

FIRST COLUMN

China schooling the Mongols

There is a growing sense of insecurity in the ruling elite that makes it impatient to stamp out differences and deviations from the norm



GWYNNE DYER

Residential schools were a common feature of European settler societies (except New Zealand) until quite late in the 20th century, and their purpose was not just to educate but to “deracinate” their aboriginal pupils: That is, to cut them off from their roots. The Chinese Government would reject the analogy with its last breath, but it is now doing the same thing. Last week, in China’s Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, ethnic Mongolian parents began holding rallies and keeping their children home from school in protest against new measures to reduce teaching in the Mongolian language in favour of Chinese. Under the new rules, history, politics, language and literature will be taught in Mandarin Chinese, not in Mongolian.

It has not been reported in the Chinese media, of course, but the BBC reports that students at one demonstration chanted “Our language is Mongolia and our homeland is Mongolia forever!” At another school, only 40 students registered for the autumn term instead of the usual 1,000 — and most of them left after the first day. It should be noted that in Inner Mongolia, ethnic Chinese (Han) people are a four-fifths majority of the 25 million residents. The province is beyond the Great Wall and was once almost entirely Mongolian, but it was already majority Han before the current Chinese Communist regime came to power in 1949.

Most of China’s five million Mongols are concentrated in three eastern districts of Inner Mongolia, but even there they are not a majority of the population — and many of these Mongolian-speakers are urbanised people who are fully bilingual and intermarry freely with their ethnic Chinese neighbours. The core of the unrest is among the million or so who still pursue a modified version of the old “nomadic” culture. They are the traditional Steppe-dwelling people who follow their herds on horseback or in all-terrain vehicles through their seasonal rounds. Unlike aboriginal languages, Mongolian has been written in its own script for many centuries, and Genghis Khan’s empire once briefly ruled about a quarter of the world, but the “nomadic” Mongols do depend on boarding schools.

Such schools are simply a practical necessity for people who live in small groups and move frequently, and in the Chinese case, they were not originally conceived as instruments of cultural genocide. Until recently, in fact, they operated entirely in Mongolian, with Chinese taught as a second language. The Chinese policy towards “tribal” minorities has traditionally been more tolerant than the US or Canadian policy towards native Red Indians, the Australian policy towards Aborigines, the Scandinavian policy towards Sami (Lapps) or the Russian policy towards Siberian native peoples. All of those unlucky people got the kind of residential schools that aimed at cultural assimilation and religious conversion.

The children spent most of the year in boarding schools, not with their families. They were taught the religion of the settlers, not that of their native culture. They were forbidden to use the language of the dominant European group and forbidden to speak their own. And most of them were subjected to violence. (Yes, most.) Many of the adults who emerged from this ordeal were tortured men and women, and their legacy of alcoholism, drug abuse, child abuse, nihilism and despair is still being passed down the generations. Nothing of the sort has happened to the Mongols of Inner Mongolia, so far as is known — but something bad is starting to happen to them now. The Chinese culture has always been patronising towards the minorities living within China’s borders, but it didn’t usually see them as threats. They aren’t threats now, either, but there is a growing sense of insecurity in the ruling elite that makes it impatient to stamp out differences and deviations from the norm. You can see it in Tibet, where the screws have been turned so tight on dissent that more than a 100 people have burned themselves to death in protests since 2009. You cannot avoid seeing it in Xinjiang, where more than a million Uyghurs have been sent to concentration camps that operate like residential schools for adults, trying to separate the residents from their religion, language and values.

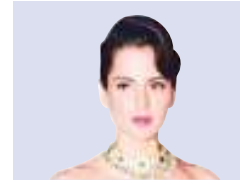
And you can detect it in a minor key even in Inner Mongolia, in a needless, destabilising attempt to force Mandarin down the throats of loyal, innocent people who pose no threat whatever to the State. What drives President-for-Life Xi Jinping and his advisers to such ridiculous and counter-productive extremes? The only plausible answer is fear that history will repeat itself. China’s rulers are all Communists in theory (though how many still really believe it is another matter), and so they rightly worry that what happened the communist parties of Europe in 1989 could also happen to them. However, two years after that the Soviet Union broke up as well. It’s really unlikely that China will ever do the same, because more than 90 per cent of the population is ethnic Chinese, but the guilty flee where none pursue.

(Gwynne Dyer’s new book is ‘Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work.’)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

MUMBAI AND MAHARASHTRA ARE SECURED BY THE POLICE. IF ANYONE FEELS UNSAFE ABOUT LIVING IN MUMBAI, THEY HAVE NO RIGHT TO LIVE HERE.

— MAHARASHTRA HOME MINISTER
ANIL DESHMUKH



PEOPLE ARE THREATENING ME FOR COMING BACK TO MUMBAI. SO I WILL GO THERE ON 9TH. KISI KE BAAP MEIN HIMMAT HAI TOH ROK LE (STOP ME IF YOU DARE).

— ACTOR
KANGANA RANAUT

The gift of autonomy

Today the educationally best performing nations have no Govt interference in schooling. India needs this, too, if we are to compete globally



CHANDRA BHUSHAN SHARMA

Teachers are the fulcrum around which any progressive and vibrant society moves. Look at countries and compare their rate of growth and the scale of teachers’ status in the society; it will be apparent that both go up and down together. India had a great guru-*shishya parampara* and teachers were highly revered by the students and civil society. Respect for teachers was not ornamental but real in those days. The educators were revered in the true sense as even the king would not take decisions without the consent of the Raj Guru.

Even though the Raj Guru is often depicted as a poor person in popular culture, the king would invariably receive the guru by standing up from his seat. The teacher in turn would often visit the king’s court in moments of crisis to counsel the ruler. Sadly, those days are long gone.

We need to understand today as to why the judgement of teachers was final in the days of yore. To be precise, the objective of the king (or in today’s parlance the politician) is to remain in power. Similarly, the aim of the common people is to be rich or famous or powerful. However, the objective of a teacher is nothing but to see his/her students grow and achieve what they aspire to. This is the only profession where the individual works not for oneself but for other people’s growth and success and derives pleasure in the attainments and achievements of the students whom s/he teaches. However, to expect such dedication we, too, must have complete trust in teachers and grant autonomy in pedagogic activities; as individuals and as a system.

In India, we celebrate Teachers’ Day on the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a scholar of philosophy and a great teacher loved by all who had the good fortune to be taught by him. Radhakrishnan taught Indian philosophy and religion at many British and Indian universities. He later joined the freedom struggle, because he believed that to serve a foreign rule was “irreligious” or *adharm* in the Hindu tradition.

Radhakrishnan pursued his study of Indian philosophy while continuing to make his contribution to the freedom struggle. He was in a relentless search for the ultimate truth, which he believed was the pursuit of every Hindu scholar i.e. *Sa Vidya Ya Vimuktaye* (attaining salvation through search of the ultimate truth). Radhakrishnan became the Vice-Chancellor of the prestigious Banaras Hindu University on the invitation of Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya to succeed him in 1938. It was a position that Radhakrishnan occupied till 1948. Once India became independent, Radhakrishnan became the chairman of the first commission on education to be set up to revamp the higher education system of the country.

The report presented by him is popularly known as the Radhakrishnan Commission Report. It is a comprehensive one but today it is vital to remember that this report stressed on the importance of education being grounded in the Indian tradition. The Radhakrishnan Commission Report was also of the view that school education must be given emphasis and revamped so that deserving students could enter higher education institutions.

This Teachers’ Day has special significance

“THE BEST TRIBUTE TO DR RADHAKRISHNAN WOULD BE TO GIVE THE SCHOOL TEACHERS OF INDIA AN INDEPENDENT STATUTORY BODY TO REGULATE THEMSELVES INSTEAD OF BEING MONITORED BY BROWN SAHEBS. IF WE WANT DEDICATED TEACHERS, WE MUST HAVE COMPLETE TRUST IN THEM AND GRANT THEM AUTONOMY AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS A SYSTEM”



for us all. The Narendra Modi Government issued its New Education Policy 2020 (NEP) on July 29, after a mammoth discussion nationwide for five long years. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), now renamed the Ministry of Education (MoE), had started the discussion in 2015 and people at the grassroots level were consulted through 33 identified areas or themes; and then a committee under TSR Subramanian (a retired bureaucrat) was asked to prepare a draft on the basis of all the documents and feedback that were collected.

However, this report was widely criticised and was largely unacceptable to most stakeholders. So, a new committee was constituted to prepare a fresh draft under the chairmanship of Dr Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan, (a space scientist of global repute). The draft report was submitted to the Government on May 31, 2019. The final document, prepared by the Government on the basis of all the data and feedback collected through the two drafts, was released in July. This document is extraordinary in many respects. The previous documents ran into hundreds of pages but this was presented in just 62 pages. Beside other things, the policy focusses on educators, right from pre-school teachers to the ones teaching in universities.

This Teachers’ Day the educators must rejoice at the appearance of the Prime Minister in a conclave of teachers on August 6, only a week after the new national education policy docu-

ment was released. Talking about the NEP while addressing the conclave, Modi had said, “Today, there are views and opinions coming from all across the India. People are sharing their thoughts on this. It has been widely welcomed and one thing that has been observed is that no one is saying that this policy has any bias towards any one area... that is a great thing. Now everyone’s focus is on how this will be implemented. As far as the political will to implement this is concerned, I want to assure you that I am fully with you... all the way.”

He called upon the educators to own the policy and implement it in letter and spirit. The message conveyed was that the nation has realised that the education policy will have little impact, like all the previous policies, if the educators don’t own it. A policy document on education will have to be owned and implemented by teachers and teachers alone. Plans prepared on the basis of the policy will have to be implemented in the classrooms which teachers alone handle. It is noteworthy that in his speech, the Prime Minister addressed principals who are the key players in transforming schools. If this is not just rhetoric, then we can indeed look forward to a “year of the teachers.” This Teachers’ Day can perhaps then be seen as a landmark one in the history of education in India.

The Mudaliar Commission on school education was constituted as a corollary to Radhakrishnan’s report. This commission suggested the forma-

tion of an independent body to coordinate school education among the States of India. This, it said, was necessary because education is a national concern and the major responsibility of maintaining quality and content of school education as well as higher education rests upon the Union Government. The University Grants Commission (UGC) was established on the recommendation of the Dr Radhakrishnan Commission but the School Education Commission (SEC) has not been established till date. We need to get this going.

The best tribute to Dr Radhakrishnan would be to give school teachers an independent statutory body to regulate themselves instead of being monitored by “brown sahebs.” We have been shouting against Macaulay’s policy of controlling teachers and schools because the *gurukuls* (residential schools of ancient times) and the *madrasas* were the places which produced the best minds of the nation. However, Macaulay planned and destroyed the indigenous school system.

Today the educationally best performing nations have no Government interference in schooling. India needs this too if we are to compete globally. Modi had also expressed the importance of good quality teachers on several occasions. Hope he gets his policymakers to walk the talk.

(The author is Professor of Education at IGNOU. The views expressed are strictly personal.)

Despite the virus, find a way to honour educators

Teacher’s Day is a wonderful opportunity for all the students to appreciate the hard work and efforts put in by their gurus



MJ WARSII

COVID-19 has forced schools and universities across India, and the world, to suspend face-to-face teaching and move to online classes. This transition to online teaching and learning is challenging for most organisations, students and teachers alike as academic institutions across the world have cancelled all on-campus activities that made the experience of learning memorable and meaningful. Hence, celebrating Teachers’ Day this year will not be the same as it used to be in the past. Irrespective of religious beliefs, Teachers’ Day is celebrated across the world, albeit on different days. This is because, no matter what society one belongs to, we all have grown up with the realisation that we must always show respect to the

teachers who made us as we are. Right from becoming a good human being to a civilised citizen of the country.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) started observing Teachers’ Day on October 5, 1994 as it commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 International Labour Organisation (ILO)-UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers. This recommendation sets benchmarks regarding the rights and responsibilities of teachers and standards for their initial preparation and further education, recruitment, employment, teaching and learning conditions.

However, in India it is celebrated on September 5 to mark the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who was a teacher par excellence. When he became the President of India in 1962, his students and friends sought permission to celebrate his birthday. However, Dr Radhakrishnan politely requested them to celebrate his birthday as a day dedicated to all the teachers in the country.



The former President of India, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, once said, “Teaching is a very noble profession that shapes the character, calibre and future of an individual. If the people remember me as a good teacher that will be the biggest honour for me.”

A teacher, who may give us a piece of advice and the lessons of a lifetime, is always considered a highly honoured person in every community.

In India, the teacher-student relationship has a special religious and social bond and significance. Since ages, the story of Eklavya has come to define exemplary discipleship. This story is an example of dedication, hard work, obedience and paying the guru his due. This also shows that acquiring or gaining knowledge is not possible without the teachings and blessings of the guru. In ancient times, a common practice

in learning was *guru-dakshina*, where a student would offer a gift or fee for the knowledge gained by him. Actually, Dronacharya blessed Eklavya with immortality by asking him for his thumb because whenever people think of an ideal student and devotion to a teacher, they think of Eklavya and not Arjuna.

A teacher has a very high status and is given a lot of importance in Islam. There is a famous saying of Hazrat Ali in which he said that “if a person teaches me one single word, he has made me his servant for a lifetime.” Teachers always play a prominent role in influencing and inspiring students. In our society, parents are responsible for giving their children quality care. However, teachers are responsible for honing their skills and making their future bright and successful.

They are a source of inspiration to students as they prepare the latter to face any challenge with confidence and commitment. With enormous understanding of the subject matter and with deep knowledge and wisdom, they always nourish the lives of their students.

Keeping the importance of the

teacher-student relationship in mind, Tariq Mansoor, who himself is a professor and the Vice-Chancellor of the historic Aligarh Muslim University, says, “Teachers are the backbone of any academic institution and always play a very big role in shaping the lives and careers of students.” This is a fact as our foundational education completely depends on the guidance we get.

Teachers’ Day is a wonderful opportunity for all students to appreciate the hard work and efforts put in by teachers in grooming and shaping their life in a meaningful way. The most difficult and challenging part for a teacher is to balance the class where students come from different economic, social, religious, linguistic and cultural backgrounds. But each one still does it, day after day.

Teaching is one of the most respected and valued professions in the world and an educator continues to be a respected person in society. Let’s remember ours, wherever they are, especially for preparing us to be resilient in these pandemic times.

(The writer is the Chairperson, Department of Linguistics at Aligarh Muslim University.)



FOREIGN EYE



DON’T RESIST ONLINE LEARNING

There has been significant pushback against online learning in Pakistan over the last six months, and this is continuing. Given the digital divide and the variation in home environment of students, this is not surprising. But the pushback should not blind us to the opportunities that online teaching and learning offer. And in many ways, we have just started to explore these possibilities. Given the importance and scope of this learning worldwide, we are being myopic. (Dawn)

CAPSULE



Instagram launches separate Reels tab for India users

NEW DELHI: Facebook-owned Instagram on Friday said it has launched a separate tab for 'Reels' in India, making it the first country to get the feature...



Freight haulers demand action on Brexit preparations

LONDON: British freight haulers and storage companies are asking for an urgent meeting with government leaders because of concern that gaps in preparations for Brexit may threaten supplies of critical goods...



Rupiah settles 33 paise higher at 73.14 against USD

MUMBAI: Snapping the two-day losing streak, the rupee rebounded by 33 paise and settled at 73.14 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday...

'Indian auto industry facing one of the toughest times in history'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian auto industry is facing one of the toughest times in history and needs government support through reduction of GST and incentive-based scrappage policy...



try by many years," Ayukawa said at the 60th annual convention of Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) conducted online.

Ayukawa, who is the president-elect of auto industry body SIAM, said the sector has been "set back by many years" by a combination of the coronavirus pandemic and the slowdown that has been going on since last fiscal.

He thanked heavy industries minister Prakash Javadekar, who assured the gathering that he will take up the matter of GST reduction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Industry not in position to make investments

Auto industry body SIAM on Friday said that manufacturers were not in a position to invest further in the implementation of upcoming government regulations as the sector was going through an extremely difficult period.

of new regulations like CAFE norms from 2022 onwards, he noted. Wadhwa also said that there should not be an overdose of regulations as India's emission standards are already at par with the strictest in the world.

RBI expands priority sector lending categories

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank has expanded the scope of priority sector lending to include start-ups funding up to Rs 50 crore, and loans to farmers for installation of solar plants and compressed biogas plants.



The Priority Sector Lending (PSL) guidelines have been comprehensively reviewed and revised to align it with emerging national priorities and bring sharper focus on inclusive development...

gible for finance under priority sector. The revised guidelines, the RBI said, also seeks to address the issues concerning regional disparities in the flow of priority sector credit.

Paytm FY'20 revenue rises to Rs 3,629 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Digital financial services firm Paytm on Friday said its revenue for fiscal year ended March 31, increased to Rs 3,629 crore supported by increase in number of transactions across various segments and point of sale devices.



The home-grown financial technology firm said its losses have narrowed by 40 per cent on a year-on-year basis.

reflecting in the strong adoption of more profitable services by our consumers and merchants," Paytm President Madhur Deora said in a statement.

OYO India offers voluntary separation or leave extension

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hospitality firm OYO India on Friday said it is offering its employees who are on leave with limited benefits, the option to voluntarily separate or extend the leave for another six months.



In April, the company asked some of its staff in India to go on leave with limited benefits from May 4 for four months and also asked all employees in the country to accept a cut in their fixed salaries by 25 per cent due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the hospitality industry.

on Leave with Limited Benefits (LwLB), OYO India and South Asia CEO Rohit Kapoor said, "We know it is challenging to hold you back due to a situation that neither you nor we can control or wish away."

to what OYO would have ideally liked to do, or "you would have expected of us — do accept our sincere apologies for the same. We are living in a world where everything is far from ideal and the solution that we are offering may still be sub-optimal," he added.

Jobs report likely to point to a still-slow recovery

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

The United States keeps regaining more of the jobs that vanished when the viral pandemic flattened the economy early this spring.



Yet so deep were the layoffs that began in March that millions of Americans remain burdened by job losses that might prove permanent. Economists have forecast that employers added 1.4 million jobs in August and that the unemployment rate fell from 10.2 per cent to 9.8 per cent, according to a survey by data provider FactSet.

ing to add workers, it would take many months to return to pre-pandemic job levels even if that pace could be sustained. And many economists think hiring is slowing.

That rate would still be just below the peak unemployment level of the 2008-2009 Great Recession.

Friday's jobs data will be the second-to-last employment report — for most voters, the most visible barometer of the economy — before Election Day, November 3.

ITC accelerated digitisation: Sanjiv Puri

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Diversified business entity ITC has accelerated digital transformation under the company's future-ready strategy to enhance competitive advantage and operational effectiveness, said its Chairman Sanjiv Puri.



The current pandemic has accelerated manifold the transition to digitalisation that was already moving at high velocity and the company is adopting new-age technologies to stay ahead of the curve, Puri said.

Industry 4.0, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) and Machine Learning are being deployed by all Businesses, including supply chain and logistics to enhance operational effectiveness, Puri said while addressing shareholders in his AGM speech.

Sri Lankan Navy, Indian ships battling fire on board oil tanker

PNS ■ COLOMBO



The Sri Lankan Navy with assistance from Indian ships was battling for a second day on Friday to douse a major fire raging on an oil tanker carrying crude from Kuwait to India that left one of its 23 crew members dead.

its engine room caught fire off the coast of Sangamankanda in the eastern district of Ampara. The Navy said that so far the 270,000 metric tonnes of crude oil it was carrying had not been affected by the fire.

taking steps to ensure that there will be no seepage of oil to the sea from the tanker. The distressed vessel is in the waters 23 nautical miles off the eastern coast where the sea depth is measured at 3100 metres.

L&T defence arm bags govt contract for supply of PWS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Friday said its defence arm has received orders for the MoD for the supply of Pinaka Weapon Systems. "The contract involves supply of Pinaka launchers, battery command posts and associated ESP for four regiments," L&T said in a regulatory filing.

which ranges between Rs 1,000 crore and Rs 2,500 crore according to the classification of contracts. L&T said the Pinaka launch system has been indigenously developed by the company as part of Pinaka development program of Defence Research and Development Organization and functions as a high tech, all weather, long range, area fire artillery weapon system. Shares of L&T were trading 0.97 per cent lower at Rs 951.70 apiece on BSE.

'Fintech the way forward for Indian banking, payment system'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State Bank of India (SBI) managing director Ashwani Bhatia on Friday said Fintech is the way forward for the Indian banking and payment system as there is a lot of opportunity for growth. Giving the example of SBI, he said, 91 per cent of jobs are being done digitally now, which was unthinkable 35 years ago.



that. Penetration of smartphones is also going to increase," he said at a virtual conference organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

become nothing but distribution points like what has happened in Europe and other places. This is where the big opportunities lie, he said adding, "I am sure as we evolve, and we will evolve very fast. Fintech is the way forward as far as the Indian banking system is concerned and the payment system is concerned."

Fintech will co-exist to drive the ecology of money. There are benefits that Fintech brings in that banks do not inherently have and vice-versa. A combination of both is what brings best value for customers. "It is not about UX (user experience) but about CX (customer experiences). Best consumer experiences come from a combination of traditional banking and Fintech... both will thrive and together drive growth for themselves and for the reason of their existence -- the customers. Customers are the first priority."

not one market but a sum of various small markets, Ghosh said Fintech companies have to develop products for each segment rather than jumping in the same space. Pointing out that consumer behaviour has undergone change during the lockdown and COVID period, Ghosh said digital payment has seen significant growth and is going to stay even after COVID-19 is over, he added. He said there has been a spurt in online fraud during COVID-19 period and most defrauded customers are elderly who are least aware about the technology.

COVID-19: DO'S AND DON'TS OF BUS TRAVEL

As inter-city bus services resume gradually, the opportunity to travel comes as a huge relief to millions of people across the country. However, there will be a significant difference in the way we look at bus travel going forward. Experts suggest that Covid-19 is here to stay and hence it is up to all of us to keep it at bay by strictly adhering to and following all the precautions and guidelines on safety, social distancing and personal hygiene. While travelling is inevitable for most people, there are clearly laid out guidelines that, when followed diligently, will help check the spread of infection and keep inter-city bus travel.

"With Unlock 4.0 underway, the nation is on its path to establishing normalcy in every respect, including travel. It is the responsibility of all stakeholders in the bus travel ecosystem to follow the safety guidelines to keep Covid-19 at bay and work together to make bus travel safe for everyone during these times," Prakash Sangam, CEO, redBus told IANSLife.

As we implement and adapt to new standards of safety, the online bus ticketing platform shares some of the do's and don'ts of bus travel:

DO'S:

- Book bus tickets online to avoid unnecessary contact
- Always carry your own face masks and hand sanitizers

- Ensure your temperature is normal prior to any trip
- Always wear your masks when inside the bus and ensure you cover your nose properly
- Make sure to sanitize hands regularly, especially before entering a bus and after exiting
- Use tissues while sneezing and coughing
- Sneeze or cough into upper sleeve if you run out of tissues
- Bring your own linen, blankets and water bottles for long distance or overnight journeys

- Download Aarogya Setu app (Highly recommended)
- Be up to date on guidelines issued by the state you are travelling from and the state you are travelling to.

DON'TS:

- Do not travel if you are feeling unwell or are displaying symptoms of COVID-19
- Do not touch your face, nose and mouth often
- Do not take off your mask unless necessary while inside the bus
- Do not touch grab rails, switches, knobs,

headrests, armrests if possible

- Do not discard tissues/disposable masks/gloves or any other protective gear inside the bus
- To counter Covid-19, it is paramount to inculcate a culture of responsible travelling among passengers. All it takes is a little discipline and responsible behaviour, which when exhibited collectively, can make a huge difference not only to the ongoing efforts in containing the virus but also to make bus travel a safe experience for everyone.

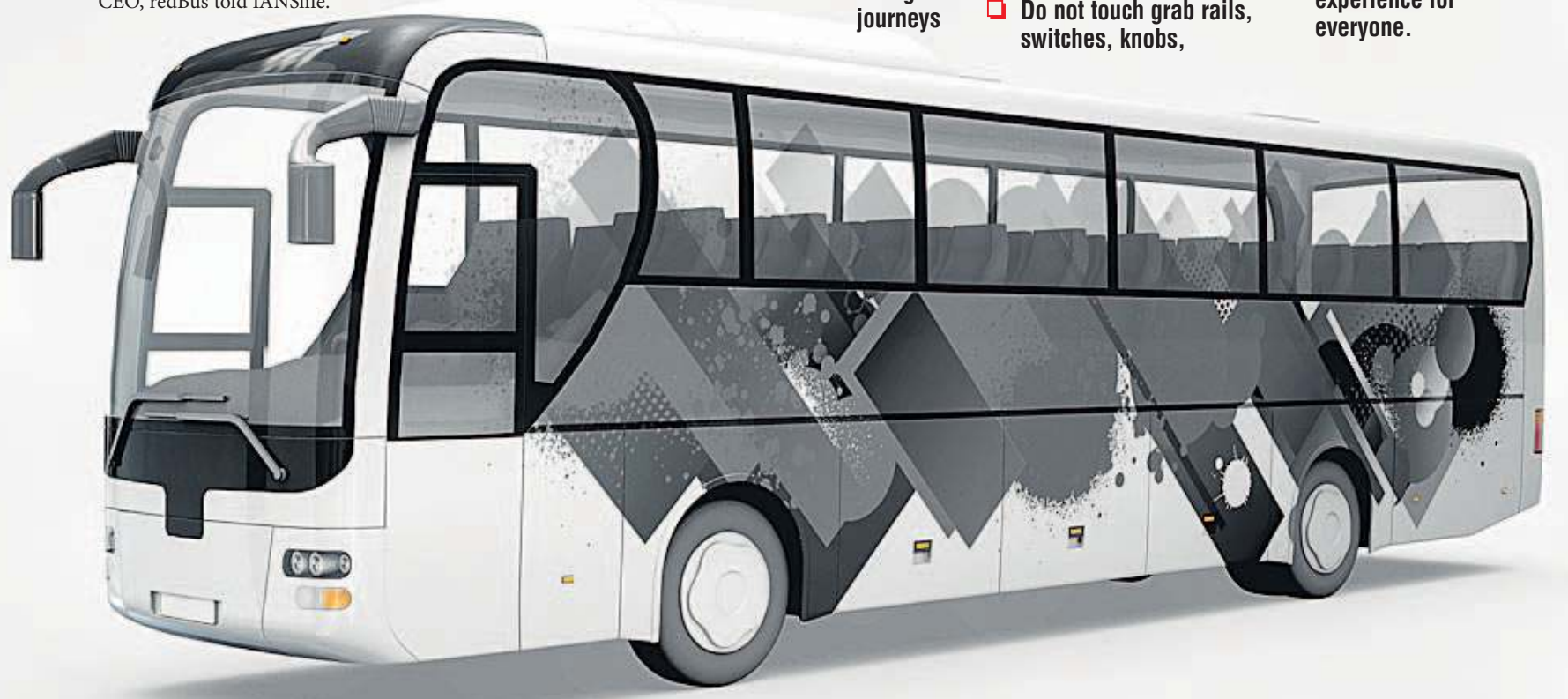


SAIF ALI KHAN turns chef for Shipra Khanna

Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan turns into a star Chef as he learns to cook with the best — MasterChef Shipra Khanna. Shipra Khanna (MasterChef winner) and Saif Ali Khan who is a self-professed good food aficionado, together whip up 12 lip smacking, delightfully rich cheesy dishes with Britannia Cheese. You can catch the duo on Britannia Cheese StarChef which is a 12-part YouTube series keeps you entertained while you create some of the best delectables.

This is not the first time Saif Ali Khan has donned the chef's hat and apron; in the 2017 film 'Chef', the actor played the role of chef who travels back to

India from the States to discover what he loves cooking while operating a food truck with his son. The movie was based on the 2014 American comedy-drama movie with the same name co-produced and directed by, and starring Jon Favreau. The YouTube is the destination for a plethora of rich, cheesy recipes all made with a selection of the brands leading cheese products. Shipra Khanna says, "The cheesy affair with Britannia Cheese StarChef makes me believe that in the kitchen a Star can become a Chef and a Chef can become a Star. Shooting with Saif Online was fun and unique, especially with Cheese which is one of my favorite ingredients."



MOBILE PHONE ETIQUETTE AMID WORK FROM HOME

It is no surprise that owing to the lockdown and lack of outdoor activity, most of us are struggling with our addiction to screens. Curtailing our screentime has become close to impossible for a lot of us, this has turned us into impatient beings. And with us having to spend most time indoors in the presence of our family or work from home pals, it has become all the more important to keep a check on our worsening habits.

Cell phones are of great use to us — they keep us in touch with friends and family and

can be lifesavers in an emergency. But what they can also be is, annoying, if not used thoughtfully. It is, therefore, important that you learn to use your phone's features like silent ring, vibrate, and voice mail to handle the times when your phone would bother others. Observing some basic etiquette and courtesies when using mobile phones so as not to make others feel annoyed or disrespected isn't a herculean task after all. Mobile phone eti-

quette is vital in public places as inconsiderate users can be a great disturbance to others. So here are some of the things you can do, to use your phone effectively, without bothering another:

Prioritise your contacts with the pin-shaped option available on Whatsapp for attending the messages on a priority basis.

It is always advised not to call your head/bosses directly, try sending a message before calling and wait for their reply. Only if it is an emergency, give a call. It may be noted that everyone in the morning

is busy with their routines like fitness, yoga, and other personal work and sometimes busy preparing the schedule for the day, appraising the bosses on important official issues, etc. Hence, calling may be deferred and try to send SMS and wait for the reply.

Whenever calling a VIP, first send an SMS seeking permission to call and ascertain free time to call.

Develop the habit of courtesy to acknowledge or reply to other people's messages with 'regards' or 'thanks', which will help develop a good relationship.

Any Message posted in the

HoDs group for want of some information with a definite timeline should be strictly adhered to, if unable to provide information it should be clearly mentioned and the timeline also may be indicated for submission of the information. But, in any case, the reply should be instantaneous.

It is advisable to pause after calling your office-mate/boss once and then send an SMS as they could be busy attending other calls or virtual meetings.

Repeated calls without pause shall be made only in emergencies like accidents or mishaps.

Of a darker & grittier storyline!

SP Prithvi Singh is back — only this time the hunter has become the hunted. The groundbreaking Season 1 that left audiences on the hook — the plan of killing CM Handa goes awry and audiences were left guessing what Prithvi Singh's next move would be. Sudhir Mishra returns this time as a series director along with Sachin Mamta Krishn as director. Ronit Bose Roy reprises his role of protagonist SP Prithvi Singh who is caught in the eye of a storm and is trying to find a way out of this hostage situation.

Joining the ensemble cast are actors Divya Dutta, Dino Morea, Shibani Dandekar, Shweta Basu Prasad, Shilpa Shukla, Amit Sial, and Kanwaljit Singh. On his journey as the director of the series, Sudhir Mishra, said, "Hostages franchise is very close to my heart because of the unexpected nature of the narrative — it's explosive, twisted and will catch everyone by surprise! As a storyteller that's exactly the kind of work that I thrive on. Hostages Season 2 marks a journey with an intriguing turn of events and brings new faces, new secrets, and new mysteries for the audience to explore and enjoy. DOP turned Director Sachin Krishna has done a fantastic job."



Divya Dutta



Sudhir Mishra

On playing Prithvi Singh, actor Ronit Bose Roy shared, "It's humbling to know that my character Prithvi Singh has found so much love and affection, even though he technically was the antagonist. For me personally, I wanted to go beyond my own performance from the previous season and really explore the depths of this intense character where he goes from being entirely in control to losing that control and finding himself in a situation he can't find a way out of. Hostages Season 2 is a finely crafted masterpiece and I'm eager to know what else is in

store for Prithvi."

On joining the cast Actor Divya Dutta shares, "It's been a joyride being a part of this show. For me, it's about bringing alive characters that are strong and memorable. Playing a hostage negotiator you realize how tough that job is — one wrong move and someone's life could be in danger. It has been a satisfying journey."

Having reneged on his deal to kill Chief Minister Handa, Prithvi Singh now plans to transport the CM out of the country. As tables turn, will Prithvi Singh find a way out of this? Stay tuned!



Kangana's challenge: 'Coming to Mumbai on Sep 9, stop me if you can'



Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut has thrown an open challenge at Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut asking her not to come back to Mumbai.

Kangana took to her verified Twitter account on Friday and stated that she would be arriving in Mumbai on the 9th of September and dared anyone to stop her.

"I see many people are threatening me to not come back to Mumbai so I have now decided to travel to Mumbai this coming week on 9th September, I will post the time when I land at the Mumbai airport, kisi ke baap mein himmat hai toh rok le (stop me if you can)," tweeted the actress.

Kangana's open challenge comes a day after the actress alleged on Twitter that Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut has asked her not to come back to Mumbai.

"Sanjay Raut Shiv Sena leader has given me an open threat and asked me not to come back to Mumbai, after Aazadi graffitis in Mumbai streets and now open threats, why Mumbai is feeling like Pakistan occupied Kashmir?," the actress had tweeted on Thursday. Kangana is currently in her hometown Manali, where she has spent the Covid-19 lockdown with her family.

Big B shoots 4 campaign films in a day: 'It's a struggle to be back on your feet'

Actor Amitabh Bachchan is back in the work mode in the right earnest. As he returns to the sets after recovering from the coronavirus, he has embraced work with a vengeance. "Yooo.. hooo!!!.. back to the grind and work.. 4 campaign films.. 5 outfit changes.. 4 still shoots.. 5 hrs one day.. other than me everyone else looking like they ready for a 'heist', and tomorrow on to KBC..!!" the actor tweeted.

Through his blog, he also gave a glimpse of what his workday looked like. Sharing a few photos where he is seated on a wheelchair, Amitabh wrote, "Its been a struggle to be back on your feet and the considerate unit accommodates me with this vehicle of convenience. The surroundings are quiet and disciplin, scarce conversation. A respected look and guidance, care at every wheel turn, crew about, seeking any requirement from me, feeling like a child in the cradle. All precautions of mask and PPE and distance and channels where I should wheel away, ready and designed before, people about to take any instructions — fatigue, rest, eat something, a coffee or a drink, a break.. just say it, no rush no issue." He went on to explain that the wheelchair was a requirement for one of the shoots.



Robert Pattinson tests positive for Covid, The Batman shoot suspended

British actor Robert Pattinson has tested positive for Covid-19, news media reported on Thursday, halting production of The Batman and highlighting the industry's struggles to get back to business after months of a pandemic-induced shutdown. Movie studio Warner Bros. said in a statement that "a member of The Batman production" in Britain had tested positive for the coronavirus, but did not give a name. "Filming is temporarily paused," the studio's statement added, but did not say for how long.

Variety, the Hollywood Reporter and Vanity Fair all cited sources as saying the person who tested positive was Pattinson, the film's star.

Warner Bros. and Pattinson's representatives did not return calls seeking comment. It was not clear to what extent Pattinson, 34, best known for his breakout role in the vampire movie series Twilight, was suffering Covid-19 symptoms.

Filming of The Batman had resumed north of London only three days ago after being shut down in mid-March, along with dozens of other movies and TV shows around the world due to the coronavirus.

The movie, in which Robert stars as the comic book hero, has about three months of material left to shoot, according to Hollywood trade outlets. Its release was pushed back earlier this year from June 2021 to October 2021.

Movie and TV production has been slow to get going again in the United States under complex safety procedures that include testing, quarantine and social distancing on sets that employ dozens of crew members, makeup artists, actors, extras and other production staff.

Some productions, including Universal Pictures' Jurassic World: Dominion, have restarted in London or in Eastern Europe, while the cast of the Avatar sequel is back at work in New Zealand, where the coronavirus has been kept in check.

Tom Cruise in July got permission to shoot parts of the next Mission Impossible thriller in Norway without having to follow quarantine requirements. However, Variety reported that the production has hired two cruise ships to house the crew to keep them apart from locals.



Honey Singh on why he launched 'Billo tu agg' amid lockdown

Rapper Yo Yo Honey Singh and musician Singhsta have collaborated once again, and the rap star says lockdown was the best time to drop the new track.

Titled Billo tu agg, the song is the latest in the non-film circuit that Honey Singh has worked on with Singhsta, after Makhna.

"This is lockdown time. The clubs are not open and no parties are taking place. I thought this is the best time to

release the song when people can listen to it at home or in their cars. That is why I chose this song and that is how this song happened," Honey Singh told IANS.

About how the song came to be, he added, "Billo tu agg has been written and produced by Singhsta. He is my artiste. I signed him in 2017 and I have pushed him to do the kind of music I wanted him to do. So, finally he came up with this idea of the song called Billo tu agg." The rapper, who is

known for belting out hits like Brown rang, Love dose and Blue eyes says he saw a lot of potential in the track.

"He (Singhsta) made me listen to the song and said that 'I have written and produced the music, if you come on board then this song will be good'. I saw potential in the song and then I wrote my verse for the song," said Honey Singh.



FUN

ARCHIE



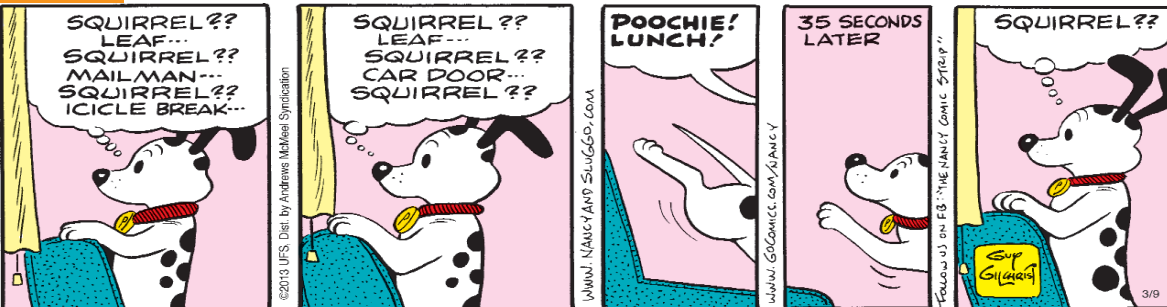
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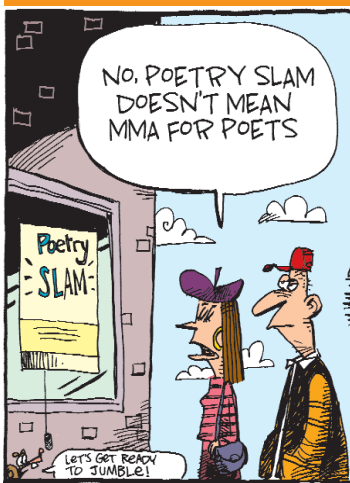
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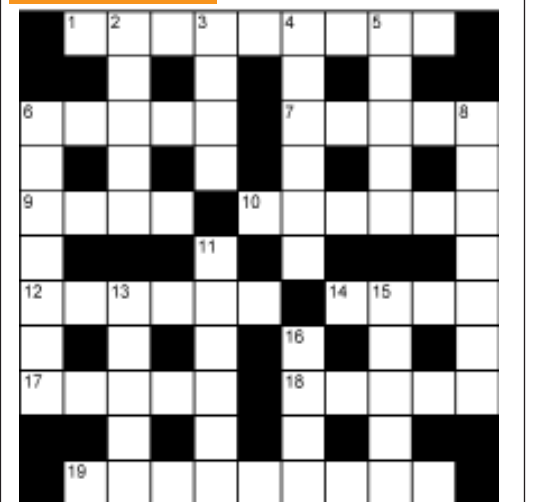
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 This small sea creature might sting a swimmer
- 6 Does a signature on
- 7 Telling untruths
- 9 Very uncommon
- 10 The tiredness you get after a very long plane flight
- 12 A paper hanky
- 14 A hard black fuel
- 17 The opposite of tails
- 18 Train tracks
- 19 A month
- 5 Not moving
- 6 Pull something to make it longer or wider
- 8 A swimmer's glasses
- 11 Day's end
- 13 Frighten
- 15 A small oval oily fruit
- 16 A baby's transport

DOWN

- 2 Very keen
- 3 Misplaced
- 4 Recorded with a movie camera



SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

Most Read NEWS

Frenchman to livestream own death



A Frenchman who is suffering from an incurable condition said that he plans to livestream his death on social media as he refuses to take food, drink or medicine after President Emmanuel Macron turned down his request for euthanasia.

Plant with 4 leaves sold for Rs 4 lakh in NZ



A tiny house plant with just four leaves has been sold for a whopping \$4,000. The plant is a variegated raphidophora tetrasperma or philodendron minima.

Parents lock kids for 4 months over Covid fears



Three children taken into care after being locked up by their parents for nearly five months in case they caught the coronavirus should not be allowed to return home, an administrative court in Sweden has ruled.

Arctic fires released record amount of CO2



The Arctic has experienced the worst fire season on record for the second year in a row, with giant wildfires sending over one third more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than last year.

Well done Sumit!



Nagal's US Open dream ended as he went down to Thiem, but not before impressing his rival

Sumit Nagal's trademark fighting spirit was on display throughout but it was not enough to get past world number three Dominic Thiem, who notched up a straight-set victory over the Indian in the US Open men's singles second round on Thursday.

who celebrated his 27th birthday with a commanding performance at the Arthur Ashe stadium. Thiem, this year's Australian Open finalist, had said that he has seen videos of Nagal's game and knew that he has a ripping forehand.

"Thank you 2020 US Open. Lots to learn. Going to keep working hard! Thanks for all the support everyone," Nagal later tweeted.

Nagal came into the contest after giving India a rare singles main draw match win at a Grand Slam but it was always going to be a daunting task for him to challenge someone who has made two French Open

momentum. Playing with a lot of energy and stinging strokes, those were the best two games that Nagal played as the gap between him and the top players was on display after that.

Thiem, using his superior game shifted gears with remarkable ease, turning the tide with an immediate break and served out the set.

Nagal got a break back when Thiem hit a backhand long on the third breakpoint but dropped his serve in the next to give his fancied opponent a two-set advantage.

Thiem wrapped up the match with ease even as Nagal

kept finding winners here and there. He fought hard and saved a match point too, but it was clear that the young Indian's best was not enough to trouble the top guns.

The world No 3 Thiem will play 2014 champion Marin Cilic in round three. Cilic, seeded 31st, took four sets to overcome Norbert Gombos 6-3, 1-6, 7-6, 7-5.

Elsewhere, third seed Daniil Medvedev progressed to the third round 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 at the expense of the 116th-ranked Christopher O'Connell.

The Bulgarian fell to 66th-ranked Hungarian Marton Fucsovics 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/4), 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 in 4hr 50min.

Dimitrov became the second-highest men's seed to exit the tournament after Chile's Cristian Garin, seeded 13th, lost in five sets on Wednesday.

Mum's the word

Three of nine mothers in main draw reach third round, with wins over top seeds. Serena Williams, Victoria Azarenka and Tsvetana Pironkova made up a 'Band of Mothers' who marched into the third round of the US Open on Thursday.



We expect to hit top gear by year end: Reid

India's training environment is second to none and the national team can hit the top gear by the end of this year, asserted chief coach Graham Reid, who has adopted a "conservative approach" to train his players.

"It's not just India, the rest of the world has been affected by the Covid. Every hockey playing nation is in the same mode. But the good thing is that we are on the right path now. It is definitely going to take a while for us to return," the Australian said.

Australia has in Perth." Having spent the entire period here in India since the outbreak of the virus, Reid is aware of the approach he and his support staff needs to adopt in the prevailing circumstances.

Need practice games for match awareness: Rhodes

Skills are not a concern but "match mindset" certainly is, Kings XI Punjab fielding coach Jonty Rhodes has said, stressing the need for practice games before the IPL to give the competition-starved players a feel of what awaits them in tournament proper.

and playing shots all around the ground, which is interesting because they could not practice much during lockdown," Rhodes said. "You tend to pick up the skills quickly but it is the match practice or the lack of it that will take a while to get used to. Playing in the nets is one thing, if you can get the match mindset, especially in a tournament like the IPL, it is very important."

Bhajji pulls out of IPL

Senior off-spinner Harbhajan Singh on Friday became the second high-profile name to pull out of this year's Indian Premier League owing to "personal reasons", saying he has informed the Chennai Super Kings team management about his decision.

CSK finally hit the nets

Dubai: Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni and all other Chennai Super Kings players, except for the Covid-19 afflicted duo of Deepak Chahar and Ruturaj Gaikwad, finally hit the nets on Friday after clearing a third round of testing for the virus.

Messi confirms he's STAYING at Barca

Lionel Messi is staying at Barcelona and in an exclusive interview with Goal, he has explained that he wanted to leave, but the club made it impossible. "When I communicated my wish to leave to my wife and children, it was a brutal drama," Messi told Goal.



WBBL to be played entirely in Sydney



Australia's T20 women's Big Bash League was on Friday shifted entirely to Sydney as coronavirus travel restrictions forced drastic venue and schedule changes.

Many of Australia's World Cup-winning T20 squad will play the BBL, including Meg Lanning, Alyssa Healy and Ellyse Perry. Cricket Australia's head of Big Bash Leagues Alistair Dobson said he was working with the Australian Government to ensure overseas players could also enter the country to join their clubs.

Wrestlers urge WFI to postpone men's camp

After three Indian wrestlers tested positive for coronavirus at the Sports Authority of India centre in Sonapat, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) is facing growing calls to postpone the men's national camp.

PSG ANNOUNCE 3 MORE CORONA CASES PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain on Thursday announced "three new positive cases" of Covid-19 in their squad, a day after Neymar, Angel Di Maria and Leandro Paredes were revealed to have contracted the virus, casting serious doubt over the start of their season in France.

Spain snatch late draw against Germany

Jose Luis Gaya's late goal gave Spain a 1-1 draw away in Germany on Thursday as the start of the Uefa Nations League marked the return of international football in Europe following a hiatus of 10 months due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Spain snatched a dramatic ending to the League A, Group Four encounter. Earlier, new Chelsea striker Timo Werner had given Germany the lead just after half-time in an entertaining contest between two of the last three World Cup winners.

It was Luis Enrique's first game of his second spell as Spain coach, despite being re-appointed in November 2019 just after their last game in Euro 2020 qualifying. "This team is full of faith and hunger. We didn't deserve to lose and we kept fighting to the end," said Spain captain Sergio Ramos, who earned his 171st cap.

Elsewhere on Thursday in the same group, Manchester City's Oleksandr Zinchenko scored a fine goal to give Ukraine a 2-1 win over Switzerland in Lviv. In League B, Artem Dzyuba netted a brace as Russia beat Serbia 3-1 in Moscow, while in the same Group 3, Hungary were surprise 1-0 winners away in Turkey.





PAVAN'S FEEL-GOOD ROMANTIC COMEDY

with Dinesh Tej and Shweta Avasthi

The filmmaker, whose interest has always been movies and UPSC, tells NAGARAJ GOUD about his film, completing shoot in 36 days, theatrical experience and more

The filming of debutant director K Pavan Kumar's untitled romantic comedy, featuring Husharu fame Dinesh Tej and Shweta Avasthi, has been wrapped up. Bankrolled by Venkatesh Kothuri under Kothuri Entertainments LLP, it features Sanjay Swaroop, Gururaj, Bindu, Sandhya Janak and Mani in supporting roles. Speaking to *The Pioneer*, the director says it was deliberate from their end not to announce the film when it went on the floors last July. "We wanted to finish the film first and later focus on the marketing side. We've completed the shooting in 36 days spread over three

months. Right now, the re-recording is going on and in three weeks time, the trailer will be out," the director tells us.

Pavan, who completed his MBA from University of Kansas, US in 2009, worked as an assistant director for a couple of films, with Harish Shankar's *Mirapakay* being the prominent one. His interest has always been movies and UPSC. He started with movies but as it turned out to be difficult to balance movies and UPSC, he had to temporarily bid adieu to movies and focus on UPSC. "I spent six years in New Delhi for UPSC preparation. I gave five attempts, but couldn't clear it. I came back to Hyderabad in 2017 and recommenced movie attempts. I've made a couple of short films soon after to get hands-on experience and got the nod of Dinesh last year for the feature film," he shares.

Shedding light about the film, he points out that it narrates the tale of a girl (played by Shweta) who is about to get hitched. "She is happy with the match, but is at a crossroads career point of view. She wants to

do something meaningful with her life before walking down the aisle. What she does and how her personality changes due to it is what the film treads. Dinesh will be seen as a startup guy who helps the girl's cause. It's a slice of life feel-good film and is a right film for the season," he asserts.

He goes on to mention that his producer Venkatesh is keen on a big screen debut for the film. "Like our team, he loves the theatrical experience and it is the reason why he has been waiting. We are hopeful of cinema halls reopening next month," Pavan informs, smilingly adding that while there will be a section which will be cautious to visit theatres as soon the shutters are out, there will be another section like him tired of cooped at home and consuming content on OTT. "I am eager to watch a film in theatres."

THE DIRECTOR SAYS IT WAS DELIBERATE FROM THEIR END NOT TO ANNOUNCE THE FILM WHEN IT WENT ON THE FLOORS LAST JULY.

Ravi Teja to swing into action

Joining films like *Solo Brathuke So Better* and *Wild Dog* in getting back on sets after COVID-19 induced break is Ravi Teja-starrer *Krack*. The film, which is two weeks away from a wrap-up, will be resuming later this month by following all safety protocols.

An intense action thriller, the film, which marks Ravi and director Gopichand Malineni teaming up after hits like *Don Sreenu* and *Balupu*, is inspired by incidents that transpired in both the Telugu states. It tells the story of a powerful police officer P Veera Shankar (played by Ravi Teja) and will have all elements that one expects from the actor's film. The makers are planning to slot the film for Dasara or Diwali if cinema halls reopen early next month.

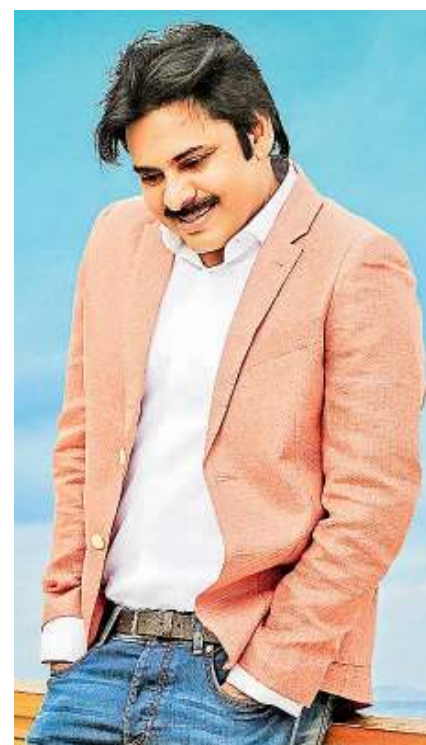
Shruti Haasan is cast opposite Ravi Teja in the film, while the likes of Samuthirakani, Varalakshmi Sarath Kumar, Devi Prasad, Pujita Ponnada and Chirag Jani are playing supporting roles. On the technical front, SS Thaman is scoring the music, while Mersal and Whistle cameraman GK Vishnu is the cinematographer. A production venture of Tagore Madhu under Saraswathi Films Division, Sai Madhav Burra has penned the dialogues.

Satya ecstatic with Pawan's praise

When he wished power star Pawan Kalyan on his 49th birthday Wednesday, little did Satyadev know that his tweet would elicit reaction from the star who generally doesn't communicate much with industry folks on Twitter! Naturally, Satya, who received rich plaudits

for his turn in *Uma Maheswara Ugra Roopasya* from the industry and general audience alike, was over the moon with the reply of Pawan. "Thank you Satyadev garu, I truly enjoyed your performance in your latest film *Uma Maheswara Ugra roopasya*. All the best" was Pawan's reply to Satya. An ecstatic Satya, who

played a blink and miss role in Pawan-starrer *Attarintiki Daaredhi*, wrote, "Siiiiiiii, thank youuu so much. Will cherish this for a long long time. Thank you again for presenting me a gift on your birthday. Our #umamaheswaraUgraRoopasya team is ecstatic with your message @PawanKalyan (sic)."



Great to have people from across regions working together: NIVETHA

Nivetha Thomas is happy with the talent exchange happening within film industries in the country.

Several actors from film industries down South including Prabhas, Vijay Deverakonda, Dhanush, Sudheer Babu have forayed Bollywood lately, or are set to do so, even as a huge list of Bollywood stars, including Akshay Kumar, Deepika Padukone and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan among many others have worked in the south Indian film industries.

Nivetha said she welcomes such talent exchange. "It is cultural integration. I welcome it with open arms. At the end of the day when we are talking about it from the broader front. It is great to have people from across regions working together," she said.

The actress added, "It is like an exchange of different ideologies, practices and methods because when I was for the first time with a Bombay team, I got to learn a lot of stuff I didn't know."

Nivetha agrees that there is a lot of "give and take" but as long it is healthy, it is amazing. "At the end of the day you can't set a formula to this. Just because you want to work with different people you can't have them there. You only have to do what the film requires and if that character requires somebody who will do justice, forget the region. Take the actor who does justice to the role," she said.



Prabhas likely to juggle sets next year

In his 18-year career, Prabhas has always been content in doing one film at a time. But that is going to change next year, according to reports.

The actor, who has announced a couple of projects in the last seven months, will be shuffling between the sets when they go in front of the cameras next year. He will dive into the shooting of Nag Ashwin's futuristic scientific-thriller set against the backdrop of an imaginary third world war early next year and film for portions that need extensive VFX work. The schedule, it is believed, will be a short one, lasting just a month. Later, he will completely shift his attention to Om Raut's *Adipurush*, a screen adaptation of a chapter from Indian epic Ramayana, and will shoot until it ends. The director is looking at a three-month time period to finish it. So it's likely that Prabhas will rejoin the sets of Ashwin's film in July or August. It is being said that this is his attempt to tell his fans that he is serious about releasing at least one film a year from 2021 onwards.

