

MONEY 6WORK ON TO PUSH
MSME EXPORTS: GADKARI**WORLD 7**POTUS: DOUBLE STANDARD
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Sunday pioneer

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BHUBANESWAR, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2019; PAGES 8+4 ₹3

**USUAL SUSPECTS**
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Diplomacy key to India-Lanka ties

By the time this column appears, the trends, if not the results, of Sri Lanka's presidential election should be known. It is always hazardous to anticipate the outcome of an election since voters are often — though not always — inclined to defy conventional wisdom and opinion polls. Not that the Sri Lankan election industry has evolved as much as India's where opinion polls and exit polls have acquired an independent life, sometimes quite distinct from the election itself. Yet, based on a brief visit to Sri Lanka last month and some previous experience of politics in that charming island, some forecasts are in order.

My reading of the polls suggest that the SLPP candidate Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the younger brother of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, enjoys a distinct advantage over his UNP rival Sajith Premadasa, the son of former President Ranasinghe Premadasa. How clear that advantage is and whether the election will go into the counting of the second preference votes — where the first preference votes of the JVP and an Independent candidate promoted by a few NGOs will matter are difficult to anticipate. However, barring the truly unexpected, it would seem that President Sirisena will be succeeded by another member of the family of the man who was defeated in 2014.

My reading of the presidential election is based on three observations.

First, it was pretty apparent that Gotabaya ran a streamlined, professional campaign. This was in sharp contrast to the UNP campaign that suffered from a relative shortage of resources and internal cohesion. Initially the UNP nomination was supposed to go to Prime Minister Ranil Wickramsinghe. However, the party felt that rather than bear the entire burden of a strong anti-incumbency, it was preferable to go with Premadasa who, despite being a Minister in the Sirisena Government, was not too strongly identified with the regime. The desire to make a fresh start was understandable but Premadasa has not been able to rope in many of the traditional UNP voters.

Secondly, despite being very closely identified with his elder brother's presidency, Gotabaya has an image that is more technocrat than political. He is seen to attach a great deal of emphasis on governmental efficiency, education and technology. Moreover, his plans to slash personal and corporate taxes are quite radical. Indeed, going by the manifesto, Gotabaya seems to be making a big pitch to transform Sri Lanka into another Singapore — originally a dream of President JR Jayawardene that was scuttled by the civil war.

In electoral terms, this suggests that Gotabaya may be able to prevail in Colombo and some of the adjoining Sinhalese-dominated towns that had tilted the balance against Mahinda Rajapaksa in 2014.

Thirdly, the Islamist bombings last April had a devastating effect on Sri Lanka's economy and its tourism industry. The fear of terror attacks reviving once again has put national security back on the political agenda. As the architect of Sri Lanka's military victory over the LTTE in 2009, Gotabaya is seen to be a tough no-nonsense politician. It is an image that will stand him in good stead in this election.

In 2014, the loss of a chunk of the SLFP vote and the huge 80 per cent turnout in the Northern Province where Tamils predominate had contributed to Sirisena's victory by a narrow margin. This time there is no reason to suggest that Tamil regions are sufficiently motivated to turn up in such large numbers. The feedback suggests that there is a palpable mood of disappointment with the Sirisena Government over regional autonomy. This would mean that while Premadasa will win a majority of Tamil votes in the Northern Province, this might not be enough to offset the lead Gotabaya is likely to secure in the traditional Sinhalese area. Indeed, it is nothing short of curious that many of Colombo's Left-liberalists have suddenly begun singing praises of the 'progressive' credentials of the JVP candidate. Earlier, the JVP was debunked as the voice of extreme Sinhala nationalism.

The facile view is that India will be very upset with a Gotabaya victory, in case it happens. This assumption is centred on the post-defeat comments of Mahinda Rajapaksa in 2014 when he accused R&AW of interfering to secure his defeat. Moreover, the Rajapaksas are seen to be pro-China, while the UNP is understood to have good relation with India.

This assumption forgets a few cruel truths. First, the civil war against the LTTE was won in 2009 by the Sri Lankan army thanks to some tacit support from India. Gotabaya was the man who maintained links with the national security establishment in India. Secondly, the generous contracts to China, particularly in Hambantota, followed India's own unwillingness to participate. Thirdly, the sale of the facilities in Colombo and Hambantota were negotiated by the UNP and not the Rajapaksas. In his manifesto, Gotabaya has promised an independent foreign policy that avoids being linked to any of the great powers.

How a relationship is negotiated depends ultimately on diplomacy rather than either the past or stated positions. If the Modi Government can reach out to the winner and persist with an economy-first approach and support for counter-terrorism, relations with Sri Lanka are bound to be healthy. It does not matter if Gotabaya or Sajith Premadasa wins. That is a choice for Sri Lanka's voters.

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DELHIITES IN DEEP WATER

Capital flunks all 19 potable tests; safest Mumbai doesn't need ROs

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Delhiites have neither fresh air to breathe nor safe water to drink. The drinking water supplied to residents in the national Capital has failed on all the 19 parameters — odour, iron, calcium, ammonia, chloride, anionic detergent and coliform among others. In contrast, Mumbaiites may not even need to buy water purifiers or reverse osmosis (RO) units. The drinking water in India's commercial capital passed all the tests of quality standards set by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The other two metros, Chennai and Kolkata, too didn't fare well, and are at the 13th and 14th place respectively.

Of the 21 capital cities where water quality was tested, Delhi was at the bottom with all samples failing to meet the BIS norms. Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar bagged the joint second spot in the rankings with Ranchi coming in at third.

Currently, it is mandatory for bottled water manufacturers to meet the BIS quality standard. However, the BIS norm for tap water is voluntary for the public agencies which supply piped water. Unlike Europe and other developed countries, India doesn't have any

certification for potable water.

The BIS lifted samples from the Capital cities across the country to test water quality on several parameters. Announcing the findings, Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said, "All the samples lifted in Delhi have failed, but all samples of Mumbai are clear, and tap water of Mumbai is safest to drink."

In Delhi, the samples were taken randomly from 11 places like Krishi Bhawan, Janpath (residence of Union Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan), Pitampura, Ashok Nagar, Mukundpur, Burari, Karawal Nagar, Sonia Vihar, Seema Puri and Nand Nagari. In Krishi Bhawan, housing several Central Government offices, the sample failed to meet seven parameters of BIS norms, while water from Paswan's residence failed on three parameters.

All the 11 samples failed to

meet the 19 parameters like odour, colour, turbidity, PH, total dissolved substances (TDS), hardness, alkalinity, aluminium, manganese, iron, calcium, nitrate, phenolic compounds, anionic detergent, ammonia, chloride, sulphide, coliform and e-coli that make up the BIS standard.

The tap water is supplied by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB). In most places, water pipes are running alongside and crossing sewage lines and drains in Delhi, which make the water supply susceptible to sewage contamination, officials said.

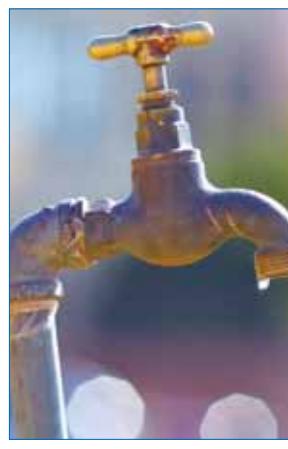
In Mumbai, all the 10 samples met the standards set by

the BIS. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) supplies water to the residents in Mumbai. In Kolkata, nine samples failed 10 quality parameters while in Chennai, all 10 samples failed in nine parameters. The samples in Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar failed in one parameter each —

phenolic compounds and chloramines respectively. In Ranchi, the potable water test failed on four parameters, while in Shimla on aluminium and Chandigarh on two parameters, aluminium and coliform.

According to officials, testing was conducted for organoleptic and physical tests, chemical test, toxic substances and bacteriological tests in the first stage. In the next phase, they will also undergo virological and biological tests for major disease carriers. The study, conducted by BIS for the Union Food and Consumer Affairs Ministry, tested 10 samples in 21 capital cities to see if they met the Indian Standard 10500:2012 (specification for drinking water).

Paswan said he has written to State Governments asking them to clarify what helps his Government can provide to make tap water drinkable.



In the 1st phase samples of piped drinking water supplied by municipal corporation/local authorities were drawn from various locations across Delhi

In the 2nd phase, samples from 20 State capitals were drawn. These were: Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, Ranchi, Raipur, Amravati, Shimla, Chandigarh, Thiruvananthapuram, Patna, Bhopal, Guwahati, Bengaluru, Gandhinagar, Lucknow, Jaipur, Jammu, Dehradun,

Kolkata and Chennai

In the 3rd phase, samples from capital cities of the North Eastern States and from Smart Cities have been drawn and are under test

In the 4th phase, it is proposed to test samples from all the district headquarters of the country by August 15, 2020.

Unlike Europe and other developed countries, India doesn't have any certification for potable water

Sabarimala Day 1: 10 women in barred age group sent back

PTI ■ SABARIMALA

Amid tight security, thousands of devotees offered prayers at the Lord Ayyappa temple when it opened for the annual Mandala-Makaravilakku puja on Saturday, though police said ten women were sent back from Pamba base as they were in the "barred" age group.

The temple has reopened just days after a five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court referred to a larger Bench the matter related to entry of women into the hill temple and other issues related to various faiths.

The State and temple precincts had witnessed protests by right-wing outfits and BJP workers last year after the LDF Government had decided to implement the



Supreme Court verdict of September 28, 2018, allowing women of all age groups to offer prayers at the shrine.

Though the apex court did not stay its earlier order allowing entry of women in the Lord Ayyappa temple, the LDF Government in Kerala this time said the shrine is not a ground for activism and made it clear that it would not encourage women who want to

visit the temple for publicity.

Police on Saturday evening said at least ten women, who

were part of a 30-member group from Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, were sent back from Pamba, five km

from the shrine, as they were

found to be in the age group of 10-50 years.

Females in this age group

have traditionally been barred from praying at the temple.

The tap water is supplied by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB). In most places, water pipes are running alongside and crossing sewage lines and drains in Delhi, which make the water supply susceptible to sewage contamination, officials said.

Files recovered from Smitarani lockers

To be examined soon:
Dharmasala Tehsildar

JAJPUR: Many official files, documents and other papers were on Saturday found as the lockers and almirahs of deceased Panchayat Extension Officer (PEO) Smitarani Biswal were opened at the block office at Dharmasala, Panchayat office at Haridasapur and in her house at Choramuhu of Jajpur district by the police in the presence of magistrates and husband of Smitarani Sushil Kumar Biswal.

"We handed over all the files and documents to the

Block Development Officer (BDO) of Dharmasala," said Dharmasala Tehsildar Saroj Kumar Panda. All the documents would be verified by the police soon, added the tehsildar. The mysterious death of Smitarani at the guesthouse of Rupesh Bhadra, husband of Madhusmita Bhadra, Sarpanch of the panchayat, on October 16 is snowballing into a major political issue in the State.

served to two officials for printing wrong messages in booklets distributed among students to mark the 150th year birthday celebration of Mahatma Gandhi. The Minister made this statement in response to a direction given by Speaker Surya Narayan Patro after protests made by Congress and BJD members on Friday.

The Minister said that while an official has been suspended, show-case notice has been required correction in a month's time. Turn on Page 4

misleading information about Gandhi.

The Minister made this statement in response to a direction given by Speaker Surya Narayan Patro after protests made by Congress and BJD members on Friday.

The Minister said that while an official has been suspended, show-case notice has been required correction in a month's time. Turn on Page 4

Fine for open defecation, urination in city

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash on Saturday told the State Assembly that all the brochures mentioning "Mahatma Gandhi died due to accidental reasons" have been withdrawn and actions initiated against the officials responsible for printing



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Cong seeks WODC funds raised to ₹1,000 crore

Many activities done to solve regional imbalance: Min

BHUBANESWAR: Claiming that the State Government has not given special attention to the Western Odisha Development Council (WODC) for removing regional imbalance, Congress members on Saturday demanded in the State Assembly that the Government increase the budgetary allocation for council from ₹ 100 crore to ₹1,000 crore per annum.

Congress Legislature Party Leader Narasingha Mishra and other party members made this demand while participating in a related Adjournment Motion brought by Mishra.

WODC was created for removing regional imbalance. While the council area occupies one-third of the State's area and one-fourth of its people, it needs special attention. It is disappointing that while the State's Annual Budget has touched ₹1,47,000 crore, only ₹ 100 crore is being allocated for the WODC to remove regional imbalance between western and coastal Odisha," said Mishra.

He too slammed the Government for not appointing the Chairman and members of the WODC as per norms and not shifting the head office to the council area. "It has been turned into a rehabilitation centre of the ruling party," he alleged.

Mishra demanded that the Government increase the budgetary allocation to ₹1,000 crore.

In his reply, Planning and Convergence Minister Padmanabha Behera said he would certainly purpose to the Chief Minister to increase the funds from the coming year.

The State Government has provided a total of ₹ 156,64 crore to the WODC since its inception. Many developmental activities in road, electrification, school, agriculture and irrigation and other social sectors have been undertaken since the 2000.

The WODC is marching ahead with activities for overall development and removal of regional imbalance," said the Minister.

Dead patient's eyes 'gouged out' without consent of family

BHADRAK: The eyes of a dead youth were taken out at the SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack, without consent from his family members, alleged his wife on Saturday.

The widow, Champa Gagarai, of Bagurai Adivasi Colony in Bhadrak district is illiterate and was unaware of the content of a form given to her by the hospital authorities prior to releasing the body of her husband Nanda Gagarai. Later, the hospital staffs took her thumb impression on the document without telling her what was written in it.

According to reports, Nanda had consumed poison following a family dispute on November 7. He was admitted to the Bhadrak District Headquarters Hospital before being shifted to the SCB Hospital when his condition deteriorated. He died at the SCB on November 11. Later, Nanda's wife and brother were asked to sign some documents. However, they gave their thumb impression on the documents without knowing their contents. When they brought the body to the village, other family members discovered that the deceased's eyes were missing. Villagers told family members that the eyes of the youth have been donated after seeing the documents given by the SCB hospital.

However, the youth's wife and brother feigned ignorance about knowing the eye donation. "The SCB staffs have taken eyes out of my husband's body without telling us. As we are illiterate, they asked us to give thumb impression on documents given to us. We did not know about the eye donation," alleged the woman. PNS

Now, defecating and urinating in open space under the jurisdiction of Bhubaneshwar Municipal Corporation (BMC) would attract penalty. The BMC in a notification on Saturday said, "The approved Solid Waste Management Bye-Laws, 2018 for Bhubaneshwar Municipal Corporation in its Schedule 6 indicates appropriate fine for defecating and urinating in open space to be imposed against person on 1st offence."

In this context, the corporation has approved ₹ 200 and ₹ 150 as fine amount against person found defecating and urinating in open space respectively within the area of BMC, added the notification.



SHOW TIME

Boring & nothing new to offer



MARJAAVAAN
*ing: Riteish Deshmukh, Siddharth Malhotra, Tara Sutaria, Rakul Preet Kaur
Rated: 5/10

It is sad that Bollywood has forgotten to make romantic movies. Gone are the days when a boy met a girl. A villain tried to separate them. But love conquered all and the hero and heroine were united in the end. It was happily ever after. Today, Bollywood is only taking a leaf out of some of the earlier romantic movies made and giving them a twist to fit the 21st Century mood.

Unfortunately, *Marjaavaan* doesn't even have that to offer to its viewers. It could be that director Milap Zaveri failed to see *Ek Villain* which had a similar starcast. The only difference was that instead of Tara Sutaria, the love interest was Shraddha Kapoor.

Those who have seen *Ek Villain* would see the similarity. Siddharth Malhotra is from the wrong side of the society — a goon who does all the bad work for his boss whom he is

indebted to. But falls in love with the girl and wants to turn good for her. In steps the villain. Again Riteish Deshmukh. The least Zaveri could have done is to not take the same starcast and make a movie on similar lines.

However, all is not lost here. Deshmukh instead of doing movies like *Housefull 4* that don't make any sense to those like to watch movies that have some content, should actually switch to doing roles where he plays the bad guy. Like in *Ek Villain*, Deshmukh excels here too as the bad guy somewhat with a twist in his character.

Siddharth Malhotra does what he does best. Play the baddies at the drop of a hat; all this with his bare hands, a tad difficult to digest given that the baddies that he is fighting are all armed with the latest machine guns. And yet, our hero is able to come out as the winner. A total disconnect with reality.

Overall, it is a movie that is not worth a watch.

— Shalini Saksena

No saving this disastrous affair

MOTICOOR CHAKNACHOOR

*ing: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Athiya Shetty, Vibha Chibber, Navni Parikh, Vivek Mishra

Rated: 5/10

It is unfortunate that an actor, the calibre of Nawazuddin Siddiqui, who has done films like *Sarfarosh*, *Badlapur* and *Manjhi-The Mountain Man* would actually agree to sign on the dotted line for *Motichoore Chaknachoor*. One doesn't understand the thought that went into him accepting the role. He can't be that desperate to play the lead.

Yes, here Siddiqui plays the hero with Athiya Shetty. There are few things horribly wrong with this pairing at many levels. First, the two actors have no chemistry; they are awkward at best. Given that Shetty is doing the pursuing while Siddiqui just goes with the flow should have had some laugh out loud moments. The only time when a smile comes is where Siddiqui has been given some funny dialogues. '36 ke hain, kab tak brahmachari bankar baithie raha. Naati, kaali, patali, takli, kisi se bhi byah kar lenge. Hamko mourdi hi chahiye ba's' the dialogue reeks of desperation but at least it is funny given the context in which it is said.

Then there is the whole loud message that is staring at our faces that of dowry. If that was the intention of the director Debamitra Biswal, to highlight the problem of dowry in the country, he should ensure that the film walked that path and the content suited the purpose.

All that this film managed to do was to show that a 36-year-old man is desperate to get married. A strict no-no.

— Shalini Saksena



Plan Your Sunday

Rider Mania

Venue: Goa

When: November 22 to November 24, 2019

Rider Mania is an annual motorcycling festival where Royal Enfield owners and enthusiasts come together in Goa. It is the largest gathering of Royal Enfield motorcycles and riders in Goa to celebrate the spirit of motorcycling. More than 8,000 riders have already registered to be in Goa for this festival. Attendees will also participate in competitions, expert sessions, art and a series of symphonic concerts. This

year's Rider Mania is going to be yet another feather in Royal Enfield's passionate endeavour to bring together the perfect mixture of experience and youthful vigor. Some of the main highlights of the festival include motorcycling events and competitions (trials, slow race, arm wrestling and others), dirt track racing, custom motorcycles, motorcycle gear stalls, music and entertainment, art and garage cafe special workshops. Interested participants can register online:



<https://onlinebooking.royalenfield.com/ridermania/register>

Wine & Cocktail festival

Venue: BOA (Best of Asia) Village, 13, Exchange Store Building, 1st floor, Alipur Road, Civil Lines, New Delhi, Delhi 110054

When: Ongoing

Time: 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

BOA Village (Best of Asia Village) is offering special menu in its quirky Wine and Beer section. Special Cocktails like Coffee, Hot Toddy and Sparkling Wines- Dom Perignon Brut French, Chandon Rose and many more. The drinks will surprise and tantalise your palate with extensive food menu. The décor takes its cues from traditional elements of Asian iconography with every small detail meticulously thought of in order to reflect the best facets of Asian art and culture in three levels known earth, sky and heaven.



Mushaira & Sufi Qawwali

Venue: The Garden of Five Senses

When: November 17, 2019

Cost: ₹35 for adults; ₹15 for children/senior citizen

Celebrating the literary culture of the capital, Delhi Tourism is hosting a two day Mushaira and Qawwali at The Garden of Five Senses. Renowned artists like Nizam Bandhu alongside famous shayars of urdu-adab will grace the occasion with their unique talent and revisit the old culture that once thrived in the city.

Delhi being the melting pot of cultures has seen many evolving trends, however evenings that honour the literary word through poetry and music has always been a favorite among the city dwellers. Revisiting this trend, the event is especially dedicated to those who enjoy the beauty of Urdu adab along with the curious ones looking for a new experience in the city.

Garden of Five Senses, one of Delhi Tourism's prime properties that is inspired from the Five Senses, is the venue for the event. There will be handicrafts and food stalls for the visitors as well.

Come and experience a musical extravaganza of urdu-adab!

World Movie Festival

Venue: Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi

When: November 17, 2019

Cost: ₹2000 for two

Navrasha Duende World Movie Festival (Fourth Edition) is a rare and rich ensemble of movies by directors from around the world. The festival aims to bring back 100 years of world movies from Sweden, Iran, China, Poland, Germany Russia, Italy, France, USA, Japan, India and others. This year Navrasa Duende plans to screen classics from all over the world including *Apocalypse Now* directed by Francis Ford Coppola's (English); *Tokyo Story* directed by Yasujiro Ozu's (Japanese); *The Marriage of Maria Braun* directed by Rainer Werner Fassbinder's (Germany); *Charulata* directed by Satyajit Ray (India); *The Passion of Joan of Arc* directed by Carl Theodor Dreyer (French); *Pulp Fiction* directed by Quentin Tarantino (America).



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

(Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction)

Application No. 6950 of 2019

In the matter of Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996 and

In the matter of Disputes between

Mrs. Cholamandalam Investment and

Finance Company Ltd. and

Mr. Kumar Kandhanpani & another

arising under Loan Agreement No.

XVFPKRR00001597143

Dated 09.02.2016.

M/s. Cholamandalam Investment and

Finance Company Limited,

'Dare House', No.2, N.S.C. Bose Road,

Parrys, Chennai - 600 001.

Represented by its Authorised Signatory

: Applicant

Vs.

1. Mr. Tarun Kumar Kandhanpani

S/o. Biswanath Kandhanpani

Dudhel, Aratal, Kegan, Kalahandi,

Bhawanipatna, Orissa - 766 036.

2. Mr. Biswanath Kandhanpani

S/o. Narasimha Kandhanpani

Kundulajher, Aratal, Kegan, Kalahandi, Orissa - 766 036.

: Respondents

To:

1. Mr. Tarun Kumar Kandhanpani

S/o. Biswanath Kandhanpani

Dudhel, Aratal, Kegan, Kalahandi,

Bhawanipatna, Orissa - 766 036.

The Hon'ble High Court, Madras on

23.09.2019 was pleased to pass an order on

the above application directing you to

furnish security to the extent of the claim of

a sum of Rs. 4,97,749/- On 07.11.2019

the Hon'ble Court was pleased to order

paper publication returnable by 4 weeks.

The above application is posted on

05.12.2019 before the Hon'ble High Court, Madras. Kindly take notice and appear either in person or through an Advocate and furnish security.

M/s. D. PRADEEP KUMAR

Counsel for Applicant

Vs.

Mr. Tushar Kanta Debaprasad

S/o. Madan Mohan Sahoo

Plot No. 4288/6872, Tanika Pani

Road, Bhubaneswar, Khurda,

Odisha - 751018.

Represented by its Authorised Signatory

: Applicant

Vs.

Mr. Sanjay Kumar Jena

S/o. Padmanabh Jena

Rajamohan, Nr - Bundi Mines,

Brajrajnagar, Odisha - 766 216.

: Respondent

To:

Mr. Sanjay Kumar Jena

S/o. Padmanabh Jena

Rajamohan, Nr - Bundi Mines,

Brajrajnagar, Odisha - 766 216.

The Hon'ble High Court, Madras on

23.09.2019 was pleased to pass an order on

the above application directing you to

furnish security to the extent of the claim of

a sum of Rs. 11,22,519/- On 07.11.2019

the Hon'ble Court was pleased to order

paper publication returnable by 4 weeks.

The above application is posted on

05.12.2019 before the Hon'ble High Court, Madras. Kindly take notice and appear either in person or through an Advocate and furnish security.

M/s. D. PRADEEP KUMAR

Counsel for Applicant

I NEVER THOUGHT OF BECOMING AN ACTOR. I WAS A CONFUSED CHILD. SOMETIMES I WANTED TO BE A PILOT AND SOMETIMES A DOCTOR. I TOOK PART IN SCHOOL PLAYS AND ALWAYS GOT TO PLAY THE LEAD, STILL DON'T KNOW WHY

comforting. After doing the film, did your friends treat you any differently?

I had a small group of close friends and all of them were extremely happy. Vidhu Vinod Chopra sir even held a special screening of the film for my friends. There was no big difference in their behaviour towards me because we knew each other much before the film, so it was not a big deal. They are still the same.

Was acting always on your cards?

No. I never thought of becoming an actor. I was a confused child. Sometimes I wanted to be a pilot and sometimes a doctor. I took part in school plays and always got to play the lead, I still don't know why. May be because my teacher liked me very much. (laughs)

There were reports that you were casted for a role in Super

30. Is it true?

No. I was never a part of the film. I don't know why such reports were doing rounds on the internet, but I was never approached for any role in the film.

What things do you keep in mind before signing a project?

I try to choose strong scripts with good content. If the story is good your role will definitely stand out and people will love it. My focus never lies in playing only lead roles, the character and the story should be good and that's all I look out for.

Any actor or director that you would like to work with?

I would like to work with Ranbir Kapoor as he is a fabulous actor and I love the vibe that one gets to see in his films. As for the director, I would love to work with Rajkumar Hirani sir and Sriram Raghavan, I love the kind of films they make.

CENTURY OF CELEBRATIONS

Celebrating their teamwork, dedication and the immense success, Colors' *Choti Sardar* completes a milestone of 100 episodes on the auspicious occasion of Guru Nanak Jayanti.

The cast and crew, presently shooting in the scenic locales of Serbia had a small party organised on the auspicious day of Gurupurab. The celebration started with a group prayer meeting and was followed by a feast, making it a truly special one.

Gadkari stresses on knowledge, innovative research

Addresses SOA convocation

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Knowledge and innovative research, backed by appropriate use of technology and policy decision, was needed for the country to move forward, Union minister for Road Transport and Highways and MSME Nitin Gadkari said here on Saturday.

"A lot depends on vision, technology and knowledge as it can convert waste into wealth," he said while addressing the 6th Convocation of the SOA University here.

Governor, Prof Ganesh Lal was the chief guest. The



convocation was also attended by Union Minister for Higher Education Dr Arun Kumar Sahoo.

SOA Chancellor Prof Khageswar Pradhan presided over the function while Vice-

Chancellor Prof Amit Banerjee presented the report.

Honoris Causa (Doctor of

Science) was presented to Prof Debiprosad Duari, a distinguished scientist in the domain of astronomy and astrophysics, who is presently Director of the Birla Planetarium at Kolkata.

Pradhan described the SOA as a prestigious university, saying it has made a mark in the field of higher education and research.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Banerjee said the SOA has been ranked among the top 25 universities in the country for two consecutive years of 2018 and 2019 while it had broken into world rankings by being placed in the 600 plus category by the Times Higher Education (THE) World Ranking.

DHH supervisor held taking bribe

PNS ■ NABARANGPUR

The Vigilance police arrested a District Headquarters Hospital Housekeeper Supervisor while he was taking a bribe of Rs 5,000 from a woman sweeper here on Saturday.

The accused was identified as Kabi Mohan Deep. He had demanded the bribe from the complainant Margarika Bhatra to accept her biodata and other relevant documents to regularise her service as an outsourcing sweeper in the DHH.

Earlier, the complaint had informed the Koraput Division Vigilance officials about it and the sleuths had laid a trap.

OPSC results out; check details on website

Dalmia Cement opens stall at Balyatra

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Reiterating the Konark Cement's brand philosophy 'Khushiyon ki Bunyad', the Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited connected with the masses at the historic Balyatra in a grand style. Zonal Sales Manager Surjyan Mukherjee and Deputy Executive Director and Plant Head (KCMW & BCW) Manoranjan Sahoo inaugurated the stall at the Balyatra aiming to create a platform to share and promote happiness in the society.

Two personalitites Rakesh Satpathy and Abheepsa Mishra were felicitated at the event. Rakesh, who works as a librarian in one of the renowned schools in Cuttack, is known for



his efforts in the field of child education in slums.

Abheepsa, pursuing her

Bachelors in Arts, has taken up to help stray dogs in the city of Cuttack.

Rahul must apologise over Rafale issue: BJP

Party holds demo in all dists, State Cong office

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha BJP Pravasi Arun Singh demanded an apology from Rahul Gandhi for spreading repeated lies on the Rafale jet deal and unnecessarily accusing PM Narendra Modi of committing a scam, following a review petition by Gandhi was discarded by the Supreme Court. He said that Gandhi had to beg apology in the court for using bad terms against Modi,

but he has to do the same in the public. The BJP on Saturday held a demonstration in all districts and a protest rally in front of the State Congress office here against Gandhi for repeatedly attempting to tarnish the image of the PM and the BJP Government on the Rafale fighter plane deal. State BJP president Basant Panda, vice president Samir Mohanty, general secretary Pruthviraj Harichandran and Nayan Mohanty among others were present.

RCom chairman Anil Ambani, four directors resign

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Communications chairman Anil Ambani and four other directors have resigned from the company, which is going through insolvency process, according to a regulatory filing.

The chief financial officer of the debt-ridden company, Manikant V, too has resigned, the filing said.

"Anil D Ambani, Chhaya Virani, Manjari Kacker have tendered their resignation as Director of Company on November 15th, 2019," the filing said.

Ryna Karani and Suresh Rangachar tendered their resignations on November 14 and November 13, 2019, respectively. The development comes a day after RCom posted a consolidated loss of ₹30,142 crore for July-September 2019 due to provisioning for liabilities after the Supreme Court ruling on statutory dues.

This was the second highest loss posted by any Indian corporate till date.

Ambani was once in the world's top ten rich persons list but now the company is struggling to even sell assets for the recovery of dues.

'Erroneous brochures on Gandhi withdrawn'

From Page 1

The two-page booklet "Aama Bapuji: Eka Jhalaka" (Our Bapuji: A Glimpse) presents a brief account of Gandhi's teachings, works and his links with Odisha.

The booklet stated that he "died due to accidental reasons in a sudden sequence of events" on January 30, 1948 at Delhi's Birla House.

Following the Minister's statement, Congress Legislative Party Leader Narasingha Mishra pointed out that the statement would have been made by the Chief Minister as he was the Chairman of the Mahatma Gandhi's 150th Year Birthday Celebration Committee."

"Yesterday, I had demanded that the Chief Minister should tender an apology if the misleading message was unintentional and I had demanded his resignation if the mistake was committed knowingly," said Mishra.

However, the Speaker asked him not to hold further discussions as a statement has already been made by a Minister as per the Rules of Business of the House.

Women should uphold tradition of Sabarimala shrine: BJP leader

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

Women should allow to follow the tradition and heritage of the Sabarimala shrine, BJP Tamil Nadu general secretary Vanathi Srinivasan said Saturday.

They should realise this and allow to maintain the sanctity of the temple, Vanathi told reporters here to a question on the Supreme Court verdict in the Ayappa temple issue.

Endorsing Tamil Nadu Chief minister K Palaniswami's view on actor Rajinikanth that he was not a political leader, she said that it was for him to decide whether to join BJP or not.

However, there is a political vacuum in Tamil Nadu after the death of M Karunanidhi and Jayalalithaa, she said. Vanathi, who received the applications from party workers for the local body elections, said the BJP has gained new strength in the State. Expressing deep sorrow over the suicide of IITM student Fathima Latheef, the BJP leader said the educational institutions should prepare the students mentally also, not only physically. Vanathi also sought adequate compensation for Rajeswari who was run over by a lorry, while trying to avoid a leaning flagpole in the city.

The West Bengal Government is trying to acquire villages under Bhograi and Jaleswar blocks in Baleswar district. Now, Shankamedi village, Shahabipur Bus stand and Udayapur sea beach are unprotected. In Shankamedi village, nearly 100 Odia families are living and have their own housing plots as well as lands for cultivation.

The West Bengal Government has the Supreme Court filing a case on December 1, 1968 when late Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo was Chief Minister. The petition stated, "The right, title and possession over the 21 villages of Kotia Grampanjha and to restrain the Andhra Pradesh Government to interfere in the possession of Orissa."

For that village the Government of Odisha runs Odisha schools and the citizens are having BPL cards from Odisha too and also availing all kinds of facilities from our Government. But the villagers

of Shankamedi in Baleswar district don't have patta (right of records) for their lands since 1989 settlement. So they are practically not the owner of their land; as a result they are losing the Government benefits under housing schemes.

In this critical situation, West-Bengal is taking the advantages. Similarly, the Sahabipur Bus stand and Udayapur sea shore of Baleswar district are claimed by West Bengal.

As the Digha sea shore is now losing its identity due to rise in water level, so they are trying to acquire Udayapur sea beach which is inside our territory and highly famous for red crabs. The Bengal Government is forcefully acquiring Odisha's road from Sahabipur Bus stand to Udayapur sea shore. It is lifting sand from our river shores as well.

In Chhattisgarh, the major problem is for Mahanadi river water. The Government of

Nov 17 is his 86th birthday

DILLIP DASHSHARMA

When we think about the border disputes with neighbouring States, the picture of Harish Chandra Buxipatra, a former Minister and also a former president of the Utkal Sammilani, comes into our mind.

Recently, to solve the border problems, an Assembly Committee discussed them and their possible solutions. Out of them, the committee decided to suggest to the Home Department to set up a police station in Kotia panchayat of Koraput district. But after some days, it was reported that Andhra Pradesh Government is also searching a suitable plot of land to establish their police station at Kotia.

This shows that Andhra Pradesh is not leaving any

chance to have its jurisdiction in the area.

It is not only the dispute but other major disputes like the Polavaram project with Andhra Pradesh. Similarly, we have border disputes with West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand too which are getting more complicated day by day. Harish Buxipatra had sincerely wanted to solve these disputes.

In 1956 when he was a student, he fought for Sadhekal and Kharasuan, which are now in the territory of Jharkhand. After Radhanath Rath became the president of Utkal Sammilani, he also tried to merge Sadhekal and Kharasuan with Odisha.

The Kotia dispute is a major issue with Andhra Pradesh, which wants to grab this area for its rich mineral deposits. In the year 1962-63, Andhra Pradesh began raising the Kotia dispute.

In protest, the Odisha Government urged for justice



from the Supreme Court filing a case on December 1, 1968 when late Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo was Chief Minister. The petition stated, "The right, title and possession over the 21 villages of Kotia Grampanjha and to restrain the Andhra Pradesh Government to interfere in the possession of Orissa."

After that the Supreme

Court allowed temporary stay on the area in 1988. But after the final hearing on March 30, 2006, the Supreme Court passed the order and stated, according to the Article - 131 of the Constitution of India, that the SC cannot solve the disputes of the State boundary. "It is not within our purview. The power is with the Parliament, so it will be decide in the Parliament," said the court. Hence, since that day the problem is not solved.

The West Bengal Government is trying to acquire villages under Bhograi and Jaleswar blocks in Baleswar district. Now, Shankamedi village, Shahabipur Bus stand and Udayapur sea beach are unprotected. In Shankamedi village, nearly 100 Odia families are living and have their own housing plots as well as lands for cultivation.

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IN BRIEF

BROTHER, SISTER KILLED IN ROAD MISHAP IN JAJPUR
Jaipur: A man and his sister died after an unknown vehicle hit the motorcycle by which they were travelling on NH-16 near Durgapur under the Dharmasala police limits in Jaipur district on Friday. The deceased were identified as Aditya Mohanty (38) and Sasmanta Mohanty (32) of Masurpur village. The duo fell from the bike and the speeding vehicle ran over them.

YOUTH JUMPS TO DEATH IN SUNDARGARH

Sundargarh: A mentally-challenged youth died when he jumped from the roof of a house with an intention of committing suicide at Duduka village under the Hemagiri police station in the district on Friday. The entire incident was recorded on mobile phone camera by villagers. The deceased was identified as Shiva Chandan. Though villagers had informed police about the incident and cops reached the spot, he jumped off the roof before the police could rescue him.

SUDARSEN GETS ITALIAN GOLDEN SAND ART AWARD

Bhubaneswar: Internationally-acclaimed sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik was presented the Italian Golden Sand Art Award 2019 at a ceremony in Rome on Friday. Pattnaik, who is the first Indian sand sculptor to receive the award, created a 10-feet-high sculpture of Mahatma Gandhi along with Russian artist Pavel Minikov. Eight sand artists from different countries participated in the festival.



GAJAPATI POLICE HOLD FREE EYE CHECK CAMP



Paralakhemundi: The Gajapati police organised a free eye check-up camp at the Paralakhemundi Model police station on Saturday. Gajapati SP Sarah Sharma inaugurated the camp coordinated by ophthalmologist Dr Nirmal Ray and his team of the Ranipethra Christian Eye Hospital. Many people of the district and neighbouring State Andhra Pradesh got their eyes tested and were provided free medicines. Among others, Paralakhemundi Model PS IIC Bibekananda Nayak was present.

3 POACHERS HELD; 2 GUNS SEIZED IN BALESWAR

Baleswar: Forest Department officials arrested three poachers near Bandhasahi Dahi area of Kuldih wildlife sanctuary in Sora of the district on Friday night. The arrestees were identified as Babuna Nayak, Kala Nayak and Sagar Singh. A fight ensued between the poachers and the forest personnel. Subsequently, the accused were overpowered and arrested. The trio was forwarded to court on Saturday.

BIRSA BIRTH ANNIV HELD AT PALLAHARA



Pallahara: The Tribal Club observed the 144th Birth Anniversary of Veer Birsa Munda at Birsa Munda Maidan here with a great pomp. Under the chairmanship of Adivasi Club president Laxman Hembram, a meeting was held where Nijigani Sarapanch Nirupama Bose was the chief guest while journalist Bishnu Prasad Behera was chief speaker. Besides, Hemant Dash, Ramesh Majhi, Janam Singh Purty were on dais. The speakers appealed for tribal unity.

'UDAYABATA' CELEBRATES CHILDREN'S DAY



Jajpur Road: The 65th Children's Day was celebrated by the 'Udayabata' magazine here on Thursday under the chairmanship of its editor Dushmanta Rout. Senior citizens Urmila Nayak, Er Bishnu Charan Parida, Bidyutprava Ray, Lumbodh Mahanta and Suman Ray, scribe Sudeep Kumar Mishra, Rama Chandra Barik, Sumitra Mishra, Debendra Mallick, Prafulla Barik, Abhishek Malla, Parbati Mallick, Kanchan Nayak and Sanjay Sahoo, among others, attended the function along with many children.

FEDCO, VILLAGE ENERGY SIGN MOU

Bhubaneswar: The Feedback Energy Distribution Company (FEDCO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Australia-based 'Village Energy' to install smart meters and demand-side management (DSM) measures in its areas of operation. Under the MoU, Village Energy will implement next-gen technology along with smart meters for better consumer service in FEDCO's rural area of operations. The companies exchanged the MoU in the presence of Premier of Western Australia Mark McGowan and Aussie cricket legend and Village Energy advocate Adam Gilchrist in Delhi last week.

VITS HOTEL CELEBRATES CHILDREN'S DAY

Bhubaneswar: The Kamat Hotels India Ltd's VITS Hotel Bhubaneswar celebrated the Children's Day and National Recycling Week among the students at the Jharpada High School here on Thursday. About 150 students took part in drawing and essay competitions. Hotel GM Subho Biswas spoke about 3R and eco-friendly practises during execution of daily course of action and Room Division Manager Saumya Ranjan Samantaray explained about the future and the contribution of hospitality and tourism sector towards the national GDP. Winners of the competitions were honoured with prizes.

Speaker chairs all-party meeting

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A head of Parliament's Winter Session, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Saturday appealed to all political parties for cooperation for ensuring smooth functioning of the House and add to the legislative productivity of the session.

After an all-party meeting, which was also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Speaker said floor leaders of different parties mentioned various issues that they wished to be discussed during the Winter Session, beginning November 18. "I told them that after discussing these issues in the business advisory committee, we will try to take up as many as possible," he said.

"I appealed to floor leaders of all parties for their cooperation in smooth functioning of the House. As the House is answerable to the people and I hope parties will raise issues of public interest. There should be debate in the House, and for that it should function," he said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Prahlad Joshi, MoS Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal, TMC's Sudip Bandopadhyay and others leave after an all-party meeting at Parliament in New Delhi on Saturday

Cong's 'Bharat Bachao' against BJP Govt at Ramlila Maidan on Nov 30

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday announced that its district-level and State-level agitations against the Centre's "anti-people policies" would culminate in a "massive rally" at Ramlila Maidan on November 30. It also hit out at the Government over a BJP Minister's remark that economy is doing fine with people getting married and trains full, saying that such statements were being made in a planned manner to divert attention from reality.

The Congress held a meeting of its general secretaries, chiefs of its frontal organisations, department heads, State unit chiefs and Congress Legislative Party leaders on Saturday. "The meeting was called to discuss the agitation programme... Against the Central Government's anti-people policies, especially economic slowdown, farmers distress, huge unemployment and other issues," Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal said.

Besides, Constitutional amendment bill for Citizenship, the other key bills which may be tabled during the session include regularisation of 1728 unauthorised colonies in Delhi. Government will also bring bills to replace two ordinances on corporate tax rate cuts and ban on e-cigarettes.

The session, beginning Monday, is taking place in the backdrop of a spate of Supreme Court decisions on key issues,



to malign the image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Hitting out at the minister's remarks, Congress' chief spokesperson Randeev Surjewala in a tweet said that it seems such bizarre statements are made or are prompted to be made in a planned manner to divert attention from the reality and prevailing circumstances.

"Airports are full, trains are full, people are getting married. Some people are doing this for nothing else but to malign the image of Narendra Modi," Angadi had told reporters during an inspection of the soon to be commissioned Tunda Khurja eastern dedicated freight corridor.

"Every three years there is fall in demand in economy. It is a cycle. Then the economy picks up also," he had said.

Govt leading country to starvation-like situation: Congress on NSO data

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after an official survey reportedly pointed to a fall in consumer spending for the first time in four decades in 2017-18, the Congress on Saturday said there is a perception that the Government is leading the country towards a "starvation-like situation".

On Friday morning, a media report cited the latest consumption expenditure survey by the National Statistical Office (NSO) to claim that consumer spending fell for the first time in more than four decades in 2017-18, primarily driven by slackening rural demand.

"Hiding data is not a solution, finding a solution is the way forward, but, the government refuses to do so," he added.

NAVY MIG TRAINER CRASHES IN GOA VILLAGE, BOTH PILOTS SAFE

PNS/PTI ■ NEW DELHI/PANAJI

The aircraft is attached to INS Hansa located near Dabolim in Goa.

Taking to Twitter, the Indian Navy spokesperson said, "During a training mission, after take-off from INS Hansa at Dabolim a MIG29K trainer aircraft suffered an engine fire. The pilots Capt M Sheokhand Philipose George Pynumootil and Lt Cdr Deepak Yadav ejected safely."

The pilots were provided first-aid and shifted to hospital in Vasco.

The Indian Navy and the Goa Police have cordoned off the site of the mishap and are in the process of clearing the wreckage.

BJP holds nationwide protest, demands apology from Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Armed with the Supreme Court's clean chit to the Modi Government on the Rafale deal, the BJP on Saturday held countrywide protests against the Congress, demanding an apology from its leader Rahul Gandhi for making "baseless" allegations.

The BJP said in a statement that its workers held protests in district headquarters across the country while its national general secretary Arun Singh led the stir in Bhubaneswar, Maharashtra party chief Chandrakant Patil in Mumbai and Bihar unit president Sanjay Jaiswal in Patna, among other places.

It also organised demonstrations in Lucknow,



Delhi BJP workers stage a protest seeking an apology from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi after SC ruling on the Rafale issue in New Delhi on Saturday

Chandigarh, Shimla, Jaipur, Varanasi and Thiruvananthapuram, the statement said.

The BJP has also referred to the Supreme Court's deci-

sion to let off Gandhi in a contempt case for attributing false remarks to it after he tendered an apology. The party demanded that he also offer an apology to the country.

BY STARTING THEIR OWN NEWSPAPERS

Parties, Business groups promoting their vested interests: V-P Naidu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday said political parties and business groups are promoting their vested interests and compromising the values of journalism by starting their own newspapers.

Highlighting the perils of fake news, he said may be it is time for media bodies to come up with a code of conduct for journalists.

Naidu was speaking at an event organised by the Press Council of India to observe the National Press Day and confer National Awards for Excellence in Journalism. Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar also attended the event.

With business groups and even political parties setting up newspapers and TV channels to further their interests, the core values of journalism are getting eroded, the vice president said.

He stressed that if a newspaper is run by a political party, it should clearly mention so.

"Political parties and politicians started their own newspapers. They are called newspapers but they should be (called) newsletters."

"That is an undesirable trend that has crept into our system. To protect and promote your business interest, to paint your rivals in a negative manner, you are using it (media)," he said.

Naidu also urged journalists to exercise caution in the time of sensationalism.



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu presents Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award to Rajashan Patrika group chairman Gulab Kothari during the National Awards for Excellence in Journalism 2019 at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on Saturday

"Sensationalism has become order of the day, sensational news means senseless news," he said.

The cardinal principle of journalism is to present fair,

objective, accurate and balanced information to the readers and viewers without journalists assuming the role of gatekeepers, he said.

Instead of giving expression to the popular feeling, some newspapers these days are giving expression to coloured and partisan views, he added.

Naidu said times have changed in such a way that one has to now read a minimum of four to five major newspapers to get a complete sense of the current developments.

"Same is the case with the news channels. Earlier, that was not the case," he remarked.

Stressing on the need to maintain objectivity, fairness and accuracy, the vice president said neutrality and sanctity of newsrooms should be upheld at all times.

"This has become all the

more critical in the present times after the advent of the 'fake news' phenomenon and the huge impact social media is creating.

"With the electronic and social media providing news by the minute with alerts and flashes on smartphones, journalists will have to exercise greater caution and guard against 'fake news', disinformation and misinformation," he said.

Sensationalism, biased coverage and paid news have become the modern-day afflictions of the media, he said.

Javadekar said fake news is a bigger crisis than paid news. "This is the day for the press to understand its freedom as well as its responsibility. Today there is a crisis of fake news more than paid news," he said.

"A fake news was circulated about child-lifters and it claimed 20 lives. When there is discussion about lynching, only one lynching is talked about but these 20 people also died due to lynching. That is not talked about," he said.

farmers, the AIKSCC said its delegation which visited the valley witnessed extensive damage to the apple crop in the valley due to untimely and heavy snowfall, it said and added growers were unable to move out and harvest the crop and store it because of heavy snowfall. The impact on saffron crop was much worse and yields are expected to remain lower this year.

Besides heavy snowfall, the farmers body said crops like pear, cherry and grapes which were harvested in August were stranded due to complete shutdown in the valley and could not be marketed, leading to near total loss for the farmers.

Apple harvesting was to begin in September but was delayed as farmers could not go out for picking. Once harvesting began, non-availability of telephones for first 60 days and non-access to internet even now meant that the communication

between apple growers, transporters and traders was snapped, causing a disruption in the demand-supply chain, it said.

Further, farmers could not bring apples to the procurement markets since trucks were not allowed to go to the villages and farmers were forced to bring their produce to the Highways. This caused delays, inconvenience and additional costs, it added.

As a result, transport cost almost doubled due to prevailing security threat and unavailability of trucks. Frequent transport blockades and closure of highways resulted in further delays and loss of quantity and quality of apples during transportation, the AIKSCC noted.

AIKSCC, a nationwide platform of 250 farmers' organisations, urged the government to assess the actual loss and provide relief to apple growers as well as growers of saffron, pear, grape, cherry and sheep breeders.

Dean of Diplomatic Corps expresses concern over air quality in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

the air quality in the city remained in the "severe" category.

Amid the pollution crisis, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in India, Ambassador Hans Dannenberg Castellanos of Dominican Republic, expressed concern over the air quality in Delhi.

"It (pollution) affects all of us. And it does not have a diplomatic solution nor is the MEA (Ministry of External Affairs) the responsible one to solve it. This is a problem of major proportions to be solved by city and federal government, not the MEA (Ministry of External Affairs). The odd-even scheme is a good start, but working closely with farmers in Punjab on the issue of crop residue burning should also be strongly considered," he said.

The national Capital witnessed a dip in pollution levels on Saturday morning even as

Nafed apple procurement in Kashmir failed miserably: Farmers body

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre's initiative to procure apples in Kashmir through cooperative Nafed has "failed miserably" as only 0.01 per cent (1.36 lakh boxes) of 11 crore boxes has been purchased directly from growers so far.

Returning from a field visit to the valley, the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) demanded that the Centre should provide compensation to apple and other horticulture crops growers in Kashmir who have incurred losses due to unseasonal heavy snowfall as well as from lack of transport and cold storage assistance due to the political turmoil in the newly formed union territory.

The Centre decided to procure apples in the region in the wake of terrorists threatening some apple growers not to sell their produce in the market following abrogation of the special

status given to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 and bifurcation of the state into two Union Territories.

"The Government authorised Nafed to carry-out procurement but this operation failed miserably. Lack of experience and infrastructure meant that Nafed has procured 0.01 per cent of the estimated produce (1.36 lakh boxes out of more

than 11 crore boxes)," the AIKSCC said in a statement.

Farmers have complained that the Nafed procurement had disruptive effect since it has sold apple in the sale market at lower prices that brought down the wholesale apple prices in the procurement market, it noted.

Kashmir produces 75 per cent of the country's total apple production and the horticulture

industry of Kashmir has a turnover of Rs 10,000 crore annually.

If 70 per cent loss (as is being claimed by the growers and representatives of commerce and industry) is true, then this will devastate the livelihood of the people of Kashmir for years to come," the farmers' body said.

Highlighting the plight of



farmers, the AIKSCC said its delegation which visited the valley witnessed extensive damage to the apple crop in the valley due to untimely and heavy snowfall, it said and added growers were unable to move out and harvest the crop and store it because of heavy snowfall. The impact on saffron crop was much worse and yields are expected to remain lower this year.

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Work on to push MSME exports: Gadkari

PTI ■ NAGPUR

The Government is working on two policies to increase MSME exports and bring down imports by encouraging local production, Union MSME and Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Saturday.

While addressing the gathering at Small Micro Enterprise (SME) conference at Nagpur, Gadkari mentioned that the

MSME sector has 29 per cent contribution in country's growth and 48 per cent of export is done through MSMEs. Similarly, about 10-11 crore jobs have been created in MSMEs.

"The Government is working on two policies. Firstly on the industries which are into export business — how to support and increase their export," the minister said.

The leather industry has a total turnover of ₹1,40,000 crore of which ₹80,000 crore to ₹90,000 crore is domestic and around ₹45,000-50,000 crore is from export.

"I have suggested them on working on modernisation, upgradation, product designing and how to reduce the cost of production and improve quality, so that our share increases in the international market. We

are working on a policy on how to strengthen export business," Gadkari said.

He added secondly, the government is working on policy to increase indigenous production of products that are being imported. "The products that are being particularly imported should get manufactured in the country itself. We are in talks with the commerce ministry on these two policies and

it is in the final stages," said Gadkari. Gadkari emphasized on three important factors — reducing capital cost, power cost and logistic cost — to become competitive in international market and these factors have also been discussed while making the new policy.

Gadkari also spoke about contribution of MSMEs in the defence sector.

Overcome outstanding issues to get India into RCEP: Singapore Min

Singapore: A senior Singapore Minister has expressed hope that outstanding issues with India can be overcome by other countries to get the large South Asian market into the Regional Comprehensive Economic

Partnership (RCEP). "We hope that India and the other 15 countries can overcome the outstanding issues so that India can come on board eventually. We look forward to the region, includ-

ing India, moving ahead together as one," Singapore's Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security, Teo Chee Hean, said on Saturday.

PTI

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PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE

In terms of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) & 13(4) thereof, the Bank has taken over the possession of the under mentioned property.

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(Govindpuri Branch) Amount Recoverable: ₹10,30,120/- together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable in the Loan account from time to time from 30-06-2018 till the date of payment. Description of Property: Right side terrace rights of third floor (top floor) consisting of two bed rooms, drawing/dining, one kitchen, two toilet/bathrooms and balcony of built-up property no.1125, gal no.11, out of khasra no. 93, measuring 75 sq. yds. (62.7 sq. mtrs.), out of total measuring 150 sq.yds., situated at Govind Puri, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019. Reserve Price : Rupees Twenty Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Only (₹ 20,25,00/-) Earnest Money Deposit: 10% of the Reserve price i.e. Rupees Two Lakhs Two Thousand Five Hundred Only (₹ 2,02,500/-).

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* The aforesaid property(s) shall not be sold below the Reserve Price as mentioned above.

* The successful bidder/tender shall deposit 25% of the amount of sale price, adjusting the Earnest Money Deposit paid already, immediately after the acceptance of Bid/Tender to the Authorised Officer in respect of the sale, failing which the earnest money deposit given/paid already shall be forfeited, and in default of such deposit, the aforesaid property(s) shall forthwith be sold again.

* The balance 75% of the sale price shall be payable on or before 15th day of confirmation of the sale by the Bank or such extended period as may be agreed upon in writing between the parties. In case of failure to deposit this balance amount within the prescribed period, the amount deposited shall be forfeited, and the aforesaid property(s) shall be resold and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims towards the aforesaid property(s) or to any part of the sum for which it may be subsequently sold.

* The provisions of Private Treaty as provided in Law may be resorted to in case of need or if warranted so.

* The Authorised Officer is not bound to accept the highest offer or any or all offers and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders/offer/s without assigning any reasons thereof.

* The successful purchaser would bear the Professional charges/fee payable, such as drafting, documentations, stamp duty, registration fee and any other incidental expenses thereto, as applicable as per Law.

* The above named borrowers/mortgagors attention is also invited to provision of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the above mentioned property.

* This publication is also 30 day's notice to the above named borrower/mortgagor/surety, Bid/Tenders alongwith Bank Draft/Pay order of the Earnest Money Deposit amount as mentioned in this Sale Notice, are invited in sealed covers by the undersigned from the intending buyer(s) for purchase of the above mentioned property, at the Head Office, C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058. The last date for submission of the bid/tenders is 30-12-2019 which shall be opened on 31-12-2019 at 4.00 P.M. at the Office of the AGM/Authorised Officer of the Bank i.e. at Head Office, C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058.

The intending buyers/purchasers may inspect the property(s) on 02.12.2019 between 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m., Bank Draft/Pay Order for EMD should be in favour of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd., account Sh. Jagbir Singh S/o Sh. Jeet Ram GP/15/67, Membership No. 39171".

The other terms and conditions of the sale can be obtained from the AGM/Authorised Officer or the Manager (Legal) of the Bank, from Head Office at C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058.

RAMESH CHAND KASANA
AGM/ AUTHORISED OFFICER
THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.
HEAD OFFICE AT C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE,
PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-110058.
PHONE NO. 8920040076, 9013568402.

DELI: DATED: 14.11.2019

FM holds meet on GST simplification

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday held meeting with chartered accountants, traders and other stakeholders as part of efforts to further simplify Goods and Services Tax (GST) forms and make the filling process more user friendly.

To highlight the problems faced by GST filers, the stakeholders attempted to file specific returns on a real-time basis in the meeting and tried to show where they are facing difficulties. The Finance Minister assured stakeholders that their suggestions on simplification of GST filing will be implemented soon.

For the full fiscal 2019-20, the Delhi-based National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has pegged GDP growth at 4.9 per cent as against 6.8 per cent in 2018-19. Going forward, NCAER said the monetary policy measures are unlikely to revive growth at this juncture and suggested providing fiscal stimulus, which too can be challenging unless it can be financed through better revenue generation.

NCAER cuts Q2 GDP growth forecast to 4.9%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's GDP growth is likely to decline to 4.9 per cent in the second quarter of this fiscal due to sustained slowdown in virtually all the sectors, economic think-tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) said on Saturday. India's economy grew at 5 per cent in the first quarter of 2019-20 — the slowest pace in over six years.

For the full fiscal 2019-20, the Delhi-based National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has pegged GDP growth at 4.9 per cent as against 6.8 per cent in 2018-19.

Whether the growth deceleration may be bottoming out or not, we will know in next two weeks based on the Q2 growth figures of the Government. However, the current poor growth is mainly due to a demand problem. It can be addressed through fiscal measures," NCAER Distinguished Fellow Sudipto Mukund told PTI on the sidelines of its event on Mid-year review of the economy. Emphasising that the focus should be on fiscal measures, Mukund said there is a need to pump up expenditure without pushing up the fiscal deficit.

There are ways of doing it, he said, adding, "We have a bold leader. There is a huge fiscal space which has not been used. It is myth that some say there is no fiscal space." Mukund said revenue foregone is 5 per cent of the country's GDP and about 1.5 per cent of GDP is locked up as excess appropriation of the budget which has not been spent, he said.



UJVN LIMITED
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)
H.O.: UJJWAL Maharan Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun - 248006
Telephones : 0135-2769615, 2763808, Fax No.: 0135-2763508
CIN No.: U40101UR2015SCC028666, Website : www.ujvn.com

TENDER NOTICE

Office of the Manager (A&S), UJJWAL, Maharan Bagh, Dehradun invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No. 06/Manager (A&S)/2019-20

Name of work	Miscellaneous civil maintenance work at corporate office, UJJWAL, Maharan Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun
Estimated cost	Rs. 12,81,540.00 (exclusive of GST)
Earnest money deposit	Rs. 32,100.00 only
Tender Fee	Rs. 1180.00 (Incl. of GST)
Date of availability of bid document on website	14:00 hrs on 15.11.2019
Last date for submission of tender	16:00 hrs on 11.12.2019
Date of opening of Part-I	16:00 hrs. on 12.12.2019
Date of opening of Part-II	16:00 hrs. on 13.12.2019

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"

Manager (A&S)

653 सूचीन लिए / रिक्त / परामर्श : 15.11.2019

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

PRESS E-TENDER NOTICE

The executive engineer, Civil Division No.VII, Irrigation & Flood Control Deptt., Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi invites online item rate E-tenders on behalf of the President of India from approved and eligible contractors of I&FC Deptt. The contractors who are registered with other Departments but granted provisional permission by the Chief Engineer (I&FC) are also eligible for participation of e-tendering for the following works:-

Sr. No.	NIT No.	Name of work	Head of Account	Estimate Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time Allowed	Tender IN No.	Last date & time for submission of Price bid.
1	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/83	Construction of Double Storey Building of Jatav Basti Chopal at village Alipur in Distt. North.	DVDB Works	26,56,929/-	53,139/-	04 Months	2019 IFC_183525_1	26.11.2019 up to 15.00 Hrs
2	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/84	Demolishing & reconstruction of double story building of Balmiki Chopal at village khera kalan in Distt. North.	DVDB Works	96,72,858/-	1,93,457/-	09 Months	2019 IFC_183604_1	26.11.2019 up to 15.00 Hrs
3	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/85	Improvement of Cremation Ground and Construction of open RCC Shed in Cremation at Libaspur in Badli AC.	MLALAD Works	34,80,532/-	69,611/-	06 Months	2019 IFC_183612_1	26.11.2019 up to 15.00 Hrs
4	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/86	Improvement of Main Road in Jeevan Park Siraspur by laying Mastic in Badli AC.	MLALAD Works	93,42,116/-	1,86,842/-	01 Months	2019 IFC_183644_1	26.11.2019 up to 15.00 Hrs
5	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/87	Supply & installation/ fixing of floating trash barrier near RD. 13560m RD. 15570M RD.16635M RD. 17617 RD.19100M and RD. 19500V at Bawana Escape drain for collecting floating material hyacinth etc. from water surface of the drain and its disposal to nearby Dhalai by Rickshaw to maintain free flow of water for months.	A/R& M/O Drains	15,91,331/-	31,827/-	06 Months	2019 IFC_183615_1	26.11.2019 up to 15.00 Hrs
6	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/88	Supply & Fixing of Steel Chair and RCC Chair Bench in Badli AC.	MLALAD Works	24,98,100/-	49,962/-	02 Months	2019 IFC_183616_1	26.11.2019 up to 15.00 Hrs
7	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/89	Civil and Electrification work at Godown of DSCSCL at Siraspur.	DSCSCL Works	51,98,093/-	1,03,962/-	45 Days	2019 IFC_183619_1	26.11.2019 up to 15.00 Hrs

- The enlistment of the contractors should be valid on the last date of opening of tenders. In case, the last date of opening of tender is extended, the enlistment of contractor should be valid on the original date of opening of tenders.
- Earnest money in physical form and self attested copy of Registration of enlistment & other documents (eg. ESI & EPF registration, copy of PAN card, Copy of GST documents) should be submitted in the Office of Executive Engineer, Civil Division-VII, I&FC Deptt., Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-110085 upto 3.00 PM on the last date of submission of technical bids for obtaining the deposition slip for uploading.
- The details of above mentioned work(s) can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
- The agencies who do not fulfill eligibility criteria/ do not submit required documents upto the stipulated time, their tenders shall be rejected summarily at technical bid stage.
- Tenders submitted through e-procurement portal shall only be considered and no manual tender shall be accepted.
- Intending tenders participating in tendering process in EE CD-VII, I&FC shall furnish ESI & EPF registration along with other required documents and the same shall be uploaded while bidding. Moreover the ESI & EPF registration documents of all contractors shall be kept on records and ESI & EPF registration documents of lowest tenderer to whom the work awarded shall form the part of the agreement. (I&FC department office order No.1417-48 dated 29.01.2016).

WESTERN RAILWAY

10MM THICK CGRSR TO RDSO

Tender Notice No.WTR/17/2019/03 dated 13.11.2019 for tender on e- procurement mode only are invited by Chief Engineer (Track Supply), Head Quarter Office, Old Building, 2nd floor, Churchgate, Mumbai 400 020 for supply of the following items:-

Tender NO. : 196036 Short Description :

TRUMP IMPEACHMENT

POTUS: Double standard never seen in US history

PTI ■ WASHINGTON



'I have right to speak, freedom of speech'

"I would say when you go into a meeting with somebody and they ask, are you going to be leaving, that is concerning."

"So that probably — I don't know exactly when that started happening — but it was in that timeframe," the former US envoy to Ukraine said.

During the hearing, she said Trump's tweet about her diplomatic performance is very intimidating.

"I can't speak to what the president is trying to do, but I think the effect is to be intimidating," she said when she was shown the presidential tweet.

"Everywhere Marie Yovanovitch went turned bad. She started off in Somalia, how did that go? Then fast forward to Ukraine, where the new Ukrainian president spoke unfavorably about her in my second phone call with him. It is a US President's absolute right to appoint ambassadors," Trump asserted.

Trump made the assertion while accusing the opposition Democratic party of denying the Republicans the due process in the House-initiated impeachment proceedings against him.

In the history of our country, there has never been a disgrace like what's going on right now. So, you know what, I have the right to speak. I have the freedom of speech just as other people do have. But they (Democrats) have taken away the Republicans rights (to ask questions)," Trump told reporters in a media interaction at the White House.

Zero evidence of any wrongdoing by President : White House

Washington: The White House on Friday said "zero evidence" of any wrongdoing by President Donald Trump was presented at the impeachment hearing by a Congressional panel, asserting that the former US envoy to Ukraine deposited she was unaware of any criminal activity involving the President.

The second public hearing of Speaker Pelosi and Congressman Schiff's impeachment charade was as useless and inconsequential as the first.

Zero evidence of any wrongdoing by the President was presented,

White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said after the conclusion of the second public hearing on impeachment against Trump.

Former US Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch testified before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence as part of the House-initiated impeachment hearing against Trump.

Referring to her testimony, Grisham said Yovanovitch deposited under oath that she was unaware of any criminal activity involving President Trump.

"She was not on the July 25 phone call and had no knowledge about the pause on aid to

Ukraine. It is difficult to imagine a greater waste of time than today's hearing, and yet unfortunately, we expect more of the same partisan political theater next week from House Democrats," Grisham said.

On Friday, Yovanovitch was the third witness to appear before the House Committee headed by Congressman Adam Schiff in the Democrat's impeachment against Trump.

The public hearing of the probe kicked off on Wednesday as William Taylor, the acting ambassador to Ukraine and George Kent, the deputy assistant secretary of State for European and Eurasian affairs, testified for more than five hours before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Yovanovitch told lawmakers that she advocated the US position that the rule of law should prevail, and Ukrainian law enforcement prosecutors and judges should stop wield-

ing their power selectively as a political weapon against their adversaries and start dealing with all consistently and according to law.

"Untrue are unsourced allegations that I told unidentified embassy employees or Ukrainian officials that

President's Trump's orders should be ignored because he was going to be impeached or for any other reason. I did not and I would not say such a thing. Such statements would be inconsistent with my training as a foreign service officer and my role as an ambassador," she said.

The previous Obama administration, she said, did not ask her to help the Clinton campaign or harm the Trump campaign, she said.

"Nor had I taken any such steps if they had. Partisanship of this type is not compatible with the role of a career foreign service officer," she said.

The former diplomat said she never met Hunter Biden, the son of former Vice President Joe Biden, nor she had any direct or indirect conversations with him.

"And although I have met former Vice President Biden several times over the course of our many years in government service, neither he nor the previous administration ever raised the issue of either Burisma or Hunter Biden with me," she said.

Responding to questions, Yovanovitch said fighting corruption in Ukraine was a key element of US policy.

Diplomat says he overheard Trump call about investigations

Washington: A State Department official told impeachment investigators Friday that he overheard President Donald Trump talking with a US ambassador about "investigations" in Ukraine, according to people familiar with the testimony.

The Associated Press has viewed key excerpts of Holmes' 10-page statement and a person familiar with the document confirmed its authenticity. The remarks were first obtained by CNN.

Holmes, a career foreign service officer, told investigators he did not seek the opportunity to testify. Like others in the inquiry, he was issued a subpoena to appear. He spent nearly seven hours with lawmakers.

Rep Ted Lieu, D-Calif., said Holmes is a key witness to the impeachment investigation because he heard directly from Trump. That counters Republican complaints that the inquiry is based on hearsay from other officials testifying.

"He has firsthand knowledge of the conversation between Ambassador Sondland and the president of the United States," Lieu said. "He overheard the conversation."

Sondland opened the July 26 conversation by telling Trump that the Zelenskiy "loves your ass." Trump responded, "So, he's gonna do the investigation?" "He's gonna do it," Sondland replied.

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HONG KONG PROTEST

Protesters defy Xi with pro-democracy rallies



A woman tries to hold back riot police from approaching the Hong Kong University in Hong Kong on Saturday AP

Hong Kong: Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters defied a warning by China's President Xi Jinping and took to the streets again Friday, as the political turmoil seeped out to London, where a territorial minister was confronted by masked demonstrators.

Protests have swept Hong Kong since June as many in the city of 7.5 million people have vented fury at eroding freedoms under Chinese rule.

Violence has escalated, and tensions have spread overseas, sparking friction between China and Britain, which governed Hong Kong until 1997.

Hong Kong Justice Secretary Teresa Cheng fell in London Thursday after being surrounded by pro-democracy protesters, in the most physical confrontation involving a minister since the unrest began.

Cheng walked away without signs of injury, but Beijing slammed the incident as an "appalling attack" and accused Britain of fuelling the protest movement. Police in London said they were investigating.

Former colonial power Britain has urged Beijing and Hong Kong to seek a political solution to the crisis and has condemned escalating violence on both sides.

In Beijing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said if Britain "continues to add fuel to the fire..."

Then it will bring calamity on itself."

Thousands of mainly office workers took to the streets of the Chinese territory, many chanting "Stand with Hong Kong" and raising an open hand with five fingers splayed — a reference to the five protester demands which include the right to freely elect Hong Kong's leaders and an independent inquiry into alleged police brutality.

Students and protesters occupied several major universities around the city.

On Saturday, hundreds of Government supporters began knocking down improvised walls concreted into the road by

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Pacers engineer another innings win

India demolish Bangladesh for sixth successive Test win

PTI ■ INDORE

India annihilated Bangladesh inside three days for a resounding innings and 130 run-victory in the first Test, riding on one of the most hostile fast bowling performances in recent times.

The quick victory was on predicted lines.

Having bowled Bangladesh out for 150 in the first innings, India bundled them out for 213 in the second essay after declaring their first innings on their overnight score of 493 for six.

The victory also gave India 60 points, and they strengthened their position in the World Test Championship table with 300 points in their kitty.

The thrashing also completed a hat-trick of innings wins for them, having beaten South Africa in the second and third Test in the previous series.

The gulf was huge between the two teams and it could only get worse for Bangladesh from here onwards as the Indian pace attack, in the upcoming Day/Night Test with pink ball, is expected to cause more damage to their batsmen's psyche.

It was a game where Mohammed Shami (match haul of 7 wickets), Umesh Yadav (4 wickets overall) and Ishant Sharma (3 wickets) scared the hell out of an opposition that showed little stomach for a fight, save senior player Mushfiqur Rahim (64, 150 balls, 7x4), who delayed the inevitable.

Ravichandran Ashwin (match haul of 5 wickets) complemented the pacers, chipping in with wickets at regular intervals.

Bangladesh may have lost a lot of Test matches but the one in Indore has left them with scars that will remain for a long time. An international team looked frightened in the face of relentless hostility.



India's Ravichandran Ashwin, center, and teammates celebrate the dismissal of Bangladesh's Mushfiqur Rahim during the third day of first cricket test match

ARUN LAUDS INDIAN PACE UNIT

PTI ■ INDORE

Each time you try to explore new avenues in your bowling, you constantly look to improve. And this would give him the much needed fillip to experiment more and try out," he added.

It's Ishant's experience that has made him the bowler that he is.

Ishant is probably the most experienced bowler we have. He has played over 90 Test matches. He felt that he needs the batsmen to play a lot more.

It was about him trying to experiment with different angles. What he's doing now, suits his bowling best," the bowling coach said.

When asked about Umesh, the bowling coach lavished praise on the "character" that he has shown despite being in and out of the side due to specific team combinations.

"Umesh showed a lot of character in coming back. But then that's also an embarrassment of riches (with Bumrah on his way to recovery)," the former India bowler said.

"You have five fast bowlers (Buvneshwar Kumar) who are ready to play for the country. And over a period of time if you can manage the workloads well, we can ensure that each one is nice and fresh for every game that we play."

There were no angry gestures or over-the-top celebrations but scorching pace, mesmerising swing and the red cherry rearing at the throat from good length.

It created a spectacle and Bangladesh didn't have the wherewithal to handle it.

The best part about this Indian attack is that its intensity is same even in the third session as it is early in the morning. Mehidy Hasan Miraj (38 off 55 balls), despite sharing a 59-run stand with Rahim, was bounced out by Umesh, was a case in point.

It was a 'heavy ball' in cricketing parlance that grew big on Miraj, hitting him on his chest and then tickling the stumps. It was pure intimidation as the batsman looked in physical pain as he left.

Ditto for Imrul Kayes, who got a perfect outswinger (inswinger for a left hander) from Umesh in the first session. The ball tailed in and uprooted the leg-stump. Kayes had given up on the fight from the start as he looked nervous while facing each and every delivery.

Shadman Islam may have been a heavy scorer in domestic cricket but he has never faced a bowler of Ishant's calibre in his short Test career.

So when young Shadman got one from Ishant to nip back from length, he couldn't react in time to bring his bat down, as the ball clipped the top

of middle stump.

Bangladesh's best bet, Mominul Haque (7) was jittery from the start and survived a DRS call while trying to leave a delivery pitched on the off-stump.

However, when Shami angled one into the opposition skipper, he was adjudged plumb in-front even though Virat Kohli had to take a review, which turned out to be successful.

Shami's guile again came to the fore when he hurried Mohammed Mithun with a bouncer and his mistimed pull was easily taken at mid-wicket by Mayank Agarwal.

For the team's oldest player (in terms of age) Mahmudullah Riyad,

the issue was technical as well as temperamental.

A fluent player in white ball format, not for once during the two innings did he look comfortable be it against the pacers or spinners.

In the post-lunch session, Shami just bowled one fuller on the off-stump channel. The ball held its line and all the veteran did was to offer a training session slip catch to Rohit Sharma.

Amid the ruins, Rahim, after getting reprieve in the first session, showed his will to fight that was missing in younger colleagues Liton Das (35 off 39 balls), who showed T20 skills when something else was required.

Pathbreaking decision by a decisive Government of Gujarat All the 16 check-posts have been abolished by the State Government



**A positive step by the government for the betterment of vehicle owners:
Permanent solution for long queues**



Mr. Narendra Modi
Prime Minister, India

Mr. Vijaybhai Rupani
Chief Minister, Gujarat

- All the 16 check- posts to be abolished from 20-11-2019 in Gujarat
- Vehicle owners and people engaged in transport services can now pay the taxes and fees on parivahan.gov.in (ODC & Tax Module)
- Over-Dimension vehicle and /or cargo require prior online approval, which is available online after payment of exemption fee
- Overloading is strictly banned, no approval will be given
- The fine is double of exemption fee incase a person is found providing false details of the vehicle and the goods, or violates conditions of approval
- This will help to curb pollution and lead to a better work efficiency



For more details log on to: cot.gujarat.gov.in and rtogujarat.gov.in | Commissioner of Transport, Gujarat, Gandhinagar

It is the government's priority to save time, energy and money of vehicle owners - Mr. Nitin Patel, Dy. Chief Minister, Gujarat

Helpline No: 079-23257808 and 079-232 51396 Email: cot-trans-complain@gujarat.gov.in



the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

Mystic pillars of a great king

The two pillars with edicts near Bihar-Nepal border tell the tale of Ashoka and his conquest through Buddhism

2



4

Leading a virtuous life

Guru Nanak's spiritual beliefs and practices were transformational and cut across the lines of religion

Don't take yourself too seriously. Know when to laugh at yourself, and find a way to laugh at obstacles that inevitably present themselves
— Halle Berry



FROM THE KEHWA KHANAS TO THE SOCIALS

What do millennials want from restaurants in India? Do they appreciate quality, instead of chatpata, "buzzing" flavours? The answers lie in the history of restaurant retail in India and cultural habits of how people eat different foods at home and in restaurants, writes ANOOTHI VISHAL in her book, *Business on a Platter: What Makes Restaurants Sizzle or Fizzle Out*. But first, a taste of history... An edited excerpt:

If professional chefs run restaurants today, history has come a full circle. In medieval India, the moneyed nobility employed the highest-paid chefs and not the *bazaar* chefs who cooked the common man's *chaat*, kebabs and breads. Several accounts of Lucknow, including the early 20th-century *Guzishta Lucknow* by Abdul Halim Sharar, talk of highly paid *rikabdars*, or professional cooks, specialised in unique dishes that left their diners amazed.

Shaikh Fida Ali was a *rikabdar* during the reign of Wajid Ali Shah, the last nawab of Awadh. He once placed a transparent lampshade on a table before a British dignitary. He placed a lit candle inside the lampshade, then blew it out, broke what appeared to be the glass of the shade and started eating it. It was later learnt that the entire lampshade was made out of sugar candy, wrote Aslam Mahmud, an old *Lucknauwallah* and bureaucrat, in his superbly researched *Awadh Symphony*, which talks about life under the nawabs. Centuries before molecular gastronomy began to beguile us with its presentations, the *rikabdars* were already practising food as an art form.

Restaurant cooks, on the other hand, traditionally didn't know how to cook these nuanced dishes, and restaurant cooking has therefore always been distinct from home cooking in India. This fact is crucial to any understanding of the country's food- and restaurant-scape. For the first time, really, in the history of food retail in India, we are at a point where at least some restaurant food cooked by chefs is being considered more evolved and more desirable than home food. Experience-led dining that was confined to moneyed homes (as opposed to restaurants that were more functional and catered to mass needs) has only relatively recently shifted out of that private zone and into a public, social art.

After the British assumed power in India and Mughal might was lost, cooks who had till then laboured in the kitchens of aristocrats found themselves out of work. Some of them found work with new employers but discovered that these new sahibs and brown sahibs of the Raj did not understand the elite art. Chef Mujeeb-ur-Rehman, a well-known chef from Lucknow popular for his high-end wedding catering, tells me this delicious story behind the popular Lucknow idiom, 'Yeh moonh aur masoor ki dal', used to be dismissive about someone.

According to him, a chef who found employment after having served a nawab for a long time asked his new employer what he would like to eat that day. The employer told him to make something simple like *masoor dal*. The chef in turn handed the employer a long list of ingredients to be bought for the preparation, looking at which the employer's face fell and he complained of the expense. The cook walked out, scoffing, 'Yeh moonh aur masoor ki dal' (loosely translated as 'How can you, with this face, appreciate my *masoor dal*?').

Used to a lavish, no-expense-spared way of cooking, the talented cooks must have been at a loose end. Some of them and their descendants set up small restaurants where they refashioned the elaborate and exquisite foods of their former masters as bites for common men. *Qormas* (hitherto cooked only within homes, *nihari* being the street dish), *dal* and *pulao*s were thus tweaked to become part of Mughlai menus at a few restaurants in cities such as Delhi, Calcutta, Lahore and Lucknow.

We find an example of this kind of shift in the story of Karim's, the iconic Mughlai restaurant in Delhi. According to his descendants' retelling of their restaurant's history, in 1913, Haji Karimuddin set up Karim Hotel in Gali Kababian near Jama Masjid, contending he was serving the 'food of royals to the common man'. Haji Karimuddin traced his ancestry to a family of Mughal cooks in Shahjahanabad that had to flee the capital after the last Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar II, was exiled. The family relocated to Meerut. However, when India came under the British crown and the Delhi Durbar was being held in 1911, Karimuddin moved back to the city with the idea of opening a small restaurant to take advantage of the crowd that would be descending on the city for the *durbar*. Karim Hotel in the beginning served just *aloos gosht*, a home-style gravy of meat and potatoes, and *dal* to its patrons. The food was meant to be a substitute for home food.

In Calcutta, another cosmopolitan melting pot, dishes of Mughal origin were reinvented by small restaurants to cater to the needs of workers and daily-wage earners. Anadi Cabin on Esplanade is reputed to be almost a hundred years old. It has been around most certainly since before Partition, and remains unchanged till today, including in its use of the same iron *tawa* on which the cook shallow-fries Mughlai *porotas* (the Bengali term for *paranthas*), a beloved Calcutta street snack and Anadi's signature dish.



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The tiny restaurant turns out 400 *porotas* from 20 kg of four daily in a kitchen visible to all. The *porotas* could be covered in duck egg (which were considered vegetarian by traditional meat-eating Hindu Bengalis who did not prefer chicken) or chicken egg, filled with *keema*, folded and shallow-fried. These *keema porotas* are an innovation often credited to this restaurant. Mughlai *paranthas* almost certainly existed in Lucknowi and Awadhi homes before Wajid Ali's exile to Calcutta along with cooks who brought Nawabi dishes to the City of Joy. The simple egg-coated Mughlai *parantha* of Awadh, made with many layers or *parat*, underwent a metamorphosis to become the *keema*-filled substantial snack of Calcutta, which could be picked up easily and eaten on the go by daily-wage earners in the new city.

Many of these early restaurants thus came up as businesses that were seeking not to provide recreation but instead to cater to a need for cheap, filling meals as people moved from villages and smaller towns to the cities to work for their colonial masters. However, colonialism in India brought with it more upscale restaurant and leisured experiences, catering to the elite.

The first passenger train in India started running between Bombay and Thane in April 1853, pulled by three steam engines Sahib, Sindh and Sultan on a 34 km broad-gauge line. As British India's rail network grew and the railways began to cover longer distances (Bombay to the capital in Calcutta was a much publicised route for first-class tourists), there was need for refreshments and restaurants en route.

Several British or Anglo-Indian travellers' accounts speak of impeccable crockery, turbaned waiters and formal service, and food that was fairly similar all across the railways — thick soups, cutlets and bread and butter. It was, however, only Europeans or Anglo-Indian travellers who were entitled to travel in first-class carriages, and who could enjoy the catering in the dining cars. Conditions in the third class, in which the bulk of Indians travelled, were terrible. A 1929 *Times of India* report said that the Great Indian Peninsula Railways was trying out a separate dining car for Indians: 'It would probably not have allowed the third class passengers who made up the bulk of travellers, and who had to either eat food they had brought or buy at station halts on the way.'

Since the catering was primarily for Europeans, European-inspired dishes started

appearing on the menus in these restaurants along the rail network — things like chops, cutlets, omelettes, tea and custard. These dishes would eventually get absorbed as restaurant and club food in India, and we continue to eat some of this 'continental' food even today. The crockery and cutlery used were of the highest quality and the service by liveried waiters was impeccable, in keeping with the expectations of the sahibs of the Raj. Even after India became independent, upscale dining would imitate this pattern of deferential service.

While the dining cars were available only to first-class European travellers, from 1901, separate refreshment rooms for Indians started appearing at a few stations. This resulted in the emergence of other dishes that are now part of old-fashioned or nostalgic restaurant food centred around the Raj — for instance, the railway mutton curry (which clearly was never a single recipe) or the egg curry.

Till much after Independence, railway refreshment rooms were thought to be fairly high-standard restaurants, and railway catering would be relied upon for banqueting needs when dignitaries visited. My grandfather, who was in the catering division of the Northern Railways for some time in the 1970s, had amusing stories of catering to the Nehru-Gandhis — delicious anecdotes that we savoured as all restaurateuring tales must be.

But not all history is appetizing. The history of restaurants in India is fraught with caste and religious segregation — one reason that may have prevented a food retail boom earlier in the country's history. Once they started catering to Indians, railway refreshment rooms were segregated not just as those meant only for Europeans but also as those meant for Hindus versus Muslims. Even water from taps in the railway stations was marked Hindu or Muslim in British India. There were 'pure' Hindu meals cooked by brahmins, and those offering Muslim food like *qorma*, *kebab* and *pulao*.

In the south, similarly, vegetarian brahmin hotels and 'military hotels' serving meat (with the suffix 'Hindu' added to signify that no beef or pork was served, though mutton was) came up as well as Udupi restaurants serving 'pure veg' food run by brahmins from the region, to cater to students and officers who worked in the Madras Presidency.

ASHOKA'S SOURCE OF
INSPIRATION COULD BE:
ACHAEMENID COLUMN
WITH LOTUS CAPITAL AND
ANIMALS, PERSEPOLIS,
6TH-4TH C. BCE



Lauriya Nandangarh and Araraj Ashoka: THE MYSTIC PILLARS THAT UNVEILED A GREAT KING

The decoding of the two Ashokan pillars with edicts near Bihar-Nepal border in the 18th century tells the tale of how India first came to know of the existence of Ashoka and his conquest through Buddhism, writes SOMEN SENGUPTA

A major unpardonable pitfall of India's pre-Islamic era was its apathy of recording political chronology in a systematic way. On top of that, non-stop destruction of its monuments, architecture, literature and centre of cultures thereafter in the hands of Islamic invaders from 12th century, a major part of Indian history was once deleted, fragmented, obscured and finally fictionalised with legend and folklore.

From 18th century onward, when European traders started exploring the country, they were astonished to see several archaeological ruins prevailing under massive dilapidation in isolated places, attracting no attention from common people.

India of that time was a country with little sense of heritage of its pre-Islamic era, though the country's civilization dates back 5000 years. This was a matter of perplexity to Europeans who were clearly excited to find amazing archaeological relics, one after another, with mind-blowing engineering marvel and excellent craftsmanship. However, none of those seemed to connect with any ready reference of written history.

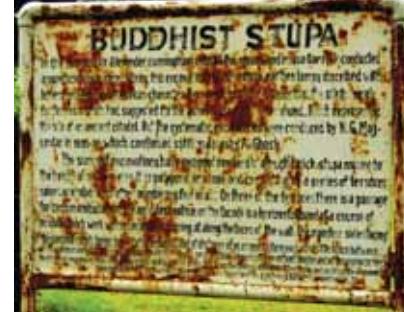
For instance, in 1616, an Englishman named Thomas Coryat found an eccentric monolithic stone pillar at Delhi's Firoz Shah Kotla. The pillar had some mystic inscription written in an unknown language. The thrill of this discovery was extended when on July 30, 1670, inside a pestilential jungle frequented by wild animals in Bihar near the Nepal border, John Marshal (not to be confused by famous John Marshal of ASI) found a similar circular sand stone pillar with mysterious edicts on its body. The pillar had a beautiful stone lion seated on an abacus crowned on its top as capital.

From the local people, John came to understand that this amazing engineering marvel was called "Bhim ka lathi" or the walking stick of Bhima, a character of Hindu epic *Mahabharata*. The place, where this pillar was found, was 23 km from Bettiah town.

The place was then known as Mathia and today is known as Lauriya Nandangarh. *Lauriya* in local language means stick.

The two major victories against two Indian rulers — one in 1757 in Bengal and another in 1799 in Mysore — cemented the position on East India Company in political theatre of India. They became the ruler in almost every sense over a vast geography. This attracted many Europeans to India in the next 200 years. Many of them were ordinary office bearers and yet they proved to be extraordinary researchers with an acute interest in India's history. In next 100 years or so, some of them gave Indian history a new insight with their exceptional hard work and outstanding academic brilliance.

By the end of 18th century, many such mysterious stone pillars and rock stones with edict written on them in an unknown language were found from Peshawar to Mysore. European officials working in India, and having keen interest in oriental history, were excited to discover a new light of wisdom in these mystic pillars. Groping in the dark, many of them speculated these as conquests of some victorious king, or boundary pillars of dominions, or edicts of religious nature. The widest speculation was that these were secret codes of Greek treasures once owned by Alexander. However, these were soon discarded with the logic that the pillars were found in places like Delhi, Allahabad and Bihar, where Greek never



The report heading read: "A short Account of Two Pillars to the North of Patna".

In March 1814, while marching with 34th Regiment of East India Company to take part in Anglo-Nepal war, Lieutenant J Horris saw Lauriya Araraj pillar and drew some important sketches.

Now two stone pillars — one with a lion capital on top and another broken at top, found in north Bihar near Nepal border with mysterious inscriptions on them — started to rouse curiosity of the antiquarians. Such inscriptions on similar kind of pillars found in Delhi and Allahabad were already being discussed. More people started exploring the places with an objective to decode the language. It was clear that the mystery would only be unfolded once the edicts were decoded.

At the beginning of 19th century, James Prinsep, a young man came to Calcutta to join Calcutta mint. Out of sheer passion, he started serving Asiatic Society of Bengal as journal editor. The journal was a class by itself and very popular across the world. Soon Prinsep built a fantastic network with people across India who started sharing information and documents with him on every single archaeological findings.

Prinsep was confident enough to think that a new chapter of history would be uncovered if the edicts written on the pillar could be decoded.

In November of 1780, Charles Wilkins sent a report to the Asiatic Society of Bengal about a finding of another mysterious decapitated pillar with similar alphabets carved on its surface at Buddal in north Bihar. This place was 28 km from Bettiah town, now known as Lauriya Araraj. This pillar, though not found with a capital, created more excitement as its edicts were more prominent and bold.

In 1783, Thomas Law, collector of Gaya district drew sketches of both the pillars and sent a report to William Jones in Calcutta.

After years of hard work, in 1837,

Prinsep managed to decode the script of the edict and opened the doors of knowledge to India's glorious past that remained hidden for so long.

In 1820, Brian Hodgson, a British resident in the royal court of Kathmandu, sent a copy of the inscription on Lauriya Nandangarh pillar edict to Calcutta. This document was reported lost. Prinsep and Hodgson started frequent correspondence and soon became good friends, though it is assumed that they never met. Hodgson again sent him the copy of the inscription that he once found in Lauriya Nandangarh and in October 1834, he sent him an eye copy of Lauriya Araraj pillar edict.

Now armed with the information pertaining to all the four edicts, Prinsep managed to decode a name — "Devanamapiya Piyadasi" — that seemed to appear in all edicts. Meanwhile, a discovery of an ancient book by someone in Sri Lanka at almost the same time revealed that "Devanamapiya Piyadasi" meant — "The beloved to the God and his name was Ashoka". Overnight, India got a colossal king whose transformation to a humanist after accepting Buddhism was known and the name Ashoka became a cult chapter of history.

Once the language was decoded, it was easy to understand that these pillars were not victory monuments, but a new and effective way of communication. Much to their astonishment, it was found that these were a public declaration of a king to come forward in acceptance of Buddhism and his transformation.

Discovery of the existence of Ashoka, the emperor, and his gargantuan contribution to spread Buddhism across the world delivered a master stroke. The language decoded by Prinsep was Prakrit, written in Bramhi script. This newly found script was named as Ashoka Bramhi. This was the first and biggest tangible evidence of Ashoka, India's greatest king ever.

Out of these two pillars, the crown-less pillar of Lauriya Araraj, erected in 349 BC

is a marvelous piece of art. Known as "Stambha Dharmika", the pillar is well polished and 37.9 feet in height. The diameter of the base is 41.8 inches and weighs nearly 34 to 40 tonnes.

The pillar at Lauriya Nandangarh is majestic and perhaps the second best specimen of Mauryan architecture with animal capital after Rampurva's grounded pillars.

The pillar at Lauriya Nandangarh is a single block polished sandstone with an excellent lion capital built in black stone. The lion built in a seated position on a circular abacus of arched bell is covered with lotus petals.

The circular abacus of Lauriya Nandangarh lion is again decorated with image of geese. The face of the lion is broken due to vandalism. In design, it is very similar to that of the lion capital which was later found in Rampurva in 1876 by Archie Carlyle, inside the deep forest of Tarai. Rampurva lion capital is now preserved in Indian Museum of Calcutta.

The six edicts in a single block found on the pillar of Lauriya Araraj, revealed Ashoka the beloved of the God's declaration of Buddhist teachings of morality through kindness shown to all subjects and animals. It also talks about the restriction of animal slaughter. However, in both the pillars found in Bihar, nowhere do the edicts talk about Ashoka's conquest of Kalinga and his transformation. This is very interesting to note.

The lion capital found on Ashoka pillar of Lauriya Nandangarh is one of the oldest samples of Indian stone sculptures, influenced by Persian archaeology, whereas the discovery of Ashoka Bramhi is the first tangible evidence of Buddhism that finally cemented the existence of Shakyanami Buddha as a human being and discarded the theory of him being a mythological figure as per many Hindu legends.

Two kilometres from Nandangarh Ashoka pillar, another archaeological wonder was discovered in 1862 by Alexander Cunningham — a huge mound of 15 stu-

pas made of mud, yellow clay and brick in three levels in the shape of polygonal with three flights of stairs. The 26 metre high structure has a circumference of 460 metres and the dome is missing. It is imagined that when intact, this would be one of the biggest stupas of India built in 300 BC.

Cunningham did very little excavation and later, Henry Garrick did a great job of excavating more mounds. In 1905, T Block did further excavation and found a gold leaf, a female statue and a small deposit of burnt human bones with charcoal. These findings are common with Buddhist stupa where bone remains of Buddha are said to be found. However, till now, no solid evidence has been found that tells us who these remains belonged to. Many think that this was a pre-Mauryan structure and may be a vedic burial ground. Nani Gopal Majumdar and Amalendu Ghosh, who excavated the site from 1935 to 1939, are of opinion that this stupa is very similar to the Buddhist stupa found at Piprahakot on UP-Nepal border.

Cut to present, it is sad to note that two hundred years ago, when this site lay undiscovered inside a dense forest with no human habitation around, a group of Europeans risked their lives to uncover the hidden treasures of India, uncovering a glorious part of our history, our present generation attaches no value to these findings. Today, Bettiah is a dusty, over populated and unplanned town, situated very close to the Nepal border. The locals hold no pride in India's rich history. Marks of vandalism are clear on the pillars and unrestricted entry is palpable. Bettiah now has Americanized pizza restaurants, which get over crowded every evening, whereas it's a struggle to get the auto drivers to take you, or for that matter even seek directions, to Lauriya Nandangarh or Araraj.

It is sad indeed that we never knew our heritage back then two centuries ago, and today, it seems we still haven't learnt the lesson to protect it.

FROM PAGE 1

From the Kehwa Khanas to the Socials

tag of religious identity.

Refugees from Punjab had arrived with less than nothing in Delhi. They brought with them a hardy spirit of survival and enterprise, but also one very important tool — the tandoor. A clay oven used to bake bread in villages, the tandoor made its foray into Delhi with refugees carrying memories of the *sanjha chulha* (the common village oven used to bake breads for all households) into this new harsh city where they had to fashion life afresh.

In 1947, an enterprising refugee from Peshawar, Kundan Lal Gujral, opened a restaurant called Moti Mahal in Delhi's Daryaganj area, in a building that had suffered badly during the rioting. Here, he set up a tandoor, in which the restaurant baked naan, a bread popular in old Peshawar eateries, and eventually chicken. The fowl was not a meat



that Delhi was familiar with or fond of. Neither Hindus nor Muslims ate it, and initially there was some resistance to *tandoori chicken*, says Anil Chandra, one of Moti Mahal's early patrons.

As food historian K.T. Achaya notes in his authoritative *Indian Food: A Historical Companion*, the chicken, as a scavenger, was thought to be 'unclean', and since the oldest of times, there has been resistance among brahmins and other upper-caste Hindus to eating its meat. Delhi and Uttar Pradesh's composite culture meant that these biases were ingrained in upper-caste Muslim culinary cultures too.

Goat meat was prized and Mughlai dishes like *shabdegh*, *silken gormas*, *gola* and *dil* (*heart*) *ke kebab*, that required much dexterity, were made of goat meat within homes by specialist cooks for weddings and special functions.

Specialist cooks like Hakim in old Delhi, whom old-timers told me about for my article for the Wire, and restaurants like Flora cooked these and catered to *shaukeen*, gastronomically indulgent *Dilliwallahs*, both Muslims and meat-eating Hindus like the Kayasths. This courtly culture, however, waned after Partition as the Muslim elite moved away and refugees poured in.

The new *tandoori chicken* was India's original fast food. Simply done and fresh. Moti Mahal also takes the credit for inventing butter chicken: *tandoori* chicken pieces dunked in a tomato, yoghurt and butter laden sauce, and perhaps India's most famous restaurant creation.

The advent of this new kind of food served by Punjabi restaurateurs was to have a big impact on restaurant food everywhere in the

country. In Delhi, restaurants such as Kwality, which had come up around the time of World War II and served ice cream and simple continental eats to American soldiers posted in Delhi, gradually incorporated this new Punjabi food into their menus. Other similar restaurants came up, also run by migrants, serving bold Punjabi flavours with tomato and cream, dishes that had been concocted within restaurants, and dishes such as *pindi chana* (a style of dry chickpeas popular in Rawalpindi) that came to Delhi and have been part of the city's most famous street dish since then — *chole bhature*.

Excerpted with permission from *Business on a Platter: What Makes Restaurants Sizzle or Fizzle Out*, Anoothi Vishal, Hachette India, ₹550

It's time to wrap up Naga peace process



In this October 30, 2019 photo, a poster with a Naga flag is seen on the entrance of a shop in Kohima

AP

A fortnight has already gone by since the deadline, fixed by the Union Government, for the Nagaland peace pact lapsed on October 31, 2019. Even as the peace talks are inconclusive, the good news is that the both sides — Union Government's interlocutor and Nagaland Governor RN Ravi and Naga groups, including the NSCN factions — have not stopped negotiations for a peace pact.

The ongoing Naga peace process, which was started in 1997, turned 22 this year. It could happen only after a ceasefire agreement was signed between the National Socialist Council of Nagalim-Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM) and the Government of India.

Interestingly, the Naga insurgency has its roots in 1918. Against the backdrop of the First World War, the Nagas had decided to form Naga Club to bring Naga tribes under a single umbrella. The seed for the unique identity was germinated outside India — when various members of the scattered Naga tribes, recruited in the British Labour Corps, thought of forming a group of their own. And this Club approached the Simon Commission and informed it in 1929 "to leave us alone to determine for ourselves as we did in ancient times".

It simply indicated that the Nagas did not want to surrender themselves either to the then British imperial regime in India or any future Government of India. Also it showed its desire to live as they want. All these indicate that the Nagas never wanted themselves to be subservient to any non-native "foreign" domination. This precisely demonstrates the very idea of "Naga self-determination", alive for a century now.

Later, when the struggle for India's independence moved towards its final stage, the Nagas under the leadership of charismatic AZ Phizo formed the Naga National Council (NNC). And eventually, the NNC declared independence for the Nagas on August 14, 1947, just one day before India achieved hers. The NNC conducted a referendum in May 1951 which it claimed to have the backing of almost 99.9 per

cent of the Nagas for full independence.

On record, the peace process with the Nagas started before independence in June 1947. Then Assam Governor Sir Akbar Hydari signed a Nine Point Agreement with the moderate leaders in the NNC, but the hard-core leaders like Phizo refused to accept the agreement. Almost a year later, Phizo, not seeing any further cooperation from the Government of India, formed an underground Naga Federal Government (NFG) and the Naga Federal Army (NFA). But then the Government responded with armed power and enacted the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in 1958. In July 1960, the basis of a Sixteen Point Agreement led to the creation of a separate State in the Union of India for the Nagas. This actually came into existence on December 1, 1963. Here it must be noted that the peace agreement was signed between the Naga Peace Convention, a group of moderate Naga leaders, and the Government of India. The NNC refrained from signing and agreeing to form a separate State under the Indian Union.

After the formation of the State of Nagaland, a Peace Mission was constituted in 1964 to advance talks with the NNC, but this could not produce any result despite a series of six rounds of historic negotiations. Finally, the mission was cancelled in the year 1967.

In the midst of this turmoil, the NNC split in 1975 during the heyday of the Indira regime. And the breakaway group from the NNC formed the NSCN. Unfortunately, this happened during the period of a peace deal between the Government and the NNC in Shillong. As per the Shillong Accord, the NNC leadership agreed to give up arms. But then, many of its front-line leaders, including Isak Chishi Swu, Thuingaleng Muivah and SS Khaplang did not accept the terms and conditions of the peace deal and hence they together established the NSCN in 1980. But after more than a decade of the formation of the NSCN, differences cropped up among the leaders. As a result, the NSCN broke into two factions in the year 1988, one led

by Isak and Muivah, named as NSCN-IM and other led by Khaplang, known as NSCN-K.

Later on these two groups fought fiercely, even killing their own cadre and damaging the chances of coming together. In fact this schism between the NSCN factions helped different political establishments at the Centre to deal with them separately. Further, NSCN-K made its operational area mainly restricted to Arunachal Pradesh, and the NSCN-IM based its activities in Nagaland and Manipur. In later years, the NSCN-IM took the centre stage and held the centre of the "Naga sovereignty" movement.

In the year 1997, the NSCN-IM leadership signed a ceasefire agreement with the Government, preceding rounds of talks since 1995. The key principle of the agreement was that there would be no counter-insurgency operations against the NSCN-IM and in turn it would not attack Indian security forces. And this truce has survived for long.

Finally, the historic Nagaland Framework Agreement, popularly known as Nagaland Peace Accord, was signed between the NSCN-IM and the Narendra Modi Government in August 2015. The accord was inked after over 80 rounds of talks between the Government and various stakeholders of the Nagaland movement. The Nagaland Peace Accord brought lots of hope to the Naga people across the region and they thought a lasting solution would soon emerge. Interestingly, in 2017, after two years of signing the Nagaland Peace Accord, other Naga armed groups joined this peace process under the banner of Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs). All of them now form one single group and take part in the ongoing discussions with the Government.

The 2015 Framework Agreement says: "The Government of India recognises the unique history, culture and position of the Nagas within the State of Nagaland, whereas the NSCN-IM wanted to include all the Naga-inhabited areas across the region in the Nagaland or Greater Nagaland wherein it thought their problems could be addressed."

Though details of the Nagaland Peace Accord are

not available in the public domain, it has been understood that the Naga leadership has accepted the broad terms and conditions to live under the Indian Union. With this, their demand for an independent Nagaland diminishes for now.

Interesting turn in this entire saga of struggle is that the senior-most leaders of the NSCN — Isak and Khaplang — died in 2016 and 2018 respectively. This left only Muivah to deal with the Indian Government for any future negotiations.

After the demise of Isak, who was the only Naga leader from Nagaland, the support for a Greater Nagaland has gradually waned within the region. (Khaplang was a Naga hailing from Myanmar).

However, among a few side effects of this disenchantment is the wavering commitment of the Nagas from Nagaland towards the peace process. And finally, Muivah, a Naga belonging to Manipur, might face hurdles in negotiating the last remaining details of the truce.

Today, Centre's interlocutor and Governor of Nagaland RN Ravi, who has been handling the Naga peace process for long, says that the protracted attitude of the NSCN-IM is simply delaying the inkling of the deal. It is because the organisation is now insisting on a separate flag and a constitution for Nagaland.

Surely, the Union Government will not accept it and the NSCN-IM may handle such controversial issues too carefully. If NSCN-IM is sidelined at this moment and other groups take the centre stage, its efforts of nearly half a century will result in fiascos.

Since the Naga issue has been regarded as the oldest insurgency in the country, it is worth noting the thorny problems that may unfold violence in the North East.

First of all, the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) are advocating a solution for the Nagas within the State of Nagaland, whereas the NSCN-IM wanted to include all the Naga-inhabited areas across the region in the Nagaland or Greater Nagaland wherein it thought their problems could be addressed.

Second critical aspect of the truce between the Nagas and the Government is the territorial issue in regard to the Greater Nagaland. As the Naga groups desire and demand to include all Naga-inhabited areas into the Greater Nagaland, it has been increasingly making some of the States such as Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur restive.

Already Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has welcomed the Centre's initiative to solve the decades-old Naga problem, but categorically stated that there will be no compromise on the territorial integrity of the State. "We are clear in our stand and we want that Naga peace process should not affect the State at any cost," Khandu said on November 16.

Also the Union Home Ministry has assured that before any settlement is arrived at with Naga groups, all stakeholders, including the States of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh will be duly consulted and their concerns will be taken into consideration. Earlier during a "lengthy discussion" with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal had urged the Centre to take into consideration the interests of the people of Assam while going for any accord.

The core issue is that a future Nagaland could redraw the boundaries of these three Naga-inhabited States. It is reported that the proposed Nagaland includes 1,20,000 sq kilometre area which expands beyond the territorial limits of the North East into Myanmar. Even before the signing of the Framework Agreement in 2015, the Nagaland State Assembly itself endorsed the demand of the "integration of all Naga-inhabited areas on five occasions: December 1964, August 1970, September 1994, December 2003 and July 2015".

This shows how the popularly elected Nagaland Assembly is in full support of the demand for a Nagaland. Third, though the Union Government had simply fixed October 31 this year just to conclude the Naga peace process, it completely failed to do the same. To be precise,

finalising such imaginary deadlines would not help bringing various Naga groups to agree to some watertight solutions.

Already differences are emerging between the NSCN-IM and the NNPGs.

Today, the Nagas are on a roller-coaster ride. Whatever may be the outcome of the current peace process, it would certainly not satisfy all the stakeholders involved in the process, particularly, the NSCN-IM.

The Government must take maximum caution as any attempt at sidelining or ignoring the NSCN-IM may force its cadre to take up arms or may help regrouping majority of the Naga tribes in the long run. Also playing any trick to divide the leadership of the NSCN-IM may fuel anti-India sentiments once again in the Naga dominated areas across the North-Eastern region.

The moot point is whether the Government can accept the Naga demand for separate flag and a Constitution? Is it possible to say "yes" to a shared notion of "sovereignty" as the NSCN-IM has been demanding for a long time?

Precisely, looking at the current political strength of the Union Government, Prime Minister Modi will definitely say no to both these demands. The Government has already made it clear that these demands are not acceptable.

Considering the Modi Government's resolute decision to abrogate Article 370 — which had long guaranteed a special status, flag and a separate Constitution to the State of Jammu & Kashmir — the NSCN-IM and the NNPGs should not be too hopeful about their demand for a shared sovereignty.

However, the Union Government should take utmost caution to ensure the patience the Nagas have shown towards a amicable solution should not go in vain.

Today, most of the ultras of the region have either laid down their arms or some of them are in talks with the Government for the peaceful solution. That's why a region which was encountering fierce violence accompanied by anti-India sentiment has witnessed relatively calm and quiet

atmosphere recently. But, with globalisation and proliferation of global terrorism, widening the net wide, the Government must not take any chance with the NSCN-IM and other Naga terror groups.

Much beyond external financial support and arms supply from our neighbouring countries, the global jehadi elements such as the ISIS and the al-Qaeda may pitch into such troubled spots to recreate disturbances for the country.

Considering the favourable geopolitical scenario for Delhi at the moment, a global consensus to fight the menace of terrorism, and friendly neighbouring regimes on India's eastern front, the Modi Government has an absolute advantage to deal with the NNPGs and the NSCN-IM. It's time to wrap up the Naga peace process.

While talking about shared sovereignty for the Nagas, the NSCN-IM must remember:

"Starting a revolution is like lighting a match; it risks becoming extinguished as quickly as it was lit. Sustaining a revolution, however, is like starting a fire, and ensuring that it has the fuel to burn as long as necessary. As an agent of change, I need that fire for as long as it takes for results to emerge. Otherwise, I risk burn out." (Stephanie Van Hook).

However, the grit and determination that has been displayed by the Naga leadership is truly commendable. Succinctly, its survival for the last 100 years bears this testimony. But then a revolution to sustain for such a long duration must have to encounter its course of ups and downs. And, the Naga revolutionaries have faced a number of contradictions, both violent and non-violent in the long history of their movement.

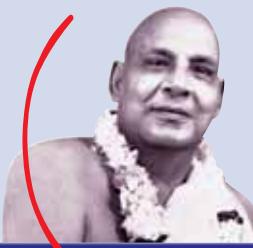
The common people in Nagaland still hope for the best as the peace negotiation is going on. What makes sense for them today is the promise for an early solution even as the October 31 deadline has lapsed. Unnecessary intransigence would make the long road to freedom not only difficult but purely unattainable.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)



MAKHAN SAIKIA

It is over a fortnight since the deadline, fixed by the Union Government, for the Nagaland peace pact lapsed on October 31, 2019. However amid hopes and apprehension, the good news is that the peace talks have not stopped



THE REAL SPIRITUAL PROGRESS OF
THE ASPIRANT IS MEASURED BY THE
EXTENT TO WHICH HE ACHIEVES
INNER TRANQUILITY
— SWAMI SIVANANDA



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA

**ARIES** March 21-April 19

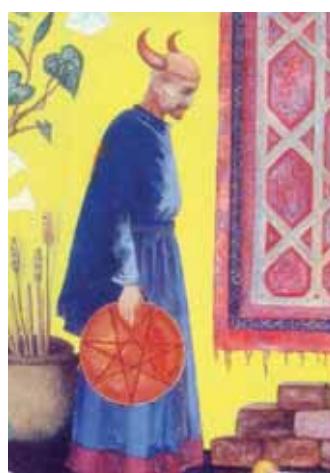
It is advisable to start the week with a resolution to live a healthy and enjoyable life. This is possible through regularising your routine and disciplining your senses. Yoga, exercise, and nutritious diet will be important for you. Your career shows a good indication this week and you will experience a sudden financial gain out of the blue. The change is positive, the business will grow and those with jobs can expect promotions, increment or the desired transfer. Some of you may travel abroad for project work. Relationship wise, some of you may receive a message of love or a marriage proposal. Singles, chances of finding someone special is indicated for you. Married couples may go on a pleasure trip and their bonding will become stronger.

Lucky number 39
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday

**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

Healthwise, this week is good. You will feel an abundant flow of energy and creativity. A female influence, either your mother or spouse, will help you meet the needs of your health and be the motivating factor to maintain a balance between physical and mental levels. You may slow down in your career as you are under the constant scrutiny of competitors and rivals. You will feel restricted. Your addiction to alcohol, overspending or unhealthy relationship may become a hurdle in the path of success. Shield yourself from all these negativities. In love, you need to accept and surrender to your present circumstances. It is advisable to leave instant temptation of gratification for the higher cause. Singles wait for some time before committing to a relationship.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Friday

**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

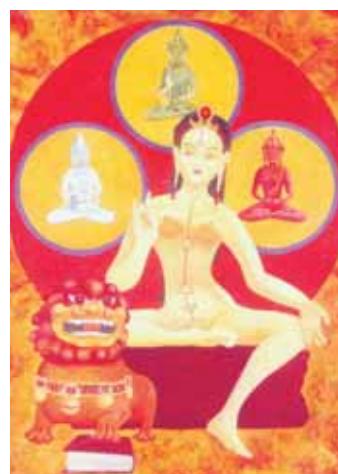
In order to maintain good health, you need to derive positive energy from the five elements. You will feel highly ignited and need to adopt a balanced approach to life. Control your cravings and keep your anger in check. At work, you are meticulous and hard-working. You are willing to learn new skills, and techniques. Your dedication and focus will work in your favour. Financially, there is a need to bring change in your lifestyle to increase overall gratification. The best part is that you are committed to getting those changes done. You will be lucky in love and have a high level of emotional contentment. You will see the perfection all around you and experience the emotionally fulfilling situation. Joy and happiness are within your reach.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday

**CANCER** June 21-July 22

This week, it is important that you look after your health. A visit to a doctor is a must. Be open and discuss all matters because appropriate medical advice and treatment is the need of the hour. Your spiritualism and faith in God is good and will help you have a peaceful personality. You have good news waiting on the career front. This can either be a promotion or a salary hike. Due to a sudden change, you may get transferred to a desired place. Your perseverance and hard work will pay you well. In love, you may be deceived or feel disheartened. You are forced to sacrifice or surrender to be with your partner. This is not the right time to start a relationship or have high expectations from an existing relationship.

Lucky number 28
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Saturday

**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

You will do anything to achieve good health. You should decide whether you want to follow your mind or your heart. The first approach would be to scrutinise your innermost needs and expectations. Your career may be at a standstill and you may feel stagnated. This is the time to make cordial relations with your senior authorities. Your positive outlook towards life will keep you motivated and open doors to new opportunities. In terms of wealth, the result will be discouraging. Hard earned money will be spent on expenses and you will be left with no money in hand. Relationship wise, you are trustworthy and reliable. Singles will get a message of love. Romance with a desired partner is on the cards. Your commitment and loyalty will strengthen your relationship.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Tuesday

**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you are full of energy, creativity and positive energy. Your health will be good. You need to utilise this energy in constructive pursuits. Make sure you maintain balance within yourself. On the career front, you will prove to be a genuine leader. You will win hearts with your kind and honest nature. Support from someone from opposite sex will help you achieve your desired goals. Those who are appearing for an interview or competitive exams this week, success is assured. In matters of love, you have to be a little careful. You should respect and understand the feelings of your partner. You can achieve success in a relationship by showing generosity. Presenting a gift to your partner may create the magic and strengthen your love.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Tuesday

**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

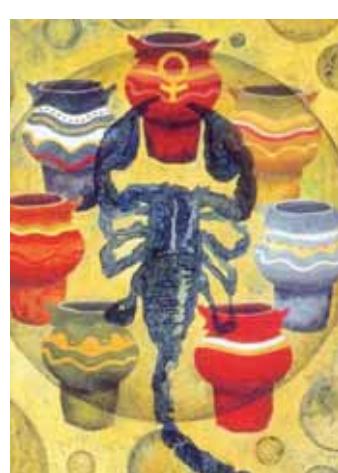
This week you will enjoy good health, vigour and stamina. You will not only be able to care for yourself but for your family as well. You will take a rock-solid resolution for a healthy family, and will leave no stone unturned to achieve your goal. On the career front, you must maintain a practical approach and need to take some important decisions in regards to your work. There are high chances of you being emotionally blackmailed at the workplace. A female counterpart may play a significant role in enhancing your career. You will experience one-sided love. Have a lot of patience and strength. Otherwise, you will lose your mental peace. Those in a committed relationship may have to stay apart on account of important responsibilities. Married couples, you will have a mutual understanding.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Navy Blue
Lucky day Tuesday

**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 22

In the matters of health, the change is for good. Your positive outlook will bring further improvement. Mental tension and fatigue due to the fast moving life will go away and you will feel relaxed. Physical exercise and being with nature will be best for you. In your career, you are likely to find new job opportunities with better prospects. Those who have appeared for competitive exams, success is assured. A good news in terms of promotion or salary hike is on the cards. Your hard working and goal oriented attitude will pay you well. Friendship with juniors will bring you benefits. In love, your orthodox nature will lead to separation and leave you disheartened. Leave the old school thinking and form a modern outlook towards your partner.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Friday

**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

You need to find a positive environment where you can relax. You are likely to encounter mental conflict and nervousness that may cause your BP to fluctuate. Focus on balancing your untamed energy. A disciplined lifestyle, balanced diet, regular medical checkup and exercises are unavoidable. Stay away from arguments and aggression. In career, you will prove yourself trustworthy. Those who have their own business will enjoy financial gains. For those in a job, favour of a senior will boost their confidence. Your amicable behaviour and communication will work in your favour. In the matters of love and emotions, you may feel blessed. People will like you for your affectionate and romantic nature. You will be concerned about the feelings of others around you.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday

**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

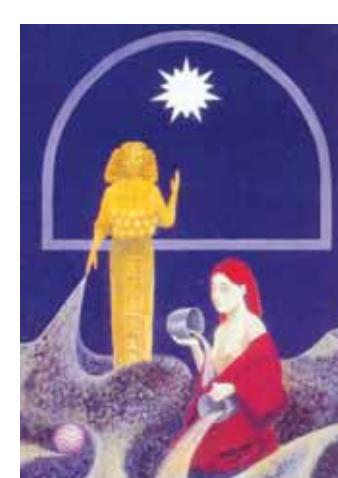
This week you are filled with positive energy. Recovery from illness and leading a healthy life are indicated. An emotional issue concerning the care or treatment of someone close will be discussed. Follow a healthy routine like physical exercise and a balanced diet to stay fit. Career-wise, this is the best week. You will get an opportunity to change your destiny. You need to be positive and spontaneous. You will win the trust of your seniors. Promotion is likely. There could be a new beginning such as a new job, or a new residence. In terms of love life, a manifestation of desire, good fortune, and contentment are on the cards. Some of you might plan for a date or a romantic trip. Married couples may have a mutual understanding.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Pastel Green
Lucky day Friday

**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you will be surrounded by anxiety and tension. You are extremely worried about the future. This will cause tension. Health issues like headache, insomnia, or BP may trouble you. You should not allow negative emotions like fear, frustration and uncertainty to immobilise you. Focus on your present. On the career front, stay away from flatters as you may be deceived by inaccurate information. You may face frequent mood swings and insecurity. Hidden forces at play may unravel your success. The good part is that you are positive and know how to control the situation. In your love life, you will feel strong and established. You are balanced and caring towards your partner. Love relations may turn into a marriage.

Lucky number 31
Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Thursday

**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

This week you will be moody and irritated. This may cause concern for your physical health. You need to control the wild aspect of your mind and trust your instincts. Walk the path of enlightenment and stay focused. In career, you need to take action towards developing your greater good. You will be able to confront any unfinished business in your life, clear up any misunderstanding. Extra hard work is needed before you see results. Give your best efforts, the rewards are assured. The abundance of happiness is in store for you in terms of a relationship. Balance and stability in love are on the cards. Unmarried people may get marriage proposals. You will be soulful, passionate, and romantic and will leave no stone to make your partner happy.

Lucky number 29
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Tuesday



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Guru Nanak's guide to leading a virtuous life

Guru Nanak's spiritual beliefs and practices were profoundly transformational and cut across the lines of religion, writes DALER AASHNA DEOL in her book, *A Gift of Grace*. The world celebrated the 550th birth anniversary of the first Sikh guru on November 12. An excerpt:

Guru Nanak divides our spiritual path into five distinct stages: moral living and righteous actions, search for divine knowledge, spiritual unfoldment, divine grace, and the final entry into the realm of Eternal Truth. Each stage is unique and vital. These stages appear as part of a sequence, and it is not possible for us to bypass any of these steps. For example, moral living is a precondition for the search of divine knowledge. A person who leads a morally decadent life will inevitably see no need to search for experiences of any kind, let alone spiritual knowledge. Also, our spirit cannot unfold unless we have accumulated sufficient spiritual energy during the first two stages. Any movement from this point onward is possible only when we receive divine grace, which is not our right but a 'reward' for good deeds.

Non-violence Avoiding violence that hurts the innocent, kills, or insults (in the form of rape or other degrading actions) the victim, mass killings of innocent people in a war or a political conflict.

Truth Letting reality appear in its purest form, separating facts from opinions, not using falsehood of any kind to deceive other people, treating honest living as a sacred obligation.

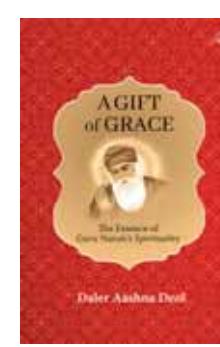
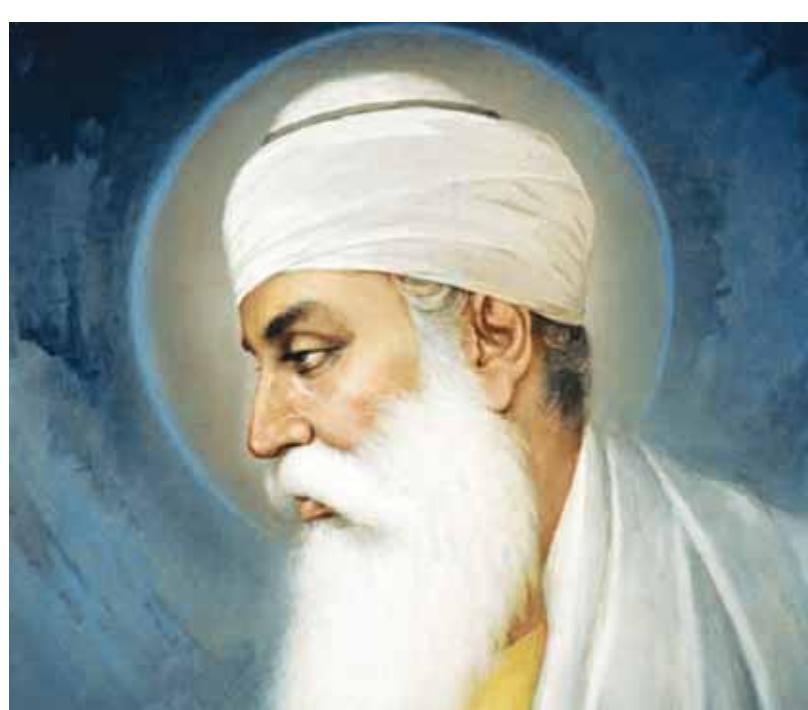
Growing up in a world where money can buy more comforts than it was possible at any other time in human history, how can we agree on a set of values and behaviours that would provide a reliable guide to a virtuous life? We need to acknowledge that there are some things which are moral, ethical, doable, and right under any circumstances. We may have a difference of opinion on whether it is moral to charge interest. But there should be no controversy on things like violence, falsehood, and exploitation of the poor and helpless. We need to identify some core values based on themes that cut across societal and cultural boundaries. The seven core values, based on Guru Nanak's teachings, are:

Love Showing sympathy and compassion for a victim of oppression, having a sense of justice, keeping a charitable spirit, sharing one's wealth and good fortune with the poor and the needy.

Virtue The pursuit of highest personal morality in one's daily life, respecting the honour and integrity of one's partner, taking responsibility for one's children, catering to their material, emotional, and intellectual needs, caring for the needs of elders in the family.

Communitarianism Being a good citizen, participating in electoral processes, raising voice against misdeeds of those in authority, using public office for public good, protecting the natural environment, giving one's employer a fair share of one's time, talent, and ability.

Equality Treating all people as equal



despite differences of colour, race, gender, or ethnic origins, respecting cultural and spiritual traditions of other people.

Theism Having faith in the unbounded love, mercy, and compassion of the Creator for all things and all beings. It is not an attempt to define a new morality. It has not been easy for moral philosophers, who have struggled with these issues over the ages. We can look at various opinions, or what our belief system has to say about these matters, but, in the end, we need to have an objective look at how we are coping with difficult moral and ethical choices in our life. This freedom for self-evaluation is not a blank cheque, meaning whatever serves our needs or purposes is acceptable. We need to cultivate, in the words of Albert Einstein, a moral attitude in and towards life based on the totality of our being-body, mind, and soul. Not doing this self-evaluation in a seriously mindful way would indicate our reluctance to follow a spiritual path.

A Gift of Grace: The Essence of Guru Nanak's Spirituality, written by Daler Aashna Deol is published by Niyogi Books