



ALWAYS HAVE COMPASSION: ANUSHKA 13 VIVACITY

CHANDRAYANA NO MORE DOOR KE!

PNS/AGENCIES ■ BENGALURU/WASHINGTON As Chandrayaan-2 landed near the Moon's uncharted territory in the early hours of Saturday, it was not only India but the entire world waited with bated breath for the soft-landing of the Vikram™ lander on the south pole of the lunar surface, the first attempt by any country.

The euphoria was visible among domestic and international scientist community. Former NASA astronaut Jerry Linenger — who flew on Russian space station Mir that operated in low Earth orbit from 1986 to 2001 for five months — said, 'It's a fantastic mission, everybody should be so excited. And I'm going to be sitting on the edge of my seat. And it's a privilege for me to be here, lending some expertise to that live broadcast.'

The US space community believes that the landmark mission would help them enrich their understanding of the moon's geology. The Indian Embassy in Washington arranged a live screening and presentation on Chandrayaan-2's landing. Now moon's south pole is likely to become one of the most important places on the lunar surface, said Space.com, adding that it will become the southernmost spot on the moon to be visited by a spacecraft. 'It will be in completely new terrain,' Brett Denevi, a planetary scientist at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, told scientific journal Nature.

Modi arrived at the Yelahanka Airbase on Friday night to witness from an ISRO centre in Bengaluru the planned landing of Vikram on the lunar surface. 'I am extremely excited to be at the ISRO Centre in Bengaluru to witness the extraordinary moment in the history of Indian space programme,' Modi tweeted.

A few hours after Vikram touches down on the moon, rover 'Pragyaan' will emerge from the lander and roll out onto the lunar surface between 5.30 am and 6.30 am. In a short video, ISRO explained about Pragyaan. The cubical vehicle, exclusively designed for travelling on the moon, is fitted with a solar panel. Two navigation cameras, which could be called as its left and right eye, are mounted on top of it besides an Alpha particle X-ray spectrometer.

Soon after rolling on the moon soil, Pragyaan's battery will be activated to release its solar panel. The scan of the rover will be relayed to Vikram and then earth and it will be processed at mission control for path planning. Subsequently, instructions for the rovers movement will be transmitted back to it. The six wheels of the rover are attached with 'rocker bogie' to overcome obstacles as it moves forward.

KNOW ABOUT LANDER, ROVER | ALL ABOUT THE MISSION! | VIKRAM PAYLOADS | PRAGYAAN PAYLOADS

States get cold feet as MVA fines raise violators' hackles

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The hefty penalties under the new Motor Vehicle Act has triggered massive protest across the country with people harassing traffic policemen at several places and some States, including BJP-ruled Gujarat, refraining from enforcing the Act. The Delhi Government says they are still studying the new Act, but the Centre has already implemented it.

States which have not implemented the Act so far are West Bengal, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Punjab. BJP-ruled Gujarat has contended that the high fines do not seem feasible and they will implement the new norms only after getting a report from the RTO. Another BJP-ruled State Goa said the new Motor Vehicles Act would be implemented in the State from next week.

Meanwhile, the Odisha Government has decided to relax penalty norm for a period of 30 days, for air and noise pollution, following public outcry over imposition of heavy fines on violators of traffic rules.

In view of long queues for pollution test in the State, the Government has decided not to charge Rs 10,000 as penalty for air and noise pollution from violators for the next 30 days. This is effective from

September 6," according to State Commerce and Transport Secretary G Srinivas.

The Delhi Government has said it is still working on some categories of offences where it can reduce the quantum of penalties. "Many States are saying they won't implement it. But the Centre has implemented it and States do not have any discretionary power. States can decide the quantum of penalties only in certain categories of offences. But the Centre has kept very few such categories. Maximum cases will end up in court. We are studying how States are saying no," Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said.

"There is no option but to comply with the amended Motor Vehicles Act, which has several new provisions including higher penalties for traffic offences, as the Central law will prevail even if a State Government frames its own law. Motor vehicle laws fall under provisions of Concurrent List and thus constitutionally Parliament can define the power available to the State. The States that are delaying enforcement of provisions may also face questions from auditors for revenue loss,"

Won't let you splurge public money on free Metro ride: SC to AAP Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday came down heavily on the Delhi Government for its ambitious proposal to make metro travel free for women. The Court also said the operational loss, if any, in the 104-km long Phase IV of the Delhi Metro project

would be borne by the Delhi Government. The court, however, directed that the land cost for Phase IV project would be borne by the Centre and the Delhi Government equally, in 50:50 ratio. The Court asked the authorities concerned to ensure that no delay is caused in the Phase IV metro project and the total land cost of Rs 2,447.19 crore is released immediately.

Bench of justices Arun Mishra and Deepak Gupta observed that the Delhi Government should refrain from giving freebies from "public money" and warned that it would stop them from doing so as courts are not "powerless". "If you will allow people to travel for free, then the Delhi metro may go into loss. If you will give freebies, we will stop you. You are fighting for a cause here and you want them that incur loss. Do not give gifts, it is public money. If you allow people to travel free then it will be a problem, if there are freebies then there will be a problem," the court told the lawyer appearing for the Delhi Government.

Bear land cost for Ph-IV with Centre equally, Delhi Govt told

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Harare: Robert Mugabe, the former guerrilla leader turned despot who ruled Zimbabwe for 37 years until forced out by the military, has died aged 95, the country's President announced on Friday. First heralded as a liberator who rid the former British colony of Rhodesia of white-minority rule, Mugabe used repression and fear to govern until he was finally ousted by his previously loyal generals in November 2017. "It is with the utmost sadness that I announce the passing on of Zimbabwe's founding father and former President, Robert Mugabe," President Emmerson Mnangagwa said in a tweet. Mugabe died at 02:40 GMT in Singapore, where he had been hospitalised in April.

GK lingerie store films journalist in trial room

PNS ■ JAIPUR

Owner deletes video as scribe calls cops

A 27-year-old woman journalist filed a complaint with police alleging that she was filmed at a high-end lingerie store in posh Greater Kailash M-block market, an FIR was filed and probe begun, said officials on Friday. In her complaint, she said the shopkeeper was allegedly watching the live footage from hidden camera. The incident took place on August 31 and the journalist lodged the complaint with the South District police, following which an FIR under Section 354C (voyeurism) of Indian Penal Code (IPC) was registered against "A-One Store". However, no arrest has been made yet as senior officers said the sequence of event is being ascertained. "The Investigating Officer (IO) has confiscated CCTV equipment of the store and is trying to retrieve the alleged footage which appears to have been deleted by the accused," said a senior police official. In her complaint the journalist alleged that after selecting 4-5 garments she went inside the trial room to try clothes.

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WEATHER: MAX 33.0°C, MIN 24.0°C

Mugabe, Zimbabwe's despot, passes away

Wrong corpse! Courier firm's body blow to grieving family

Asilly mistake by a courier company which had been packed in a coffin by a deceased shocked as they received an unidentified body in the coffin while waiting to perform the last rites for their deceased family member. Sectaram Purohit, a resident of Shri Durgagarh in Bikaner, passed away after suffering a heart attack in Mumbai on Wednesday. His family members travelled to Bikaner in a plane along with his body, which had been packed in a coffin by a courier company, people with knowledge of the incident said. On arriving back home on Thursday morning, the family was shocked to see an unknown body, and contacted the courier which had booked the coffin on the flight. "Accepting their fault, the company said that the body which had got exchanged with that of late Prakash Kumar (35), a resident of Odisha's Jaipur district, had arrived in Bhubaneswar and they promised to restitute Purohit's body soon. Kumar's body was sent to Bhubaneswar on Thursday afternoon, while Purohit's body was delivered in Jaipur from where it was shifted to Shri Durgagarh in an ambulance. Purohit's last rites were performed on Friday.

Rath Yatra to be held on one date nationwide

The committee came out in support for holding the Rath Yatra nationwide on the same day (2nd day of Ashadh month Suklpa Paksha) when the nine-day sojourn of the Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra outside the temple is celebrated in the pilgrims town of Puri. A letter would be written in this regard to the administrations of other States in the country where the Rath Yatra is being celebrated every year. Besides, the members of the committee decided to expedite functioning of Adarsh Gurukulam, a proposed model school meant for the children of the Shreemadras servitors. A sub-committee was constituted for preparing plan and design of the proposed Gurukul, informed Krishan Kumar.

POWERED BY: UNGATE GENERAL MEDIA (P) LTD

THE OTHER SIDE

Can Uttarakhand take the lead?



Paritosh Kimothi

With the enforcement of the amended Motor Vehicle Act and collection of raised penalties from those violating traffic regulations, there is a flood of memes and messages on the social media criticising or making fun of the situation. Though one can point out follies in this development, as in most other things, logically speaking, it is not a bad thing to make the people follow the regulations meant for their own good. As a result, those who don't care for their own safety are wearing helmets and following other rules to avoid paying the hefty penalties.

time as intended. However, there are some other issues which are getting worse despite official focus and some efforts to tackle the same. Polythene and plastic waste is one such major issue. When these items were first introduced, they were deemed as a boon for society. Actually, plastic and polythene may not be so that bad per se, but it is our proximity to mass produce, misuse and turn such things into waste that has turned these items into dangerous contents. The Prime Minister has talked of stopping the use of single-use polythene from this October 2nd in Uttarakhand. The Government has already held some meetings towards meeting this plan. However, as in the case of Swachh Bharat mission, which is very good and necessary, the anti-polythene campaign may also have only limited effect due to a combination of public apathy and illigal governance. One of the potential solutions to the polythene problem is found in Uttarakhand-hemp. Hemp is not the same as ganja. Industrial hemp is grown for the fibre rich long stalks and contains less than 0.5 per cent tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) which is the psychoactive agent in ganja. It is not possible to get intoxicated from hemp. Grown in many parts of the world, industrial hemp produces among the strongest natural fibres known to us.

As a raw material, it is one of the most useful plants known to us with thousands of applications including a viable plastic material. Hemp plastic is a bioplastic made using industrial hemp. It is recyclable and can be manufactured to be 100 per cent biodegradable. Hemp plastic can be five times stiffer and 2.5 times stronger than polypropylene (PP) plastic. Bio-based plastics and composites are being used in a wide range of applications in the automobile, packaging and building industries in some developed nations. Due to its strength and durability it is also used for making the plastic panels in foreign cars. Obviously, one also needs adequate industrial composting infrastructure, knowledge and enforcement to ensure its effective biodegradation. The current Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, during his tenure as the agriculture minister years ago had pronounced the plan to cultivate industrial hemp on barren lands in the state. During his current term as the CM too he has tried to do something useful with hemp for purposes ranging from using its fibres for making ropes, footwear and clothes to using its protein rich seeds in various dishes or as a healthful snack and also using it for medicinal and recreational purposes to a limited extent. One is not advocating its illogical use of cannabis for intoxication but with proper studies and planning, Uttarakhand can not only capitalise on this plant but also come up with innovative uses to tackle problems like polythene waste and other issues.

Then there is mycelium-based leather which is basically artificial leather made from mushroom. It is generally considerably more sustainable than animal leather as growing mycelium in a lab is comparatively renewable and low-impact process compared to the process involved for sourcing animal leather. Both the industrial hemp and mycelium-based leather are options that may or may not be viable for Uttarakhand on an industrial scale. But that will be known after proper studies and pilot projects. If found viable, the industrial hemp alone could provide major scope for eco-friendly economic activity which would also help the state make branded products from hemp, of which there are few in the nation. The PM and others in the establishment often stress on the need for innovation but somehow innovative solutions have remained rare here. Only time will tell if the powers that be have it in them to work out much needed solutions from easily available hemp in Uttarakhand.

Mahanirvana Parva observed with fervour

The 333rd Mahanirvana Parva of Shri Guru Ram Rai was observed by his followers on Friday. On the day, Mahant Devendra Dass organised special prayers to mark the occasion of Mahanirvana Parva. After offering prayers, Prasad was distributed among the Sangats which had come from all parts of the country. The Public Relations Officer (PRO) of Mahant Indresh Hospital, Pradeep Shukla informed that the Hospital management had



announced 50 percent discount in treatment as per the rules of the hospital to mark the occasion of 'Guru Parv' for the benefit of the patients.

**The Public Relations Officer (PRO) of Mahant Indresh Hospital, Pradeep Shukla informed that the Hospital management had announced 50 percent discount in treatment**

Devotees throng Naina Devi temple on Nandashtami

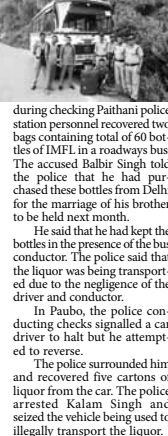
Devotees thronged the Naina Devi temple on the occasion of Nandashtami during the 116th Nanda Devi Mahotsav underway in Nainital. Elaborate worship and rituals were held on Friday. Early in the morning, the Pran Pratishtha in idols of goddesses Nanda and Sumanda was done by the priests. In addition to devotees from various parts of the state, a number of tourists also offered their prayers to the goddesses in the temple on the occasion. People could be standing in queue from morning till afternoon, awaiting their turn at the temple. In the evening, Panch Arti was organised at the shrine while at night the Mahabhogwati Pujan was organised. Meanwhile, the police maintained heavy presence to enforce high court directions banning animal slaughter in temples. People coming with goats



them registered by animal husbandry department and then took them to the shrine for ritual in police presence after which they were sent back. However, after it was learnt that some Shiv Sainiks were planning animal sacrifice at the shrine, the police reached the Sukhatal area and informed them about the court orders. The Shiv Sena state general secretary BS Karki and others started raising slogans. More than a dozen were detained by the police. At the police station, they continued raising slogans seeking permission for animal sacrifice at the shrine. They were later released after being warned.

Pauri police continue drive against illegal liquor

During the drive conducted by the police against bootlegging and illicit drugs trade on the directions of Pauri senior superintendent of police, Dilip Singh Kunwar, the police team of Pathani police station recovered 60 IMFL bottles being smuggled in an Uttarakhand Roadways bus and arrested four persons. On the other hand, personnel of Paubo police post under Pauri Kotwali, recovered five cartons of IMFL being smuggled in a car and arrested one person while personnel of Chilla police post under Lakshman Jhula police station recovered 115 litres of locally brewed liquor from a jeep and arrested one person while two others managed to escape. Similarly, in Kotwar, the police recovered 52 cartons of IMFL from Harendra Rana on Thursday. The police registered case against him under Excise Act. According to the police,



Insurance week: Eye check-up camp for children organised

A free camp for checking the eyes was organised by the Dehradun division of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India at Government Junior High School Ajampur Kalan on Friday. The event was part of the ongoing Insurance week being organised to commemorate 63rd anniversary of the LIC. The camp was organised with the support of eye specialist Dr Abhishek Singh Rana, and technicians Ankit Dangwal and Priyanka Dhiyani. In the camp, children were

also informed about the precautions and diet necessary for the protection and care of their eyes. The Marketing Manager (MM) of the corporation Mahesh Chand Verma said that on the last day of Insurance week on September 7, a free medical health check camp for retired and serving employees and officers of the corporation would be organised. In the closing ceremony, the winners of painting competition of school children held during insurance week will also be rewarded.

Your roots are the way to become international: Priyanshu Chatterjee

Even without going out of the State or going abroad, young production talent of Uttarakhand can flourish in the film industry. Noted actor Priyanshu Chatterjee said this in an exclusive conversation with The Pioneer during his visit to Dehradun on Friday. He also said that for the transition of Uttarakhand's regional cinema to mainstream, it is essential for them to go back to their roots. He said, "The more local

your content is, the more international you become." About his upcoming film 'Little Baby' he said, "This movie is a medium through which the director Shekhar S Jha has tried to express himself. This movie is about generation loss and the communication issues that a loving father faces with his daughter. Shekhar himself was somewhat in the same predicament, he also has a daughter of the same age. Any form of art is often a shadow of one's own experience. This also



an important part of almost every mainstream Bollywood movie." He added, "Bengali cinema is however different story. Cinema in Bengal I think is even older than Bollywood. With directors like Satyajit Ray and Ritvik Khatakhar, Bengali cinema is filled with fabulous content, but they lack in marketing. Their market reach is limited." They have always worked with an ideology that 'art rules business', in other cinemas the situation is other way around. These commerce rules art. South Indian cinema again is becoming increasingly popular as they are going back to their roots.

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पंचायत सचिव के रूप में कार्य करने के लिए।
आता प्रस्ताव संघोचित अखिलिका के अनुसार अखिलिका है।
पंचायत में प्रथम प्रकरण पर किसी भी प्रकार का संशोचन / सूचना मात्र विभागीय वेबसाईट उपकरणायत पर अपलोड की जायेगी।
निदेशक पंचायतीराज

Office of the Executive Engineer, Rishikesh
Temporary Division, Public Works Department, Rishikesh
Letter No. 2203/Tender Very Short Term Tender Notice Date: 26.08.2019
On Behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand Executive Engineer, Temporary Division, Public Works Department invites tender for the following works on the basis of item rate through e-tendering (single bid) system. Tender related all information will be available on http://www.uktenders.gov.in from 09.09.2019.

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Table with financial data for 31 March 2019, comparing various metrics like deposits, loans, and assets against a previous period.

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दिनांक - 22.08.2019 वास्ते नवीन उपयोग एफ एस/सिस्टम चार्टर्ड एकाउन्टेन्ट पॉस्टन नवीन उपयोग M.No. F-003771, F.R.N. 014244N



Hry Cong must forget past to take on BJP: Kumari Selja

MANOJ KUMAR CHANDIGARH

Rajya Sabha MP, Kumari Selja who has been appointed as the new President of the Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee, says that law and order has collapsed in the state...



INTERVIEW

Leaders do not know what will be their role in the party except contesting the Assembly election. With the passage of time, things will get clear. I cannot reveal you everything right now...

Congress lost all the 10 seats in the parliamentary election. What will be your strategy for the Assembly election? Are you confident of forming the next government in the state?

Congratulations to the party for the new role. What will be your first priority being State party chief?

The party leaders and supporters must forget past and move forward unitedly to take on the BJP in the Assembly polls. The 'Modi factor' will not work in the Assembly polls...

How will you unite the party when role of State party leaders like Kiran Choudhary, Randeep Singh Surjewala, Ashok Tanwar among others has not been defined. Many

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Rakesh to Rakesh Singh for all future purposes. Rakesh Singh, S/o Bharpoo Singh, R/O E-Block, Gali No 7 B, Haridwar Bypass Road...

In my all documents my name has been mentioned as Harpreet Kaur Pnath whereas after marriage I have changed my name as Harpreet Kaur Kahlon. Both names belong to same person...

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For advertisement booking or any query contact 9404557187

सुरक्षा - परा

भारतीय रेल में प्रारंभिक संशोधन के विकास के लिए सुरक्षा के महत्व को 0.40 करोड़ रुपये (1.6119 करोड़ रुपये) के बजट के अंतर्गत 115 करोड़ रुपये का अनुमानित व्यय की योजना बनाई गई है।

SEWS celebrates Ganesh Mahotsav



PNS DEHRADUN

As done every year, the industrial fraternity is celebrating Ganesh Mahotsav at SIIDCUL Chowk in Rudrapur. Various cultural programmes by school students and others are being held as part of the celebration.

SIIDCUL Entrepreneurs Welfare Society (SEWS) head Manoj Tiagi and other members of the industrial fraternity, along with local residents were also among those present on the occasion.

Aryans were basically Indians, says ex-Union Min

PNS HARIDWAR

The chancellor of Gurukul Kangri Vishwavidyalaya and former Union Minister of State, Satya Pal Singh, along with the historians who gathered at a 'Swagat Samroh' programme at the university on Friday, asserted that Aryans were not foreign invaders but natives of India.

He further said that Aryans developed the rural and urban culture and developed some efficient techniques of agriculture.

Former MP Sukhdev Singh Libra passes away

PNS CHANDIGARH

Former MP Sukhdev Singh Libra passed away on Friday morning after a prolonged illness. He was 87 and is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters.

Gurcharan Singh Tohra. He was the member of the 14th and 15th Lok Sabha. He was also a Punjab MLA in 1985. He was a member of Rajya Sabha from 1998-2004.

INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE FORCE NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

The Dy. Comdt (Engr), 12th Bn, ITB Police Force, Matli, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand invites on behalf of the President of India online bids on two bid system for following work:-

- 1. NIT NO - ITBP/12 BN/ENGR/Tender/2019-20-08 dtd -04-09-19
Name of Work:- ARM of residential & non residential buildings (civil works) at BHQ, Tekhla camp and BOPs of 12th Bn ITB Police, P.O.- Matli, Distt.- Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand (SH- White washing, distemper painting, exterior paint & other civil works)
Estimated Cost - Rs. 14,25,016=00 (Rs. Fourteen lak, twenty five thousand, & sixteen only) Earnest Money : Rs. 28500=00 & period of completion : Four months.
Last Date and time of Submission of bid : on 16-09-19 up to 1630 Hrs.

The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the web site (www.itbp.gov.in & www.eprocure.gov.in)

davp 19112/11/00311/1920

CANCELLATION /SHORT TERMINATION/ DIVERSION / REGULATION / RESCHEDULING AND CHANGE OF STOPPAGE OF TRAINS DUE TO NON-INTERLOCKING WORK AT BALLABH GARH STATION

In order to further strengthen the infrastructure, Northern Railway will undertake the Non-interlocking work at Ballabh Garh Station in connection with 4th line between Tughlakabad - Palwal Section. To execute this work, Northern Railway will take appropriate traffic blocks up to 11.09.2019. Consequently, the following trains will temporarily be affected on the dates shown against each:-

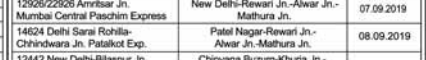
Table with columns: CANCELLATION OF TRAINS (Train No. & Train Name, Date(s) of Cancellation) and SHORT TERMINATION/ORIGINATION OF TRAINS (Train No. & Name, Date of Cancellation). Includes train numbers like 14211 Agra Cantt - New Delhi Intercity Exp.

Table with columns: DIVERSION OF TRAINS (Train No. & Train Name, Diverted Route, Date (from originating station)). Includes train numbers like 12432 H. Nizamuddin-Theravanapuram Central Express.

Table with columns: REGULATION / RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS (Train No. & Train Name, Date of passing from Ballabh Garh Station). Includes train numbers like 11057 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus - Amritsar Jn.

Note: For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Security Helpline No. 182 and Passenger Complaint Helpline No. 138



Serving Customers with a Smile

Hooda had gone to the extent of criticising the Congress on the issue of abrogation of Article 370 and had also said that the party had no more remained what it was. Your comment

Hooda's remarks at the 'Maha Parivartan Rally' on August 18 has been a matter of the past. We have to move forward, forgetting the past. He has been given a responsibility which he will fulfill. I will also fulfill my responsibility and all other senior leaders will fulfill their responsibility.

Congress is apparently going with Dilit-Jat leadership in Haryana polls when the ruling BJP is seen consolidating the non-Jat vote bank under Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. Your comments.

The Congress has been the never played this kind of political game. Even at the time of Jat reservation, BJP allowed the fire to blaze and increased the divide. They have a policy of polarisation. Congress has never played this kind of political game.

In the August 18 rally, Hooda's statement was that he would have four deputy chief ministers. How many Deputy CMs would the Congress have after forming the government in the state? Hooda's statement that he would have four deputy chief ministers was also a matter of the past.

BJP leaders say organisational changes by Congress will not change the fortune in the State assembly elections. Congress has lost its ground. Your comment.

I have nothing to comment on BJP leaders. People know Congress is the oldest party and served them for longest time. BJP has failed to meet its promises in five years. BJP leaders know they are a failure on many issues.

What is your comment on BJP leaders' statement over 'brides of Bihar' and 'brides of Kashmir'?

BJP leaders have comedified women. They were earlier talking about Bihar's women, now State CM Manohar Lal Khattar is talking about Kashmiri women. These people think they can make light remarks about women. It is reflective of their mindset, which they actually think of women.

By naming BJP leader Singh Hooda as the CLP and head and chairman of the election management committee for the Assembly polls, it seems as the party chief you have limited role to play in the assembly election. Is Hooda Congress Party's CM face?

The party has not projected anyone as chief ministerial candidate. Now we have to focus on fighting the election

RSS's coordination meeting

Art 370 abrogation, Ram Temple top on agenda

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370, the current situation in the Valley and the Ram Temple issue will top the agenda of the RSS's coordination meeting...



agran', which works in the border areas, may give a presentation on the abrogation of article provisions of Article 370 and the situation in Kashmir that will be part of discussions at the meet.

The three-day 'Samanvay Baihalk' will be attended by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and its top functionaries besides BJP working president JP Nadda, general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh and general secretary Ram Madhav...

The slowdown in the economy in the country will also come up for deliberations, sources said. This is the first coordination meeting of the RSS after the BJP's victory in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Centre to restore 100 wetlands in 5 yrs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ignored for years, wetlands in the country are now all set to get their much-needed due with the Centre identifying as many as 100 of them to be restored within the next five years to help combat land degradation...



Suresh Babu, Director of Rivers, Wetlands and Water Policy at WWF India, emphasised on the importance of wetlands in combating desertification.

Speaking at the 14th session of the Conference of Parties to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (COP 14), Manju Pandey, Joint Secretary, Union Environment Ministry, said the role of wetlands is very important in achieving the sustainable development goals (SDG).

"We are mostly unaware of the size and location of the wetlands. So we have asked the states to prepare documents in this regard so that we can work for wetlands in the next five years."

INSHORT

KERALA PART OF INDIA: SC TO STATE HC JUDGE

New Delhi: "Tell judges in Kerala that they are part of India," the Supreme Court said on Friday while taking strong exception to the State high court's tinkering of its 2017 verdict on right to conduct administration and prayers in churches in a dispute between two factions.

BJP SLAMS DIDI FOR DEMENTING C-2 MISSION

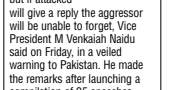
New Delhi: Slamming West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for her comments on Chandrayaan 2 mission, the BJP said on Friday that she 'sulks' when India celebrates and accused her of playing 'demansing and appling' politics.

PREZ 3 NATION VISIT FROM SEP 9 TO 17

New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind will embark on a tour of Iceland, Switzerland and Slovenia from September 9 to 17. President Kovind will hold talks with the top leadership of these countries and cooperation in sectors such as blue economy, space, technology, tourism and climate will be high on the agenda.

VP NAIDU WARNS PAK OF STERN REPLY

New Delhi: India has been acting with restraint despite 'grave provocations' but if attacked will give a reply the aggressor.



President M Venkaiiah Naidu said on Friday, in a veiled warning to Pakistan. He made the remarks after launching a compilation of 95 speeches delivered by President Ram Nath Kovind during his second year in office.

PLEA ON LIVE TELECAST FOR AYODHYA CASE

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday said a plea filed by former RSS ideologue KN Goundanayaka, seeking live telecast or recording of the hearing in the Ayodhya land dispute case be listed before a bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi.

FROM THE SUPREME COURT

Delhi HC to decide on special judge's request in Unnao case



The Supreme Court Friday asked the Delhi High Court to expeditiously decide on the request of a special judge for setting up a temporary court at the AHMS hospital to record the statements of the Unnao rape survivor, who has sustained injuries in an accident. The special judge Dharmesh Sharma, who is holding trial in the case related to the Unnao incident, had recently written a letter to the Delhi High Court seeking permission to hold in-camera proceedings at AHMS for recording of the statement of the woman after doctors said it was 'not advisable' to bring her to the court premises.

₹10 cr release to Karti for travelling abroad denied

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

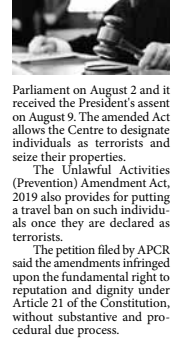
The Supreme Court on Friday refused to release for three more months the ₹10 crore deposited by Karti Chidambaram with the apex court's registry for travelling abroad. A bench headed by Justice Deepak Gupta said the amount will continue to remain in fixed deposit for another three months.

Karti, who is facing proceedings in cases like Aircel-Maxis and money laundering matters, had deposited Rs 10 crore pursuant to the condition imposed by the apex court for travelling abroad. The apex court had in May to dismissed his plea seeking return of the Rs 10 crore. Karti, who is the son of former Union finance minister P Chidambaram, had earlier claimed in court that he had taken the money on loan and was paying interest on it.

SC seeks response from centre on petitions challenging UAPA amendments

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sought a response from the Centre on petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the amendments made in the UAPA. The petitions challenge the changes to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act on various grounds, including that they infringed upon fundamental rights of citizens and empowered agencies to declare a person a terrorist.



Parliament on August 2 and it received the President's assent on August 9. The amended Act allowed the Centre to designate individuals as terrorists and seize their properties.



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birra, MPs and staff members participate in the Fit India Movement at Parliament House in New Delhi on Friday.

IMD starts experiment on impact of rain in said region

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Besides providing weather forecast, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has on an experimental basis started a system to predict the likely impact of the rainfall in the said region. The impact forecast will be based on the inputs received from agencies like Ministry of Earth Sciences, ISRO, Surveyor of India, Municipal Bodies and Public Works Department.

The primary aim of the exercise is to provide weather information on a digital platform, with geographical coordinates giving locations for residential areas, hospitals and schools. "Instead of just giving weather information, we want to provide impact-based weather warnings, not only for meteorological hazards, but geo-physical hazards," he said.

Dr Mohapatra said that the accuracy in climate monitoring and forecasting has gone up over the years. He said the main challenge was "not only to talk about weather conditions, but also about its direct implications." At present, we provide forecast only up to district level and now we need to go deeper to the block level. Har block mausam, har ghanta mausam (Hourly weather information for every block), that is the goal for all the 7,000 blocks.

On the extreme rainfall in some parts of the country, the IMD chief said that extreme rain events are rising globally. India is seeing fewer rainy days, but more extreme rainfall events. Climate change is a factor, but each monsoon has inter-annual variations.

The IMD has also predicted heavy downpour over Konkan, Goa and Telangana. "Heavy Rainfall at isolated places over Uttarakhand, West Uttar Pradesh, East Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, coastal and South Interior Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe," the IMD stated in its All India Weather Warning Bulletin.

Exposure to 2.5 pm can lead to dementia later

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

If you are exposed over a long time to two air pollutants, particulate matter 2.5 and nitrous oxide, which are both commonly found in cities around the world, there is a high chance that you risk of developing dementia later in life, according to a study published in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease.

FIGHTING FIT

- Pay attention to your overall health
Exercise regularly
Maintain a healthy weight
Regulate blood sugar levels
Keep cholesterol within recommended limits
Give up unhealthy habits including drinking and smoking



This is concerning because the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates 91 per cent of the world's population lives in places where air quality exceeds WHO guideline limits. Study co-author Neuroscience Research Australia's Dr Ruth Peters said.

Dementia is a neurodegenerative disease — characterized by a decline in performance and cognitive impairment in multiple domains and affects a person's independence in doing activities of daily living.

Over a million Indians died in 2017 because of the country's dirty air, according to the Global Burden of Disease Study. However, not much is being done by the world governments who are failing to address the dementia crisis, as per Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI). Globally only 31 national plans exist, including just 26 WHO Member States, while up to 34 are in development.

Pak using social media to radicalise J&K youth: DGP

Srinagar: Asserting that Pakistan is sustaining terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, State police chief Dilbagh Singh on Friday said the neighbouring country's use of social media to radicalise the youths in the Valley remains a 'big challenge'.



able to meet the challenge. The police enjoy a very cordial relationship with all forces. There is perfect synergy between the security forces and the police in the state. This fact has been recognised even by the senior functionaries in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence, he said.

Police (ADGP) CID B Srinivas; ADGP Armed SJM Gillani; ADGP Security, Law and Order Munir Ahmad Khan and Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, SP Pani, responded to different queries from the visiting officers, a police spokesperson said.

OGWs under Intel scanner in border areas

NOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Slouts of both the Central and State intelligence agencies have been directed to closely monitor suspicious activities of over ground workers (OGWs) in frontier districts of Rajouri and Poonch following restoration of mobile calling facilities in the region.

Besides tracking their physical movement, slouts of these intelligence agencies have been directed to mount 'electronic surveillance' on them so as to prevent them from networking with their handlers sitting across the line of control. It has been seen in the past that Pakistan army manages to target civilian areas with accuracy on the basis of inputs shared by the over ground workers of terrorist outfits.

Chandrayaan-2 to divert attention from economic disaster, says Mamata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Hours before Vikram — the Chandrayaan-2's moon lander — was to make a landing on the surface of the moon, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday landed a straight blow on the Central Government's face saying the "much hype" over lunar vehicles' maiden touch-down on moon's north pole was intended at diverting the nation's attention from the unprecedented economic crisis that India was passing through.



Banerjee, who was giving a speech on the "malicious implementation" of National Register for Citizens in Assam and what her ruling Trinamool Congress called a "diabolic design" to repeat an Assam-like NRC in Bengal, also said that the "BJP leaders are trying to take all the credit for India's success in space technology and its mission to moon".

Bengal CM writes to PM, protests against bank merger

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday protesting against the Centre's unilateral decision to merge two public sector banks headquartered in the city without consulting the State Government.

KCR 'image' on Yadadri temple sparks row

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Inscription of pictures of Chief Minister K Chandrababbar Rao and TRS party symbol besides various welfare schemes of the TRS Government on famous Yadadri temple pillars has created a storm.



Heavy police force was deployed to prevent them from entering into the temple premises, which led to scuffle between the police and the activists. The activists raised slogans against KCR and TRS and demanded removal of political symbols from the pillars immediately and conduct a thorough enquiry to find out the culprits behind this 'unholy act'.

TRS party leaders not to react or give media statements on this issue. With this, there was no response either from the government side or from TRS side on this issue.

After public humiliation, 23-yr-old Dalit officer commits suicide in UP

Lakhimpur Kheri (UP): A 23-year-old Dalit officer has committed suicide in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri district, alleging humiliation and mental harassment by a village head.

behind the decision to end his life. A video has gone viral on the social media, purportedly showing the young officer being humiliated at a public meeting.

fit, have been arrested. Additional Superintendent of Police Shaileendra Lal told PTL. An FIR had been lodged under Section 306 (abatement to suicide) of the Indian Penal Code and various sections of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, and the Information Technology Act, the ASP said.

AIMIM to go it alone in Maha Assembly polls

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Severing its links with the Prakash Ambedkar-led Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA), the Hyderabad-based All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) on Friday announced that it would go it alone in the State Assembly polls to be held next month.

"After prolonged discussions with Prakash Ambedkarji lasting for two months, we could not reach a respectable figure in the seat distribution between my party and VBA," Jaleel said.

Hajela not efficient in discharging NRC duty, review needed, Gogoi writes to CJI

GUWAHATI: Senior Congress leader Tarun Gogoi has written to Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi alleging that NRC State Coordinator Prateek Hajela did not discharge his duty efficiently while preparing the final list published last week, and requested him to review the matter.

The National Register of Citizens in Assam was updated under the monitoring of the Supreme Court and the final list which validates bonafide Indian citizens of the state, excluded over 19 lakh applicants.

social organisations and intellectuals of the state, Tarun Gogoi said. He also claimed that BJP-headed governments at the state and the Centre are contradicting each other on the final NRC.



Residents carry their belongings as they evacuate Bowbazar area where several houses have been damaged owing to tunnel boring for East-West Metro corridor in Kolkata on Friday.

Deforestation leads to human-elephant conflict, says study

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

A scientific study carried out in the Western Ghats shows that deforestation increases human-elephant conflict. The study conducted in Bhadrata Tiger Reserve in the north and the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve in the south and spanned over 47,000 km2 across Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala States. This area hosts one of the highest densities and abundance of wild Asian elephants in the world. One can see more than 6,000 elephants in Nilgiri Biosphere which is one of the endangered ecological hotspots in the world.

Privya Davidar and also published in the journal "Tropical Conservation Science" using maps from the 1960s and satellite imagery, compared past forest cover to the recent agricultural mosaics for a period of 44 years and found a severe loss of elephant habitat.

According to the study data shows that between the years 1960 and 2004 a total of 4,023 km2 of forests and 2,738 km2 of scrub amounting to 6,761 km2 (1.67,067.9 acres) of elephant habitat have been lost to agriculture, infrastructure development, and other activities. The lost elephant habitat is nearly equivalent to ten times the current size of Bengaluru city.

and correlated the incidents with the intensity of deforestation. The results showed that human-elephant conflict incidents occurred at locations where deforestation rate was high and such incidents did not occur at random. The districts of Kodagu and Hassan witness some of the highest human-elephant conflict incidences in the country. A total of 64 people have died in Kodagu and Hassan due to elephant conflict in the last 10 years.

Humans in areas where their habitat vanishes which is a recipe for disaster", the study points to the disaster. In its interesting revelations, the study points out that this deforestation severed the elephant habitat link between Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and the Bhadrata Tiger Reserve and most notably in Hassan and Kodagu districts. The deforestation in the two districts mostly occurred in areas that existed in private lands.

"The study also found that the number of incidences was highest within four-kilometer of the protected area boundary. The study suggests the idea of zonation which is particularly appropriate in this case. Also better land use planning, awareness and adequate activities within this zone can help reduce impact for both people and animals."

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Auto industry seeks govt help in smooth transition to BS-VI emission norms

Auto industry body SIAM on Friday sought government intervention to help in smooth transition to BS-VI emission norms from April next year...

Thakur and MoS for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Arjun Ram Meghwal, he said, "So sir, we request you to please look at this, and from time to time over the next few weeks we shall interact with you to give us a possible solution to this very big complex thing which is coming."

ACMA seeks uniform 18% GST on auto components

Auto components industry on Friday sought uniform 18 per cent GST in order to help companies with their working capital borrowings which could be used to invest in long-term assets.

Gold prices fell in New Delhi (PTI): Gold prices fell by ₹32 to ₹39,278 per 10 grams from the national capital on Friday due to weak demand and strong rupee...

Auto industry body SIAM on Friday sought government intervention to help in smooth transition to BS-VI emission norms from April next year...

Auto components industry on Friday sought uniform 18 per cent GST in order to help companies with their working capital borrowings which could be used to invest in long-term assets.

Other gainers included Tata Motors (2.58 per cent), Mahindra (2.34 per cent) and Hero MotoCorp (2.14 per cent).

Wadhwa said, "We have discussed with the government to get a swift decision on GST reduction on automobiles ahead of the festive season."

Wadhwa also drew the attention of the government to the fact that about 60 per cent of components are imported from abroad, while the remaining high value parts attract a duty of 28%.

NIFTY 50 table with columns: SCRIPT, NIFTY 50, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top gainers and losers.

BSE 500 table with columns: SCRIPT, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top gainers and losers.

Table with columns: TOP GAINERS, TOP LOSERS, NIFTY 50, BSE SENSEX. Includes market indices and top performers.

Auto industry seeks govt help in smooth transition to BS-VI emission norms

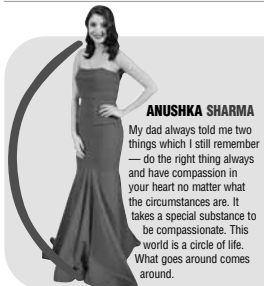
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SHORT CIRCUITS



**ANUSHKA SHARMA**

My dad always told me two things which I still remember — do the right thing always and have compassion in your heart no matter what the circumstances are. It takes a special substance to be compassionate. This world is a circle of life. What goes around comes around.



**SONAM KAPOOR**

Kaash is one of my favourite songs from *The Zoya Factor*. I had a lot of fun on the sets as too many comedy of errors kept happening throughout. The song encapsulates my bond with Dulquer (Salmaan) and the chemistry we share. He is good-looking and a great gentleman. Shooting with him has been a delight.



**KANGANA RANAUT**

Climate change is not a favourite topic for those people who are pro-industrialisation because it goes against them. Urbanisation and building roads creates job opportunities that offer a great life, huge money and happiness for many. But how long will we be able to sustain them?

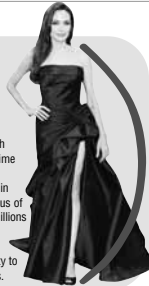


**DARSHAN RAVAL**

The track, *Dil Mera Blast* is all about revelry, something that is synonymous with the festive season. It's for the masses, shot with 300 dancers. This is one of the few independent tracks aimed at masses. Mostly, such songs belong to the romantic or the hip-hop genre.

**ANGELINA JOLIE**

Every film made in Afghanistan is a triumph against the odds. At a time when the future of Afghanistan is hanging in the balance, it reminds us of all that is at stake for millions of Afghan women, who deserve the freedom, independence and safety to make their own choices.



ENCOUNTER 45 MINUTES

In popular culture, **BHARAT BHALA** created the idea of a nation which we could feel proud of. He talks to **SAMI SATTAR** about the different narratives and stories that he is bringing forth in his new series, *Virtual Bharat*

**A THOUSAND INDIAS**

The canvas is expansive, not just in terms of the wide angles but the variety of landscape that it covers. But at its heart is a small story — always ready to trigger an emotional chord and at times even bring a lump to your throat. Whatever filmmaker and advertiser Bharat Bala fashions, it seems to be imbued with that magical touch where nationalism and India are the spine but never bubble to the surface in righteous rage as has been happening in the socio-political space in recent times.

Despite that, the original peddler of the idea of pop nationalism (think *Vande Mataram*, *Jana Gana Mana*, an ad for the Indian Army and another for Indian Oil) prefers to stay clear of making any political statement even though his films are replete with the message of unity in diversity, something which was hard to miss for anyone growing up in the pre-cable 80s and 90s. "Don't drag me in that direction," is the one line that he gives out when one asks him about the strident singular narrative that the country is being steered into even though his latest project runs antithetical to that idea.

*Virtual Bharat*, an online series on YouTube, will be the platform to stream about 1,000 stories of India. "Imagine it to be a digital cloud where there are virtual museums of stories of India. It is one destination where you will find unique ones on every aspect from every corner and in almost every language of India told in under 10 minutes and each will be a gem," says Bala.

But who then, if not him, can portray the pride in nation and nationhood. For who can forget AR Rahman's stirring *Vande Mataram* (1997) where the heart-felt vocals and intense voice were ably matched by the visuals where deep colours, a vivid and varied landscape that encompassed the country and a massive 60 feet by 40 feet tricolor made for a song that spoke of inclusivity and love of the nation.

*Virtual Bharat* flowed out of that. "Basically, post *Vande Mataram* I had many ideas in bits and pieces whether it was *Incredible India*, *School Chalen Hum* or *Jana Gana Mana* or the Commonwealth Games. Additionally, I had travelled across the length and breadth of the country for commercials and witnessed the landscape. I felt this was the opportune time now. The year had become the in-things, mobile consumption is widespread and the net space has been democratised which has given access to people everywhere. I felt now was the time when we can build the big idea of India," he says.

The first film, *Thaalam*, sees his long-time collaborator, music composer and singer AR Rahman light up the screen as he says, "Imagine India on a boat. It is only as strong as the people. The power to win is not in one person. The power is when all of us come together (pauses) as one. One effort one goal. To move forward as a nation, we need to dream together to aspire to build together. Let's find our *thaalam* as a nation together," and soon one is drawn into the famous snake boat race of Kerala.

However, rather than covering the race, Bala prefers to peek into the story behind it to convey his message. "I wanted that this short film should have a purpose and should be timeless. There has to be a bigger idea which the viewer can take home and retain long after he has seen it. I have seen the snake boats for a long time and to shoot it, was not exciting. When I found that the people from all walks of life — school teachers, shopkeepers, farmers, fishermen — come together and train for about 15 days to row the boats. There are 150 men in one boat and one man sets the rhythm by pounding with a log. If they find the rhythm within themselves, then the boat wins. The idea psyched me and I said there is a bigger story there. That is what I told Rahman, 'Imagine India on a boat. We have such diverse people but if we can

find a rhythm within us as a society then the nation is winning." And the idea is conveyed with such vigour that it gives you goosebumps. The four-minute, 18-second film is the first in the series, which will cover everything related to culture, food, folklore, poetry, performing arts, landscapes and human interest stories from the remotest parts of the country.

For him, an important ingredient of *Virtual Bharat* is the timelessness of the story. "So if we watch these today or five years from now, they should create the same emotions," he says.

While *Thaalam* is the only one to be put out, Bharat Bala Productions has already finished making 70 films and researched for 300 stories. "The major effort is in the research. It is exciting," he says and adds matter-of-factly, "*Kar rahen hain. Hazara story aaram se nikal lete hain*."

He says that they have tried to tell the stories in a way that they have a wider appeal. "Most importantly, every film is being made in its original language. So if you are from Bengal, I want you to hear what Marathi, Gujarati, Tamil or Kashmiri sounds like. That is the beauty of India," he says.

But then isn't an endorsement of the unity in diversity narrative? "I am not here to take a stand," he emphasises, averting the question but without any rancour. "I am telling a story where I will not influence or interrupt the protagonist's voice. The next film, *First Man*, is about an *adivasi* boy from back of the beyond Sambhalpur in Odisha. The beauty of each of the films is that I wouldn't add my opinion. I only use my craft of filmmaking to tell that story in a more beautiful way. There will be good cinema, narrative, editing and sound. We need the audience to experience watching a great movie. For this, I have to make it entertaining and exciting emotionally. I have to fight this big (he emphasises on the 'I' to stress upon the bigness) bandwagon of Hindi cinema which is consumed in billions and zillions. It is a humongous task."

But such a labour of love is always fraught with challenges. "We made around six films but I was not happy with them so we wouldn't use them. I go with real people and sometimes these things don't work out but you can't blame them as they are not actors. So you have to let go and continue. These are hard learnings but that is the way it is," he says and one can almost see him shrug over the phone line.

Moreover, Bala points out that he has limited resources to make these films which are to be shot in remote locations. "We are in Mumbai so I have to make three trips. The first one to research, the second to recce where we take pho-

“IMAGINE INDIA ON A BOAT. WE HAVE SUCH DIVERSE PEOPLE BUT IF WE CAN FIND A RHYTHM WITHIN US AS A SOCIETY THEN THE NATION IS WINNING. I WANTED THAT THIS SHORT FILM SHOULD HAVE A PURPOSE AND SHOULD BE TIMELESS. THERE HAS TO BE A BIGGER IDEA WHICH THE VIEWER CAN TAKE HOME AND RETAIN LONG AFTER HE HAS SEEN IT”

tographs and study the location's characters and the third time to go and shoot. It is logistically expensive as there are mundane things like nowadays, the airlines don't allow more than 15 kg of baggage and thanks to the equipment, we always have excess. These are all my hardships today," he says and guffaws.

The travel, boarding and lodging push up the costs. "I want all the tools, a proper drone operator, live sound to get that texture and rawness. So I also need sound engineers, camera operators and lighting. I don't want to compromise in films but I still have to make do with a smaller crew and this can have its own challenges," he says.

The bigger the challenge, the more exciting it is for Bala. During the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony, where there were 18,000 performers, Bala's response was "*Chalo karengi*." He believes in taking up the driest of subjects and making it the most exciting. "Even during *Vande Mataram* I went to the remotest villages and depicted it the way it was and people wearing their own clothes. You can't say *yeh ganda-*



that is what has inspired me," he says. So how difficult is it switching media since he dabbles in a lot of different things including films like *Maryam* (2013), *Journey Across India* (2007) and *Hari Om* (2004). "The fundamental of everything, whether it is ad films, videos or films, is creativity. That keeps on driving me. And each creative idea has to be said in a certain format. *Jo cheez 10 second mei dikhana hai usey ek minute mat khinchon aur jo feature film mei batana hai usey feature film mei hi dikhaao*. I am not the kind of person who is sitting there and saying *main sirf feature film banaonga ya sirf documentary or ad film hi banaoonga*. No. I am a film maker I will use any of these forms whatever lends itself well," he says.

Not being confined to one format has helped him as has the fact that he is very observant and has a good memory. "I'll have seen something in a place that I travelled to, I remember that and at the right time I go and access it. I am open to learning. When I go out for a film I am on Ground Zero. I can't say I know everything. For each one, you have to start from the beginning," he says.

A long association that he has had is with his school mate Allah Rakha Rahman, the Mozart of East. Bala says, "We are just like... you have to put a word to it... soulmates. Whenever I take an idea, he understands as he does so many different things from commercial cinema to art. He gets excited and enthusiastic about it. He would be doing original scores for many of these short films."

The two of them also collaborated with the legendary Pakistani singer, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, for *Vande Mataram*, something which is unimaginable in this day and age. "It was spontaneous. We were in New York and we heard that there was a concert. Rahman had never seen Nusrat *Naab* and we went together and fell in love. Later, I told AR (Rahman) that this is the 50th year of India's Independence and that of Pakistan too. Let music be the binding source. Then we made *Gurus of Peace*. If we listen to it, politically, it is relevant even today. '*Chanda suraj laakhon taare hain jab tere hi yeh saare, Kis baat par hothi hai pih thakraarein*'."

But when you ask him to elaborate, he says, "There are a lot of experts to talk about it. We can talk about positive things. I don't want to get involved in this and I prefer to remain honest in my craft."

So what keeps him going? "Every story is so inspiring and exciting for me to do. It is not as if I am tired because I am doing a 1,000 films," he says as he signs off.

Here's raising a toast to another thousand ideas of India that will live and survive long after us.

IMMERSIVE 45 MINUTES

FOR THE 'SAKE' OF TASTE

After trying a number of crisp, sweet, elegant, rich, sour and bitter sakes at the Embassy of Japan, CHAHAK MITTAL discovers why Indian markets are a challenge for Japanese brewers

Hold the cup close to your face. Let the aroma sink in. Take a small sip, and let it linger in your mouth...



I first sipped Fujuku Gold Label from the Nada region of Kobe in Japan, which featured an elegant taste with a refreshing bouquet...

duce sweetness as well as a mellow texture and a refreshing taste. Regardless of how you drink it, you will be satisfied with its taste...



your taste buds. Rich, sweet and elegant, this plum and red chili-infused sake gives both a tangy and a sweet taste.

Next up was the Ninki-Ichi, the 'handmade' sake. My favourite in the lot. At this counter, the first thing I heard from the people around was that 'It's known for its fragrances.'



While there are 300 versions of Umeshu in the Japanese market, a sake connoisseur enlightened us about this one. He said, 'Its flavour balance is created by aging the whole fruit...

Ginjo, the next one, is a sparkling sake which is fermented only in rice and koji (or ice mold) in a bottle. It's this second bottle fermentation and not carbonation...

gently sweet. "It can also be enjoyed like a dessert, you know?" said Noriko Nasukawa, president of Nihongo Centre in India for Japanese Language Professional Services.

After some mind-blowing tasting of some of Japan's best sakes, knowing about how the drink is so important for Japanese and their culture that they even have a Miss Sake every year...

However, sake does need some more space. The Indian market no doubt presents a huge challenge for sake brewers, but that's also the reason why venturing to break into the market is so exciting. Isn't it?" said she.

Ambassador Hiramitsu looks at sake as a medium of reaching the 'ultimate objective' of strengthening of India-Japan relations and its people-to-people connect.

Photo: Parikā Kumar

STUDIO CHAT 30 MINUTES

Spread your wings

Actor ROHIT ROY tells SAKSHI SHARMA that he has done a variety of roles in the past few years of his career as he has become competent to pull off these characters



Picture this. You are sitting in a chair in a theatre which is absolutely silent. Suddenly a doll falls on the stage as the clock strikes midnight and the gong echoes across the place...

engaged throughout and not get confused between the characters. While rehearsing, I used to remind myself again and again that one role has ended, and now this is the new one. However, Nikhil is the character which is the closest to his heart.

then when I took it up, I realised, as an actor, it's very important to spread your wings and try something new. Roy is currently seen as Dr Vardhan in Sanjivani 2, which he says is probably the "best comeback for an actor" on TV.

The actor says that through this play he comes out of his comfort zone. He says, "Everything that I have attempted in the last few years is very different from the roles I have done in my entire career. I have become more responsible after my daughter Kiara was born. I now feel I am competent enough to pull off various roles. I was never this good. I don't want my child to say, 'Papa what kind of a role you have done?' I want her to be proud of me."

Directed by Aniket Patil, the play explores the horror genre as it's his 'favourite'. He says, "The story of the play has come from my imagination." To stage this, he

even learnt a few magic tricks from YouTube. Through the play, Patil wants to send the message - "There is a fear within us everytime but in order to achieve what we desire, we need to break those dreadful walls and come out of it."

So how is a horror play different from a film or show in the same genre? Says Roy, "I don't want to compare films and TV with theatre because there we have cuts, retakes, background music and light effects to create horror and a thrilling vibe. But in theatre, it is different. It demands a more nuanced preparation altogether, he believes and adds, "If an actor gets a wrong cue, the entire lighting scene will go for a toss. Generally, you read your lines and then say it in your own language. But here it has to be the same because the words act as a cue for the crew to give the light effects or to make space for prompts to appear."

An Indian wildlife enthusiasts talking about why horror comedy is not very prevalent when it comes to theatre, Roy says that it's because it's very challenging to unfold the horror, sound and special effects here. "So people don't want to do it. I was also looking for a romantic comedy in the first place (laughs)."

The actor doesn't take Rohit Roy to the show anymore. He's evolved manifold. "Once I am ready, I understand my character, which is something I didn't do earlier. I used to proudly say that every role had a bit of me in it but now things have changed," says he and adds that what would be evident in Owee too as the Rohit would "look like an original person and not some Chacha Ji".

Selection of a script for him varies with its medium. He says, "In web, there are finite number of episodes, which focus on every character individually. But I want my character to be strong in all the episodes. In films, I see what it is about. My role comes secondary. On TV, it changes again. As it is a never-ending process, I see my character first." The actor believes that every role shapes you into a better person by teaching something. So, he loves to take a bit of every character home with him and learn from it. "In Unfaithfully Yours, I took the comedy home. From Vardhan, I have realised that one must attempt different roles," says he. (The play will be staged today and tomorrow at 4pm and 7pm at Kamani Auditorium.)

CONVERSATION 15 MINUTES

Into the wild

Wildlife enthusiast LATIKA NATH says that people need to understand they are fighting for their own survival when they look at stories of other species. By TEAM VIVA



Imagine yourself in a forest witnessing the strength of the tiger, the stealth of the leopard, the fragility of the cheetah, the brute power of the jaguar, the assured confidence of the puma, the magical ability of a snow leopard to disappear, the terrestrial lifestyle of the clouded leopards, and the machismo of the lions. It is likely to captivate and bound you to spend more time with them. Directed by John Downer, the series Serengeti takes you to a similar journey into the unspoiled corner of Africa, discovering the most iconic Savannah animals in the world and examines and explores their daily lives.

is fighting for his own survival when he talks of the survival of the species on this planet."

While the word of wildlife crisis spreads across, the young generation is also taking interest and efforts in its revival. Latika shares that she has been approached time and again by youngsters. She likes spending time with them and having interesting conversations with students of all age groups. "There is an increasing awareness of the need for conservation of species and to fight climate change in children of all age groups today," she adds.

She always wants to be in the field exploring different species all over. She tries to make a difference by making people aware about the revival of the species and natural elements. "It is essential to contribute to the environment, even if it is small and at the grassroots level," says she. (The series will premiere on Sony BBC Earth on September 9.)



