Crime and punishment

Four years after 12 bombs exploded across vari-
ous parts of Mumbai in 1993, the trial for the
bombers is set to begin tomorrow. The triple
accused, including Dawood Ibrahim, is expected
to face trial,

Three trains jumped off the track in 24 hours
in the three states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and
Jharkhand. Trains in the northern part of the
country have been hit the hardest due to the
unrest in Kashmir.

Arun Jaitley, the Union Finance Minister, said
in Parliament that the government has taken
the necessary steps to ensure the safety of
passengers and has deployed additional security
on all trains.

Dushyant Chautala, the leader of the Jana
Aadiwadi party in Haryana, was arrested in
Karnataka after being held for four days.

The arrest was made after the party was
charged with rioting and vandalism during a
protest against the CAA.

Three aerobic clubs in Coimbatore were
raided by the police on Wednesday.

The raids were conducted on the basis of
intelligence reports that the clubs were
hosting illegal parties and that they were
violating the COVID-19 guidelines.

A general strike called by the trade unions
was called off in Mumbai.

The strike was called off after the govern-
ment announced that it would not allow
any strike in the public sector.

The Bombay High Court on Thursday
ruled that the government cannot impose a
strike on the public sector.

The court said that the government cannot
impose a strike on the public sector without
the consent of the affected workers.

Three trains jumped off the track in the last
24 hours in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and
Jharkhand. The trains were traveling on the
轨道 of India Railways. The track was
on the route of the Mumbai-Nagpur route.

The incident happened on the track near
the village of Pimpri in the Pune district of
Maharashtra.

Three trains jumped off the track in the
last 24 hours in the states of Uttar Pradesh,
Bihar and Jharkhand. The incidents
occurred on the Mumbai-Nagpur route.

The track was on the route of the Mumbai-
Nagpur route. The trains were traveling on
the track of India Railways.

Three trains jumped off the track in the
last 24 hours in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and
Jharkhand. The incidents occurred on the
Mumbai-Nagpur route. The track was on the
route of India Railways.

Three trains jumped off the track in the
last 24 hours in the states of Uttar Prada,
Bihar and Jharkhand. The incidents
occurred on the Mumbai-Nagpur route.

The track was on the route of India Railways.

The incident happened on the track near
the village of Pimpri in the Pune district of
Maharashtra.

Three trains jumped off the track in the
last 24 hours in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and
Jharkhand. The incidents occurred on the
Mumbai-Nagpur route. The track was on the
route of India Railways.

The incident happened on the track near
the village of Pimpri in the Pune district of
Maharashtra.

Three trains jumped off the track in the
last 24 hours in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and
Jharkhand. The incidents occurred on the
Mumbai-Nagpur route. The track was on the
route of India Railways.

The incident happened on the track near
the village of Pimpri in the Pune district of
Maharashtra.

Three trains jumped off the track in the
last 24 hours in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and
Jharkhand. The incidents occurred on the
Mumbai-Nagpur route. The track was on the
route of India Railways.

The incident happened on the track near
the village of Pimpri in the Pune district of
Maharashtra.

Three trains jumped off the track in the
last 24 hours in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and
Jharkhand. The incidents occurred on the
Mumbai-Nagpur route. The track was on the
route of India Railways.

The incident happened on the track near
the village of Pimpri in the Pune district of
Maharashtra.

Three trains jumped off the track in the
last 24 hours in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and
Jharkhand. The incidents occurred on the
Mumbai-Nagpur route. The track was on the
route of India Railways.

The incident happened on the track near
the village of Pimpri in the Pune district of
Maharashtra.

Three trains jumped off the track in the
last 24 hours in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and
Jharkhand. The incidents occurred on the
Mumbai-Nagpur route. The track was on the
route of India Railways.

The incident happened on the track near
the village of Pimpri in the Pune district of
Maharashtra.

Three trains jumped off the track in the
last 24 hours in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and
Jharkhand. The incidents occurred on the
Mumbai-Nagpur route. The track was on the
route of India Railways.

The incident happened on the track near
the village of Pimpri in the Pune district of
Maharashtra.
Sanitisation process of Dera headquarters to begin today

It will be monitored by retired District and Sessions Judge A.K. S Pawar

The Dera management has been assured of cooperation, says the Haryana DGP. (LST PHOTO)

During the sanitisation process of the Dera premises in Haryana, the Haryana government filed a plea seeking permission to hold sanitisation process under judicial supervision.

The Supreme Court has been informed by the State government about the sanitisation process undertaken from September 2, 2017.

The process is being overseen by the court, and the accused who has been arrested on the premises will continue to be monitored by retired District and Sessions Judge A.K. S Pawar.

The Haryana DGP S K Saini told reporters that the sanitisation process will start on the premises of the Dera headquarters in Panchkula, and the entire process will be monitored by the court.

The court had already allowed the state government to implement the sanitisation process under judicial supervision, and the accused will continue to be monitored by the court.

Eight cops sent to judicial remand in custodial death case

Court rejects CBI demand to extend police remand

The Uttar Pradesh government has appointed retired IPS officer Sharadkumar Chopra as the new chief of Dera Sufi Walay Fauz for a period of one year.

Hindustan Mobile app linked to violence

Punjab Education Minister Anand Sidhu on Thursday launched a multi-day mobile app to manage data pertaining to the schools, aiming to improve the educational status of school-going children.

J&K High Court sets aside conviction of SOG operative

He is facing charges of killing armed man and injuring another

The J&K High Court on Thursday set aside the conviction of SOG operative, who had been found guilty of killing an armed man and injuring another.

The court noted that the prosecution had failed to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt.

In support of Gauri

Rajasthan malnourishment scheme to be based on micro-planning

The Rajasthan government has decided to introduce a micro-planning scheme for the malnourishment scheme.

The scheme will be based on micro-planning at the district level, and the state government has announced that it will be implemented in the state.

A special meeting was held in Bikaner to discuss the scheme, and the state government has decided to implement it at the district level.

Jharkhand gets snowfall

The Jharkhand High Court on Thursday rejected the bail application of a man accused of murdering his wife.

The accused had been arrested and remanded to police custody on September 1.

The additional district sessions judge dismissed the bail application and remanded the accused to police custody.

Rajasthan education initiatives hailed

Commendable work done: Javedkar

After the Rajasthan government took several initiatives to introduce the public private partnership (PPP) model in the education sector, the state government has commended the work done by the state government.

The state government has praised the work done by the Rajasthan government in the education sector, and the government has decided to implement the PPP model in the education sector.

The Bihar government has also praised the work done by the state government in the education sector, and the government has decided to implement the PPP model in the education sector.

Special Correspondent

With all necessary arrangements completed, the sanitisation process of the Dera Sufi Walay Fauz started in Panchkula on Thursday.

The commissioning of the process will be overseen by the court, and the accused who has been arrested on the premises will continue to be monitored by retired District and Sessions Judge A.K. S Pawar.
Appoint V-C quickly: Mizoram CM

As the strike by students in Mizoram University demanding the appointment of a regular Vice-Chancellor entered the second day, Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla on Thursday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to appoint a Vice-Chancellor quickly in the Central university.

BJP to contest Odisha polls alone: Shah

The party has set a target of 120 of the 147 Assembly seats in the State in 2019. The party has only 10 legislators in the current Odisha Assembly.

Saffron wave Mr. Shah, who has set a target of as many as 120 of the 147 Assembly seats in the State, said a BJP wave was blowing across the country and it will come to Odisha very soon.

60-day nationwide tour Mr. Shah, who arrived in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday as part of his 60-day nationwide tour to strengthen the party organisation, is holding a series of meetings with party leaders and workers to chalk out the party’s strategy in the State.

He is scheduled to address thousands of party workers at a conclave in Bhubaneswar on the last of his visit on Friday.
The M'angaluru Chalo' motorbike rally organised on Mangaluru on Thursday. (V. Aswath Kumar)

Police stop BJP's 'Mangaluru Chalo' motorcycle rally

Activists from across Karnataka hold protest in the city, leaders detained

The SIT, which was formed following the SIT, but wanted justice for the leaders of Karnataka.

People are with the BJP: Naidu
'Surge in party's vote share in recent polls a clear indication'

Fear of elephant refuses to fade from Kerala village

It ran amok and got trapped in a marsh on Tuesday

Naidu lays foundation for AAIS

STAFF REPORTER
Andhra Pradesh Chief Min-
ister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday called up his Delhi counterpart to ensure justice for the leaders of Karnataka.

Study to revive Vembanad on the cards

The lake is one of the critically vulnerable ecosystems of Kerala that has been hit by anthropogenic activities. 'The animal destroys the fish and other aquatic inhabitants of the lake,' said Prof. Bharatha Kalidas, director (Research) of Kufos.

A safe beach turns an eyesore

Plastic waste fouls up Lawson's Bay Beach, a tourist spot in Visakhapatnam

Borewell death: jail term for farmer, rig owner

Three-year-old died after falling into well

Sawry in style

Naidu asks people to utilise the institute for investigating their research.

Study to revive Vembanad on the cards

The lake is one of the critically vulnerable ecosystems of Kerala that has been hit by anthropogenic activities. 'The animal destroys the fish and other aquatic inhabitants of the lake,' said Prof. Bharatha Kalidas, director (Research) of Kufos.

Fear of elephant refuses to fade from Kerala village

It ran amok and got trapped in a marsh on Tuesday

Aarti Jyoti

His father among the sandy shores of Sitanagaram village near Tadipatri in Andhra Pradesh, which is about a story of discovering a river that can be traced back to the prehistoric era.

Dharmaraja

The only beach in Visakhapatnam that is littered with plastic waste fouls up Lawson's Bay Beach, a tourist spot in Visakhapatnam.

For other alternatives,’ said Mr. Kaith, without any equivocation, adding that the only way he would be convinced by the Chief Minister is if he could see a profile of the Chilam Island.

When asked about his earlier demand for a CM probe, Mr. Kaith said, ‘My mother appealed to CM Chandrababu to ensure justice for Gaikwad, following which he constituted the SIT. The investigation took nearly 10 years. The only question is about the inaction of the SIT,’ he added.

The actions that reached the CM office under other vocations had a press meet at Jayaram Bapu's house.

For Gaikwad, following which he constituted the SIT. The investigation took nearly 10 years. The only question is about the inaction of the SIT,’ he added.

The SIT, which was formed following the SIT, but wanted justice for the leaders of Karnataka.

People are with the BJP: Naidu
'Surge in party's vote share in recent polls a clear indication'

Fear of elephant refuses to fade from Kerala village

It ran amok and got trapped in a marsh on Tuesday

Study to revive Vembanad on the cards

The lake is one of the critically vulnerable ecosystems of Kerala that has been hit by anthropogenic activities. ‘The animal destroys the fish and other aquatic inhabitants of the lake,’ said Prof. Bharatha Kalidas, director (Research) of Kufos.

A safe beach turns an eyesore

Plastic waste fouls up Lawson's Bay Beach, a tourist spot in Visakhapatnam

Borewell death: jail term for farmer, rig owner

Three-year-old died after falling into well

Sawry in style

Naidu asks people to utilise the institute for investigating their research.

Study to revive Vembanad on the cards

The lake is one of the critically vulnerable ecosystems of Kerala that has been hit by anthropogenic activities. ‘The animal destroys the fish and other aquatic inhabitants of the lake,’ said Prof. Bharatha Kalidas, director (Research) of Kufos.

A safe beach turns an eyesore

Plastic waste fouls up Lawson's Bay Beach, a tourist spot in Visakhapatnam

Borewell death: jail term for farmer, rig owner

Three-year-old died after falling into well

Sawry in style

Naidu asks people to utilise the institute for investigating their research.

Study to revive Vembanad on the cards

The lake is one of the critically vulnerable ecosystems of Kerala that has been hit by anthropogenic activities. ‘The animal destroys the fish and other aquatic inhabitants of the lake,’ said Prof. Bharatha Kalidas, director (Research) of Kufos.

A safe beach turns an eyesore

Plastic waste fouls up Lawson's Bay Beach, a tourist spot in Visakhapatnam

Borewell death: jail term for farmer, rig owner

Three-year-old died after falling into well

Sawry in style

Naidu asks people to utilise the institute for investigating their research.

Study to revive Vembanad on the cards

The lake is one of the critically vulnerable ecosystems of Kerala that has been hit by anthropogenic activities. ‘The animal destroys the fish and other aquatic inhabitants of the lake,’ said Prof. Bharatha Kalidas, director (Research) of Kufos.
Bihar Congress in the grip of a crisis

Rahul Gandhi meets party MLA in Delhi but State unit chief is left out of the meeting

Amitabh Tiwary

Bihar Congress president Ashok Choudhary on Thursday said the party was in a “crisis” and blamed some senior party leaders in Delhi for it.

Mr Choudhary’s comments came amid a buzz in the party that several senior leaders were trying to split the party and were demanding the removal of liquor shops which were allegedly opened against the wishes of the people in Chandigarh.

Chandigarh bars asked to install breathalyzer

The Union Territory of Chandigarh’s administration has asked pubs and bars to install breathalyzer to detain erring alcohol drinkers. It has asked the police to monitor cases of drinking driving.

Eyewitness in murder case killed in UP

A 26-year-old woman, an eyewitness to her sister’s murder, was killed after her family was attacked in Pratapgarh village in Champaripur district, the police said on Thursday.

Loyalty with Rahul!

Offered to quit'

Amaranand Singh, who offered to quit his ministerial positions in the wake of the issue over the removal of liquor shops from Chandigarh and Indore districts, said on Thursday that the party was in a ‘crisis’. He had offered to quit his ministerial positions after a meeting of the state party unit was deferred.

Heritage building demolished

Prime Trust of India (PTI) building

The PTI building, located at Old Bus Stand locality, was a heritage building. With the demolition of the building, a rich and glorious history has come to an end. The Pratap Gaur School had come up in 1887 during colonial rule.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METRO VILLAGES

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rain is likely at isolated places over Dharmsala, Nagpur, Bhuj, Kishangang, Ranchi, Tirunelveli, central Maharashtra, south interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and parts of Odisha.

Poor Man

According to reports, the hospital staff at the first hospital that said they could risk her life in the labour room due to her HIV positive status.

HIV+ woman denied treatment, notice issued

Pushed out of maternity ward after which she gave birth to twins who died

A 26-year-old woman, an HIV+ patient, was denied treatment at a hospital in Delhi, leading to the death of her newborn twins on Wednesday. Her husband, who alleged that the hospital was refusing to treat the patient in order to remove her from the state party unit and keep the crisis from spreading, filed a police complaint. The hospital denied any such attempt to split the party.

The hospital’s management meeting was attended by the district magistrate.

The news came amid a buzz in the party about the removal of liquor shops from Chandigarh and Indore districts.

The hospital’s management meeting was attended by the district magistrate.

A 26-year-old woman, an eyewitness to her sister’s murder, was killed after her family was attacked in Pratapgarh village in Champaripur district. The police said on Thursday.

Amaranand Singh, who offered to quit his ministerial positions in the wake of the issue over the removal of liquor shops from Chandigarh and Indore districts, said on Thursday that the party was in a ‘crisis’. He had offered to quit his ministerial positions after a meeting of the state party unit was deferred.

Heritage building demolished

Prime Trust of India (PTI) building

The PTI building, located at Old Bus Stand locality, was a heritage building. With the demolition of the building, a rich and glorious history has come to an end. The Pratap Gaur School had come up in 1887 during colonial rule.
Babies pay the price for poor medical infrastructure

Doctors in hospital, where 30 infants died in a month, likely to get clean chit

S HAIKHUZ BAI, The Atharva, Bengaluru

Three newborns and 27 others died at the Ram Manohar Lohia district hospital.

The newborns and the others died within a week after birth.

The families of the dead infants were left behind with the question of how their children were killed.

The hospital's doctors were in shock and were trying to find the cause of the deaths.

The hospital's management was in a state of panic and was trying to cover up the deaths.

The hospital's management was under pressure from the state government to provide a clean chit to the police for the deaths.

The hospital's management was trying to blame the deaths on a pre-existing medical condition.

The hospital's management was trying to shift the blame to the hospital's facilities.
Social revolution in a JAM
Equity in the digital space from empowering Indians to making them smart

Vigil on vigilantes

The Supreme Court’s go-ahead message about the Lankesh murder has galvanized the right-wing forces, which cannot remain silent while vigilantes roam the streets with impunity. It has sent out a strong signal to those who want to end the activities of abusive gun-slingers. The court has hinted at a similar approach in the case of other criminal acts. The police powers of the Centre and the States in such cases have to be utilized in an effective manner.

The Centre has declared that it is soft on the cattle trade for their livelihood. Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared a few months ago that killing the cattle trade for their livelihood. The Centre can no more ignore the structural changes in demand and supply. The economic reforms of 1991 and 1992 have put India on the path to growth. The Centre can no more ignore the structural changes in demand and supply. The Centre can no more ignore the structural changes in demand and supply.

Beyond bank accounts

What killed Gauri Lankesh? That is the question being asked by everyone. There is a deeper and a more revealing question that we, as a society, should consider significant. What killed the agri-business operations of the nationalized banking sector had

The new supercycle?

A weakening American dollar stokes a rebound in commodities prices

Overall growth had however been muted, earth-shattering changes of the sort envisaged by the government’s policies is the recognition that the Centre is no more the only decision-maker, but it has to coordinate with the States. The Centre can no more ignore the structural changes in demand and supply. The Centre can no more ignore the structural changes in demand and supply. The Centre can no more ignore the structural changes in demand and supply.

A blow to democracy

The brutal murder of journalist and activist Gauri Lankesh seems to be an ominous sign of a normalisation of intimidation and violence in our society. The murder of Gauri Lankesh is a case in point. She was a critic of mainstream Hindutva ideology — one that stands in opposition to the spirit of tolerance and secularism. She was killed by vigilantes. The Centre can no more ignore the structural changes in demand and supply. The Centre can no more ignore the structural changes in demand and supply.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letteds@hindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name with initials.

The clarification

We regret that we inadvertently mentioned the date as 2015 instead of 2006.

The clarification

We regret that we inadvertently mentioned the date as 2015 instead of 2006.

The clarification

We regret that we inadvertently mentioned the date as 2015 instead of 2006.

The clarification

We regret that we inadvertently mentioned the date as 2015 instead of 2006.

The clarification

We regret that we inadvertently mentioned the date as 2015 instead of 2006.

The clarification

We regret that we inadvertently mentioned the date as 2015 instead of 2006.

The clarification

We regret that we inadvertently mentioned the date as 2015 instead of 2006.

The clarification

We regret that we inadvertently mentioned the date as 2015 instead of 2006.

The clarification

We regret that we inadvertently mentioned the date as 2015 instead of 2006.

The clarification

We regret that we inadvertently mentioned the date as 2015 instead of 2006.
Demonetisation: now a proven failure?

Dawn

Yesterday, at a hurriedly convened meeting of the Reserve Bank of India, Governor Urjit Patel said the recent demonetisation drive had failed and that he was to blame for it.

In an extraordinary statement, Patel said he had been “deeply sorry” for the hardship caused by the sudden withdrawal of 80% of the currency from circulation, adding that demonetisation had “been a failure” and the fallout on the economy’s financial stability had “been substantial”.

The financial community was stunned by Patel’s admission that demonetisation was a failure, which many had actually debunked.

The government’s 2016 demonetisation drive, which saw the withdrawal of ₹500 and ₹1000 notes from circulation, was carried out with the aim of clipping the wings of the black economy.

But Patel’s admission that demonetisation had not worked was not the only thing that came as a surprise.

He also took the responsibility for the failure of demonetisation, saying he should have set the target for getting new notes into the system sooner.

The government, in its demonetisation drive, had set a target of getting back 97% of the currency it withdrew. But Patel said the target was too ambitious and the Reserve Bank of India had not been able to meet it.

As a result, Patel said, the economy had not recovered and the government had to make “substantial reorientations”.

Patel’s admission that demonetisation had been a failure came at a time when the government is preparing to release ₹200 notes, which will replace ₹500 and ₹1000 notes.

The release of new notes is expected to help the economy recover from the demonetisation shock.

The government had said that demonetisation had not only deprived the black economy of its sources of income, but also helped bring it out of the shadow.

But Patel’s admission that demonetisation had failed and that the economy had not recovered would be a blow to the government’s efforts to boost the economy.

Patel’s admission that demonetisation had failed and that the economy had not recovered would also be a blow to the credibility of the Reserve Bank of India.

The Reserve Bank of India has been under criticism for its handling of demonetisation, and Patel’s admission that demonetisation had failed and that the economy had not recovered would further damage its reputation.

The Reserve Bank of India has been under criticism for its handling of demonetisation, and Patel’s admission that demonetisation had failed and that the economy had not recovered would further damage its reputation.
Journalist shot, robbed in Bihar

Dilip Sardar, Awadipur's resident police chief, says that he was accompanied by police personnel when he was shot in the right hand. He was rushed to the nearest hospital. Later, he was taken to Patna for further treatment.

Source: The Hindu

Defence preparedness, soldiers' welfare to get priority

Union Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar today said that the country's defence preparedness and soldiers' welfare would be given high priority. He was addressing the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) passing out parade at Wellington.

Source: The Hindu

PM caps Myanmar trip with visit to Balahadur Shah's grave

Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrapped up his Myanmar trip on Thursday, visiting the mausoleum of Balahadur Shah, the last Mogul Emperor, in the city of Hyderabad.

Source: The Hindu

India keeps off ‘Bali Declaration’

Reference to Rakhine inappropriate

A show of solidarity with Myanmar is one of the key takeaways from Thursday’s Bali Democracy Forum (BDF), but an international conference held in Bali on Friday to mark the conclusion of the BDF has been called off, leaving out references to the violence in Rakhine State that has forced hundreds of thousands of Muslims to flee for safety.

Source: The Hindu

Nirmala Sitharaman says signs of ‘Make in India’

Defence preparedness, soldiers' welfare to get priority

Union Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar today said that the country's defence preparedness and soldiers' welfare would be given high priority. He was addressing the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) passing out parade at Wellington.

Source: The Hindu

Debt, projects delays worry Bhutan chief's remark on war

What concerns us is that the partnership seems to be going backwars, say senior officials.

Source: The Hindu

India killed, 13 injured in Srinagar blast

One civilian was killed and 11 others were injured in an IED blast in Srinagar on Thursday. The blast occurred near a polling station in Anchar area of downtown Srinagar.

Source: The Hindu
Life term for Abu Salem violates treaty

The trial court, which had awarded death sentence to Abu Salem, had sentenced him to life term on Thursday, in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case, come down heavily on Taher and Firoz. It noted that he had knowingly, willfully and deliberately and dishonestly participated in several conspiracy meetings and in furtherance to such meetings, he plotted and hatched the said conspiracy and finally carried it out.

The court, after hearing the arguments of senior advocate Majeed Memon, who also appeared for Taher, said that the court could not accept the argument that the Indian government should be held responsible for the incidents.

The court also noted that the government had decided to extradite Taher and Firoz.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.

The court also said that the government had decided not to extradite the two people.
Pak. needs a policy shift: Foreign Minister

"We don't have a lot of time."

Monday's talks resulted in India and Pakistan agreeing to hold talks between their envoys in order to discuss ways to improve relations between their two countries.

The agreement comes despite recent tensions between the two nations, which have been escalating recently, with both countries accusing each other of violating their air space.

India has accused Pakistan of allowing its airspace to be used by militants to launch attacks on Indian military bases, while Pakistan has denied these allegations.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has also accused India of targeting its own civilians with rocket attacks from across the border, a claim that New Delhi has also denied.

The talks between India and Pakistan are expected to focus on ways to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future and to establish mechanisms for communication and coordination in case of any future incidents.

The agreement comes amid growing concerns over the region's security situation, with both India and Pakistan facing major internal challenges and political instability.

India has been dealing with corruption scandals and anti-corruption protests, while Pakistan has been grappling with extremist groups and terrorism.

The recent talks between the two countries are seen as a positive step towards缓和局势和增进双方互信,尽管仍需更多的努力来解决根本问题。
**MARKET WATCH**

Cipla BPCL Adani Ports

ITB Tata Power State Bank

IndusInd Bank HCL Tech Dr Reddys Lab Bosch

Brent oil Eicher Motors Tata Motors M&M ITC

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

‘Crystal clear’ on moving to alternative auto fuels: Gadkari

Says Cabinet note on electric vehicle ready; exodus industry to pursue research

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

Vistara to go international quicker than expected

Faster aircraft induction to give the airline global wings

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

Tata Motors sets sights on turnaround this year

Only 6-9 months for profits, not 2-3 years, says MD and CEO

**Air pocket**

The airline had demanded a commitment for 5,000 seats on Dubai flights at IndiGo's price, "But the airline has not yet given a commitment for the price," said an official close to the developments. The airline's option is to transfer 3,000 seats, which is already happening. The airline is also waiting for the final decision on the 28% tax bracket.

**State laws repugnant to IBC are void:** SC

'Entrenched arrangements not allowed to continue if they cannot pay their debts'

**Aviation**

The airline sector has been facing challenges, and the government has been working on various initiatives to support the airlines. A recent development has been the announcement of the government's intention to acquire a stake in an airline company. This move is expected to provide much-needed relief to the struggling industry. The government has also been working on measures to reduce the cost of aviation fuel and improve the efficiency of the industry. The government has been working closely with the aviation ministry to implement these measures and ensure a sustainable future for the industry.
‘Electric option for every JLR model from 2020’

The connectivity that liberates us with autonomous vehicles could become a method of insecurity, enslavement, JLR chief

JLR’s move towards electrification follows in the steps of others in the sector, including Volvo, which from 2019 onwards won’t launch new models just powered by the internal combustion engine. While Norway plans to phase out new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2025 via a tax on CO2 emissions, India is yet to announce a date for the same. JLR has franchises in many countries, and will have to continue with the dual-engine strategy.

The company, Britain’s largest car manufacturer, secured its vision for the Jaguar Land Rover’s FUTURE-TYPE, which provided a glimpse of the technology possibilities in 2010, including through a virtual reality display at the Tech Fair. Also on display was a model of five, an artificially intelligent, voice-activated as a personal assistant, planning journeys and a person’s day-taking over the roads that smart phones have had in many areas of life today.

Predicting ill-health:
“Know what’s in your fridge and can even order your shopping or a pizza,” said JLR. The company expects to make the voice system available in people’s health, picking up signs of ill-health and even making doctors’ appointments. Mr. Speth added, “The mobility footprint will change lives profoundly.”

Haldwani: Paul hand-plied can be left behind

Infy needs to convey vision for growth: Paul

Infy needs to convey vision for growth: Paul

Infy opened office in Amsterdam

Infy, India’s second-largest software exporter, on Thursday announced the opening of its Amsterdam office.

The investment is a part of the company’s plan to make a sustained commitment to the European market, according to a BSE filing. It will enable the firm to take its services offerings across artificial intelligence, data and analytics and digital technologies, to clients in the financial services, manufacturing and insurance, the filing said.

Infy slaps ₹2423 crore fine on PACL

SEBI Board fines PNB for ₹2423 crore fine on PACL

SEBI slapped PNB with a fine of ₹2423 crore for making false claims in its public offering document.

AUM of mutual funds cross ₹20 lakh crore mark

Funds see more participation from retail investors, HNs

The festive season has started, and mutual funds have seen significant inflows. It is being reported that mutual funds saw an inflow of ₹20 lakh crore in the first week of the festive season, which is the highest in the history of mutual funds.

Centre okays sugar mark at 25% duty

The government on Thursday allowed sugar mark at 25% duty to augment domestic supplies ahead of the festive season. The decision has been taken amidst reports of sugar shortage in the country.

McDonald’s row: No relief from NCLAT

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) refused to pass any interim order on an appeal by a group firm seeking damages from McDonald’s.

The company, Britain’s largest car manufacturer, secured its vision for the Jaguar Land Rover’s FUTURE-TYPE, which provided a glimpse of the technology possibilities in 2010, including through a virtual reality display at the Tech Fair. Also on display was a model of five, an artificially intelligent, voice-activated as a personal assistant, planning journeys and a person’s day-taking over the roads that smart phones have had in many areas of life today.

Predicting ill-health:
“Know what’s in your fridge and can even order your shopping or a pizza,” said JLR. The company expects to make the voice system available in people’s health, picking up signs of ill-health and even making doctors’ appointments. Mr. Speth added, “The mobility footprint will change lives profoundly.”

Haldwani: Paul hand-plied can be left behind

Infy needs to convey vision for growth: Paul

Infy needs to convey vision for growth: Paul

Infy opened office in Amsterdam

Infy, India’s second-largest software exporter, on Thursday announced the opening of its Amsterdam office.

The investment is a part of the company’s plan to make a sustained commitment to the European market, according to a BSE filing. It will enable the firm to take its services offerings across artificial intelligence, data and analytics and digital technologies, to clients in the financial services, manufacturing and insurance, the filing said.

Infy slaps ₹2423 crore fine on PACL

SEBI Board fines PNB for ₹2423 crore fine on PACL

SEBI slapped PNB with a fine of ₹2423 crore for making false claims in its public offering document.

AUM of mutual funds cross ₹20 lakh crore mark

Funds see more participation from retail investors, HNs

The festive season has started, and mutual funds have seen significant inflows. It is being reported that mutual funds saw an inflow of ₹20 lakh crore in the first week of the festive season, which is the highest in the history of mutual funds.

Centre okays sugar mark at 25% duty

The government on Thursday allowed sugar mark at 25% duty to augment domestic supplies ahead of the festive season. The decision has been taken amidst reports of sugar shortage in the country.
del Potro has Federer’s number again

Former champion sets up a semi-final meeting with Nadal

An interesting semi-final awaits Nadal and del Potro. The match will be their fifth in as many meetings, with Nadal winning four of the previous four.

Money we paid for IPL is not outrageous

IPL is a high quality premium property, says Uday Shankar

In a candid interaction, Uday Shankar, CEO and COO of Star India, says the money paid for IPL is not outrageous, and he is convinced that the payment mechanism has been designed in the best interests of all stakeholders.

BCCI releases itinerary for home series

Gavaskar to lead Board president’s XI

Former India skipper Sunil Gavaskar will lead the Board President’s XI in its match against the Australia A squad later this month.

Six NE States to meet CoA for clarity on immunity

Emphasis will be on Ranji Trophy, u-16 and u-19 tournaments

After the six north-eastern states approached the Cricket Association of Assam (CA) demanding clarification on the immunity of their union officials, the CoA decided to meet with the six states (Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh).

Not a day goes by without

del Potro has Federer’s number again

Six years ago, del Potro came from two sets down to beat Federer in their semi-final meeting at the US Open.

Money we paid for IPL is not outrageous

IPL is a high quality premium property, says Uday Shankar

In a candid interaction, Uday Shankar, CEO and COO of Star India, says the money paid for IPL is not outrageous, and he is convinced that the payment mechanism has been designed in the best interests of all stakeholders.

BCCI releases itinerary for home series

Gavaskar to lead Board president’s XI

Former India skipper Sunil Gavaskar will lead the Board President’s XI in its match against the Australia A squad later this month.

Six NE States to meet CoA for clarity on immunity

Emphasis will be on Ranji Trophy, u-16 and u-19 tournaments

After the six north-eastern states approached the Cricket Association of Assam (CA) demanding clarification on the immunity of their union officials, the CoA decided to meet with the six states (Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh).

Not a day goes by without
Big wins for SRRK. Jai Ho's

Emphatic win for Australia

Lahiri in International team again

Lahiri may make his second appearance at the President Cup after international captain Nick Price assigning a surprise by selecting the Indian as one of the two wild-card picks for the September 28-October 2 event here.

Lahiri, the first Indian to hit a triply century in international men's cricket, will return to the international stage to partner former star captain S.S. Manoj Moudgal as India's only representative to play in the 15th HCL International Men's Cricket Championship. The event, which is the biggest in the country and the biggest in the continent, is a test of a team's overall performance.

The championship will be held in India from the 15th October onwards, with the opening match between India and New Zealand scheduled for the September 28-October 2 event here.

The championship will be held in India from the 15th October onwards, with the opening match between India and New Zealand scheduled for the September 28-October 2 event here.

The championship will be held in India from the 15th October onwards, with the opening match between India and New Zealand scheduled for the September 28-October 2 event here.

The championship will be held in India from the 15th October onwards, with the opening match between India and New Zealand scheduled for the September 28-October 2 event here.

The championship will be held in India from the 15th October onwards, with the opening match between India and New Zealand scheduled for the September 28-October 2 event here.

The championship will be held in India from the 15th October onwards, with the opening match between India and New Zealand scheduled for the September 28-October 2 event here.

The championship will be held in India from the 15th October onwards, with the opening match between India and New Zealand scheduled for the September 28-October 2 event here.

The championship will be held in India from the 15th October onwards, with the opening match between India and New Zealand scheduled for the September 28-October 2 event here.

The championship will be held in India from the 15th October onwards, with the opening match between India and New Zealand scheduled for the September 28-October 2 event here.
Panchal hits century

India Red batsmen make slow progress

**Slow and steady:** Priyank Panchal played with purpose to help termed to a ton.

**KAPIL NAGPAL**

Entertainment was at a premium as the pitch held sway in the battle between India Red and Green as domestic cricket for the season opened with the Duleep Trophy here on Thursday.

Hundreds of fans who braved the distance and the onerous environment on Thursday, there was something to these even though the scoreboard told them it was anything but. The tally teetered around a ton, with 172 for five on the opening day of four.

The match started off a few minutes late, as one of the lightest wickets to fall on the opening day of the four-day match.

The match started off a few minutes late, as one of the lightest wickets to fall on the opening day of the four-day match.

The pitch range of Elina International Stadium, that has uneven work to do, was unmeritworthy. But, it was beyond comprehension as to what stopped the only scoreboard from showing individual scores.

Thus, it was no surprise that opener Shadab Sultam AO reached his century without anyone getting a look in, before his stumps were sent flying by left-arm medium pace Akshat Chadha.

However, when the 27-year-old Priyank Panchal reached his century, in his 176 for five to 11.5 overs, it was a cause for concern.

On a dodgy pitch that defied the bowlers considerably, it was no surprise that Zaheeruddin was one of Khan Nari’s two victims, while Vijay had also batted a couple in a domestic last season.

With the daunting challenge, Zaheeruddin reached his century, in his 176 for five, with an innings which led to a forlorn effort, even though he was dismissed by Shadab for 112.

However, Panchal’s game described him in the ninth and seventh. He made numerous unforeseen errors while scooping Sally’s serve and his backhand came a cropper.

Five-time national champion Momina Das qualified for main draw

**K. KRISHNAKUMAR**

With the top 11 seeded players being given a free, the men’s first round matches of the Lnts/Indian South Zone National ranking table matches held less significance as far as sports were concerned on Thursday.

However, there was a lot of action in the few matches that went the distance. One that caught the eye was the battle between E. Prabhakar (BSP) and Prabhakar (Delhi), which the latter won.

Prabhakar fought back well to equalise at two games each. Sujit attacked Prabhakar’s backhand continuously to win a few points early, and it turned into a modelled double-fifth game.

During a game point at 10-10, Prabhakar doubled a hundred into the net, but won the next two points to pocket the game.

However, Prabhakar’s game described him in the ninth and seventh. He made numerous unforeseen errors while scooping Sujit’s serve and his backhand came a cropper.

Five-time national champion Momina Das qualified for the main draw, with a four-point win over R. S. Parvathwara (Delhi), which the latter won.

Prabhakar fought back well to equalise at two games each. Sujit attacked Prabhakar’s backhand continuously to win a few points early, and it turned into a modelled double-fifth game.

*The Hindue*
African wild dog democracy is nothing to sneeze at

Scientists who studied a pack in Botswana found that the canines displayed fascinating voting behaviour when getting ready for a hunt.

At the center of the small $150 mn in UAE draw

NASA captures images of strong solar flares

Among the most intense this solar cycle

Held on September 18

More flare events were expected on Wednesday, the second of which was the most intense recorded since the start of the sun cycle in December 2009. NASA scientists, which can disrupt communications satellites, GPS and power grids by emitting an electric discharge, will have an impact on the earth's side facing the sun. The communications used in

Social animal: African wild dogs in Botswana.

They are actually getting to move about as if they want to place for a long period of time, to reach a common decision. The successful pack role in sneezes. If monkeys or meerkats are looking for a better place to flee, they need to reach a consensus. A team of researchers from the Max Planck Institute in Berlin, Germany, started school Aas also working on an album, with his undergraduates research technician, at Brown University.

George, who is from Delhi, said. He hopes we will have more sneezing, I believe, some sneezing is something that happens. So they can't say it is a true vote. But they can say that if you want to know if this dog is going to move, counting sneezes is your best bet.

India's Plane fare

$159 mn in a UAE draw

Plane fare

Wiring of 36,500 vehicles pass a decommissioned plane from a private Afghan airline that is to be used as a restaurant at the City Park in Kabul. The plane is drawing many visitors, some of whom have never been inside an aircraft before.
The breath of life

As the Mahapushkaram, a 12-day festival begins on September 12 in Mayiladuturai, let's celebrate the Cauvery, an integral part of South Indian culture Pages 2, 6&7

Feminine Mythique

One woman entreats and another obliges to make a dead man come alive P4

The reign continues Begum Parveen Sultana on her trademark echo effect and her brush with film songs P9

Rooted in soil

Remembering BV Karanth, the thespian, who always maintained that Hindi theatre could not be confused with Indian theatre P11

Celebration on Cauvery

Tula Ghat, Mayiladuturai is gearing up for the Mahapushkaram festival P2
An eventful transit

Tula Ghat, Mayiladutturai, is gearing for the Mahapushkaram festival beginning on September 12

GERTHA VENKATARANAMAN

For 12 days from September 12, Mayiladutturai in Tamil Nadu will be hub of activity with spiritual and cultural programmes taking place on the banks of the Cauvery. The occasion is Pushkaram, an event that happens every year, when Jupiter (Guru) shifts house. The river associated with the zodiac sign will be propitiated in an event called Pushkaram.

This year Jupiter has entered Tula Raasi and the river to be propitiated is the Cauvery, whose zodiac sign is also the Tula. “The significance of Mahakshamkara is well-known. Magnify it several times and you have this Mahapushkaram,” says Sri Vijayapee Sengalipuram Sundara Rama Dikshitar. “The Cauvery Pushkaram will happen again after 12 years but the specialty this year is that the planets have come back to the same positions after 177 years. The same alignment was found during the event on September 8, 1840 – Sun, Venus and Mercury in Kanni Raasi, Jupiter in Thula, Saturn in Vrischikam, Mars in Katakam and so on,” he explains.

“Harivarash Puranam refers to the Cauvery as the Ganga of the South and a dip in the river during this period of 12 days is highly auspicious,” he adds. According to him, participating in the yagams to be performed on all the days, performing rituals and engaging in acts of charity are recommended.

The rare event, conducted with the support of the Tamil Nadu Government, has been organised by the heads of all the Maths – Dharmapuram, Tiruvavudur, Tiruppanandal, Velakurichi, Koonampatti, Sengol and so on. Although the festival belongs to the entire stretch of Cauvery, Tula Ghat in Mayiladutturai will be the centre.

The story goes that Guru did a long penance seeking the favour of Brahma. The God of Creation promised to fulfil the planet’s need. Guru replied that he wanted Pushkaram – an aspect in Brahma’s kamandal. But Pushkaram was unwilling to part with the ‘Master’. Brahma solved the problem by making the two strike a compromise, according to which, when Jupiter makes his annual transit, Pushkaram will enter the river and stay there for two days after which it will return to its original abode. The first 12 days is called Aadi Pushkaram and the last 12 before Jupiter moves again is Andhi Pushkaram.

There are many stories linked to the Cauvery but the common thread is that is she is not just the Ganga of the South but even holier than her. Every Ganga and Yamuna are supposed to take a dip in the Cauvery to wash off the sins deposited by human beings. Sage Agastya walks towards the South with the river in his Kamandal to be released. He places the Kamandal on the ground to do his ablutions, when a crow (Vinayaka) tips it and out flows the river. Agastya is taken aback but reconciles that it is the Almighty’s wish. The river gets her name – K (crow) and V (Vira) (expanse).

“All the rivers are sacred for the people of this land and Cauvery, which wears the hundreds of temples on her banks as a garland, is as holy as the Ganges. It is a blessing that the Pushkaram, which by itself is sacred, happens to be Mahapushkaram and Cauvery is the associated river. It gives us an opportunity to worship the river, wherever she flows – from Talaicauvery to Kaveripoompattinam. Since Guru enters Tula raasi, a dip in Mayavaram’s Tula Ghat gains special significance,” says Sri Vijayendra Saraswati of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Vishwakshetram.

The State Government machinery is gearing to receive the huge influx of pilgrims during the 12 days of Pushkaram. From releasing water from Mettur on September 8 to providing round-the-clock medical aid, the administration has put in place amenities to meet the needs of the public. Food will be served at specific points, special buses will be pressed into service and water will be made available. Vehicles will not be allowed close to the river or the place of the event but pilgrims would need to walk not more than a km.

For the past several months, the organising committee has been conducting pujas at the important ghats of the Cauvery for rain. “With the blessings of all the deities and cooperation from the State Government and local administration, the Cauvery Pushkaram Trust started the preparations as early as February,” says Mahalakshmi Subramaniam, Overall Coordinater. “Funds for the multi-crore event is being mobilised through donations from philanthropists, sponsors and devotees,” she adds.

Festival highlights

Water from the 12 rivers will be collected and puja done to the kalasams on September 11. The flag will go up at 8 a.m., to mark the start of the festival. Heads of religious Maths will enter the waters (Pushkarapravesam) at around 8:30, and public entry shortly after.

The agenda includes a conference on ascetics on September 12, at Jain Marriage Hall. Another highlight is that priests of temples in the villages of Mayiladutturai will go in a procession with the deities. This procession will be flagged off by Sri Sankara Vijayendra Saraswati at 3 p.m. on September 16. Cauvery Aarati will take place in the evening daily. The festival concludes with an end on September 23 and the flag will come down after Vijayatri on September 24. The special editions brought out by journals and a souvenir by the Pushkaram Trust will be released. Contact Mahalakshmi Subramaniam-9940053289, Muthukumaraswami-8825674001, Babu-8300001020, Jayaram-9844279265 and Appar Sundaram-9489829396

Cultural programmes

- The Pushkaram celebration offers a rich fare of dance, music, discourses and more. The events scheduled September 12-24, 5-9 p.m., includes devotional songs by Dr. Ganesh, Veeranraj Raja, Prof. Ananataranam and Haricharan-Kalaksheela, Balaikrishnadasa, Thevar singing by Tirunavakkal Kolvudri Srinivasan, Karakuldu Sri G.S. Bhairava Gurukkala, dance presentations by Mumbai Sri Rajakumari, Bharatanatyam Kala Mandir, Lakshmipriya’s troupe, Madurai Jyotsna, bhajan recital by Jayakrishnan Sekar. Cauvery Aarti will be followed by a poetry symposium, ‘Nadantha Vazhi Kaveri’, will bring the curtain down on the programmes.
She stoops to conquer

From graceful to flashy, Bhavana Reddy chiselled Satyabhama with all her emotions in “Bhama Kalapam”

RANEE KUMAR

There is nothing novel about the ancient Kuchipudi solo theatrical, “Bhama Kalapam” which in a nutshell is a soliloquy of Satyabhama, one of the principal wives of lord Krishna. The dance and song elucidate her egotistic persona which finally surrenders to the divine love and longing.

Veteran guru Raja Reddy's choreography was, as usual, faithful to the original tradition and the dash of novelty that spiced the dance was more of a prelude and wrap-up that in no way interfered with the flow of this ritualistic presentation, ably handled by Bhavana Reddy. The briefing in English facilitated an understanding of the proceedings since the entire spongand dialogue are in chaste Telugu.

It was like a trip into the ancient Andhra's rural world of Bhagavatha mela. As the curtains drew up, a dancer duo with small water pots in one hand and a leaf (mango) in the other sprinkled water as they danced moving around the entire stage space as a ritual of ablation prior to the onset of the ‘kalapam’. No sooner do they disappear off stage, another set of five dancers troop in carrying imaginary colours to draw rangoli on the purified platform as a mark of an auspicious happening. And last but not the least, another duo replaces the group with incense in hand dancing to ‘duru’ (sylabic dance utterances), rotating around the stage as a part of the purification process. This ritual is like a preamble to the entry of Satyabhama, the royal consort of Krishna, known for her pride.

Bhavana makes an entry from behind a mobile cloth screen carried by two dancers which again a part of the convention of Bhama Kalapam. Her pravesha duru (dance to mnemonics) was like a spell of rain that sets the arid ground fragrant with its sweet wet smell. The customary self-introduction more or less picturises the character of the nayika (heroine), a ‘swadhin abhatraka’ (having her beloved in subjection), her birth, breed, beauty and her special status in Krishna’s life.

Histrionics on display
Sanchari galore, Bhavana displayed her histrionics with her expressive face and brilliant dancing skills now and throughout the presentation. Satyabhama character in this theatrical is known for her varied gait to varied pace (giti) of the orchestra and the artiste gave her best in terms of graceful, fleeting, flashy walk to the required speed of the beat (taal).

Raja Reddy chips in as comic relief (vadhushak) as well as Sutradas who takes the incident forward. Here he plays the role of Madhavi, sakhi (hand-maiden) to Bham, in his normal attire. Madhavi’s character is also the alter ego of the heroine who constantly reminds the proud Bham to stoop if she has to conquer. The witty, wise-cracks and mime by Madhavi are both philosophically and in content as well as satirically sending the audience into peals of laughter (for those who are proficient in Telugu). Madhavi’s role got popular in the original Kuchipudi street plays that travelled from village to village in the early era where all artists were only men. The refrain ‘saggya ne yamna vani peru cheppa...’ and the following lines, ‘madama, madama...’ depict the age-old tradition where wives fought shy of uttering their spouse’s name in public and on the artistic front, gives ample scope for the dancer to emulate nuances of the Shringara ras.

Within the parameters of Kuchipudi style of expression, where slightly dramatic exposition of emotion is evoked, Bhavana carried herself with aplomb. The abhinaya in sitting posture as she writes a letter urging Krishna to come to her was also a part of the style of miming sans support of footwork which was well-knit into the presentation, making for a typical Kuchipudi kalapam - the defining feature of this genre.

Kaushalya Reddy on the nattuvanam was her usual best with a tremendous voice, while Lavanya on the vocal, Bhaskar Rao on mridangam, Anuradha on violin and Anantakrishna on the flute made for a fitting orchestra. The show was hosted at Kamani auditorium.
Feminine Mythique

Killer also the Reviver

One woman entreats and another obliges to make a dead man come alive

G.V.

The woman’s power to bring back the dead aliv’e was discussed in this column a few weeks ago. There is a similar but more colourful story in Tamil Sangam literature. Aadi Mandivi is Savitri’s counterpart. Daughter of Karikal Choza, she marries the valiant Athi Atlhi, from the neighbouring land of the Cheras. Poems describe the love the two had for each other.

It is Aadi Perukku, the day River Cauvery brims with fresh flow. People throng the river bank and royal families are not an exception. They frolic in the water and on the sands, after worshiping the river, which is their lifeline. The river roars, the frothy waves covered with garlands, flowers and stuff the revellers have offered her. Personified as a maid and goddess, Cauvery is awesome, spanning both banks, teasing swimmers to try their strength and skill.

Young men rise to the challenge. After all this is an opportunity to show off their prowess to their sweet hearts, who are proud of their broad shoulders. Their hands entwined, Aattan Athi and Aadi Mandi watch the beautiful spectacle. The churning waters, which sparkle in the mid-day sun, beckon Athi and how can he resist it? Is he not known for his tireless arms and swiftilistries? It is a shame to stand when men of his age are swimming back and forth.

Riding a crest

Disengaging himself, he climbs a post and leaps into the ferocious river. As Mandivi watches, a bit anxiously, he swims – the river becoming his play field. All eyes are on him as now he rides a crest, laughing, then ducking under a wave.

Caught in a current, Athi is dragged away. A collective ‘Ah’ is followed by frenetic action as men jump into the river. No sign of him anywhere. Is it even possible that he could have survived? They return empty handed. Refusing to give up, Manndhi runs along the shore, for hours – sobbing and screaming for her husband, surely dead. She begs Mother Cauvery to return her beloved.

And a wave showers an already drenched Aadi Mandii, carrying with it Athi – alive. This is a miracle and the refrain may go back to the woman’s love and chastity. At a subtler level, it is another woman, the river, which gives life to a man, who until a few hours ago seemed invincible.

Beethoven and Bob Dylan

ANIL SRINIVASAN

The recent events in Charlottesville marks a moment in history which sees the coming together of polarised supremacists not just in America but throughout the world. Fundamentally, it looks as if the world is unchanged. Bigotry thrives, democracy is constantly under threat and freedom of speech and expression constantly strained.

Last week, I wrote about festivals in Bosnia and Serbia that continue to thrive despite political unrest. In it, I talked of the lasting power that art has. This week I talk of the power of music in catalyzing people to protest against inequity of any form. Music and art is all the more relevant in today’s world. And in highly powerful ways.

Charlottesville is not the America we all think about or know. The ‘Unite the Right’ rally that was held on August 11 this year that ended up killing and maiming protestors, and the weak response of the current American President is certainly not the idea of a free world that we all would like to espouse. Interestingly, all 17 members of the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities resigned en masse. This includes award-winning winner Jhumpa Lahiri. Artistically crafted, the resignation letter of this committee is an acerbic, with the first letters of every paragraph spelling the term ‘R-E-S-S-T’.

Protesting through art and music is not new. Through time, despotic and often bigoted governments have seen artists play their part in voicing dissent. One of my favourite examples is Beethoven’s Symphony no. 3, which was originally written in praise of Napoleon and changed subsequently to reflect the composer’s protest against the general who declared himself emperor and brought monarchy back. However, the composer himself would be unaware of the extent that his music has served to mark several protests against political wrongdoing. His ‘Ode to Joy’ (the chorale from Symphony no. 9 with lyrics by Schiller) has become the song of human protest the world over. Most notably, it was played over loudspeakers when the students protested en masse at the famous Tiananmen Square uprising in China in 1989. The music found itself becoming the anthem of the people in the political uprising against the Pinochet government in Chile. It was the music played when the Berlin Wall collapsed, and most recently, it was performed by a scratch orchestra outside the church of St Martin-In-The-Fields in London. Musicians belonging to both the U.K. and the EU performed together to express their disavow over Brexit.

Against tyranny

Many of us have grown up on Woody Guthrie and Bob Dylan, with the latter providing us with many oft-repeated words and motifs against tyranny of any kind (just listen to the album ‘The Times They Are A Changin’), Joan Baez, who was directly influenced by Dylan, continued through the 70’s singing songs highlighting the human condition.

Indigenous music often reflects alienation and human condition. In most native melodies and folk tunes, there is an element of sadness tinged with hope or despair depending on the situation, that highlights issues that the common people face. This is ubiquitous throughout the world. Music becomes a powerful ally of creative protest.

It was therefore interesting when Kashmir sprouted an all-girl band recently. Drummer Farah Deepa, guitarist Aneeka Khalid and vocalist Ana Nazir formed ‘Pragash’ bringing in Western influences to native lyrics, and became a symbol of hope in a land caught in a political and military maelstrom.

Following their maiden performance in 2013, a ‘Fatwa’ was issued against them. They called it quits soon afterwards, sparking an outrage in the rest of India. Among the reasons cited including the “pernicious effect of music on our culture and values”, which caught the popular imagination in more liberal societies.

It seems draconian, and it seems backward. But in many societies with dictatorial religious regimes, this is a bleak reality. Music is banned, and with it the creative imagination of the multitudes. I truly believe that the forces that spread darkness are afraid of the light music brings. And are only too keenly aware of its potency.

This is my ‘protest music’ playlist for the week. Do listen to it on YouTube. This is our collective imagination. And our collective fight against any institution or individual that poses a threat to our right to fairness and justice.

1. Beethoven’s ‘Ode to Joy’ against the EU referendum and Brexit (type ‘Ode to Joy, 24 June 2016’ and it will show up under Apple and Billboard Recordings).
2. Bob Dylan ‘The Times They Are A Changin’
3. Pete Seeger ‘We Shall Overcome’ (1963)
4. Any recording of the Pragash Band from Kashmir
5. ‘Senzeni Na’ (“What Have We Done?”) by the Cape Town Youth Choir

The Piano Man

The role of music in protest has been proven time and again

Beethoven and Bob Dylan

The author is a well-known pianist based in Chennai. As a music educator, he founded Rhapsody that now reaches over 60,000 children in South India.
Finding his rhythm

Listening to past masters is a crucial aspect of Kishore Ramesh’s mridangam training

LAVANYA NARAYANAN

As I open my Facebook homepage, an energetic mel kaalum korval emits out of my speakers. It’s 19-year-old mridangist, Kishore Ramesh. A bundle of energy both on and off the stage, he attributes his passion to his family and the musical environment at home during his growing years.

“My family is a musical one, so you could say the genes definitely worked their magic on me,” he says. The grandson of vocalist and dancer Kalaimamani KR Radhakrishnan and son of mridangam vidwan R. Ramesh, Kishore was no stranger to the instrument, often joining others at his father’s classes.

“I developed an interest despite my parents warning me of the increasing competition in the field. But when I decided to pursue, they stood by me,” he says. He began learning at age seven from his father, a senior disciple of maestro Kariakudi S. Mani.

“I’m extremely proud that I belong to the Guru Kalaikudi Mani school. He is the one who brought the mridangam to the centre stage. From a systematic process of developing a tani avartanam to formulating a novel approach to accompaniment and collaborating with international ensembles, his ideas are unbearably unique,” points out Kishore. “I hear about it from my father and it’s a great motivation.”

Honing skills

Kishore is intent on establishing himself in the samba circuit and is developing his percussion skill by listening to past masters. “Their work are the best learning lessons. Thanks to technology access to the music of these legends such as Palghat Mani Iyer, Pazhani Subramaniam Pillai and many others have become easy. And it’s good musical exercise to interpret what we hear.”

Along with a performing career, Kishore is doing his graduation in commerce at Vivekananda College. He is eager to explore rhythm for a stronger connect with his art.

“Fusion music has become common and new concepts are emerging. I’d love to be a part of such initiatives even while strething my musical roots,” he says. Kishore is also keen to learn to play the ganjira and tabla. “The possibilities and opportunities are immense. You just need to remain focused.”

Global Strains

Faisal of Arabia

The percussionist’s music is a blend of folk and world influences

KRISHNARAJ IYENGAR

Although I come from a folk tradition, I learnt Arabic, Middle Eastern and eventually world music.

where I grew up in a small village, and imbibed the ‘Druze traditional music’. It is Arabic in feel, rhythm and language, sharing elements of Bedouin music and musical traditions of greater Syria, which includes Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan.

In my local tradition, drums were not used often, nor popular Arabic melodic instruments. They used the old spiked fiddle with one string, the double reed whistle, single reed whistle and frame drums for women’s singing.

Although I come from a folk tradition, I learnt Arabic, Middle Eastern and eventually world music. I retained the folk part and wove in the different aspects.

How did you learn the derbeeki (drum)?

I began learning the drum when I was 15 years old. A sudden inspiration led me on a journey of self-teaching and exposure to a wide variety of Middle Eastern, Indian, Persian and Greek music.

The drum’s history can be traced to Egypt, Syria and Iraq. Originally made of clay and fish skin, the instrument now has an aluminium body and fibre glass head.

Is the Arabic derbeeki different from the Turkish version?

• It’s the same. The Turks took it to be a part of their tradition. There are two main models – the old clay and the metal old drum with screws on the outside. But the Turkish and Arabic playing styles are different.

Who are the famous artistes you have performed with or accompanied?

• Syrian singers like Abboud Bishir, Shadi Jameel, Egyptian violinist Alfred Gameel, Turkish clarinet maestro Selim Sesler, French Qanun virtuoso Julien Wise among others.

Are international audiences receptive to Arabic music?

• Yes, they are receptive to both Arabic music and dance. Moreover, after the World Trade Center (twin towers) attacks in U.S., Arabic music helped us to maintain a human image. The derbeeki drum is popular worldwide, because of which I have been teaching students, who come from different places.

The writer, a multi-linguist, is an international performer and composer.
It travels thousands of kilometres but dams and barrages are a bit much for the eel to handle.

At the end of her journey, the Cauvery flows into the bay of Bengal, there is another species for which the river is famous — the eel. Eels are migratory, following the changing tides. They live in the sea, and during the winter months, they migrate to freshwater bodies. The eel is the only fish that can swim against the flow of water. As the river meets the Bay of Bengal, this eel careens through thenofollowing page

Wildlife Wonderland

The region nurtured by the Cauvery — spanning both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu — is rich with flora and fauna and is a haven for animals and birds. A sample from the collection of Kripakar Senani and Vindya Ramaiah, writers and photographers.
Connected to reality

Artist Shuchi Khanna on how the line gets blurred between her personal and professional life

The exhibition that was mounted recently at Galerie Romain Rolland in New Delhi's Alliance Française.

Artist Shuchi Khanna’s real life incidents have reflected in her latest work of art, which were on display as part of her solo exhibition that was mounted recently at Galerie Romain Rolland in New Delhi’s Alliance Française.

Sharing the process that went into her exhibition, “Transcending Thoughts”, Khanna said: “Life is full of positivity. One needs to not only look around but also dig deeper if need be. It is all about what state of mind you choose to be in and what life offers you. My work reflects my state of mind which yearns to remain happy under all circumstances. This is the message in the paintings. The exhibition is all about maintaining positive balance between mind and emotion.”

Describing paintings as representation of her process of growing up, evolving into an artist and being content, the artist said: “All these years I have got over the judgements acted upon me, and I am not away from glamour and manipulations of society. They don’t affect me anymore. Bright things have always attracted me, and I am not away from glamour but also I love to do self-introspection.”

The exhibition mainly had three series of paintings. The first one was The Dream Scape series which included abstract art. Asked about abstractness in her paintings, Khanna said: “Yes they have unrealistic background but they are connected to reality, as the thoughts they represent are real and show a happy and serene place one wants to be in.”

The second series was The Bull Series which reflected one’s quality of power and inner strength as bulls are symbol of prosperity and growth. The third one was Synergy Series representing a positive balance between dynamism and contentment.

In rhythm

Bhavajan Kumar, Purva Dhanashree and Arushi Mudgal

They say that if we are not moving forward, we are moving backward. It does not matter if we stay still, stagnancy is as bad as plague. These statements in the light of classical dance forms make us realise how critical it is to constantly find newer nuances, engagements and perspectives within them, to ensure we do not become dormant. Gandharva Mahavidyalaya’s Prastaar, as it is titled, which means to expand, is a festival of young dancers that will try to convey these very meanings in terms of the language, vocabulary and techniques. Curated by seasoned dancer Madhavi Mudgal, the festival seeks to seam together six young dancers from the fields of Bharatanatyam, Odissi, Vilasini Natyam and Kathak, exploring their vocabularies not just through solo dance performances but through one common text they must derive from.

Mudgal says that she understands the importance of providing the young dancers with a stage in order to keep our dance forms expanding. “When we talk about traditions, we must understand that it is a constantly changing phenomena. What gets presented today is not what got presented a decade ago. Think of it as the waters of a river. It becomes stale if it does not keep flowing,” says Mudgal.

Apart from pieces from their respective repertoires, the dancers have been provided with four lines of a common text by Mudgal which they would interpret on their own ways, making it the common theme they would render from. Taken from Subhashishativi 1040 (Shringarapadhati), compiled by the 15th Century poet Vallabhdeva, the lines are in Sanskrit and the author is unknown. It is woven around two characters who meet in three different situations: as two people in love, as two lovers who are separated and as two lovers who ought to bid each other a final goodbye. “This is not about a god or a goddess, as is what gets portrayed in classical dances, mostly. The context of the text itself is so universal that it is extremely relatable. Sanskrit literature is so vast and rich, and there are still so many texts that are unexplored, which can be beautifully interpreted in dance,” says Mudgal.

On the first day, Bhavajan Kumar will begin with a classic Sollukettu composed by Sivamandam of the Tanjore Quartet followed by a Varnam on lord Brihadeeswara of Tanjore. Speaking of his choreography of the common text, Bhavajan says that he finds the nayika not calculative but as a remarkably intelligent girl. “The questions that rattle her mind are so unique yet, oblivious. I think that is what makes it challenging as we deal with clearer themes in dance on an everyday basis. This is open to so many different interpretations,” he says. He has chosen to present this in ragam Vasanta.

Bhavajan’s performance will be followed by that of Sanjukta Sinha’s, a Kathak exponent who has left her mark constantly. A disciple of the legendary Kumidini Lakhia, Sanjukta is known for her technical expertise and immense artistry.

The second day will showcase two exemplary exponent of Odissi and Vilasini Natyam, Arushi Mudgal and Purva Dhanashree, respectively. Arushi begins with the traditional Mangalcharan, followed by an abhinaya piece before her thematic choreography. “I had to work with the Sanskrit scholar Dr Rishi Raj to make sure that I understand the intricacies of the text. It is the coming together of so many fields - scholars, musicians, dancers - which does not happen that regularly. And when it comes to abhinaya, the dance form itself does not make much of a difference and it is the thought process which counts,” says Arushi.

Purva Dhanashree is often considered the young ambassador of Vilasini Natyam. A rare art form in itself, Vilasini Natyam is the dance form of the Telugu devadasis who were also known as kalavatis. Having explored the realms of both Bharatanatyam and Vilasini Natyam, Purva’s technical, nayika, grammar and abhinaya are things which are hard to miss. She says, “Prastaar means to further and expand. Every dancer here would, hence, expand their sensibilities and their artistic understanding of the text as well as their own form.”

Day three would further showcase Bharatanatyam and Kathak recitals by Navia Natarajan and Monisha Nayak respectively. An empanelled artiste of the ECR and a disciple of the master of abhinaya, Bhraga Bessel, one must look out for Navia’s technical implementation. Known for her meticulous footwork and exceptional grace, Nayak will bring the details of the Jaipur Gharana on stage.

The festival will commence on September 15 at Kamani Auditorium at 6:30 pm.
Sultana continues to rule hearts

Begum Parveen Sultana on her trademark echo effect, her brush with film songs and her ability to rise above gharnas

MANJARI SINHA

One of the most sought after artists on the classical concert scene at home and abroad, Begum Parveen Sultana stands out for her uniquely melodious voice. Her innumerable fans are mesmerised by her charming performances, even as the cognoscenti appreciate the intellectual content, emotional appeal and the aesthetic element of her music. Recently in New Delhi for a performance, she opened up about her musical journey.

Excerpts:

What are your earliest memories of learning classical music?

It was my father who initiated me into classical music at a very tender age. My ancestors came from Afghanistan as traders and settled down in Assam as affluent zamindars with refined taste for music. My grandfather was very fond of classical music. He himself played Afghan rabab and flute hence my father Abdul Majid also inherited this talent. He heard all the greats of his time and was an ardent admirer of Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan. My father learnt music from Gool Mohammad Khan of Patiala Gharana, a court musician of Maharaja Patiala. He used to sing from Gauhati radio station.

One day while I was hardly three-four years old, I heard my father composing a bandish. The moment he left the room I sat there and exactly repeated the composition on my own. Astonished, both my parents realised that I had some talent, and on my mother’s insistence my father started teaching me music. So my first Guru was my father who started teaching me SaReGaMa... when I was just four. He had a nice collection of gramophone records of the greats like Pandit Omkarnath Thakur, Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan and other stalwarts. I used to get chocolates for listening music too. Thus I grew up listening to such music and my ears and mind got totally drenched in classical music, right from my childhood.

Tell us about your voice training...

The main thing was God’s gift of a sweet voice. It is only when one is gifted by the Almighty that one could work upon the voice. You have to have 24 carat gold brick to make ornaments out of it.

The real difficulty my father faced was to find me a Guru. The Ustads would refuse teaching me and advise my father not to teach music to a girl child rather let her learn the household chores and get her married in a rich family. My father told them politely to keep their advice to themselves, because he wanted me to become a classical vocalist. He knew that I was a convent educated child and would like to understand what was being taught to me. Pt. A.K. Kanan, a very close friend of my father told him about Pt. Chinmay Lahiri, an aged musician and an accomplished Guru and advised him to put me under his tutelage.

Did it not occur to you or him that Pt. Kanan himself was a capable Guru? Or was it because he belonged to Kirana whereas your father wanted Patiala gayaki?

No, it was not that. Firstly, I was just 12 year old and had no clue of Ghara. It was entirely my father’s decision and my father never bothered about Ghara. He believed, what you learn and sing from your own talent and riyaz (practice), would be your own ghara or style. Ghara he thought, existed because of the Raja-Maharajas. If one sang for Maharaja Patiala in his court, he would be a musician of Patiala Gharana...

So you also think like your father about the Gharana system?

Yes, I also agree with what my father thought. Ghara is nothing but a style of singing. You should have the knowledge of all the styles. Gharanaar music is like a garden of flowers. You choose and pick up the flowers you like and make your own bouquet.

Tell us about your experience of singing for films like Kadrut that got you the Filmfare Award for “Humein tumse pyaar kitna...” or Do Boond Pani and Fakiruah, Gadar...

I had no interest in singing for films, but some composers such as Madan Mohan, Khayyam, RD Burman et al. used to come home. They were ‘khandani log’, coming from musical families. We would have informal melhifs together for fun. They would share any beautiful tune they composed. They themselves came to me. Like R.D. Burman one day said, “Bhabhi, I composed this song “humein tumse...” that would perfectly suit your voice and I agreed to sing for him, not for the Filmfare Award that the song won.

What about the folk song “Patial ki mori”?

That was a lovely song composed by Jaidevji. All these people were classically trained musicians, Jaidev was a disciple of Ustad Ali Akbar Khan. R.D. had learnt Sarod from Ustad Ali Akbar Khan and tabla from Ud. Karamatullah Khan. Madan Mohan had learnt from Ustad Amir Khan and Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan. In fact, Madan Mohan made me sing my first classical concert at the age of 15, on the death anniversary of Pt. Dinanath Mangeshkar, Lata Mangeshkar’s father, on her request. My voice is like that, I can sing any type of song from classical to film songs.

Amongst your innumerable albums, the ‘Narayani’ bandish “Sahebaliyan...”, has been a singing milestone?

Oh! let me tell you the story about it. ‘Narayani’, the raga and ‘Sahebaliyan’, the bandish (composition), both are melodious creations of the legendary Agra Gharana Vidwan Pt. Ratanjankar. Although he was the principal of Maris Music College, Luc know, he used to visit Mumbai on a regular basis to teach his shishyas like Dinkar Kaikini and K.G. Yessoor. Once Dinkar ji took me along to meet him because he liked my voice and musical training. Ratanjankar ji was teaching Dinkar ji this raga and the bandish. I liked it immensely, so he taught it to me too. He started singing with me to try and make me use it anywhere I felt like singing it.

How did you invent the ‘echo effect’ that nearly every vocalist and instrumentalist is trying nowadays?

I keep experimenting with my voice during and after my riyaz. I would try various intonations. Once I tried the same sequence of swaras loudly and then softly singing my voice subsequently. And ‘eureka’, I got this echo effect which became so popular.

I like to move with times and connect with younger generations too. If you come to your roots, you may keep experimenting whatever comes to mind and then decide when and where to use it. My greatest award is the love and encouragement I receive from my audiences. Kindly keep me in your prayers.
Visually aesthetic drama

Prof. K. S. Rajendran’s presentation of Bhasa’s “Pratima Natakam” left a mark with its polished form, soulful music and impressive performances.

With its polished form, soulful music and impressive performances, Prof. K. S. Rajendran’s presentation of Bhasa’s “Pratima Natakam” left a mark.

Graceful movements

The aesthetic beauty of Indian classical dance forms was clearly in evidence at the Dover Lane Dance Festival in Kolkata.

The annual festival of Indian Classical Dance introduced by The Dover Lane Music Conference, one of the oldest organisations known for its prestigious music festivals, along with The Dover Lane Music Academy, an event at which dance lovers and connoisseurs of Kolkata look forward to.

This year, the festival at the Satyajit Ray Auditorium, ICCLR Kolkata, saw altogether seven soloists, one quartet and three institutions.

The event opened with a compelling Kathak recital by young Trina Roy, the talented grand-daughter of Nrittya-charya Ramgopal Mishra. Beginning with Ganesh Vandana, she moved on to present some of the usual pieces of the Jaipur gharana in Teentaal, where she proved her mastery and control on rhythm with her neat footwork.

The famous Saha, Dhruva and Padmini, both medical practitioners from Kerala, offered a neat crisp jugalbandi, bharathanatyam, kathak, odissi and abhinaya respectively, a new dance "idiom".

The Pushpak dance academy in which Alia Kamar Guha, the gifted son of famous Kathak artist, took a major role, the gharana dancer has been well-groomed in Odissi by her teacher Don Rajar as Sita, Sayan Bhattacharaj as Sita, Sayan Bhatch...
Rooted in soil

Remembering Babukodi Venkataratnam Karanth, the thespian, who always maintained that Hindi theatre could not be confused with Indian theatre

KULDEEP KUMAR

A village boy from Dakshin Karnataka moves to Bangalore (now Bengaluru) and joins Gubbi Veeranna’s touring theatre company where he gets female roles to play. Soon, his voice begins to crack and these roles stop. Against all odds, he manages to do his B.A. and comes under the influence of Gandhian ideas. He also learns Hindi and goes to the Banaras Hindu University to do an M.A. in Hindi where Hazari Prasad Dwivedi is heading the Hindi Department. As he already has a deep understanding of folk music, he also joins music classes where great Hindustani vocalist Omkarnath Thakur and his disciple Premlata Sharma teach him classical music.

During his stint at the BHU, he develops abiding friendship with Namvar Singh, Kedar Nath Singh and Vijay Mohan Singh who later become famous as critic, poet and fiction writer respectively. From Banaras, he moves to Delhi to join the National School of Drama (NSD) where he learns the art of theatre from a maestro like Embrahim Alkazi. Soon, a star is born. And, after burning luminously on the firmament of theatre and film, this star dies 15 years ago on September 1, 2002.

The world knew this star as Babukodi Venkataratnam Karanth. Jnanpith award winner writer Nirmal Verma paid his tribute by describing him as “the authentic desi genius of Indian theatre”. A year after Karanth’s death, NSD’s Hindi theatre was at variance with Karanth just before he was to take over as the NSD-director. In 1991, I met him again with Prasanna, who was emerging as a bright theatre director those days. After that I must have met Karanth dozens of times. His love for Hindi, theatre and music shone through all our conversations as did his humanity.

Plato and Aristotle
His relationship with his guru Alkazi reminded me of the one between Plato and Aristotle who, despite being master and disciple, had totally different philosophical approaches. Similarly, Karanth had great respect for Alkazi, his vision of an Indian theatre was at variance with his guru. While Alkazi evolved pedagogy of theatre and brought the grandeur of western theatrical tradition into the theatrical practice in India, Karanth’s minimalist vision was firmly rooted in the Indian soil, receiving nourishment from its indigenous traditions. He had witnessed the difficulties that the non-Hindi speaking students faced at the NSD where they had to perform in mainly Hindi plays. In his view, Indian theatre could not be confused with Hindi theatre and all the regional theatrical traditions together formed the Indian or national theatre. That was the reason why he advocated establishing NSDs in different parts of the country.

Uncompromising with quality
B. V. Karanth

The author is a senior literary critic.
**Music is his zen**

Vanraj Bhatia, the genius of a composer, remained true to his conviction even when the forces in Hindi film music was gigantic. He was perhaps the only composer who arranged his own music and wrote scores as well. He also was trained in Western piano music while in Bombay. By the time Bhatia reached London, he knew Brahms, Chopin, Beethoven, Schubert and Mozart with expertise. With exposure and training of this kind, his music became the finest blend of Indian melody and Western harmony.

Most Indian film music composers were influenced by Western classical music. But Bhatia’s systematic study gave him a good foothold in this school of thought. It is possible to notice the impact it made on his music – his work is perfectly structured, with multiple levels of composing. Take any of his compositions, the arrangement is consummate, it has a base, the middle and upper octave. It is a melody that is pre-dominantly Indian or a mix of Indian and Western. These three parts, apart from other nuanced layering is unmistakable. Take for instance, the song “Ghar Nahi Hamare Shram” from the film Sardari Begum. In this exquisite song rendered by Arati Ankalikar, each instrument track is lucid. The harmonium with the tabla provides the base, and the sarangi shifts between the middle and higher octaves depending on the movement of the main melody.

We can sample his “Barse Ghan Saari Raat” from the film Tarang. The complex song is a beautiful blend of three ragas and is set to ektaal, a rare instance in film music. Lata’s superlative rendition is backed by rich cello arrangement as base sound, and a haunting flute and sarangi in the upper registers.

You cannot miss the tarpura drone in the song, rendering it a unique texture. At the other end of the spectrum is his title score for 36, Chowringhee Lane and Kalyug. In the absence of a human voice, there is a long piece on the piano, softly backed by violin – a typical Western harmony. In Kalyug, it begins at a place where the orchestra is moving towards the fugue. In both, you can see Bhatia’s control over the Western classical medium and it is evident that he is working towards finding an operatic form.

Bhatia made influential scores for television serials like Bharat Bhoomi, Khoji, Tamas, Khandaan and more. The way he conceived music was so starkly different from everything else that was happening around him. He knew exactly how a voice should be juxtaposed against the orchestra and the overall sound effect it had to create. The industry looked upon him as ‘western’ but that is hardly the case: Bhatia left his unforgettable music for Manthan, Bhoomi, Nishant, Mandi and several other films which had flavours of India - from folk to classical. At a time when Bombay film industry had some of the greatest composers, Bhatia made his entry. He has been witness to this grand journey for nearly seven decades. But from then to now, Bhatia has remained stoically with his own musical beliefs. Gigantic forces came into Hindi cinema music, but Bhatia stayed a curious observer. He never lost sight of his destination, and has worked towards

---

**Quick Five**

**Taking on new challenge**

SIMRAN LAKHANI

After making his presence felt in supporting roles in a number of films including “Raanjhanaa” and “Raees”, Mohammed Zeeshan Ayubb will now be seen as the lead in D Sukh Chhabra’s upcoming film “Sameer”. Zeeshan is doing an intense role in this movie. He has an easy working style and believes in delivering the goods without taking pressure.

**What is “Sameer” all about?**

“Sameer” belongs to the political thriller genre. The protagonist’s name is Sameer, who is a student in Hyderabad University. After the bomb blast in Hyderabad, he gets arrested and detained by the ATS but he turns out to be an innocent man. But Sameer does not get a relief from all this as he is found guilty as a spy in a terrorist group for information. The film shows how an innocent man’s life gets changed and how a terrorist attack can affect the common people.

**How was your experience performing such an intense role?**

Sameer is a different character which demanded a different style of performance. But as it is a well written script it helped me to perform with ease. I hope this will be pleasantly accepted by viewers. It was difficult but an author-backed character gave me all the scope to show my talent. It even helped me to discover a different side of myself.

**Any justification for giving a certification to this movie?**

It is going to talk about how a common man gets affected by terrorism now it is coming with a UA certification. Previously it was given an A certificate but after meetings with the Censor Board, it got settled. The Board had suggested seven cuts for UA certificate.

**What impact is this movie going to leave on the audience?**

Nobody knows about the impact this movie is going to leave. We have just tried to say something important. But definitely it is going to talk about how a common man gets affected by terrorism and other big events. I hope after watching this film, people will start understanding the problem with a degree of depth rather than just making an opinion on hearsay. People should re-search before making an opinion about something.

---

**Eternal** Vanraj Bhatia receives the Padmashri from President Pratibha Patil, a still from “Mandi”