

Trump to have trilateral meeting with Modi and Abe

WASHINGTON, PTI: US President Donald Trump will hold a trilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Premier Shinzo Abe this week on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Argentina, amidst China flexing its muscles in the strategic Indo-Pacific region.

The trilateral, which would be an expansion of the bilateral meeting between Trump and Abe, is part of the series of meetings the US president would have on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Buenos Aires on November 30 and December 1, the White House said.

The annual meeting is being

attended by leaders of the top 20 economies of the world.

However, all eyes are expected to be on two meetings that Trump would have with Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

Briefing reporters ahead of the G-20 Summit, US National Security Advisor John Bolton said on Tuesday that Trump will meet with Abe, and then the two leaders will meet jointly with Modi. China is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in the South China Sea, and with Japan in the East China Sea. Both the areas are said to be rich in minerals, oil and other natural resources.



Donald Trump with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Manila on November 13, 2017. REUTERS FILE

China claims almost all of the South China Sea, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have overlapping claims in the waterway, which includes vital sea lanes

through which about USD 3 trillion in global trade passes each year. The US has been conducting regular patrols in the South China Sea to assert freedom of navigation in the

area where Beijing has built up and militarised many of the islands and reefs it controls in the region.

Prime Minister Modi, in his keynote address at the Shangri La Dialogue in Singapore in June expounded India's stand on the strategic Indo-Pacific region. The Indo-Pacific is a natural region. It is also home to a vast array of global opportunities and challenges, he said.

"India does not see the Indo-Pacific Region as a strategy or as a club of limited members. Nor as a grouping that seeks to dominate. And by no means do we consider it as directed against any country. A geographical definition, as

such, cannot be," the prime minister explained. "India stands for open and stable international trade regime. We will also support rule-based, open, balanced and stable trade environment in the Indo-Pacific region, which lifts up all nations on the tide of trade and investment," he said.

President Trump will also have meetings with President Mauricio Macri of Argentina, President Moon Jae-In of South Korea and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey.

"The president will meet with President Putin and have a working dinner with President Xi," National Security Advisor Bolton said.

World at a glance



A child checks out the pocket of a Swiss guard during the general audience led by Pope Francis at Paul VI hall at the Vatican on Wednesday. REUTERS

Brazil rescinds offer to host UN climate conference

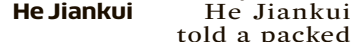
Brazil announced on Wednesday it is withdrawing its offer to host the COP25 UN climate conference next year, citing financial constraints, AFP reports from Brasilia.

The news comes just days before the start of COP24, this year's annual climate conference being held in Katowice, Poland. "Considering the current financial and budgetary restrictions, which are expected to continue in the near future, and the process of transition for

the recently elected administration ... the Brazilian government feels obliged to rescind its offer to host COP25," the foreign ministry said. President-elect Jair Bolsonaro, who will assume office on January 1, has threatened to withdraw Brazil from the Paris climate accord while also vowing to remove restrictions on the agribusiness sector accused of causing untold devastation to the environment, in particular, the Amazon rainforest.

Scientist defends gene-editing of babies

HONG KONG, AFP: The Chinese scientist who claims to have created the world's first genetically-edited babies defended the highly controversial procedure on Wednesday, but announced a halt to the trial following an international outcry.



He Jiankui

He Jiankui told a packed Hong Kong biomedical conference he was "proud" to have successfully altered the DNA of twin girls born to an HIV-positive father, an apparent medical breakthrough.

But details of the experiment, which has not been independently verified, triggered an immediate backlash, with experts denouncing He's work as an ethical "mess". "The clinical trial was paused due to the current situation," said He. "For this specific case, I feel proud, actually, I feel proudest."

The university professor said the twin girls, born a few weeks ago, had their DNA altered to prevent them from contracting HIV. Eight volunteer couples — HIV-positive fathers and HIV-negative mothers — signed up to the trial, with one dropping out before it was paused. He said there had been "another potential pregnancy" involving a second couple, but when questioned further agreed it had been a chemical pregnancy — a term referring to a very early miscarriage.

Trump threatens to cancel Putin meet over Ukraine

Kiev imposes martial law; Moscow to deploy more missiles

KIEV, AFP: Ukraine's president signed an act imposing martial law in border regions on Wednesday as mounting tensions over Russia's seizure of Ukrainian ships saw US President Donald Trump threaten to cancel talks with Vladimir Putin.



READY FOR WAR: Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko (2nd right) meets with servicemen during a visit to the 169th training centre 'Desna' of the Ukrainian Army ground forces in Chernihiv Region on Wednesday. REUTERS

President Petro Poroshenko's spokesman confirmed he had signed the act, which introduces martial law for 30 days in 10 regions bordering Russia, the Black Sea and the Azov Sea.

The move came after Poroshenko warned of a build-up of Russian forces near Ukraine's borders, escalating the most dangerous crisis in years between the ex-Soviet neighbours.

Western governments have accused Russia of acting illegally in seizing the three ships and Trump has said he is considering cancelling planned talks with Putin at this week's G20 summit in Buenos Aires.

Trump said he would make a final decision after hearing a report from national security advisers on this weekend's incident.

"That will be very determinative," Trump told the *Washington Post*. "Maybe I won't have the meeting."

Russian border patrol boats fired on, boarded and seized the three Ukrainian vessels, along with 24 sailors, on Sunday off the coast of Crimea.

The Ukrainian vessels -- a

tug and two gunboats -- were trying to pass through the Kerch Strait from the Black Sea to the Azov Sea, but were refused access and chased into international waters by 10 Russian vessels.

Poroshenko said on Tuesday that the number of Russian units near the border with Ukraine had "grown dramatically", with a threefold increase in the number of Russian tanks.

"I don't want anyone to think this is fun and games. Ukraine is under threat of full-scale war

with Russia," Poroshenko said.

The Ukrainian parliament on Monday voted in favour of Poroshenko's request for martial law, which gives authorities the power to mobilise citizens with military experience, regulate the media and restrict public rallies in affected areas.

It was unclear how it would be applied in the border areas and Poroshenko has suggested it is meant essentially as a preventative measure.

The prospect of martial law had already led to the relocation of a football match sched-

uled for Thursday between Arsenal and Ukrainian side FC Vorskla to Kiev from the city of Poltava, even though Poltava is not in one of the affected regions.

Sunday's incident was the first major confrontation at sea in the long-running conflict pitting Ukraine against Moscow and Russian-backed separatists in the country's east.

It has raised fears of a wider escalation -- in a conflict that has killed more than 10,000 people since 2014 -- and prompted international calls

for restraint. Russian military officials said Wednesday that Moscow would soon deploy more of its advanced S-400 air defence systems in Crimea, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014.

One more of the systems would be joining three others already deployed in Crimea, they said. Kiev has angrily demanded the return of its ships and the release of its sailors, but on Tuesday a court in Crimea ordered 12 of them to be held in pre-trial detention for two months.

Three hospitalised sailors were also formally detained for two months. The rest are to appear in court on Wednesday. Russia has accused the sailors of illegally entering Russian waters, in what officials in Moscow said was a planned provocation by Ukrainian authorities.

FB to expand news section

Facebook Inc on Wednesday said it is expanding its "Today In" feature, a dedicated section for local news and starting a test for local alerts from relevant government pages, Reuters reports.

The feature, which is now available in over 400 cities in the United States, has also been launched as a test in Australia. Facebook said in a blog post. "We're making it

easier for people to find news and information from their local towns and cities. Today we're announcing the expansion of a new local section on Facebook called 'Today In' and starting a test for local alerts from relevant government pages," the company said. In addition, Facebook has also begun testing the feature with over 100 local government and first responder pages.



A newly-uncovered mummy dating back over 2,300 years was unveiled by Egyptian archaeologists at a pyramid complex south of Cairo on Wednesday. AFP

Oz cow avoids slaughterhouse

A cow in Australia, standing 1.94 metres tall and weighing 1.4 tonnes, has avoided the abattoir, thanks to his size, PTI reports from Melbourne.

Knickers, the seven-year-old, is believed to be the biggest steer in a country home to millions of cattle. When owner Geoff Pearson tried to put him up for auction last month, meat processors said they simply could not handle

him -- so Knickers avoided the abattoir. He will now live out the rest of his life on Lake Preston feedlot in Myalup, 136km south of Perth, media reports said. "Knickers lives on," says Pearson, who has been fielding calls from local and international journalists since the Australian public broadcaster drew attention to the enormous steer -- a Holstein Friesian, but significantly taller than the average for that breed.

Blast kills 23 outside China factory in Olympic city

ZHANGJIAKOU (CHINA), AFP: A truck carrying combustible chemicals exploded at the entrance of a chemical factory in a northern Chinese city that will host the 2022 Winter Olympics on Wednesday, leaving 23 people dead and 22 others injured, state media and authorities said.

The blast ignited other vehicles, leaving charred and smoking remains of trucks and cars scattered on a road as firefighters worked at the scene, according to images posted online by state media.

A witness told AFP he heard a "very loud bang" after midnight and saw a field of trucks engulfed in flames outside the factory in Zhangjiakou, a city some 200 kilometres (124 miles) northwest of Beijing.

The side of a building was covered in soot in front of a row of burnt-out trucks across the road, footage broadcast by



Chinese army men inspect the area after an explosion near a chemical factory in Zhangjiakou on Wednesday. AFP

CCTV showed following the latest deadly incident to hit a factory in China.

The blast damaged 38 trucks and 12 cars, the local propaganda department said on its Twitter-like Weibo social media account.

The injured were taken to hospitals for treatment following the blast at 00:41 am, according to the department.

The death toll rose from 22 to 23 later in the day after another body was found, according to the city government.

The factory's and exterior archway were blackened. Across from the blast, AFP reporters saw a field of blackened grass and trees, with smoke billowing from the embers. Heavy machinery was brought in to remove debris.

Huge blast rocks Kabul, casualties feared

KABUL, AFP: A massive explosion rocked Kabul late Wednesday amid fears a British security company had been targeted, officials said, with casualties expected in the latest violence to beset the Afghan capital.

The interior ministry and police both said the blast had been a car bomb targeting a compound which houses G4S, a British security company, in east Kabul. There was no immediate confirmation from the company or the British embassy in Kabul, however.

Interior Ministry deputy spokesman Nasrat Rahimi said casualties were "not known".

Kabul police spokesman Basir Mujahid said at least six wounded people had been evacuated from the site, but could not confirm their nationality. Earlier, sources had said the blast was followed by gunfire. "There was some gunfire at the beginning, but it has stopped," Mujahid said.

There was no immediate claim for the attack. Both the Taliban and the Islamic State group have stepped up their attacks on Kabul, which is one of the deadliest places in the country for civilians.

According to its website, G4S provides security for the UK Foreign Office in Kabul.

The attack came just hours after Afghan President Ashraf Ghani announced a 12-person team for prospective peace talks with the Taliban, as the UN renewed calls for direct negotiations between Kabul and the militants. The Afghan government, Western diplomats and UN officials have in recent weeks raised hopes of finally reaching a deal to end the Taliban's 17-year insurgency.

At an international conference on Afghanistan in Geneva, Ghani said his government had "formed a 12-person negotiating team led by presidential chief of staff (Abdul Salam) Rahimi".

28 whales dead after stranded on Oz beach

MELBOURNE, AFP: Twenty-eight whales were found dead in the remote southeast of Australia on Wednesday, following a mass stranding that has baffled experts.

A pilot flying a private plane over Croajingolong National Park in Victoria state spotted 27 pilot whales and one humpback stranded on the beach Tuesday afternoon.

An initial visit by park authorities later that day found eight of the whales were still alive but in a critical state. By the time rangers returned on Wednesday, all were dead, officials said.

The humpback whale is thought to have died well before the rest in a separate incident. Gail Wright of Parks Victoria said samples were being taken from the remains to try to understand how the whales came to be stranded.

"It's one of the great mysteries, we don't know why this happens," she told AFP, adding that this was probably the largest stranding in that part of Australia since the early 1980s.

Up to 145 pilot whales were found washed ashore on the weekend in a remote part of southern New Zealand.

Doomed Lion Air's Boeing 737 jet 'not airworthy'

JAKARTA, REUTERS: A Lion Air jet that crashed into the sea off Indonesia last month was not in an airworthy condition on its second-to-last flight, when pilots experienced similar problems to those on its doomed last journey, investigators said on Wednesday.

Contact with the Boeing 737 MAX jet was lost 13 minutes after it took off on October 29 from the capital, Jakarta, heading north to the tin-mining town of Pangkal Pinang.

In a preliminary report, Indonesia's transport safety committee (KNKT) focused on the airline's maintenance practices and pilot training



Indonesia's National Transportation Safety Committee head for air accidents Nurcahyo Utomo explains how the flight crashed using a model plane in Jakarta on Wednesday. REUTERS

and a Boeing anti-stall system but did not give a cause for the crash that killed all 189 people on board. The report unveiled

fresh details of efforts by pilots to steady the jet as they reported a "flight control problem", including the captain's last

words to air traffic control asking to be cleared to "five thou" or 5,000 feet.

Information retrieved from the flight data recorder showed the "stick shaker" was vibrating the captain's controls, warning of a stall throughout most of the flight. The captain was using his controls to bring the plane's nose up, but an automated anti-stall system was pushing it down.

Pilots flying the same plane a day earlier had experienced a similar problem, en route from Denpasar, Bali to Jakarta, until they used switches to shut off the system and used manual controls to fly and stabilise the

plane, KNKT said. "The flight from Denpasar to Jakarta experienced stick shaker activation during the takeoff rotation and remained active throughout the flight," the committee said. "This condition is considered as un-airworthy condition" and the flight should have been "discontinued".

The pilots of that flight reported problems to Lion Air's maintenance team, which checked the jet and cleared it for take-off the next morning.

Former Boeing flight control engineer Peter Lemme said stick shaker activation was "very distracting and unnerving".

Eiffel Tower stairs sold

A section of stairs from the Eiffel Tower in Paris sold for almost €170,000 on Tuesday, auctioneers announced, around three times the pre-sale estimate, AFP reports from Paris.

More than two dozen wrought-iron steps from the original spiral structure, from between the second and third floors of the Paris landmark, were sold to a Middle East collector for €169,000

after a bidding-war in the French capital. Auction house Artcurial originally estimated the sale price to be between €40,000 and €60,000. The stairs, which stand 4.3 metres high and were part of a private Canadian collection, date from 1889 when the legendary French engineer Gustave Eiffel built the 324-metre edifice as the centrepiece of the Paris Universal Exhibition.



A portion of the original staircase of the Eiffel Tower constructed by Gustave Eiffel in 1889 is displayed during a press preview in Paris on November 8, 2018. REUTERS

Editorial

ATMs vital, cannot be shut down

The warning given by the Confederation of ATM Industry that a large number of ATMs may be shut down by the middle of next year may be a pressure tactic or a statement of possibility. Either way, it should be taken seriously. There are about 2.38 lakh ATMs in the country. The confederation, which is an umbrella body of ATM operators, says that about half of them may have to be shut down as the operators will not be able to bear the high cost of compliance of the new ATM management guidelines. The guidelines were laid down by the Reserve Bank of India in April this year. They relate to the maintenance of minimum cash balance, the infrastructure for distribution of cash, security at the ATMs, etc. Some guidelines about the computer systems in the ATMs were added later. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also issued some security-related directions.

A good part of the cash distribution functions of banks is now carried out by ATMs. Many of them are in the rural areas and serve consumers in places where banks do not have branches. About Rs 2.75 lakh crore is dispensed by them in a month. Digital and mobile payment systems will take a lot of time to gain traction. ATMs have an important role in the financial inclusion programme, and the closing down of half of them or even a much less number may have an impact similar to that of demonetisation. So, shutting them down is not an option in the present circumstances.

It is likely that the federation has presented an extreme scenario to highlight the high cost of implementation of the guidelines. Some of the norms are already being complied with, but some new guidelines will mean an additional cost of about Rs 5,000 crore. The expenditure on cash logistics will account for a major part of it. But the regulations formulated by the RBI are necessary for safety and security and for protection of the interests of customers and banks.

They were finalised after discussions with all stakeholders. There cannot be any compromise on their implementation, and security and ease of transactions should get the highest priority. The confederation has said that the banks want to pass on the additional cost to the service providers. The operators have in any case to work with the banks for implementation of the new standards. There may be a case for consideration of the cost issue sympathetically and for relaxation of the timeline given by the RBI for implementation. That can be done without shutting down any ATM.



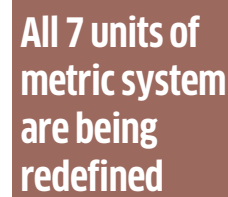
Warning a pressure tactic against RBI guidelines

Big K is history, and it's a big deal

When the kilogram was redefined recently, neither the world nor anything in it weighed more or less, but it was ensured that the weight of everything would remain the same, correct to the smallest part of a gram, for all time to come. The kilogram has been defined since 1889 by the International Prototype Kilogram, or the Big K, which is a platinum-iridium cylinder kept inside a glass jar in an underground vault under high security in Paris. All weights in the world are measured against it, but scientists who gathered recently in Paris decided that a more accurate idea of the kilogram is needed. Even under strict security, the Big K has been losing weight, perhaps only infinitesimally, by losing atoms through radiation or when being cleaned of an impossible speck of dust that found its way to it. This will not happen now, and Big K is history.

The kilogram will now be calibrated by a device called Kibble balance using Planck's constant, which is an unimaginably small, fundamental and unchanging value of nature. Instead of weighing one mass against another, the new balance will weigh a mass against an electromagnetic force which can be measured with the greatest accuracy. It will not solve the problem of the smaller kilogram at the grocer's shop or the bigger kilogram gained by a lazy body. But scientists need the most accurate measurements for their calculations and even an infinitesimal variation in the values may lead to wrong results. That is why they have opted for a universal constant and done away with the physical constraints imposed by a 130-year-old way of weighing things. The redefined kilogram will remain just that as long as Planck's constant is constant.

The kilogram was among the last poorly defined units to be scientifically redefined. The second was redefined in 1967 in terms of atomic oscillations. It facilitated global communications through the GPS and the internet by measuring time to the billionth of a second, but scientists are now looking up to the more accurate optical clocks. The metre, which was once measured by a metal rod kept in Paris, has now been redefined in terms of the distance travelled by light. The candela, the unit of luminous intensity, was redefined in 1979. With the redefinition of three other units — the ampere, the kelvin and the mole — coming into force next year, all seven basic units of the metric system will now be linked to a fundamental constant of nature. The changes will certainly have an impact, though they may not immediately be seen in our daily lives and its transactions.



All 7 units of metric system are being redefined

Time to cleanse public life

No matter how good our political system is, if the people working it are unworthy, it's bound to fail

RD Sharma

Jawaharlal Nehru once said, "We should found our Republic on these basic characteristics: high character, integrity of mind and purpose, a spirit of tolerance, cooperation and hard work. Our objective is to make it possible for millions in India to lead contented and purposeful life".

How far have we lived up to Nehru's expectations? How far have we cultivated the basic values of character, honesty and integrity to make our democratic system a meaningful device of governance? How far have we fulfilled the basic needs and aspirations of the people, particularly the poor and the downtrodden? How far have we respected the democratic institutions assiduously built up by our predecessors? Unfortunately, the answer to all these questions, basic to the functioning of democracy in our country, is a resounding "no".

Resultantly, the political life of the country has fallen below standards. Never before has there been so rapid a decline in moral and ethical values as is the case at present. Personal ambitions have gained supremacy over people's interests. Horse-trading, shifting of loyalties for personal gain, bargaining for offices, raising party funds by questionable means — ugly practices of the day invariably preoccupy our leaders — leaving them hardly with any time for the service of the people.

Democracy is a delicate form of governance. It calls for compliance with certain norms of behaviour and adherence to certain rules of discipline on the part of those concerned with the working of the system. In the absence of that, democracy can degenerate into mobocracy. Our politicians, therefore, must be imbued with the spirit of idealism that inspired our founding fathers to enshrine these values in the Constitution assuming that each succeeding generation will observe them.

The crisis we face today is not due to

any drawbacks of the political system but because of the failings of persons operating it. The sanctity of institutions and respect for conventions are being thoughtlessly violated. The quality of members has been deteriorating from one parliament to another. Those who sit in parliament and state legislatures are representatives more of their own parties than of the people. The majority of them have no interest in debates. Rather, they attempt to hold up the proceedings of the House by using all possible unparliamentary means at their command. It is not that we do not have clearly set out rules and procedures: we have as bulky a tome as "May's Parliamentary Practice". The only difference is that while in other



working democracies their observance is the rule, they breach the exception, with us it is increasingly the other way round. This is a dangerous state of affairs and we should not let it continue. Heavens will not fall if those with a shady reputation and poor image are thrown out with a view to cleanse public life. They must be replaced with those who have clean hands and who think not of their personal gain but of the welfare of the people.

When the Constituent Assembly first met to frame the Constitution, one of its oldest members, S N Sinha, told the members that whatever system they devised could only be preserved by the public spirit and vigilance of its citizens. We must earnestly heed his prophetic words: "The structure has been erected by architects of consummate skill and fidelity; its foundations are

solid, its compartments are beautiful as well as useful; its arrangements are full of wisdom and order; and its defences are impregnable from without. It has been reared for immortality if the work of man may justly aspire to such a title. It may, nevertheless, perish in an hour by the folly or corruption or negligence of its only keepers, 'The People'. Republics are created by the virtues, public spirit and intelligence of the citizens. They fall, when the wise are banished from public councils because they dare to be honest, and the profligate are rewarded because they flatter the people, in order to betray them".

At the concluding session of the Assembly, Dr B R Ambedkar also expressed similar views: "I feel, however good a Constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called upon to work it happen to be a bad lot. However bad a Constitution may be, it may turn out to be good if those who are called to work happen to be a good lot. The working of a system does not depend wholly upon its nature. It can provide only the organs of State, such as the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. The factors on which the working of those organs depend are the people and political parties they will set up as their instruments to carry out their wishes and their policies".

If we do not have the right individuals following the right policies in seats of power, things will not improve, no matter what form of government we have. Instead, things will further worsen, not only due to the misdeeds of the bad but more because of the apathy of the good. Hence, men and women of ability and integrity who keep away from politics, thinking it to be dirty, must shed their inhibitions and contribute to restoring values in politics.

We are lucky to have in our country persons who have made a mark in different walks of life, and who are known for their integrity, attachment to liberal values and vision. It would not be too much to ask each political party to select some such persons as its candidates in the coming state and parliamentary elections. This would certainly lead to a fresh reorientation of the state of our politics and give a new complexion not only to each of those parties but also to our public life.

(The writer is a Supreme Court lawyer)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Naya Pakistan

We now no longer go with a begging bowl to the US for meeting our foreign exchange needs

NN Sachitanand

When ex-cricketer Imran Khan took over the reins as prime minister of Pakistan following his party's triumph in the general elections this year, he promised the country a fresh style of governance which would result in a Naya (New) Pakistan. The glorious vision that he outlined in his inaugural speech promised a government free of corruption in high places, crony capitalism, wasteful expenditure and the like.

But "those in the know" sniggered in disbelief. Imran's party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), they alleged, had ridden on the shoulders of the Deep State.

Imran's innings was going to be another stint of army rule in a disguised

form. So, what's different?

"That's the problem with the intelligentsia. They are too cynical," said a person in Imran's inner circle whom I met recently at a conference in a third country. He continued, "You will be surprised to know that tremendous changes have already taken place in Pakistan in the last few months since Imran took over."

"Like what?" "For one, it is no longer the army we look to for direction in affairs of the State."

"Really? That is amazing that the army is no longer the puppeteer in Pakistan."

"Indeed. Now we take our guidance from a totally civilian organisation."

"Which is?" "The Jama'at-ud-Da'wah, led by Hafiz Muhammad Saeed."

"That is heartening to know."

"There is more. We now no longer go with a begging bowl to the US for meeting our foreign exchange needs."

"How did you manage that?" "By extending our palms to China, the new all-weather friend."

"So now you are free of the tyranny

of the International Monetary Fund?" "Correct. The IMF cannot bully us with conditions anymore. If it acts tough, we will hand over the China-built highway and Gwadar port to the Chinese."

"That should really scare the IMF. What else is new?" "Imran is trying to make the country's people more liberal in their outlook."

"How?" "Well, for example, the extremist mullahs and clerics no longer bay for the blood of those accused of breaking the Blasphemy Law."

"Really?" "That's right. Now they only target the defence lawyers and judges who try the cases."

"What about improving relations with India?"

"Oh, we have started working on that. The PTI government has stopped the practice of sending LeT terrorists to Kashmir."

"That is indeed a major step towards Indo-Pak amity."

"Yes, we feel there is now enough local cannon fodder in that territory."

"I can see that a Naya Pakistan is indeed being created under Imran."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TN should not oppose Mekedatu project

Mekedatu reservoir project is a good and useful project proposal by Karnataka. As CM Kumaraswamy rightly said, the surplus water in the Cauvery basin is flowing into the sea unused. Neither of the riparian states benefits from this.

The Mekedatu project, when completed, will store excess water that could be utilised during distress times. Tamil Nadu shouldn't object because the extra water

stored will indirectly benefit it, too.

What has Tamil Nadu done to store unused Cauvery water till now? The central government has cleared the project with a broader perspective. Hence, Tamil Nadu must support this one. But whether Karnataka itself is bowing to the Centre's or Tamil Nadu's demands indirectly is a matter of suspicion.

SRIHARI SHARMA M J, Mysuru

Maximum utilisation

Sir, with reference to "Centre clears preliminary report on Mekedatu project" (DH, Nov 28), the idea to optimise utilisation of natural resources without politicising the issue is good for mankind and is in the right spirit. Now, a detailed project report (DPR) will have to be prepared to build a balancing reservoir at Mekedatu for storing excess water in the Cauvery basin, to be used for both producing electricity and to supply drinking water to Bengaluru. Let's hope for the best.

VNSUBRAMANYAM, Bengaluru

Dirty politics

Sir, this refers to "Mithali woes out in open" (DH, Nov 28). The stunning disclosures made by cricketer Mithali Raj on her unceremonious sacking in the semi-final of the Women's T20 World Cup once

again shows the dirty politics that is rampant in Indian sports. Mithali has said she was treated shoddily by the captain and coach. Such acts can demoralise players and adversely affect the team's performance. BCCI will do well to ensure that politics is kept away from team selection.

N J RAVI CHANDER, Bengaluru

Moral failure

Sir, the government has proposed to stop the distribution of free bicycles to high school students (DH, Nov 28), citing poor quality. One can argue whether the scheme itself is good or wrong; certainly it is an incentive to poor students in government schools to commute. But the human element in the supply chain has apparently failed to ensure quality, a failure of the politicians and bureaucracy. Politicians and officials have tended to skim off their priority share in everything that the

government spends on, be it cycles, free rice, free mid-day meals, free electricity, waiver of loans etc. This moral corrosion has to be halted.

M V SRIDHARA, Mysuru

Job assurance a hoax

Sir, Apropos "BJP promises to dole out sops for jobless youth" (DH, Nov 28), while Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promise of creating two crore jobs every year turned out to be hollow, the fresh promise in Rajasthan, ahead of assembly elections, to woo young voters is another jumla.

SS PAUL, Chakdaha (West Bengal)

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SPEAK OUT



"I hope we don't have to wait for Sidhu to become Prime Minister for peace talks to happen."

IMRAN KHAN, Prime Minister, Pakistan

"The moment Pakistan stops terrorist activities in India, dialogue can start."

Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister, India

IN PERSPECTIVE

RTI: Layout plans must be made public

Matters which receive approvals from public authorities must be disclosed

YG Muralidharan

The Public Information Officers (PIOs) designated under the Right to Information (RTI) Act have in several cases been denying supply of copies of layout plans of commercial complexes, apartments, houses, etc. As a result, concerned citizens who are demanding, at the risk of their lives, these documents to halt unauthorised constructions, plan violations, encroachments and misuse of state property, etc., are unable to assert their rights.

Should copies of approved plans be given to persons other than the owners? Should the permission of the owners be obtained before disclosing the information? Does disclosing such information amount to violation of copyright law or intellectual property rights (IPR)? Is the supply of these documents exempted under RTI? What is the impact of Real Estate Regulatory Authority Act (RERA), which mandates disclosure of such information? These issues have been clarified by the Supreme Court in a recent verdict.

The case related to a dispute between Nusli Wadia, the administrator of three plots located in Mumbai [belonging to Late E F Dinsshaw] and Ferani Hotels Private Limited (FHPL), the developers. Wadia through an application under RTI to the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai sought documents like copies of PR cards, plans and amendments, layouts, sub-division plans, development plans, and reports submitted to the municipal commissioner and his approvals to the same submitted by FHPL or by any of its divisions or its architects.

The PIO treated the required information as "Third Party Information" as provided in Section 11 of RTI Act and referred the matter to FHPL. The hotel's lawyers objected to the disclosure on several grounds. Firstly, it was argued that disclosure did not serve any social or public interest purpose. Secondly, since there was already a suit pending in the Bombay high court, the matter is sub-judice.

Thirdly, it was pointed out that the applicant was a competitor and thus disclosure would harm the hotel's competitive position and their intellectual property rights, as the information involved commercial and trade secrets and copyright.

The PIO of the municipal corporation declined to disclose the information as per the provisions of Section 8, 9 [exemptions] and 11 of the RTI Act. The hotel appealed to

the First Appellate Authority [FAA] of the municipal corporation. The FAA ordered disclosure of information in respect of PR cards, and declined the rest of the information.

Dissatisfied with the outcome, the applicant approached the State Chief Information Commission (SCIC), which directed the corporation to release the information as the property in question involved public interest, as it would be bought by the public. The case travelled up to the Bombay high court by way of an appeal against the SCIC decision. Here again, the appeal was dismissed. The court held that information sought for was part of public record and had to be revealed in public interest, and could not be said to be in the nature of trade secrets or of commercial confidence, or of a nature that would harm the competitive position of the appellant.

The court observed that the documents sought received the attention and approval of the commissioner of the corporation (a public authority), and were under his control, the same were to be supplied to anyone seeking the same.

The decision of the high court was challenged in the Supreme Court. Quoting the provisions of RERA, the court said that disclosure of plans, which are required to be in public domain, under RERA, can hardly be said to be matters of commercial confidence or trade secrets. The court observed, "keeping in mind the ground reality of rampant violations and the consequences thereof, it is advisable to issue directions for display of such sanction plan/layout plans at the site, apart from any other manner provided by the regulations made by the authority. This aspect should be given appropriate publicity as part of enforcement of RERA".

With regard to the issue of IPR, the court observed that the preparation of the plan and its designs may give rise to copyright in favour of a particular person but the disclosure of that work would not amount to an infringement and the Copyright Act specifically provides that there would be no such infringement if there is reproduction of any work in a certified copy made or supplied in accordance with any law in force. Further, the apex court has observed that the only exemption from disclosure of information, of whatever nature, with the public authority is as per Sections 8 & 9 of the RTI Act.

Thus, unless the information sought for falls under these provisions, it would be mandatory for public authorities to disclose the information to an applicant. Holding that Section 8 of the RTI has no application in this case the court has awarded Rs 2.5 lakh to the applicant as cost of litigation.

(The writer is member, Central Consumer Protection Council)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 years ago: November 29, 1968

EMS not to seek Delhi aid to nip Naxalite stir

New Delhi, Nov 28. Kerala Chief Minister Namboodiripad said here today the attack of the so-called Naxalites on police stations in Kerala was "both a political and law and order

problem" and the State Government was in a position to control it without any assistance from the Centre.

Namboodiripad told a press conference that he would not "dismiss it as not serious, but I would not play it up".

25 years ago: November 29, 1993

PVN authorised to unite secular forces

New Delhi, Nov 28. With a hung Assembly emerging in Rajasthan and with the Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party

combine likely to emerge as the largest bloc in the 425-member Uttar Pradesh Assembly, the Congress (I) appeared to focus its attention on the formation of new governments in the two states.

Amazon, Flipkart flouting FDI norms. Really, ED?!

Uttam Gupta

During hearing on a public interest litigation in Delhi high court on October 31, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said it is investigating alleged violation of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) against Amazon and Flipkart. The charge is that these companies have violated the extant norms for foreign direct investment (FDI) guidelines as contained in Press Note (PN) 3 (2016-17).

The PN 3 allows 100% FDI in the 'marketplace' model for e-commerce. An entity working on this model offers a platform to sellers and buyers to conduct transactions. It acts as a facilitator by offering them services such as booking orders, raising invoices, arranging deliveries, collecting payments, etc. It can't own stocks and can't sell directly to the consumer.

The above permission is subject to riders. The marketplace entity cannot permit more than 25% of total sales on its platform from a single vendor or its group companies. Further, it can't directly or indirectly influence the sale price.

For an entity owning stocks and undertaking direct selling to the consumers ('inventory' model), FDI is prohibited.

To understand whether the companies are complying with the regulations or not, let us closely look at how they conduct themselves in the supply chain.

In step-I, a foreign company operating in the marketplace model appoints entities majority-owned by it as wholesalers and distributors. Under the extant rules, 100% FDI is permitted in wholesale cash and carry business. So, it can have full ownership and control over the wholesale business.

These wholesalers/distributors invest heavily in the creation of procurement/sourcing, handling, storage, distribution and all other infrastructure necessary to execute a transaction. They buy a wide variety of items in bulk from the brand owners/manufacturers, including those located in foreign jurisdictions.

In step-II, the wholesalers sell to vendors at a discounted price [depending on the item, the discount could go up to 50-75%]. In step-III, the vendors sell the stuff on the online marketplace owned by the foreign major, for which all relevant func-



tions — booking orders, raising invoices, arranging deliveries, collecting payments, handling rejections, etc., — are carried out by the latter.

The rules under PN 3 provide for a single vendor accounting for up to 25% of total sales on the marketplace. So, there can be a total of four entities — each with a slice of 25%. This enables the owner of the platform to exercise better control.

It may thus be seen that from sourcing, purchase, handling, stocking, distribution and sale to consumer, almost all essential components in the supply chain are handled by the e-commerce major (read,

Amazon/Flipkart) and its subsidiaries. The vendor who is supposedly selling on the platform has absolutely no substantive role in conducting the transaction.

Now, if the vendor has no role [no value addition to make] then, the e-commerce company might as well exclude or drop him. But, under the existing ecosystem, it can't even contemplate doing so; for, the moment it does that, it will be deemed to be under the inventory model wherein the entity undertakes direct sale to the customer (B2C), and FDI is prohibited.

The e-commerce major recognises the inevitability of engaging with vendors only to remain in compliance with the regulations. These vendors are retained merely for documentation to show that the ownership of stock rests with them. These could even be paper entities or proxy sellers.

With this backdrop, let us get back to the charge. Are the foreign majors violating the foreign exchange regulations under FEMA? Can the ED investigation substantiate the charge? Will the court endorse it?

The investigation and legal proceedings will take their own sweet time. Mean-

while, a cursory assessment would lead one to conclude that they need not worry.

Any violation of FEMA would arise only if it can be proved that foreign investment has come in violation of the guidelines. The PN 3 allows 100% FDI in marketplace model for e-commerce and investment is made on this very platform. Although, in reality, the e-commerce company holds the stock and is engaged in B2C as well, it will be nearly impossible to prove.

This is because the way provisions under each category, in other words the marketplace and inventory models, have been crafted, the dividing line between the two is thin. The only differentiating factor is the 'ownership' of the stock which the foreign major can easily circumvent. While, giving shape to the architecture, the ingenious bureaucrats have taken appropriate care to ensure that MNCs do not play foul of the prescribed guidelines.

The moot point is, 100% FDI in retail is already permitted — camouflaged under a fancy nomenclature — 'marketplace'. Clearly, the Narendra Modi government is committed to FDI in retail, which is indeed the way forward. India needs FDI to

augment and strengthen our handling, processing, storage, distribution and quality control infrastructure, upgrade technologies, give more choice to consumers at affordable prices and create jobs.

Yet, it does not want to let this be made explicit to the public at large as it feels that such a categorical admission would antagonise BJP's core constituency — the trader class, consisting mainly of the ubiquitous 'mom-and-pop' stores. The fear is unfounded as foreign investors in retail pose no threat to 'mom-and-pop' stores; in fact, the latter can co-exist with the former and even grow.

The government should rid itself of this mindset and make a clear-cut pronouncement. It should put in place a uniform policy to allow 100% FDI in retail without any riders. All artificial distinctions such as marketplace versus direct selling, online versus offline, food versus non-food, etc., should go.

Now that the country is already in election mode, a decision on this, if at all, can be expected only in 2019 after formation of a new government.

(The writer is a policy analyst)

Black box data shows pilots' struggle to regain control

Lion Air Flight 610 plummeted into the ocean killing all 189 people on board

James Glanz, Mukti Suhartono & Hannah Beech

Data from the jetliner that crashed into the Java Sea last month shows the pilots fought to save the plane almost from the moment it took off, as the Boeing 737's nose was repeatedly forced down, apparently by an automatic system receiving incorrect sensor readings.

The information from the flight data recorder, contained in a preliminary report prepared by Indonesian crash investigators and released on Wednesday, documents a fatal tug-of-war between man and machine, with the plane's nose forced dangerously downward more than two dozen times during the 11-minute flight. The pilots managed to pull the nose back up over and over until finally losing control, leaving the plane, Lion Air Flight 610, to plummet into the ocean at 450 mph, killing all 189 people on board.

The data from the so-called black box is consistent with the theory that investigators have been most focused on: that a computerized system Boeing installed on its latest generation of 737 to prevent the plane's nose from getting too high and causing a stall instead forced the nose down because of incorrect information it was receiving from sensors on the fuselage.

In the aftermath of the crash, pilots have expressed concern that they had not been fully informed about the new Boeing system — known as the maneuvering characteristics augmentation system, or MCAS — and how it would require them to respond differently in case of the type of emergency encountered by the Lion Air crew.

"It's all consistent with the hypothesis of this problem with the MCAS system," said R John Hansman Jr., a professor of aeronautics and astronautics and director of the international center for air transportation at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Boeing has said that the proper steps for pulling out of an incorrect activation of the system were already in flight manuals, so there was no need to detail this specific system in the new 737 jet. In a statement on Tuesday, Boeing said it could not discuss the crash while it is under investigation but reiterated that "the appropriate flight crew response to uncommanded trim, regardless of cause, is contained in existing procedures."

A fuller account of problems with the sensors on the fuselage, called angle-of-attack sensors, is expected to be part of a full report on the crash by Indonesian investigators. But one of those sensors was replaced before the plane's next-to-last flight after the jet experienced malfunctioning data readings, investigators say.

"The pilots fought continuously until the end of the flight," said Capt Nurcahyo Utomo, head of the air accident subcommittee of the Indonesian National Transportation Safety Committee, which is leading the crash investigation.

Nurcahyo said that the MCAS system had been activated and that it was a central focus of the investigation. Details of the black box data were contained in a briefing for the Indonesian



Parliament and were first disclosed publicly in the Indonesian media. The data was subsequently posted and analyzed in a blog post by Peter Lemme, a satellite communications expert and former Boeing engineer.

Much remains unknown about the doomed flight, including why a plane that had encountered problems with the sensors was permitted to fly in the first place. Investigators are yet to recover the cockpit voice recorder, which could provide further insight into the steps taken by the pilots and whether they followed the correct procedures. The pilot had handed control of the plane to the co-pilot just before the plane went into its final dive.

Despite Boeing's insistence that the proper procedures were in the handbook, also called the emergency checklist, pilots have said since the accident that Boeing had not been clear about one potentially vital difference between the system on the new 737s and the older models. In the older versions, pilots could help address the problem of the nose being forced down improperly — a situation known as "runaway stabiliser trim" — by pulling back on the control column in front of them, the pilots say.

In the latest 737 generation, called the Max, that measure does not work, they said, citing information they have received since the crash. The pilots on Lion Air Flight 610 appear to have forcefully pulled back on their control columns to no avail, before the final dive, according to the information from the flight data recorder.

Capt Dennis Tajer, spokesman for the American Airlines pilot union and a 737 pilot, said he could not comment on any aspect of the investigation. But, he said, "in the previous model of the 737, pulling back on the control column, Boeing says will stop a stabilizer runaway."

Information provided to American Airlines from Boeing since the crash, Tajer said, "specifically says that pulling back on the control column in the 'Max' will not stop the runaway if MCAS is triggered. That is an important difference to know," Boeing said in its statement on Tuesday that the existing procedures covered the latest 737 model.

Bulletins from Boeing and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the US since the crash indicate that pilots could overcome an incorrectly activated MCAS with a series of steps. First, they would have had to activate switches on the outside of the control columns in front of both the pilot and co-pilot. Those switches are for electrically controlling the trim — the angle of the stabilisers on the plane's tail. The pilot of Flight 610 appears to have done that repeatedly to bring the nose up, but the MCAS reactivated each time, as it was designed to do, forcing the nose back down, and the pilot had to repeat the process again and again.

The futile struggle by the pilots to regain control can be seen in colourful jagged lines in graphs used to form the preliminary report to the Indonesian Parliament, documenting the seesaw motion of the nose as the system

pushed it down at least two dozen times before the plane's fatal nose-dive.

From the moment Flight 610 took off just after dawn from the airport in Jakarta, the Indonesian capital, the Max 8 jet was recording errant data from one of the two angle-of-attack sensors on the nose of the plane that records the pitch at which a plane is climbing or descending.

Angle-of-attack sensors are crucial in determining if a plane is stalling. Plane crashes rarely can be blamed on a single, catastrophic malfunction. More often, a problem spirals out of control as maintenance crews fail to spot or address an underlying issue and then the flight crew takes a series of steps that lead to a fatal outcome. Lion Air, Indonesia's largest airline, has a notoriously flawed safety record. Government investigators have accused the carrier of ignoring their commands to ground planes with proven problems.

The plane that crashed on October 29, had experienced days of incorrect data readings, according to Indonesian officials. In fact, before the penultimate flight, engineers had replaced one of the angle-of-attack sensors.

Why the plane recorded incorrect angle-of-attack data after the sensor had been changed is not clear. Soerjanto Tjahjono, head of Indonesia's National Transportation Safety Committee, said that the replacement part was not new but was "serviceable" and had certification from the FAA of the US.

International New York Times

Help your teen navigate online

Dorothy Victor

I see my son, a college-going student, use social media in myriad ways. YouTube videos of varying themes, ranging from the '5 best football goals of the season' to many of Barack Obama's rousing speeches run galore on his smartphone. He participates in online lectures and amuses himself with humour shows. He connects and chats with his school friends and his cousins abroad. Accessibility, connectivity and participation converge on the little device in empowering him with knowledge and in taking him places. Yet, until a year ago, when he was still 18, I was wary of his online activities and the many risks our teens are often exposed to.

Consider these dangers that our children face online: they could become victims of cybercrimes such as cyberbullying, sexting, phishing and smishing; they could be stalked by cyber-predators who could lure them into scams or downloading malware; and the gravest of all, they could succumb to the habit of uploading posts on social media that can come back to haunt them in later years.

All of these evils often leave permanent psychological scars on children who are said to be spending as much as nine hours a day on social media.

Be aware

Despite the many benefits of technology and social media, it is against this harsh reality that the role of parents in monitoring, regulating and encouraging good social media practices of their teens become non-negotiable.

Through their involvement, the staggering unproductive hours spent in the virtual world can successfully be morphed into an enriching experience for minors.

Teenagers with addictive tendencies to social media frequently exhibit behaviour such as avoiding face-to-face interaction, feelings of prolonged anxiety, withdrawal from social get-togethers, drop in class grades, constant phubbing, which is a phenomenon when teens snub those next to them by looking down at their phone, and end up in rebellious situations or conflicts at home.

Parents therefore need to be aware and wholly engaged in the online activities of their minor children on a regular basis. Statistics show 71% of teens admitting to hiding their

online activities from parents fearing disapproval.

When parents become aware of the online life of their children, it will open up better communication between them and this will help teens navigate online prudently, avoiding the many cybercrimes aimed at them.

Experts suggest several approaches to monitoring and assisting teenagers in their preoccupation with social media.

They recommend the installation of apps on the teen's phone to set a damper on excessive online activity. Some features, such as setting phone time limits, filtering web content coming into the phone and enabling tracking of calls, texts, GPS and social media activity, are available in many apps that parents can download.

Role of parents

Parents are also advised to be mindful of the amount of time and nature of activities that children are indulging in. They could in turn sign up and visit the social media that their children are part of to get a sense of how the site impacts its users on a daily basis. As teens can get carried away with popularity coming from the number of likes, shares and comments, the involvement of parents can help keep the whole situation in perspective for their children.

Eventually, the best help parents can offer their children is to encourage them to trade the smartphone and social media for real, lasting, life experiences every now and then.

Children should be encouraged by their parents to go outdoors, play a sport or pick up an absorbing hobby. The role of face-to-face communication, physical activities and time spent with family and friends in moulding teenagers into happy, young adults should be emphasised and instilled in them.

Certainly, social media can inform and educate a child on what is happening around the world. Even so, for youngsters on the threshold of adulthood, it can also be a dangerous place that entices them with addictive and harmful indulgences.

The key is for parents to be aware of the blurring line that separates the benefits from the dangers, and to be engaged enough to chalk out this line for their growing teens until they are old enough to take judicious decisions.

Argentine polo turns to genetics to produce champions



Are champions born, or raised? That's the question scientists in Argentina are trying to answer as they look to pinpoint the genes that make local horses the best in the world for playing polo.

In Argentina, polo is a big deal, and big business, and to that end, cloning

has already been used to reproduce the finest existing mounts.

But scientists want to go one step further and map the entire genome of the Argentine polo horse in order to create the perfect specimen.

From December, a group of five universities will analyze 80,000 horses from the breed as part of a project that will try to identify the ideal genetic balance that makes up a polo horse.

The Argentine horses used to play polo have been bred specifically over decades by crossing a Criollo line descended from the original pure-blooded Andalusian and Arab mounts

brought to the New World by Spanish conquistadores, and English thoroughbreds, introduced at the end of the 19th century when British immigrants also imported polo.

For veterinarian Guillermo Buchanan, the Argentine polos "are unique" because of their speed and durability, and because of their mix of explosiveness and docility.

During a polo match these horses, also known as polo ponies due to their agility, "change direction at speed, slow down, turn, accelerate while turning," says admiring horse-breeder Pablo Trigo, who is also co-managing the project.

The Argentine polos distinguish themselves in their rate of learning and sensibility to their rider's desires. They are the most cloned animal in the world. -AFP

S Korea successfully tests space rocket engine



South Korea on Wednesday successfully conducted a rocket engine test launch, news reports said, paving the way for the development of its own space launch vehicle.

A liquid-fuel engine successfully

propelled a single-stage rocket weighing 52 tonnes and measuring 25.8 meters (84.6 feet) long, from the Naro Space Center on the southern coast, Yonhap news agency said.

The engine, designed and developed by the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) as part of a \$1.8 billion project, will be used to propel the country's first indigenous three-stage launch vehicle — the Korea Space Launch Vehicle-2 (KSLV-2).

"This is a significant step forward in developing a launch vehicle with our own technology," a KARI spokesman said.

It is the first such launch in South

Korea since 2013 when the country successfully put a small satellite into orbit following failures in 2009 and in 2010.

But the significance of the 2013 launch was widely discounted as the launch vehicle had to rely on a Russia-developed engine for its first stage.

On its launch — scheduled for 2021 — KSLV-2 will use five of the newly developed engines, a bundle of four for the first stage and another one for the second stage.

The test was deemed successful as the engine combustion was maintained for over 140 seconds during the test launch, Yonhap said. The KSLV-2 rocket, which will be South Korea's first space vehicle wholly designed and built by itself, will be used to place satellites into the Earth's orbit and for other commercial applications. -AFP

Annual Christmas street shows from tomorrow

MANGALURU: White Doves NGO will organise the annual Christmas mobile street show '2019 year old fact in a mobile act' from November 30 to December 2.

Addressing mediapersons in Mangaluru on Wednesday, White Doves founder-president Corrine Rasquinha said that the show is being performed from the last 24 years.

On November 30, the show will be held at The Most Holy Redeemer Church grounds at 6.30 pm. On December 1, the show will be staged at Holy Family Church grounds, Brahmavar at 6.30 pm. On December 2, the show will be performed at Nehru Maidan at 6 pm.

The entry is free, said Rassquinha.

"The mobile shows will be performed on trailer trucks. The stage will measure over 185 square feet. The 150 artistes include actors, musicians, dancers and technical managers. They will present the song-and-act show for two hours' duration," she said.

White Doves Secretary and Treasurer Jerome Coelho, Trustee Vitus Rasquinha and Manager Jerald Fernandes were present at the press meet.

DH News Service

'Tulu Yaksha Siri' in M'luru from Dec 2 to 9

MANGALURU: The Karnataka Tulu Sahitya Academy will organise an eight-day Tulu Yakshagana series 'Tulu Yaksha Siri' from December 2 to 9.

Addressing mediapersons in Mangaluru on Wednesday, Karnataka Tulu Sahitya Academy chairman A C Bhandary said that senior yakshagana artistes will be felicitated during the programme to be held between 6pm and 9pm at Siri Chavadi of Tulu Bhavan, Urwa Store.

The schedule of various Yakshagana shows is as follows: December 2 - 'Brahma Baider', December 3 - 'Tulunada Siri', December 4 - 'Kordabbu Baraga', December 5 - 'Abbarada Babbarye', December 6 - 'Kudiyana Kann', December 7 - 'Koti Chennaya', December 8 - 'Balemani Mayandal' and December 9 - 'Sirikrishna Chandapale'.

Academy members Shivnanda Karkera, Bennet Amanna and Taranatha Gatty were present at the press meet.

DH News Service

Kannada serial on St Anthony's miracles

MANGALURU, DHNS: St Anthony's Ashram, Jeppu, will produce a Kannada serial based on the miracles of Saint Anthony of Padua. The 'Muhurtha' programme of the serial will be held at the ashram premises at 7 pm on November 30.

Addressing reporters in Mangaluru on Wednesday, St Anthony's Ashram Director Fr Onil D'Souza said that the programme will be attended by District In-charge Minister U T Khader, MLC Ivan D'Souza, former MLA J R Lobo and Asathoma Sadgama movie producer Ashwin Pereira who will be the guests of honour.

Fr Onil said that the life and miracles of St Anthony will be depicted in the serial. The saint was born at the turn of the 12th century in Portugal and worked in the 13th century. He died at a young age of 36. Known for his miracles, he is specially invoked when things are lost.

Vincent Fernandes will be the director of the serial. Around 140 artistes will act in the film. Actors Ramesh Bhat, Vinaya Prasad, Ashalatha and child artiste Vamshi are in the lead roles, added Fr Onil.

DH News Service

Fisherwomen to stage relay hunger strike on December 20

Demand state-of-the-art fish market near State Bank Circle

MANGALURU: Hundreds of fisherwomen demanding a state-of-the-art fish market at the present location of the fish market near the State Bank Circle (Hamilton Circle) will stage a relay hunger strike on December 20.

"If officials do not respond to the demands of fisherwomen, we will take a delegation of fisherwomen to the chief minister," informed State Bank Meenugarara Mahila Marata Mandali's legal advisor S P Chengappa.

"Mangaluru City Corporation (MCC) had not served any notice on evicting the fisherwomen from the temporary fish market located next to the inter-city bus stand," he pointed out.

"Yet, we fisherwomen are worried as there is news in the



WAITING: State Bank Meenugarara Mahila Marata Mandali's legal advisor S P Chengappa seen urging the Mangaluru City Corporation to build a state-of-the-art fish market next to the inter-city private bus stand near the fish market premises on Wednesday.

newspapers and television about the MCC's plans to build a new Central Market under the Smart City Mission as well

as relocate vendors and fisherwomen in the temporary fish market to a make-shift building behind football ground.

We urge the Mangaluru City Corporation to build a full-fledged fish market with all facilities in the present location,"

fisherwomen requested.

Mandali President Baby Ameen, Secretary Geeta Bai, Vice President Narayani, and fisherwomen leaders Poornima Khunder, said that foreigners who visit the market shake their heads in dismay on inspecting the unhygienic conditions prevailing in the market.

"There is no proper water supply and drainage system. During rains, the entire market leaks. This year, two fisherwomen sustained injuries when a part of the shed caved on them during this monsoon," the leaders complained.

"We want customers to feel happy when they buy fish from us. We want this temporary market to become the pride of Mangaluru," Poornima Khunder stressed.

DH News Service

Indian Constitutional ethos stronger than US', says HC judge Justice Dixit

MANGALURU, DHNS: In comparison with the Constitution of the US, the Indian Constitutional ethos are stronger and have undergone more amendments, Karnataka High Court Judge Justice Krishna Shripad Dixit has said.

He was speaking at the Constitution Day programme organised by MRPL on the theme 'Legal Awareness for Empowering Business and Service'.

"Our country is known for tolerance, which is why many religious leaders came to India since ancient times. With knowledge, we can bring honour to our Constitution," said Justice Dixit, recollecting the contributions made by B N Rao, a Mangalorean, who



Karnataka High Court Judge Justice Krishna Shripad Dixit speaks at the Constitution Day programme organised by MRPL. MRPL Managing Director M Venkatesh, Group General Manager (HR) BHV Prasad and GM (Law) AL Rafeeq Moideen look on.

was advisor to the Constituent Assembly.

Kadur Satyanarayanacharya, Dakshina Kannada

principal district and session judge, reminded that the Indian Constitution begins with the words, "We, the people of

India". "So, we have given ourselves this Constitution and we follow and obey our Constitution. We

salute all the great personalities of our country who contributed to make this great Constitution," he added.

M Venkatesh, MRPL managing director, said that the Judiciary can strike down any incorrect decision made by the government. "That is the beauty of our Constitution," he opined.

'To the rescue'

It is also the Judiciary that comes to our rescue when things go against us, he added.

Prizes were distributed to the winners of various competitions conducted on the lines of the Constitution Day.

Group General Manager (HR) B H V Prasad and GM (Law) AL Rafeeq Moideen were present.

Special postal cover on Rosario Cathedral released

MANGALURU, DHNS: Philatelists in and around Mangaluru will surely be delighted, for India Post has released a special cover depicting the Rosario Cathedral and an ornamental cancellation featuring 'Rosary year' emblem.

The attractive cover was released by India Post at a symbolic church celebration on the occasion of the 450th anniversary of the cathedral. The

cover has a splendid picture of the 'Holy Rosary Cathedral' a historical landmark of the city whose history goes back 450 years (1568-2018).

Since 1915

The cathedral, as it is seen in its present form, exists from 1915. A church has existed in this very same spot after the British established its trading base from 1800 AD and

earmarked this spot for the Catholic Church.

The first 'Rosario Church' was set up by the Portuguese, not far from the South West corner of the Mangaladevi temple from which 'Mangaluru' derives its name.

The special cover is available for Rs 20 at the philatelic counter at the Head Post Office in Pandeshwar, stated a press release.



A special cover on Rosario Cathedral, Mangaluru. PHOTO: I J S SHET

St Ann's College to celebrate its platinum jubilee tomorrow

MANGALURU: St Ann's College of Education, Mangaluru, will organise its platinum jubilee celebrations on November 30.

College principal Sr Clare told reporters that the programmes will begin with the thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration at St Ann's Convent chapel at 9.30 am.

Mangaluru Bishop Dr Peter Paul Saldanha will be the main celebrant. Cultural programmes will be held at the college auditorium at 4 pm.

Apostolic Carmel Congregation superior general M Susheela will preside over the function. Karnataka provincial superior carmel Rita, Apostolic Carmel Generalate Bengaluru general councillor for education Dr Sr Lydia Fernandes and KES secondary education director Philomena Lobo will be the chief guests.

Rosario Cathedral rector Fr J B Crasta, Apostolic Carmel Educational Society Sr Ida Barboza are guests of honour.

The programme will include the reminiscence of platinum years, felicitation and prize distribution and a tableau titled 'Jnana Jyothi' depicting the progress of the Apostolic Carmel Congregation and the growth of the institution.

In 1956, the college was re-named as St Ann's College of Education, as per Mysore University norms.

The college was affiliated to Mangaluru University in 1980. M Ed and PGDCA (Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications) were introduced in 1992 and 1997 respectively.

The college was selected as the study centre for M Ed of Karnataka State Open University (KSOU). IN 2005, IGNOU selected the college as 'partner institute' under open distance learning scheme.

A research centre was started in 2008 towards PhD studies in education. Till date, 51 research scholars have registered for PhD and 25 have obtained the degree. The rest are pursuing research.

So far, 5,553 B Ed students, 573 M Ed students, 138 PGDCA students and 373 pre-primary teacher trainees have passed out from the institution, added Sr Clare.

KMC to host two-day national conference on FERCICON

MANGALURU, DHNS: Kasturba Medical College, Mangaluru will host the two-day sixth national conference of 'Forum for Ethics Review Committees in India' (FERCICON) at Dr TMA Pai International Convention Centre, on November 30 and December 1.

KMC, Mangaluru Associate Dean and Conference Organising Secretary Dr B Unnikrishnan told mediapersons at Patrika Bhavan, on Wednesday, that the FERCICON provides a platform for the stakeholders in the field of Biomedical research to come to a consensus on several issues.

Indian Council of Philosophical Research Chairman Prof S R Bhatt will deliver the keynote address. MAHE Pro Chancellor Dr H S Ballal will preside over. "There will be sessions

on 'Ethical dilemmas in Biomedical Research and Strategies to Overcome them' which will be addressed by eminent personalities from regulatory body (CDSCO), policy makers (ICMR), Clinical Research Organizations, Pharmaceutical Industry, academicians and ethics committees."

The conference will be preceded by pre-conference workshops on November 29 on the topics 'Update on ICMR Ethical Guidelines 2017' and 'Incorporating Ethics in Medical Education Curriculum.'

This conference coincides with the commemoration of the silver jubilee of Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), of which Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore is a constituent unit, Dr Unnikrishnan added.

Codava National Day in Madikeri on December 2

MANGALURU, DHNS: Codava National Council (CNC) will observe Codava National Day on at Gandhi Maidan in Madikeri December 2.

Addressing media persons, CNC president N U Nachappa said that the objective of the Codava National Day is to re-insist and rejuvenate the geo-political aspiration for the quest for autonomy and ratify the solidarity for self-determination right of Kodava tribal world.

The theme of this year's congregation is 'Right to Live' and is dedicated to the landless victims in northwestern Kodagu. The victims should be able to regain their land, he said.

Nachappa urged the Government of India to accord geopolitical autonomy to Kodagu, under the Sixth Schedule of Indian constitution for durable and permanent political solution to the long-standing unrest of the Kodava tribal world. The proper constitutional mechanism should be exercised by the Union government in the interest of justice and equity, he urged.

"Kodagu should be given political autonomy and right for internal political self-de-

termination for Kodava tribes. A permanent political package should be granted to provide Union territory status to Kodava land, under Article 2 and 3 of the Constitution. Kodava martial tribe should be added to the schedule list of out constitution under articles 340 and 342. Kodava Thakk should be included in the eight schedules of the constitution," he said.

Nachappa said that the Devati Parambu genocide by erstwhile Mysore province ruler Tipu Sultan in which maximum Kodava clans lost their lives and the forced merger of Kodagu with Karnataka are the two unfortunate incidents in the history of Kodagu. Kodavas need justice and compensation for these two incidents, he said and alleged that Karnataka is treating Kodava land as its internal colony and its native Kodava people as second class citizens.

The ethnographic survey started by the state government following a direction from the Central government has been stalled since December 2016, Nachappa said and sought completion of the survey.

At a glance



A sapling was planted at Guardian Angel Church, Angelore, as a part of 'Laudato Si' (Nature protection is my responsibility) campaign initiated by Mangaluru Diocese Bishop Dr Peter Paul Saldanha.



Badaguthittu Yakshagana artistes present Yakshagana episode 'Shashiprabha Parinaya' at Rajangann in Sri Krishna Mutt, Udupi.



Gopika Varma and team present Mohiniyattam as a part of Hejje Gejje Nrityanjali Nritya series at Rajanjann in Udupi.



Devotees take part in the Rathotsava of Sri Durgaparameshwari Temple at Uppunda.



Copper vessels that are more than 300 years old at the Adamar Mutt.

Re-tinning of copper utensils at Adamar Mutt

UDUPI: The old copper vessels at Adamar Mutt will get new life as professionals embark on the task of re-tinning them.

Cyprian D'Silva Barkur and Peter D'Souza Barkur, senior experts in making and re-tinning copper vessels, demonstrated at 'Patra', a day-long workshop on Saturday organised to create awareness on the benefits of using copper vessels.

Special skills

Stoking the fire for welding, the 71-year-old Peter D'Souza Barkur explained that the work of a copper-smith demanded special skills and he had learnt them from his elder brothers. "Each piece requires long hours of work, patience and plenty of effort," he explained.

The 85-year-old Cyprian cut a thin ring of copper, got another sheet and then shaped a pot. He placed the sheet in a pit where a fire burned and welded them. As the copper burned red, Cyprian stoked the flames, making sparks fly. Ash flakes swirled around and stung the eyes. Cyprian, hardly aware of it, wiped the sweat, brought the sheets out of the smithy and hammered them hard.

The skill of the brothers, unknown to many, has still helped

them eke out a living as it has for the last 60 years.

Culture of copper

Artist Purushotham Adve, who coordinated the workshop, said Udupi is famous for its food culture. "We wanted to show people the deeply rooted culture of copper utensils in the kitchen as the culture is being phased out with the dominance of Aluminium and stainless steel vessels," he said.

Adamar Mutt seer Sri Shashipriya Theertha said that the workshop was organised for the benefit of the common people. The Mutt wished to make the people aware of how the tradition of copper vessels was being neglected by the present day society.

"In the Ashta Mutts of Udupi, copper utensils are extensively used in the kitchen. It is also mandatory to re-tin the copper utensils when the vessels begin to discolour. As the utensils in our Mutt had to be re-tinned, we decided to conduct a workshop to help people learn about the re-tinning procedure," he explained.

As the utensils gained back their glow, the enthusiasts could not help but applaud the workmanship of the dwindling tribe of copper-smiths.

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