a closely-fought summit showdown. Earlier, the Indian compound men's archery team advanced to the final after getting the better of Americans Reo Wilde, Steve Anderson and Braden Gellenthien 232-230 in a last-four clash. The Colombian team comprised Camilo Andres Cardona, Jose Carlos Ospina and Daniel Munoz. In the final, the Indians grabbed a slender lead in the opening set by clinching it 58-57 and built on it in the next three to emerge triumphant. The Colombians managed to tie the third set 52-52. In the mixed pair event, Abhishek Verma with Jyothi Surekha Vennam had earlier made it to the bronze medal play-off. The duo lost to second-seeded South Korean in the semi-finals. Meanwhile, Indian recurve archers, including Atanu Das and Deepika Kumari, were knocked out of their respective events. While the men's recurve team slumped to a 0-3 defeat to Japan in the quarter-finals, the women's team made a first-round exit after suffering a 2-6 defeat at the hands of US. AGENCIES

Nation congratulates India colts post Azzurri conquest

NEW DELHI: From cricketer Virender Sehwag to sports minister Vijay Goel, distinguished people from all walks of life congratulated the India U-17 football team for their stupendous 2-0 victory in an international friendly against Italy, on Friday. Most of them took to Twitter to congratulate the youngsters, who would be playing the FIFA U-17 World Cup. "Great day! #India U-17 #football team defeats #Italy 2-0! Well done boys, proud of you all!" Goel tweeted. AIFF president Patel said, "First entering the 100 club & now India's U-17 Team beats Italy's U-17 Football Team. Way to go @IndianFootball #FIFAU17WC." Mumbai Football Association boss Aditya Thackeray comes out loud in support of Indian Football and time and again AIFF has expressed their gratitude towards this youthful vibrant leader. AGENCIES

Led by PV Sindhu, India need to go full throttle to win medal at Sudirman Cup

GOLD COAST: Spearheaded by Olympic silver-medallist PV Sindhu, India are in for a tough challenge as they seek to end the agonising wait for a medal at the Sudirman Cup mixed team championship beginning here on Sunday. India, ranked ninth, have managed to reach the knock-out stage of the tournament only once during the 2011 edition, while in the last two editions they couldn't even cross the group stage. Led by Sindhu and world No.13 Ajay Jayaram, India will have their task cut out this time when they take on Denmark and Indonesia in Group 1 D. India will open their campaign against two-time runners-up Denmark on Monday and will be facing former champion and six-time runners-up Indonesia on Wednesday. For India, the onus will be on singles to win their respective matches, while they would be hoping one of their doubles pair pull off one match at least.



London Olympics bronze-medallist Saina Nehwal pulled out days ahead of the tournament but her absence should not affect India's chances as world No.4 Sindhu is more than capable of handling the responsibility. "I think we have a good chance, it's a mixed team event so girls and boys both have to perform well. Saina isn't playing, but that shouldn't be an issue. I hope we can win," a confident Sindhu said. Denmark have world No.3

and world No.4 Viktor Axelsen and Jan O Jorgensen respectively in their ranks and it would be a challenge for Jayaram and Singapore Open finalist K Srikanth to put it past the duo in men's singles. Jayaram has a 3-2 record against Axelsen, having beaten him at the Malaysia Open recently, while Srikanth has a 2-2 record against Jorgensen, having lost to him at the Rio Olympics and he would be eyeing a revenge. "It is definitely a tough

draw. India's forte has always been singles but I think our doubles have done reasonably well of late. At least in mixed doubles, Sikki and Pranaav have done well recently. So if we could pull out a single and one doubles that would be great," said Jayaram, who had entered the Korea Super Series final in 2015. AGENCIES

Indian Overseas Bank
Regional Office, Plot No 80, first floor
Mangal Pandey, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh

Request For Proposal (RFP) from Private Security Agencies

Indian Overseas Bank invites application from Eligible Private Security Agencies for providing security services at our various branches in the state of Uttar Pradesh. RFP will be given at our office on 23.5.2017 before 1500 hrs to PSA fulfilling following prequalification criteria:

- Minimum 10 years old agency
- Valid PSARA license
- Private Limited Company
- Having own Training Centre
- ISO certification

Dated : 21.5.2017 Regional Manager

In retrospect

GENERIC DRUGS

A healthier TOMORROW

For long, private companies have ruled their reign in pharmaceuticals causing dramatic over-pricing of even basic medicines. With its new policy of introducing large-scale generic drugs, the government aims to stop this malpractice. Is this only good news, or is too sprinkled with possible pitfalls? Write Dharendra Kumar and Radhika Dutt



Falling ill has been the average citizen's biggest woe. Not only because it adversely impacts the body – but primarily because it leaves irreparable trenches in our pockets, and empties out bank accounts in a jiffy. Tapping on to the woes of the population, the central government with its acting policy on generic drugs is aiming to curtail the sky rocketing prices of branded medicines that have long been disturbing the population of India. A recent study by the WHO suggests that the average Indian spends 70-80 per cent of their income on healthcare. The rising numbers have drawn the notice of our wise men who have now taken up the initiative to revolutionise the healthcare system in the country. The well-known National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has been mandated with the responsibility to overlook the smooth infiltration of generic medicines into the drugs market of India.

Generic medicines are similar if not the same as their branded counterparts, only, they cost significantly less, as they come without the tag of the parent manufacturer. This change is of paramount importance in an economy like India's where about 20 per cent of the population suffers from chronic diseases and 27 per cent of deaths occur due to want of medical attention. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the NITI Aayog have been working silently to bring about a rapid change in

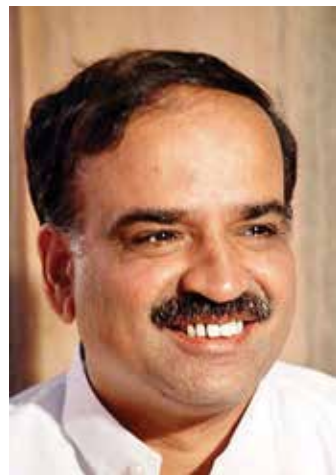
the entire healthcare structure. "It is the government's responsibility to ensure that everybody has access to healthcare at minimal prices," said Prime Minister Modi echoing what most of the nation felt. To turn this dream into reality the government has set up Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra(s) (PMBJK) to make generic medicines available to the population at affordable prices. So far, there are 1320 PMBJKs across 30 states and Union Territories, covering 426 districts. The government has pledged to open 1000 more such outlets at railway stations across the country.

The first step to improve healthcare in the country was taken up by the West Bengal government, right after Mamata Banerjee came to power in 2011 – the initiative which begun in 2012 had been seen as a model for the rest of the nation. Over a 100 fair price medicine shops have been opened across the state which provide drugs at a discount of 48-77.2 per cent. Not just medicine outlets, but also 58 fair price diagnostic centers had been set up in just 4 years, from 2012, offering digital X-ray, dialysis, CT Scan and MRI at affordable prices. Following suit, the Narendra Modi government too has taken up initiatives to make healthcare affordable to all citizens of the country. A starting step in the right direction could be the popularization of generic drugs among the masses. The Union Minister for Chemical and Fertilisers, Ananth



“We doctors have no objection in prescribing generic drugs, but we are skeptical about its quality and doubtful that poor patients would fall prey to unethical practices of pharmacists”

Dr Durga Shankar, Orthopaedic Surgeon



“Since making quality medicines available at affordable prices has been a challenge, government would reinvigorate the supply of generic drugs by opening 3,000 stores”

Ananth Kumar, Union Minister for Chemical and Fertilisers

Kumar propagating the government's bold move has vouched that the government through Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana is creating a silent revolution in achieving health security by providing affordable, quality medicines to all. "Under the Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), the government is planning to take affordable medicines to each block of the country in the near future. Since making quality medicines available at affordable prices

3,000 stores under the Prime Minister's Jan Aushadhi Yojana during 2017. At the PMBJKs, only generic medicines procured by the government are sold, which cost 50 per cent to 90 per cent less than the branded medicines in the open market," said the Minister.

Despite this move coming about to ensure holistic wellbeing of the average Indian citizen fraudulent activities have already been brought to notice. In a shocking revelation, it has come to the notice of the NPPA that about 60 drug manufacturers have violated various provisions of Drug (Prices Control) Order, 2013, and introduced 'new drugs' by altering scheduled formulations to be auto-exempted from the price-capping order of the government.

The NPPA has scrutinised 60 pharmaceutical majors where 201 'new drugs' have been put under scanner. According to sources, pharmaceutical companies such as Abbott Healthcare, Alkem Laboratories, Codila Pharmaceuticals, GlaxoSmithKline, Lupin, Novartis India, Ranbaxy Laboratories, Sanofi India, Zydus Cadila, etc have introduced new drugs by slightly altering the composition to be able to dodge price-capping. According to officials at NPPA, the non-compliance of the order

PRICE COMPARISON CHART					
Sl. No.	Name of Medicines	Pack Size	Average Price of Leading Brands	Jan Aushadhi Kendra MRP	Price Differences
Cardiovascular Agents					
1.	Amlodipine 5 mg and Atenolol 50 mg film coated Tablets	10's	36.86	3.54	10 times
2.	Ramipril 5 mg Tablets	10's	72.80	9.68	8 times
3.	Losartan 50 mg and Hydrochlorothiazide 12.5mg Tablets	10's	68.23	9.05	8 times
4.	Rosuvastatin Tablets IP 20 mg	10's	211.00	27.34	8 times
5.	Atorvastatin 10 mg Tablets	10's	50.90	5.11	10 times
Anti-diabetic Agents					
1.	Glimepiride 2 mg Tablets	10's	50.00	5.05	10 times
2.	Glimepiride 2 mg + Metformin Hydrochloride 500 mg SR Tablets	10's	70.00	17.78	4 times
3.	Metformin HCL 500 mg Tablets	10's	14.00	5.15	3 times
Anti Cancer					
1.	Bicalutamide Tabes IP 50 mg	10's	636.00	137.50	5 times
2.	Paclitaxel Inj 100 mg	Vial	3458.00	540.00	6 times
3.	Imatinib Mesylate Tablets IP 400 mg	10's	2133.00	477.00	4 times
Gastro-intestinal Tract Agents					
1.	Rabeprazole 20 mg Tablets	10's	54.00	7.16	8 times
2.	Pantaprazole 40 mg Tablets	10's	63.00	7.20	9 times
3.	Domperidone 30 mg+ Pantoprazole 40 mg Capsules	10's	86.00	18.48	5 times
Antibiotics					
1.	Amoxycillin 500mg + Clavulanic acid 125 mg Tablets	6's	96.84	52.24	2 times
2.	Cefixime 100 mg Tablets	10's	82.60	25.65	3 times
3.	Ofloxacin 200mg Tablets	10's	52.60	14.80	4 times
4.	Azithromycin 500 mg Tablets	10's	178.30	86.60	2 times
Analgesic/Anti-inflammatory/Antipyretic Drugs					
1.	Tamado 50mg Tablets	10's	60.00	4.38	14 times
2.	Nimesulide 100 mg Tablets	10's	39.00	2.52	15 times
3.	Diclofenac Sodium+Serratiopeptidase(50 mg+10 mg) tablets	10's	103.20	7.02	15 times



came into notice of the regulator during compliance monitoring of various norms of the Drug (Prices Control) Order by drug manufacturers. The concerns regarding fraudulence by pharmaceuticals are echoed by doctors too.

Dr Jaya Deb Barman, Clinical Associate of the Medicine Department at Asian Hospital, says, "If we as doctors begin to subscribe only generic compositions then the pharmacists get complete control to choose the drug to sell. Very often a composition is available between Rs 1100 – Rs 3500, and pharmacists would sell the Rs 1100 drug for Rs 2500, profiting the rest. Also, pharmaceutical companies tie up with medicine shops to ensure that their drug is sold most frequently irrespective of the availability of cheaper drugs, as they are promised some commission off sales," she adds.

A branded drug often comes with an unsaid assurance of quality. As Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital's orthopaedic surgeon Durga Shankar told *Millennium Post*, "A doctor is well informed about the response of a drug, whether generic or branded, on their patients, which is not the case with medicine sellers." Shankar further said, that undoubtedly the move is commendable, but there is an urgent need to fix the responsibilities. "We doctors have no objection in prescribing generic drugs, but we are skeptical about its quality and doubtful that poor patients would fall prey to unethical practices of pharmacists." Emphasising on the need to govern the qual-

ity of generic medicines professor at Centre for Social Medicine and Community Health, at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Ritu Priya said, "Availability of generic drugs is not a major issue; the major concern is its quality. At present, the government has no mechanism to authenticate the quality of drugs, which is a very serious issue. It is true that patients would get generic drugs at much lesser prices, but what about its efficacy. I hail the government's move, but at the same time I would suggest them to strengthen the State Drug Controllers (SDC), which are in a deplorable state. The SDCs have no staff to examine the quality of drugs and if the government takes some concrete initiative in this direction, only then would our healthcare system improve."

Globally the story of generic drugs has been more positive, and maybe it is too early to dissuade India from taking what appears to be a very important step. USA, a country which faces highest cost of healthcare introduced the Drug Price Competition and Patent Restoration Act in 1984, for the recognition of generic drugs. This was followed by the Generic Initiative for Value and Efficiency (GIVE) launched by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2007, which was an attempt to modernise the process of approving generic drugs and to rapidly increase the number and variety of generic drugs available. In USA the FDA that overlooks the functioning of the generic medication market has said that consumers who have replaced generic medication with their branded counterpart are able to save up to 52 per cent of their income on daily drug costs.

The success of generic medicines

has flourished even in developing nations like Mexico. In 2007, generics accounted for 44 per cent of all medical drugs sold in the country, by the end of 2011 the share had reached to 71 per cent, and till 2014 it touched 84 per cent. The North American market is led by the US Generic Market which is forecasted to reach \$112 billion by 2020.

The overshooting prices of branded medicines in the USA had compelled this move that motivated consumers to subscribe to generic medicine ahead of seemingly trustworthy branded companies. North America remains the most lucrative market for generic medicines with large-scale imports and exports both taking place in this region. Europe is still in the stage of developing, as they are bringing in more regulation in prices of generic medicines. Research suggests that the generic drug market of Central Europe will see a 3-6 per cent per annum development between 2016 and 2021.

While the use of generic medicines within India is yet to reach its optimum, India is the largest supplier of cost effective generic medicines to the developed world. The growing Indian pharmaceutical industry is expected to reach \$50 billion by 2020. The Indian government is now taking steps to familiarise the use of generic medicines. Yet, before such a rapid move is taken across such a large population there are several impediments which have to be battled.

The move to refurbish pharmaceutical pricing in India may be the beacon of a healthier and more affordable future, but in a population with quantity as proliferating as ours the concerns over quality must never be ignored.

Beacon



Avant garde techniques at VENICE BIENNALE

It is Rina's long, free-form refrained titles that immerse the viewer in the physical and emotional space of the work, heightening its quasi-mystical magnetism and illustrating her penchant for translating academic and aesthetic renditions in her act of reading, writes Uma Nair



Visiting the Venice Biennale? You must step into The International Pavilion at Viva Arte Viva to see the sculptural installations of Kolkata-born artist and thinker Rina Banerjee. Galerie Nathalie Obadia of Brussels and Paris brings into the prestigious Biennale the participation of Rina Banerjee, in the 57th International Art Exhibition, la Biennale di Venezia running from May 13 to November 26.

Galerie Nathalie Obadia states that Rina Banerjee is one of the most important Indian artists on the contemporary scene. She has been invited by the brilliant curator Christine Macel (curator at the Centre Pompidou in Paris), to participate in the International Pavilion Viva Arte Viva, located in the Giardini.

Born in India and based in New York City, artist Rina Banerjee (b. 1963) draws on her background as a scientist and her experience as an immigrant. Her richly textured works complicate the role of objects as representations of cultures and invite viewers to share her fascination in materials. By juxtaposing multifarious organic and plastic objects – such as combining ornate textiles and animal forms with tourist souvenirs – she concocts fairy-tale worlds that are fascinatingly enticing as well as subtly menacing because her titles lead us into an endless commentary of observations and private ruminations.

Rina Banerjee, who was born in Kolkata, India and lives in Manhattan New York, works with a cosmopolitan eclecticism that reflects both her transnational background and her sophisticated understanding of the narrative power of objects.

Her materials reflect her avant garde objectives and techniques. Her titles define her intellectual aesthetics. Using trinkets made for the tourist trade – horn, bone, feathers, shells, textiles, glass bottles and antiques – she assembles rapturous sculptures that speak of the mystery of shamanism, but they also overflow with complex yet multiple connotations and mooring metaphors.

The first time I saw her work was at the Freer and Sackler Gallery in Washington DC. Touching on themes of migration and transformation, there was an installation and it was the length of the title that conveyed the sense of a long journey: *A World Lost: after the original island, single land mass fractured, after populations migrated, after pollution revealed itself and as cultural locations once separated merged, after the splitting of Adam and Eve, Shiva and Shakti, of race black and white, of culture East and West, after animals diminished, after the seas' corals did exterminate, after this and at last imagine all water evaporated...this after Columbus found it we lost it imagine this.*

Here at Venice she presents four works that combine classic satire and modernist modes of multiple allusions born of literary and personalised reflections in history and experience. Her first work is called *Addictions to leaf and nut aroused, curled currency and culture to itch and moan as arrivals of plants from plantation, not just servants or slaves exploded, swelled to levels fantastic but without majestic magic hurt to ripen.* The composition of the work is what excites your senses, she uses – steel armature, feathers, fabric, glass beads, thread, dried gourds, silver leafing.

Her second work looks like an exotic flower and is entitled *Excessive flower, hour by hour, banal and decorative, banished and vanished of power, reckless and greased she steals like jewel thieves, fierce, always in theater as actor, often captured in oils, thrown in air, robbed in vitality as death appears for all who have more color see her as unequal in sting to sun and processions of pomp if in marriage and funeral bearing in mind possessions of inheritance acquired.*

Her materials in this work probe into the corridors of what is quaint and curious. She uses thread cotton, cowry shell, glass bottles, wire, linen, silk, mirrors, vintage trim, cable, steel armature, copper tubes, seed beads, porcupine needles, cock feathers, peacock hairs, faux eyelashes, speakers, and frozen Charlotte doll heads.

At the Venice Biennale, her works are hyper – ornamented and lushly seductive. She conjoins rarities with lesser priced, mass-produced bric-a-brac, she appropriates extravagantly while rejecting hierarchies of material, culture and value and creates endless historical annotations born of a migrant experience.

In her third work that personifies another flowery creation-her title informs and gives insight – *Women did do this in shining when her spare threads and vines crimped, wrinkled in lines could force a clear high shimmer of Bud, blue-black flower all boney and new, will upon will, came with whispers of new.* Once again she uses intriguing elements – Thread cotton, cowry shell, glass bottles,

wire, linen, silk, mirrors, vintage trim, cable, steel armature, copper tubes, seed beads, porcupine needles, cock feathers, peacock hairs, faux eyelashes, speakers, and frozen Charlotte doll heads.

In Banerjee's installations, she invites us to partake of her chimerical landscapes, often in states of transformation or with hybrid features of birds and beasts. It is her long, free-form refrained titles that immerse the viewer in the physical and emotional space of the work, heightening its quasi-mystical magnetism and illustrating her penchant for translating academic and aesthetic renditions in her act of reading.

The work that is a cynosure for all eyes is titled *When signs of origin fade, fall out if washed away, trickle into separations, precipitate when boiled or filtered to reveal all doubleness as wickedness. Vanishing act that migration, mixation like mothers who hid paternity who could name move me slowly reveal me only when my maker stands straight* – in this historic creation she uses turtle replica in resin, vintage shell lampshades, steel armature, Polynesian

wood mask, Pyrex filtration lab glassware, feathers, thread, linen, silk, amber vials, cowry shells, seed beads, and pearls. And her curriculum vitae is impeccable in all facets. Banerjee holds a Bachelor of Science in Polymer engineering from the Case Institute of Technology. In 1995, she graduated from Yale University with an MFA and received the Drawing Award Norfolk-Yale University in the same year.

Her most important exhibitions have been at the Whitney Biennial (2000), Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (2003), Brooklyn Museum of Art (2004), "Fatal Love: South American Art Now" at The Queens Museums of Art, New York (2005), "Greater New York Show" at PS1/MOMA, New York (2005), a solo exhibition at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum (2008), Boghossian Foundation, Brussels (2010). In 2011, she held a solo show "Rina Banerjee: Chimeras of India and The West" at Musée Guimet, Paris.

Images: Gallerie Nathalie Obadia –Brussels,Paris



Rina Banerjee



Diseased lanes of MUSTAFABAD

Young workers have no social protection or health care facilities while dealing with e-waste. There is also no information as to how many labourers are employed in this informal sector of e-waste disposal across the country, writes Yogesh Kant

In the streets of Mustafabad in North-east Delhi, 14-year-old Shamim calls himself a reverse engineer. He dismantles dead computers, air conditions, and compressors peeling the wires day in and day out, knowing little about the toxins present in the hardware of these dead machines. These toxins are responsible for destroying his life slowly.

"The toxins released in the process of separating these metals can damage kidneys, brain and lungs of those exposed to it. Skin diseases, hormonal imbalances, asthma and even cancer are caused by these toxins. These chemicals are now a part of their soil and water as well due to landfilling of e-waste," says Dr Vijay Arora, a private doctor and former CMO Safdarjung hospital.

Without any protective gear, Shamim and his friend burn circuit boards and cables to extract precious metals like platinum, gold, lead, and copper in dingy and poorly ventilated rooms, while inhaling the slow poison. He earns a living by removing rubber covers of the wires after burning them. He is among the hundreds of workers decomposing e-waste in the lanes of Mustafabad. The shop he works in is filled with discarded wires and dead computers. The streets where these shops are located are host to heaps of discarded computer monitors, phones, motherboards, cathode ray tubes, air conditioners, refrigerators, and scraps of keyboards. And these streets have hundreds of Shamim's who do the job of dismantling e-waste without proper



protective measures. ASSOCHAM reveals in a report that India generates approx 1.7 to three million tonnes of e-waste annually and nearly 90 per cent of it is processed in the informal sector. Meanwhile, despite a ban on importing of e-waste, an additional thousand tonnes makes its way in the country through illegal means, thanks to the lax regulations.

For last one decade, the amount of e-waste has multiplied massively owing to the updated and easy availability of technology which has further increased individual dependence on technology. In the coming years, technology is going to have more influence on our daily lives, so consequently, there will be an increased amount of e-waste in the near future. Even with the push to a digital economy, e-waste generation would multiply enormously. According to the government reports, there were

only 149 registered e-waste recyclers with the capacity of 4,61,059 metric tonne per annum in October 2015.

Existing e-waste management rules have been revised and new rules have come into force on October 1, 2016, and as per these revised norms, a consumer has to ensure e-waste generated by them is channelized through collection centres or dealers of authorised producer or dismantler or recycler. Under this law, a producer has to ensure collection of discarded products and their proper channelisation to an authorised recycler. Studies carried out by an NGO Toxic link and experts state that presence of heavy metals in the soil has been found in Mustafabad, Seelampur, Mandoli and Loni areas of Delhi and connecting border to Northeast Delhi, which in turn attributes to the activities related to e-waste carried out in the areas. The water



in the stream of Mustafabad, Chandbag and Seelampur locality is black with a terrible acrid smell. Recycling e-waste leaves many toxic elements such as lead, mercury, cadmium, selenium and arsenic behind. Workers in these illegal units are unaware of the health hazards of working in the unit since they prefer a continuous outflow of work in hope for a better remuneration. "Workers are not aware of the operational hazards of working in these units," said Ashish Singh, an NGO researcher.

Not even a single e-waste recycling unit has the required certificate from the Delhi Pollution Control Board. On enquiry related to this, a recycler unit owner, Shajju Malik, was shocked to know about the certificate and said only MCD's people come to check. "We always managed to have good relations with the government officials," said another scrap dealer. Workers mostly come from UP, Bihar and Jharkhand, in their early age for a monthly salary of Rs 8000 - 10,000 while some also work on a daily basis for Rs 300.

But young uneducated youths like Shamim are risking their lives for the petty livelihood of e-waste management. They have no social protection or health care facilities. In fact, there is no information as to how many labourers are employed in this informal sector of e-waste disposal across the country.

There is certainly a better way to dispose of e-waste, instead of pushing our youngsters, who stake their lives in bringing out useful materials from scrap.

PICS / YOGESH KANT

Bengali Theatre: PAVING THE WAY FOR INDIAN THESPIANS

The trend of contemporary Bengali theatre since the 1900s has been persisting with its distinct aura



Girish Chandra Ghosh, Binodini Dasi, Sombhu Mitra, Badal Sarkar, Utpal Dutt, Manoj Mitra, Chandan Sen

DEVAJIT BANDYOPADHYAY

The history of Bengali theatre is intertwined with the history and heritage of the state. The beginning of Bengali theatre can be traced back to the construction of the Kolkata theatre, in the year 1779. However, nothing remarkable happened until the end of 1794. The year was 1795 and for the very first time Kolkata witnessed Bengali theatre as Russian musician turned playwright Gerasim Lebedeff along with language teacher and theatre connoisseur Goloknath Das staged the Bengali translation of an English comedy, *Disguise* in Kolkata where he incorporated the song of Vidyasundar by Bharat Chandra Roy, the 18th Century poet of Bengal.

This was the time since when Bengali theatre began its long and illustrious journey. With few unstable steps and later with long strides, Bengali theatre gained a distinct dimension. By the year 1831 Bengali theatre became a whole new art form to mirror the society of the day. It was with the establishment of 'Hindu Theatre' in Kolkata

by Prasanna Kumar Thakur that further nurtured Bengali theatre to take steady steps towards maturity. Henceforth the 'Babu' culture of the time adopted theatre activities among other practices. Prasanna Kumar staged Wilson's English translation of Bhavabhuti's Sanskrit language drama *Uttar Ramacharitam* while laying the foundation for modern theatre in India. The history of Bengali theatre then gained a new diction.

Other important attempts in developing Bengali theatre in then Bengal include Nabin Basu's Shyambazar Theatre, the private stages of Ashutosh Deb and Ramjay Basak, Belgachia Theatre, Vidyotsahini Mancha, Metropolitan Theatre, Shobhabazar Private Theatrical Society, Jorasanko Natyashala and most importantly the Bagbazar Amateur Theatre which later evolved into the National Theatre. This was the first time that theatre tickets became accessible to the masses.

One such play of that time was the 1872 *Nildarpan* (which depicted the misery of the indigo cultivators). Dinabandhu Mitra, with his refined creations such as *Sadhabhar Ekadasi* and *Lilabati*, added to the maturity of Bengali theatre while carrying it to the next paradigm of excellence.

Bengali theatre again in the 19th century witnessed a colossal change as the rich, young Bengalis of Kolkata started to write plays while ideally weaving into them Indian songs, classical dance and music. Rabindranath Tagore's *Bisarjan* and *Raja O Rani* became an important part of this

effort. At that time the works of William Shakespeare were also widely translated and adapted in Bengali theatre while redesigning it to befit the tastes of urban India. The history of Bengali theatre is thus the saga of changing tradition. Bengali theatre soon became a strong medium of expression to mirror the contemporary sociopolitical common to the Indian masses. The

With the establishment of Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA), the history of Bengali theatre took a new turn. The audience witnessed a sea of change where the aura of the classical dance drama ceased and emerged a whole new concept of theatre - People's Theatre

main aim was then to make the mass aware of the prevailing sociopolitical scenario. The playwrights, directors and even the actors in Bengali theatre, with their unparalleled contribution, illustrated the colonial fragrance in perhaps the right way.

Earlier, Marathi, Parsi and the theatre of South India also struck roots in 19th century as did folk theatre, with a heavy depen-

dence on songs. Women gradually started coming onto the stage, but they were usually women of disrepute. The fact goes that Sri Ramakrishna once went to see a play by the Prima Dona of the stage, 'Natee Binodini' and blessed her.

Theatre continued to flourish in Bengal. Madhusudan Dutt, Jyotirindranath Tagore, Dwijendra Lal Roy, Girish Chandra Ghosh, Amritalal Bose, Khirodprasad Bidyainoid added new dimensions to a nascent Bengali theatre.

It was much later that the very concept of Bengali Theatre as the representation of the age-old British colonialism gradually faded away and theatre became a lot more naturalistic. However, right before independence the very demand of realistic theatre was so vibrant that two famous theatre personalities like Bijon Bhattacharya and Sambhu Mitra designed a whole new concept - realistic theatre in Bengal.

Earlier though, Bengali theatre was actor-centric, courtesy Sisir Kumar Bhaduri, Nirmalendu Bhaduri, Aparesh Chandra Mukherjee, Ahindra Choudhury, Durgadas Bandyopadhyay, Nihar Bala, Prabha devi, Saraju Bala, Tara Sundari, Kankabati and Rani Bala. Theatre also became entwined with music, where Rabindranath Tagore, Krishna Chandra Dey, Kazi Nazrul Islam, and even Sachin Dev Burman made musical contributions to Bengali theatre.

With the establishment of Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA), the history of Bengali theatre took a new turn.

Theatre then became even closer to the people. The audience witnessed a sea of change where the aura of the classical dance drama ceased and on the contrary there emerged a whole new concept of theatre - People's Theatre, which was "for the people and by the people". At this time, one landmark play was Nabanna, which derived from the devastating Bengal famine of 1943.

That was just the beginning of history. The trend then was to reflect the daily life, social issues, political turmoil and indeed the economic scenario of India realistically. The post-Independence period ushered a marked change in Bengali theatre by making it rather stylistic in its approach. With the arrival of playwrights like Badal Sarkar, Utpal Dutt, Mohit Chattopadhyay, Manoj Mitra along with adaptations by Ajitesh Bandyopadhyay, Sombhu Mitra and others, theatre again took on a new meaning. Even Vijay Tendulkar, Girish Karnad, Habib Tanvir, Indian custodians of theatre, stayed with Bengali theatre apart from Raindranath's plays like *Raktakarabi* and *Raja*.

The trend of contemporary Bengali theatre which started in early '40s, '50s and '60s of the 20th century has been since persisting with its distinct aura.

(As told to Nandini Guha)



POETICS OF WATERCOLOURS

Everything unwraps in the idea of layered imagery – as if the artist drew different effects on sheets and controlled how they all added together in the final images writes Uma Nair

Years ago in his book 'Adventure in Drawing' Alfred Morang wrote: "Drawing is the art of surrounding an idea with a line in order to communicate that idea to the observer."

A sheet of paper and the act of drawing can present an uncanny alchemy. Francis Newton Souza once told me that drawing happens only when an artist finds the freedom to roam freely – to explore realms that lie between the organic and the geometric, the constructive and the intuitive, the figurative and the abstract and between the purely linear and the wholly curvilinear. "You have to abandon yourself, loosen your beliefs and swim in the exploration of your own fantasy. No rules – break the rules and create your own," he would say in autocratic arrogance.

More than a decade later you know how right he was when you open the pages of Paragon Publishers' magnum opus on artist Sanjay Bhattacharyya. The limpid pencil strokes of two drawings on the inside cover reflect that drawing is a moment of centeredness of thought. It means different things to different people. In the modern world, it has reinvented its own lingua franca over moods, moorings and artistic meanderings. But for Sanjay Bhattacharyya drawing is a passionate outpouring that invites the human gaze and deepened appreciation of the power of strokes in degrees of gradation. A disciple of the Master Bikash Bhattacharya, Sanjay's prowess is his devotion to the sheet of paper that lies before him.

Other than a brilliant foreword by Aman Nath and an introduction by Ratnottama Sengupta, the book opens with watercolours, the myriad moods of colonial Calcutta and the soft strokes

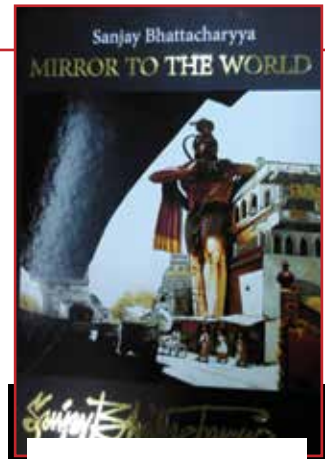


Sanjay Bhattacharyya

that bring alive decadent windows and doors, the silky thread of a cobweb, the silhouette of Lord Krishna against a terracotta-tinted window with a Gothic arch and a panoramic spread of the scene at the Benares ghats.

Amongst artists from Govt College of Arts Kolkata, Sanjay's works registers between realms of realistic as well as quasi-abstract forms as each work builds with the ingenuity of form. The scale of strokes in this culling brings us nearer the closer toned intervals of perceptions and perspectives, some of the forms are as easily related to music as the idea of contours in a context of variations. As an artist, Sanjay can direct small or large forms, ordering and arranging them at will; and one is drawn by the joyousness of the moment.

If his Calcutta works seep in the memories of yesteryear with nostalgia-dipped in the pillars and arches, he gives us Mumbai with its penchant for the old English flavour. But it is his Jaisalmer works created on trips with art historian Aman Nath that are a heady delight for its silent beauty and its aes-



Price: ₹ 21000
Publisher: Paragon Publishers

thetic of proportions. Sanjay's fascination for the dunes and village nuances become the genesis of his sojourn. Limp and lithe strokes of translucency vie with the dense form of the goats in the

work while the human figures of the Rajasthani woman and her son become a faded lighter shadow. The thatched hut created in the hot warmth of the Jaisalmer heat is manifested in an incessant subtle candour that mirrors an indigenous manifestation of minimalism.

The contrast in the panoramic work and the Jaisalmer watercolours reflect that Sanjay abandoned the traditional mode and made his own painting surfaces out of the whiteness of the sheet of paper using earth and muted colours. Through his representations of the rural everyday life of the village community, Sanjay becomes one of the most significant and influential painters of the 21st century. Then there is the window with a lantern, a work that contains a lyricism that is latent with nostalgia.

Technique and the lucidity of line become the high points of his aesthetic as he gives us a window that brings back Satyajit Ray times and films. The flat use of colour and the simplicity of intent create a counterpoint that is charismatic and characteristic. The last chapter on

drawings is yet another heady offering. But don't get me wrong, this artist has always been master of the line, drawings for him have always been more than just curiosities, sometimes of the scene or of an interesting person or of a mood or a story. These drawings created in the flat mould with sinuous lines and curves are more for fervour, to let his creative juices flow, an attempt at a serious amalgam of narratives and lines in art.

The stories of the past are as stimulating as a sketchbook – sometimes Bhattacharyya uses the stroke to embellish a curve and it just nestles up so cosily next to the lithe stroke of the human femme that it seems to belong there.

Bhattacharyya plays about with his sketching tools that include pen and ink rather than a pencil, and what ensues are the magic of the cloud effect of smudgy graphite, ink pens, and paint as if he has given us a palette of more complex effects.

The drawings in the book are more a tapping on one of these tools in the artist's menu to fetch up several more menus full of detailed settings, to control the tapering shape of each stroke or how the mind as a tool reacts to the simulated graininess of the watercolour paper you're drawing on. Simple strokes and fleshed out little forms control the intensity and size of each new stroke that signifies new ground for this master from the Bengal School.

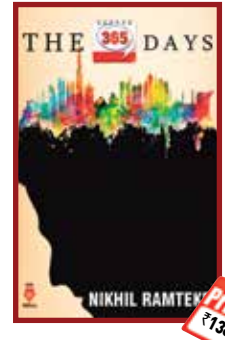
Everything unwraps in the idea of layered imagery – as if he drew different effects on sheets and controlled how they all added together in the final images. Designed seamlessly by the photographer and graphic genius Sanjib Sen, this book on Sanjay Bhattacharyya is a catalyst for a conversation even over a cocktail.

FRESH OFF THE

SHELF



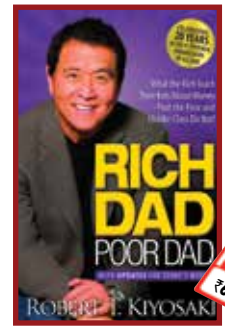
The 365 Days



The book is set in Dubai during 2007-2008, and features Indian expatriates and their exploitation, who come to foreign in search of better fortunes.

Author: Nikhil Ramteke
Publisher: Write India

Rich Dad Poor Dad



It is Robert's story of growing up with two dads – his father and his best friend's father, his rich dad – and the ways they shaped his thoughts about money

Author: Robert T. Kiyosaki
Publisher: Plata Publishing

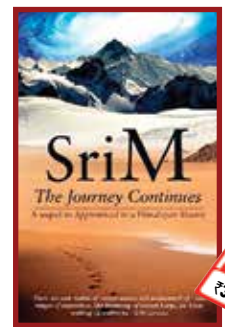
Sita: Warrior of Mithila



In this book, you will follow Lady Sita's journey from an Adopted Child to the Prime Minister to finding her true calling. She will defend Dharma.

Author: Amish
Publisher: Westland

The Journey Continues



At home in the religious teachings of most major religions, Sri M, born as Mumtaz Ali Khan, says "Go to the core. Theories are of no use."

Author: Sri M
Publisher: Magenta Press



Inspiring stories of resilience

It is a delight for those looking to unravel the stories of Kashmir, without the knowledge of which the valley would remain distant for curious mainland countrymen, writes Radhika Dutt

Kashmir, the land which was once our paradise is now being lost amidst the blazing gun shots, and the bombarding explosives. A flip of the weekly newspaper will bring to our notice at least one story of violence erupting in the valley, a tug of war of rights between the native residents and the governments on either side of the frontier. While we chronicle the stories of the precious lives lost in battle – young men surrendering to militancy, patriotic soldiers losing their sacrosanct lives – a most important section of society escapes our notice. The stories of the women and children of Kashmir seem to have been buried along with the many coffers of innocence resting in the silent corners of our lost paradise.

Journalist, Freny Manecksha in her book 'Behold, I Shine: Narratives of Kashmir's Women and Children' unearths these lost stories of the seemingly voiceless who never failed to fuel the Kashmiri citizen's movement to self-assertion. Based on extensive fieldwork, where she spent a significant amount of time residing and engaging with the powerful Kashmiri citizens, Manecksha's book brings in fresh perspective where she gives life to the stories of the forgotten heroes – the victims of rape, the widows, the half-widows, the women who were stripped of every right to self-dignity, and the children whose childhood was bereft of its very essence – innocence.

Manecksha chronicles the stories of several women each of who resisted

violence in their own way. Organised with clear sections the book provides a holistic view of the struggle of women and children in Kashmir. From leading protest marches, to mocking soldiers and chanting at the time of death – the women had a unique role to play often fleeing between spaces, never knowing which to call their own. The violence in the valley had taken away from the woman her home, her husband, her child, her family, her dignity, and her very idea of self-worth. Despite all of this the women in the valley fought back. Among many others is the story of Razia, a young woman who had spent some time behind the bars and continued to fight for the rights of the Kashmiri citizens – the rights of the women who are still in search of their 'missing husbands.' The stories of these women remind us that the veil is not an impediment to the woman's fight for justice. She can come out to protect herself and her family even while adorning the seemingly regressive veil.

The inspiring stories of resilience that dot the book deserve a wide readership across the country, an instrument that would inspire women to make more of their own active agency.

The story of Munawara is another such tale that reflects the deep perseverance displayed by the women of the valley. For years on end she attended court hearings to avenge the unlawful killing of her innocent husband who had been picked up by the armed forces for serving drinking water to fellow Kashmiris.

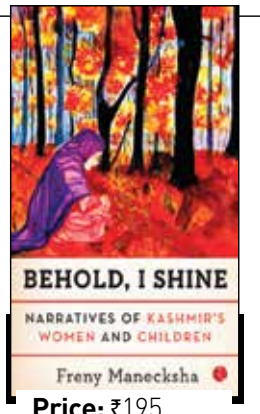
Despite the endless legal labyrinth Munawara continues to fight for the justice of her husband. She, echoing many others in the valley, strongly believes, "Our struggle is for the next generation... The injustices I suffered are not repeated. What I had to undergo – that should not happen to our children."

While the story of women is marked by social stigma, the story of children is marked by an uprooted innocence. In the battle between two nations, between militancy and failed governance, between hurled stones and pellet guns – the future of innocence is nipped at the bud. The violence to which the children were exposed to from a young age took tolls on their physical health. Young children developed speaking impairment, as the trauma of viewing direct violence on family members made an irrevocable impact on

their cognition. Violence had become an everyday aspect of growing up for the fair-eyed, rosy-cheeked toddler of Kashmir. To grow up was interspersed with so much fear that there was an innate desire to reverse the entire process. As a young Uzma narrates her story, she says: "As a teenager I took to sitting in cupboards. Enclosed spaces actually made me feel safe – as though I was back in the womb...."

The stories of the womb and innocence fail to find coverage in our everyday news stories. Yet, without these stories the reality of the Kashmir Valley remains incomplete to common knowledge. Over 8000 men have disappeared in Kashmir since 1989. These 8000 disappearances have left back just as many half-widows – a term coined specifically for the distressed women of Kashmir who live in absolute uncertainty, never knowing whether their husbands are dead or whether their remains a ray of hope that they are still holding on to their precious breath. These 8000 disappearances have also left back twice if not more fatherless children who have grown up in fear of having to grow up – always wanting to turn the clock around.

Freny Manecksha's book is a delight for those looking to unravel the stories of the inner world of Kashmir, without the knowledge of which the valley will continue to remain as distant for curious mainland countrymen as it is today. Manecksha successfully brings to the forefront the womb, the home that is being quickly bereft of its sanctity.



Price: ₹195
Publisher: Rupa Publishers



mp

Routes



Decorated Paramakkavu Temple



Vadakkunathan Temple



Sample Veditettu



Paramakkavu Team

THRISSUR POORAM

THE MOTHER OF ALL POORAMS

The most popular legend says that the Thrissur Pooram was started by the erstwhile ruler of Kochi province, 'Shri Raja Rama Varma,' more popularly known as the "Sakthan Thampuran," in the 17th century

TEXT & PHOTOS :
JOE MILTON

A visit to Thrissur, the cultural capital of God's own Country – Kerala – is incomplete without witnessing the famous Thrissur Pooram, which is one of the most spectacular festival events on planet earth. Conducted every year in the Malayam calendar month of Medam (falling either in last week of April or First week of May), it is a magnificent show which should find a place in your bucket list if you are a cultural enthusiast. The Pooram is a unique festival in which the main deity of a Hindu temple is taken out for a procession on elephant back, which comprises of parading of several elephants gorgeously decorated with various caparisons and elegant traditional costumes, along with ensembles of well synchronised percussions (Chenda, madalam, Idakka), and other traditional musical instruments such as Kombu (long semi circular wind instrument), Kurumkuzhal (double reed wind instrument), Ilathalam (cymbals) etc.

The most popular legend says that the Thrissur Pooram was started by the erstwhile ruler of Kochi province, 'Shri Raja Rama Varma,' more popularly known as the "Sakthan Thampuran," in the 17th century. Prior to that, the prominent Pooram was the Arattupuzha pooram conducted in a local temple situated 10 km south of Thrissur town. But once it so happened that some people from Thrissur could not attend the festival as they got delayed in reaching the venue due to incessant rain. Subsequently, people complained to Sakthan Thampuran who found a solution by evolving the concept of Thrissur Pooram, wherein he ordered all the local Poorams converge and culminate into



Chamayam Display



Another Chamayam Display

one major extravaganza or Pooram at Thrissur in the premises of Vadakkunathan temple. For this, he cleared the forested area around the temple, making a huge circular ground for the conduct of the Pooram. Gradually, Thrissur pooram turned out to be the mother of all Poorams. The Thrissur Pooram is built around the Vadakkunathan temple, situated exactly in the centre of Thrissur town, whose deity is Lord Shiva. Over the years, two prominent groups have emerged as mutual competitors – namely, Thiruvambady, whose deity is lord Krishna and Paramekkavu, whose deity is Bhagawaty. In modern times, the real essence of Thrissur Pooram appears to be its major sports tournament and frenzy and spirit associated with the two competing teams in all Pooram related festivities.

The Pooram festivities kickstart with Kodiyettam, or the flag hoisting ceremony, seven days prior to the main day. The following days witness some rituals in the temples participating in the Pooram and the town gears up by decorating the temples and erecting beautifully lit Panthals (temporary towers) around the Pooram venue. The next major event is on the fourth day's evening, known as the Sample Veditettu, which is essentially an eye catching pyrotechnic display in

Conducted every year in the month of Medam, Pooram is a magnificent show which should find a place in your bucket list if you are a cultural enthusiast

varies hues, shapes and designs. It lasts for about an hour and is not about decibel magnitude but more about colourful displays by both the competing Thiruvambady and Paramekkavu groups. On the fifth day, the main event is the Aana Chamayam or the elephant caparison /accessories display, when the Nettipattam (golden head ornament), and Kolam / Thidambu (large golden shield on which deity is carried), are displayed in a dazzling arrangement, along with other accoutrements such as Aalavattam (ornamental fan with peacock feather), Venchamaram (white hairy royal fan), golden bells, decorative umbrellas etc. Once again the two competing teams try to outplay one another even in this event.

The main Pooram starts on the sixth day, early in the morning at 3 am, whereby all small Poorams from other temples simultaneously commence. Altogether, about 50 fully decorated elephants from 10 temples take part in Poorams on the day. At 2 pm in the afternoon, there is a special musical ensemble named Illanjithara melam,

which the locals celebrate with fervour. The other two prominent ensembles are Panchavadyam and Pandymelam. Thereafter, the main teams, Paramekkavu and Thiruvambady, enter the main temple through the western gate, pay obeisance to the main deity Vadakkunathan and then exit through the southern gate and array themselves with 15 elephants each, on either side of the Pooram ground, face to face at a distance of about 100 metres. Space in between the teams is occupied by a frenzied ocean of people. This face-off is the most spectacular part of the Pooram, known as Kudamattam, meaning change of umbrellas. During this closely fought competition, each team displays a variety of designs of decorated parasols on the elephants' backs, at an approximate interval of 5

minutes. The magnificent event lasts for about an hour. This well orchestrated display is witnessed by ecstatic and cheering crowd and is, in fact, the culmination of several months of secret planning and designing of the umbrellas by both teams, making it a must watch in the itinerary of Thrissur Pooram.

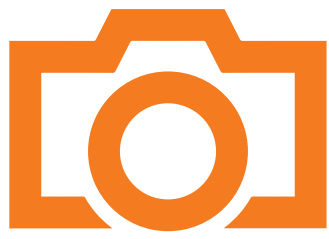
After this, all the Poorams conclude but the crowd lingers for the next big spectacle early next morning, which is the main Veditettu (fireworks) which boasts of its own special character, and high blast magnitude. It starts at 3 am and ends after an hour. Both Thiruvambady and Paramekkavu temples compete vigorously with one another to grab the headlines next day. Unlike the Sample Veditettu, these fireworks are thunderous and can be heard and tremors felt from miles away. The actual feel cannot be explained in words, but has to be experienced. The seventh day is the last day of Pooram, which concludes with the Pakal Pooram, which is less crowded and is meant for those who missed the main Poorams. It is also the farewell ceremony of the Pooram.

The mega festival then comes to an end with a display of small fireworks known as Pakal Veditettu. A major exhibition is also an integral part of Pooram celebrations which showcases several exhibitions from various socio-economic fields, besides commercial shopping stalls from across India. One striking characteristic of the Thrissur Pooram is its secular nature, and the festival is participated in with fervour by all Thirissurians, no matter what religion, caste, creed or class they belong to. This year, the Thrissur Pooram was held on May 5.

Thrissur is at a distance of about 50 Km from Cochin International Airport (CIAL) and is easily accessible. ■



Kudamattam



STORIES IN A FRAME

WONDROUS MOUNTAINS



The diamond studded sky and cloud covered mountaintops have been captured in our very own motherland. This beautiful side of Phalut and Meghma in Bengal is unknown to many, only some true nature enthusiasts have managed to venture into the raw beauty of the area

PICS: UJJAL DEBNATH

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



BRAIN DRAIN

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- BLACKBIRD
- BUDGIE
- CANARY
- CARDINAL
- CHICKEN
- CRANE
- CROW
- DODO
- DOVE
- DUCK
- EAGLE
- EMU
- FALCON
- FINCH
- FLAMINGO
- GOOSE
- HAWK
- HERON
- JAY

- MAGPIE
- MARTIN
- MOCKINGBIRD
- MYNA
- OSTRICH
- OWL
- PARAKEET
- PARROT
- PELICAN
- PIGEON
- RAVEN
- ROBIN
- SEAGULL
- SPARROW
- SWAN
- TURKEY
- VULTURE
- WOODPECKER
- WREN

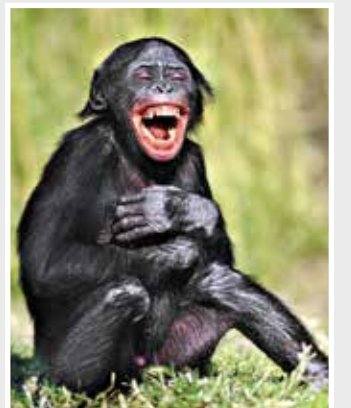
Finish the proverb:

Don't count your chickens before they _____.

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

THE HORRORS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE!

If the 'gh' in ENOUGH is pronounced as 'f', the 'o' in WOMEN makes the short 'i' sound, and the 'ti' in NATION is pronounced as 'sh'; then the word 'GHOTI' is pronounced as 'FISH' - Welcome to the English language!



chuckles

GASTRONOMY (Summer Special)

Layered Crepe Dessert from Taiwan



INGREDIENTS:

- Fresh milk
- Butter
- 10 g castor sugar
- 1/4 Salt
- 2 eggs
- Plain flour (50gms)
- Tapioca flour (10gms)
- 100 ml cream
- Fruits
- Ice cream of your choice
- Strawberry/ Caramel/ Chocolate syrup

PROCEDURE:

Prepare crepes: Pour fresh milk, butter in a non-stick saucepan and boil. As soon as the butter melts, turn off heat. Add sugar, salt and stir until sugar dissolves. Leave mixture to cool. Now, heat a non-stick pan, lightly grease pan, and pour a ladle of batter, ladle the crepe batter to cover the whole pan. Cook over low heat, flipping the crepe over once. Now, whip the cream until the mixture forms soft peaks. Creating Layers: Lay a piece of crepe, spread some cream over it and place a layer of sliced strawberries, cover them with some cream, top with another piece of crepe, followed by a layer of sliced kiwis, covering with some cream. Lay another layer of crepe, add a layer of peaches with cream and add a final layer of the crepe. Leave to chill in the refrigerator.

SERVING TIPS:

Right before serving, slice the filled crepe into pieces of the rectangle shape. Scoop ice cream over and drizzle some strawberry/ chocolate/caramel syrup. Serve immediately. Taiwan, is renowned as the 'Fruit Kingdom', is rightly bounteous in its rich variety of homegrown fruits. With its perfect geographical location fruits in this island nation taste twice as good as anywhere else in the world. Layered Crepe dessert is therefore has been tailored as a tribute to the luscious fruits of Taiwan. It is also seen that Indians rush for sweets, for any occasion, this recipe can be best for the dessert lovers.



INGREDIENTS:

- Mangoes cut in cubes
- Sweetened Condensed milk
- Blended or Shaved ice

FOR MANGO JUICE:

2 whole ripe mango and cut it into cubes
1/8 cup sugar/ powdered brown Sugar can also be used
Blend the cubed mangoes and pour through a fine filter.
Boil the mango juice with sugar until the sugar melts.
Turn off heat.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Make a bowl of shaved ice
2. Add cubed mangoes on top.
3. Drizzle mango juice and condense milk over the ice.
4. Add a scoop of Mango Ice-cream on the top

SUGGESTIONS: You can add a scoop of vanilla or mango ice-cream on top.
(Courtesy: Hugo Wang, Moon of Tai)



Time to change your mate selection mechanism



Heart of the Matter

ROOPSHA DASGUPTA RAY

My mom is an abusive, over dramatic annoyance in my life. I am only thirteen, I have no voice. I'm getting very upset. Is there any way out?

Raani, Kolkata

Since you can't voice your opinion, how about writing her a letter? I want you to make a serious effort to make your mother understand, how the treatment is affecting you. When someone is constantly being exposed to negativity it begins to take its toll. Mentally it causes conflict because you know you deserve to be treated better. You can become worn down emotionally and end up depressed, hopeless and empty inside. Your mother needs to understand the damage she is causing you. Express yourself as vividly as you can and I'm sure that life will be better soon. Good luck!

I always land up with wrong guys. Is something wrong with me in particular?

Name unknown

There is a subconscious part of us that draws us to particular people who trigger a familiar feeling. We think it's chemistry when the fireworks go off, but what's actually happening is that

We think it's chemistry when the fireworks go off, but actually it is your inner drama queen having a field day – you're bored with the nice guys and crave attention from the man who acts disinterested



delete information from the phone forever. Don't be hyper, handle it well and see the results. Good luck!

My elder sister's fiancé is showing his interest towards me! He's claiming that he loves me and not her! What to do?

T Das, Kolkata

You should tell your sister everything. Don't let the guy mess up the relationship and faith between you two. Let your sister take it up with her fiancé and be firm that you are not interested at all! This is a sensitive situation and I hope you'll will sort it out soon!

How important is horoscope matching for a match making?

Mrs Divya Borah, Noida

To some it is mandatory, to others it is vague. Personally speaking, for an arranged marriage you can try doing this as you have the option to choose. A lot of marriages sail well even without the interference of astrology and a lot break even though their horoscopes looked positive together. Marriage as a bond requires much more than just planets predicting positive future. Wish you the very best!

(Send your questions to roopshashotm@gmail.com)

I have recently found out that my father (businessman) is associated with a lot of young models. They exchange very erotic messages too! Should I tell my mother?

Sushil Gupta, New Delhi

You can always have a transparent communication with your father. Observe his reaction and hear his reply. Telling your mother will hurt her and this is avoidable right now. Your father surely needs to know that you are aware of his 'other' side. Suggest you tell him that you have known from a few friends rather than disclosing the truth. As he might be alert and

your inner drama queen is having a field day. You're bored with the nice guys and crave attention from the man who acts disinterested.

Some people think they will never have chemistry with someone "nice" and that could very well be true. If you don't change your mate selection mechanism, you will subconsciously choose the same headache every time. You will ignore the obvious red flags, believing, that "this relationship" will be different... but nothing changes. Don't take stress. Enjoy each experience with a positive frame of mind. Someone is surely made for you.

You share your birthday with



MOHANLAL VISWANATHAN NAIR

Born on May 21, 1960, Mohanlal is famous for his work in Malayalam films as an actor, producer, and an occasional singer. His first film to be released was 'Manjil Virinja Pookkai' (1980), a romance film in which he played the antagonist. He established himself as a lead actor during the 1980s. The 1986 crime drama 'Rajavinte Makan' was significant in labeling him a dominant actor in Malayalam cinema. In a career spanning over three decades, Mohanlal has acted in over 300 Malayalam films and a few films in other languages including Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and Kannada. Some of his notable roles have been in the 1997 Tamil political drama 'Iruvar' directed by Mani Ratnam, the 2002 Hindi crime drama 'Company' directed by Ram Gopal Varma, and the 2016 Telugu action film 'Janatha Garage' directed by Koratala Siva. In 2001, the Government of India honoured him with the Padma Shri, for his contributions towards Indian cinema. He has won five National Film Awards, six Kerala State Film Award and eight Filmfare Awards.

Know about the walking noses!

When a dog sticks its head out the window, it's like pigging out at an all-you-can-smell scent buffet



Heads & tails

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

How do reflective belts for dogs / cows help?

A. Reflective belts make the animal visible at night and saves them from being run over by vehicles or being hit by motorists who can see the belts from far and avoid running into the animals. Reflective belts are also indicative of the fact that someone is looking after them and they belong to someone.

Why do dogs like to stick their head out of the car window?

A number of dog behaviorists agree that

the windows main draw isn't the scenery or the breeze. What dogs are after are smells. Dogs are basically walking noses. While our human olfactory membranes (a lump of tissue tucked up in the nose) are only about the size of a postage stamp and hold some 5 million olfactory receptors, or "scent cells," a large dog has an olfactory membrane closer in size to a handkerchief and more than 225 million receptors. As air moves over the olfactory membrane, odour molecules settle on the scent receptors and get recognized. The more air there is flowing over the membrane, the more scents the dogs can detect. So when a dog sticks its head out the window, it's like pigging out at an all-you-can-smell scent buffet.

The vet has asked me to bathe the dog with Benzoyl Peroxide Shampoo as a treatment for mange. How should I do it?

This is the treatment recommended when your dog has been attacked by mange mites. Demodex burrow deep in your dog's follicles and pores, trapping yeast and bacteria, fostering secondary infection, increasing inflammation.

Benzoyl peroxide shampoo is considered to be THE mange shampoo because of its unique ability to flush the follicles. Nothing else does the same trick. The more frequently you use it the faster you chip away the built up debris that makes life easy for the mites. But it's not enough to just lather doggie up, let the shampoo sit there for 10 minutes then give a quick rinse.

Bathe indoors to keep the dog warm

throughout this process. To keep the air in the room warm, use a small space heater if you have to. USE THE WARMEST WATER POSSIBLE. Bathing where it's cold, or with cold water, is counter-productive! Benzoyl peroxide opens the pores and follicles, but cold closes them. Nothing's going to penetrate tense skin with pores and follicles that have slammed shut. It's also water is what flushes out the gunk and help get rid of higher level mites.

Wet the dog thoroughly first with warm water (not cool or room-temperature).

Generously apply a good quality benzoyl peroxide shampoo that is formulated for pets. Cover every part of the dog's body. Leave no safe places for mites, yeast and infection. (Diluting it slightly in a bit of warm water may make it easier to spread.)

Lather well and continue to work the lather constantly for a long time. (At least 10 minutes if you can.) Keep adding a little warm water if necessary – just lather for as long as you can. Massage the skin with your fingers if possible to help break up crud build-up. Work the shampoo around the eyes, ears and paws. Our store has protective eye drops if you need them to work up close to the eyes.

After some warm soaking, it can be helpful to gather folds of skin, gently gripping as close to the body as possible without causing discomfort. You want to have a decent fold of skin above your hands. Gripping both sides of the skin fold close to the body, gently squeeze as you glide your hands towards you as if to

express subcutaneous matter. Massage therapists use a similar technique to help loosen toxins in tissue.

Rinse, rinse, rinse. Really flood that skin ever so thoroughly with warm running water — then rinse some more. It's the rinsing that is your friend. Thorough, aggressive rinsing provides the flushing action we want! Our goal is to open pathways so Mite Avenge can penetrate better, create a healthier skin environment, reduce yeast. Proper use of benzoyl peroxide shampoo does that and it helps purge toxins, waste, sebum, trash and mites lurking below the surface. If you don't already have a hand-held shower head that sprays, get one of those hand held sprayer attachments that goes over the tap so you can rinse with copious amounts of running warm water.

Dogs with mange always need to be brushed daily. Dogs end up with dander, yeast flakes and other debris that must be removed daily. Otherwise they add to the mites' food supply and harbor pathogens that increase the chance of secondary infection. A good habit is to brush right before performing your daily povidone iodine wipe down.

It is unrealistic to expect a complete cure just by shampooing. In truth, Demodectic mange can't be effectively cured by using just one method of treatment. This explains why chemicals and single-step treatments is such an abysmal long term recurrence rate.

(Send your questions to manekaanimalllove@gmail.com)



Aries (Mar 21–April 20)

You may breathe a sigh of relief this week as tensions begin to ease and you start to feel more relaxed. With communication planet Mercury moving into the practical sign of Taurus, this can be a time for planning ahead and doing the groundwork when it comes to new projects. In addition, you'll be willing to think outside the box and embrace new ideas in a very down-to-earth way.



Gemini (May 22–June 21)

As your personal planet Mercury heads into a secluded sector of your chart, you may find that you're naturally more connected with your feelings. This week and over the coming weeks it may become easier to discuss issues that you've so far kept to yourself. In addition, letting go of any situations that no longer serve you can also leave you feeling quite liberated.



Leo (July 23–Aug 23)

Although the Sun's presence in your career zone puts you in the spotlight, you might enjoy the chance to make a big splash. This is your chance to show off your skills and let others know what you can do. Mercury also enters this sector, so you might be eager to give a presentation that can augment your image. The idea of relaxing with friends could appeal greatly.



Libra (Sept 24–Oct 23)

You might be very aware of subtle undercurrents that could be influencing a relationship or important situation. And these insights might help make a difference in a matter that has been niggling at you for some time. In addition, you may also be thrilled by a relationship that seems to offer something different. This person could be a breath of fresh air in your life.



Sagittarius (Nov 23–Dec 21)

With a focus on your lifestyle sector, you may be curious about how you can make better use of your time in order to accomplish more. The coming week could encourage you to take a closer look at your routines and daily activities and streamline them in order to give yourself more leeway. In addition, you could find that a new creative activity has a liberating effect on you.



Aquarius (Jan 21–Feb 18)

This week and the coming weeks could see you getting organized at home by clearing out closets, tackling chores, and making sure that everything you keep has a home. You might be able to earn extra money by selling items you no longer need. Another key aspect suggests that if you're willing to cooperate with a friend or group, something unique may be achieved.



Taurus (April 21–May 21)

As Mercury, the planet of talk and thought, eases into your sign, you might want to share ideas that you've been mulling over recently. You're very much in your element at this time, and this week could be an opportunity to take steps to fulfill one of your heart's desires. It may not happen overnight, but bit by bit you'll get there. Friday night can be perfect for a sizzling date.



Cancer (June 22–July 22)

Your social life gets a boost, which could encourage you out and about. If a new club or dating website beckons, this might be the time you go for it. There may also be a new opportunity associated with your work that looks promising. Although this may just be a stage in the overall process, you'll feel like you're making solid progress.



Virgo (Aug 24–Sept 23)

As Mercury moves into your sector of travel, you may become curious about exploring cultures you've never encountered before. The coming weeks might see you booking a trip or vacation to a place that can provide sensual delights and plenty to explore. You may also have a chance to make some positive changes on the home front because of a brilliant idea.



Scorpio (Oct 24–Nov 22)

Mercury eases into your sector of relationships to encourage more conversation and interaction. Gauging other people's reactions before you make key decisions can be crucial if everything is to work to plan. Also, other factors could bring up ideas that have an impact on your income and moneymaking ability. A key blend of energies could coincide with a job offer.



Capricorn (Dec 22–Jan 20)

While you may be very busy with your job or responsibilities, a focus on your leisure sector could entice you to explore hobbies that you might relish. And even though you may have a lot of your plate, the opportunity to relax and do something you enjoy might be too tempting to resist. Improvement could show up concerning a domestic matter due to a brilliant idea.



Pisces (Feb 19–March 20)

As Mercury enters your sector of communication, this can be a good time to take a class that enables you to learn a new skill. It's also a great opportunity to reach out and make some vital connections that can bring new offers, deals, and contracts your way. At the same time, you might be able to increase your income if you act on an idea.



Game On

Djokovic

LOOKS TO REGAIN HIS

MOJO

Over the past couple of years, there have been persisting physical niggles. But most conspicuous is the change in Djokovic's attitude, something that he was always admired by both his peers and tennis pundits the world over, writes Sridhar Venkatesh



The years 2015 and 2016 were, for all intents and purposes, a purple patch in the career of Serbian tennis phenomenon Novak Djokovic. Of the 16 singles tournaments that he participated in, Djokovic won an impressive 11, three of these being Grand Slam tournaments, and finished runner-up in the other five tournaments. His whirlwind season began after winning the 2015 Australian Open, defeating British arch rival Andy Murray in four sets in the final. Other than his loss to a resilient Stan Wawrinka in the final of that year's French Open, Djokovic's season was fairly exceptional. Losing to Wawrinka at Roland Garros meant that Djokovic was denied a singles Grand Slam in 2015. He did, however, go on to beat Roger Federer in the finals of the Wimbledon and the US Open, and the next four tournaments as well in 2015. That year, he also earned a record breaking amount of prize money, winning well over \$21 million. Djokovic had begun 2015 at the top of the ATP Men's Singles ranking and finished the season the same way, that too with a record number of points. He was also the only player in the 2015 season to have beaten every other top 10 ATP player.

2016 began in a somewhat similar fashion, after he successfully defended the Australian Open title by once again defeating Murray, this time over only three sets. Subsequently, Djokovic went on to win four more tournaments, including the French Open where Murray once again returned empty-handed in a four-setter. However, this was when his downward slide was to begin. After winning the much coveted French Open – the only Grand Slam trophy missing from his shelf – in June that year, an ambitious Djokovic went to the All-England Club in July 2016, looking forward to win a third consecutive singles Wimbledon Championship. His plans did not come to fruition unfortunately, as he went crashing out in only the third round, after 28th seeded American Sam Querrey defeated him 6-7, 1-6, 6-3, 6-7. After missing a chance to win the year's second major tournament, Djokovic focused on representing his nation at the 31st Summer Olympics, hosted by Rio de Janeiro in August. Shockingly, the

Serbian was ousted by Argentinean Juan Martin del Potro in the very first round in straight sets. This turned out to be the beginning of Djokovic's bad form, as he lost in all following tournaments. Soon after the Rio Olympics, a determined Djokovic entered the Flushing Meadows in New York, hoping to win the US Open for the second consecutive time. Djokovic looked like his old, confident self as he walked over all his opponents to set up a mouth-watering final clash with Swiss dark horse Stan Wawrinka. But defying all expectations, Wawrinka beat the Serbian star in four sets to win his first ever US Open title. Djokovic subsequently went on to lose the next three ATP tournaments – Shanghai Rolex Masters, BNP Paribas Masters and ATP World Tour Finals. As a result, he fell to the second spot in the ATP men's singles ranking in November 2016, a position where he has been stuck since. Djokovic's rise to the top of the ATP rankings

After bringing fellow Spaniard Carlos Moyá into his coaching team, Rafael Nadal seems to have reignited the spark in him

was not meteoric. It was a result of perseverance and hard work for over three years, when German legend Boris Becker joined his coaching team as head coach in 2013. Becker worked alongside Djokovic's long time head coach Marián Vajda, who had decided to take some time off for personal reasons. Becker was mainly tasked with helping Djokovic prevail in major tournaments, as the latter believed he lacked the "mental edge in the final stages of those tournaments." Djokovic's collaboration with Becker did produce the desired results and improvements that the Serbian was missing for some time. In December 2016, Becker's three-year contract ran out and it was decided not to renew it. Djokovic parted ways with the German, ostensibly on amicable terms, due to a series of unexpected losses on the lawn. Djokovic made headlines again in May 2017, after he decided to sack his entire coaching team, including Vajda, his mentor for over 10 years, and the support staff. On his website, Djokovic said they had "decided to part ways after a detailed analysis of the game, achieved results in the previous period,



and also after discussing private plans of each team member." He expressed no bitterness and acknowledged their contribution to his rise to the top, calling them his "family and that will never change." The Serbian did, however, rightly pointed out in his statement that he needed to "make a change, and to introduce new energy in order to raise his level of play." There are indeed several changes that Djokovic needs to bring to his game to change the narrative. Over the past couple of years, there have been persisting physical niggles. But most conspicuous is the change in Djokovic's attitude, something that he was always admired for both by his peers and tennis pundits around the world. Gone are the days when Djokovic, exuding a boyish charm, would imitate Maria Sharapova's idiosyncrasies before he would begin his serve, just to entertain the crowd. The Djokovic that we see now seems to have realised that he now bears the weight of the world on his shoulders and plays with a less carefree attitude than he did four-five years ago. Of course, it is now neither possible nor advisable for him to turn the clock back and return to his former cheerful and glee self. On the bright side though, Djokovic isn't languishing in the ATP rankings. His drop in form is merely a setback, from which he can rise once he sets his mind to it. In an effort to get back his mojo, Djokovic has chosen to dump his longtime coach and friends. It may not be a panacea to all his problems, but it still is a start. Spanish superstar Rafael Nadal lost his way a few times, but is now seemingly on the road to recovery. After bringing fellow Spaniard Carlos Moyá into his coaching team, Nadal seems to have reignited the spark in him. His marathon five-setter against Federer at the 2017 Australian Open final turned the clock back to a time when the two virtually were the only two contenders for any major tournament. The Swiss maestro came out on top that night, but it showed that Nadal had indeed become a markedly improved player. Nadal is also on the way to earn back his moniker of the 'King of Clay', after winning three clay court ATP tournaments this year – the Monte-Carlo Masters, Barcelona Open and Madrid Open. The Spaniard seems to be returning to his old form, but Djokovic currently seems a shadow of his former self. And the Serbian needs to bring about a change in his game and attitude to again be a strong contender in Grand Slam competitions.



mp

Film

“You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep spring from coming

-Pablo Neruda



Irrfan Khan talks about his film Hindi Medium and how Indian cinema needs to change today

In the trailer, we saw a nice husband-and-wife equation, so...

(Cuts in) The casting was very, very crucial. It was my instinct that told me that I needed to have the right co-actor to explore this role. I needed somebody like, say, Deepak Dobriyal in this film. I insisted on him because the role required a unique kind of chemistry between Deepak and me. Likewise, I was looking for a particular name in *Lunchbox*. Before that film, I didn't know Nimrat Kaur, I had only seen a photograph of her and I felt it was crucial to cast her in that film. Our industry has only a few actor-stars and they are not dying to jump onto my bandwagon... and everyone is very busy. For this film it was crucial that the actor needed to have a sweet sense of humor.

I came across a video of her (Saba Qamar) in Pakistan, where she was talking about Aamir Khan, there was something very interesting about her and, for this role, we needed a *chatpati ladki*, you know, like Kangana (Ranaut). And if she gets her photocopy, we will keep working with that. Like, you do your original film with someone else and provide us with a photocopy of you and we will work. But there was no option like that with us. Priyanka is already busy there (Hollywood) and I wasn't sure whether I could even approach her there or not.

Hindi Medium suggests that the character of your wife is very dominating and you are dancing to her tune. Would you be okay with this in real life?

It's a complicated equation between two people living together for such a long time. You have to find your own ways and formulas that work in your relationship. There are people who have the kind of temperament that makes light of things. Sometimes, you have to listen to things that are unpleasant. Some people know how to deflect those things while others can't help but react to them.

In this movie, the wife complains and tells the husband that he is not the class she was searching for. If the husband doesn't know how to deflect this, it would have become a problem, which would have escalated to a different level. But this man is not like that. He is very weird and thick-skinned and that made me want to do this role. No matter how much you make fun of this man, or how much you say he is a coward, and that you don't know a single word of English, he will make light of it.

He is unaffected by these harsh words. Usually, if you taunt someone for being unable to speak English, they would get upset. But this person is free of all these things and simply believes that 'I love you and I will simply give you a good time'. This is his philosophy.

Do you think a middle class man will relate to this character?

This is very important. There is relativity and there is a kind of aspirational value. I am not sure how many men will find this aspirational but most women will definitely get inspired. But I hope it is aspirational even for men because, for men, *kachhi mitti aur gili mitti bane rehna achha hai*, so there is a possibility to mould and adapt to it.

If you are unable to do it, it is not a good sign for any evolving human being. But it will definitely give a foresight for how to love and live life being a regular, middle class man. The only achievement is that he expanded his shop from a small one to a big one but married an upper class girl. So to fulfill her dreams, he does all he can materially and give her all that he can.

Are you in touch with your feminine side?



What is your perception of our education system, given that you have school-going children?

I will address the other question which you haven't asked. There is a message and comment in the subject and that was both a challenge and a limitation because there is always a tendency to get preachy. So, for me, it was a challenging to not become preachy while also not diluting the message.

Education, for me, is very important because we were not educated in an ideal way. I used to hate school and I don't want my kids to go through that. I want them to be interested in their studies. They should feel engaged with it. They shouldn't feel like it is forced upon them.

So I was looking for a school which had a practical way of teaching. For me, education is a way to explore oneself and expose oneself to possibilities that will nurture your personality. If education does not fulfill that function, then it is making you a tool to be used by somebody else. I don't believe in that type of education.

What do you think is the importance of English in our society?

When we went to school, we were told that we would learn to speak English and that we would learn it automatically. No one told us how that would happen. The English language is an international language and it increases the possibilities before those who know it. But if you don't know the language, you should not be at least doubtful of the language you know and you should not assume that if you learn English, you will shine as a person. It is just the ability to speak that language, that's it. Your thinking doesn't change once you learn to speak English.

After working in Hollywood as well, what are the differences that you see between that industry and the Hindi film industry? If so, what are the changes you would like to bring to our industry?

I am fortunate to be a part of Hindi cinema. We had a very unique style of story telling during the '60s, which is when cinema focused on our own society. Also, there was a complexity in our story telling because it was coming from an insight into the power of storytelling. Directors were also passionate to tell these stories.

When you have a passion to tell your stories, you tend to tell your story in a very layered manner, and that is where we are lacking. We don't tell our stories in multi-layered ways, where the universal audience can connect with them.

Somebody told me that Raj Kapoor once needed a Bhojpuri background score for his film and he had heard that there was a *tabela* where someone knew about the tunes he wanted to use in his film. One early morning, he rushed to that place and found that person who knew those tunes.

When Guru Dutt needed a few angry songs, he met 10 writers and was still not satisfied. He was just not getting what he wanted. Then someone mentioned Sahir's (Ludhianvi) name and he wrote the song within 48 hours and it became a sensation. We have lost this.

The good thing about the Indian industry is that it is fortunate that the audience is hungry. Feed them a little and they will forgive everything. But if the industry does not have good enough stories to tell, the audience will go away. Also, this is not the first time where Hollywood is paralyzing the industry.

BOXOFFICEDIA

Mind Your Language

I discovered that in my life, I think it happened because when kids are born, they change you and it's phenomenal. Your personality changes in ways you would never have dreamt was possible. It's like an atom bomb when it explodes. Something happens that is hard to explain. It changes you in many ways. I am not saying this is a formula. It may work completely against somebody else, but this is how it worked for me. There is a sense of giving and a sense of giving to somebody else. It sets in, which is much more harmonious.

You just mentioned that these things changed you as a person, but how did they impact you as an actor?

Yes, I am very fortunate that I am an actor. The most precious thing this job has given me and the most important lesson is to reflect on yourself and see yourself as other people do. If you could see yourself objectively... who you are and you start understanding yourself, and start criticising yourself, start appreciating yourself, start looking at it objectively as much as possible. That is the basic need of an actor. Unless he starts observing himself, he will not be able to look outside himself. It's all about your own complexes, your own way of looking at people guided by your own filters. You never see the bigger picture. That's what acting has given me. There are so many other reasons why being an actor is precious. Like sharing your own experiences through stories and my experience becomes your experience, my fun becomes your fun, my trauma becomes your trauma. There is a magic I discovered. It was not there in me when I was trying to become an actor. I was

just a *paisa kamao*. But as I started exploring the profession, I realised certain things and that realisation came suddenly. I was not prepared and I was not thinking about it. Suddenly, *raatke 11 baj ke itne minute par ek thought aaya* which penetrated you so deeply that you knew that information before but at that time the intensity with which it downloaded into your system and you became aware of it and it became a thing which you will carry to your grave.

“For me, education is a way to expose oneself to possibilities that will nurture your personality. If it does not fulfill that function, then it is making you a tool to be used by somebody else”

At what phase in your career did that turning point come? Was it after doing a certain number of movies or did the turning point come after a particular movie?

It had nothing to do with movies. It was a certain experience which did that. While doing a movie, it's a different process... you read a script, you shoot with other actors, and work with directors. But once it goes to the audience, the experience changes completely.

I remember so many movies that I had watched before their release, which had a different impact on me and how they grew after the movie released. Those things are there but audience suddenly brings them alive. There

may be an aspect of a movie which you were not aware of and which was not so important at that time. So, it wasn't a particular movie.

Talking about impact... how do you think this movie will impact the public?

I don't want to think about it, it would be a stupid mistake for me to wonder what they are going to do. From the day the trailer launched, I could see their reaction, and I know the trailer doesn't have even five per cent of what the movie has. It's a much bigger experience. This is all I know. If one could tell what was going to happen, then *uski dukan kabhi khali hi nahi hoti*, he would keep doing this for the rest of his life.

The movie is a strong comment on the edu-

