

Trying to be a first-rate reporter on the average American newspaper is like trying to play Bach's 'St. Matthew's Passion' on a ukulele
Baghician's Observation

A heinous business

Unbeknown to the State's health and police authorities, a well-organized and thriving business of using the flesh of dead animals as cooked meat in hotels and restaurants had been going on in Kolkata and the surrounding areas. A whole network of people was engaged in cutting, sizing and packing the flesh of carcasses thrown in baghars or dumping grounds, treating it with chemicals and supplying it to eateries big and small, ordinary and cheap to respectable and costly. Some of the samples seized by the police were found to be stinking. But this stuff was stored in fridges and cooked and served to unsuspecting customers. Those engaged in this repulsive 'business' had their informants in every dumping ground to alert them whenever carcasses arrived. Even dog meat is suspected to have been used. Dead chicken, reeking of foul smell, dipped in formalin, has been served as food without any qualm of conscience. It is the profit which matters, how it is made does not.

The KMC Mayor-in-Council, Health, has admitted that the civic body has no laboratory to test flesh to determine meat of which animal was being used. He had to search and find laboratories where such tests could be done. Civic bodies of small towns are far less equipped to do such testing. The police have arrested some people, are trying to find out many more that are behind-the-scene operators and are expected to put them up for trial. Common people do not know what the penal provisions for such crimes are and how diligently the police will pursue these cases for obtaining conviction.

Previously it had been reported that fish are treated with harmful colour to make them appear as fresh, stale vegetables are treated with chemicals for retaining their greenness, fruits are similarly treated to ripen them prematurely. Over and above this, cereals like rice and wheat plants are treated with harmful pesticides. These are absorbed by the plants and ultimately taken by unsuspecting people in their daily diet. Even if one knows that the rice or roti one is eating contains pesticides, some of which may even be carcinogenic, one is helpless. But passing off flesh of dead animals as cooked meat is, or rather was, unthinkable till the other day. Now that it has been detected, the people expect the authorities concerned not only to punish the guilty but to put in place a checking system which will stamp out this repulsive business once for all.

Fast changing psychology of crime in India

REFLEX ACTION

Gyan Pathak

Psychology of crime in India has been changing at a very fast pace outsmarting our overall crime control strategy. The strategy we adopt always becomes outdated in the changed situations in the society. The government and its agencies responsible to control crime tend to stick to the older strategies despite the changed scenario, resulting in their failure.

Though the data in the annual report 2017-18 shows only a minor increase of 0.9 per cent in Indian Penal Code related crimes in 2016, compared to the previous year, the changing pattern of crime has created an alarming situation that disturbs not only the law and order but also public order. Offences affecting human body had decreased by 8.5 per cent with the decrease in offences like murder, dowry deaths, grievous hurt, injuries under rash driving, and human trafficking. However, the changed pattern of crime shows the highest increase of 62.4 per cent under unnatural offences, followed by attempt to commit rape (29.1), attempt to commit culpable homicide (23.0), rape (12.4), attempt to commit murder (6.9), kidnapping and abduction (6.0), causing death by negligence (4.3), assault on women with intent to outrage modesty (2.8), and culpable homicide not amounting to murder (0.9). Incidents of cruelty by husbands or his relatives, and insult to the modesty of women, however, showed a decreasing trend.

It is clear that sex related offences are increasing at very fast rate, which needs special attention of law makers, criminologists, sociologists and educationists. Simply making stringent laws, such as we have recently seen in the ordinance relating to rape, is not sufficient to deal with the epidemic of sex related crimes. The government's approach to make provision for death penalty for rape is ad-hocism aimed at expediency. We need a pragmatic shift in the strategy of controlling such crimes. We need to curb those activities that promote sexual urge in human being to the extent of it becoming a crime. We had only two per cent increase in offences against property,

criminal trespass and burglary, robbery, dacoity, preparation for dacoity, criminal breach of trust, and cheating have decreased but there was alarming increase in arson by 15.3 per cent, extortion by 9.2 per cent and theft by 5.7 per cent. Counterfeiting and forgery of documents have decreased, while other IPC crimes increased by 10.5 per cent.

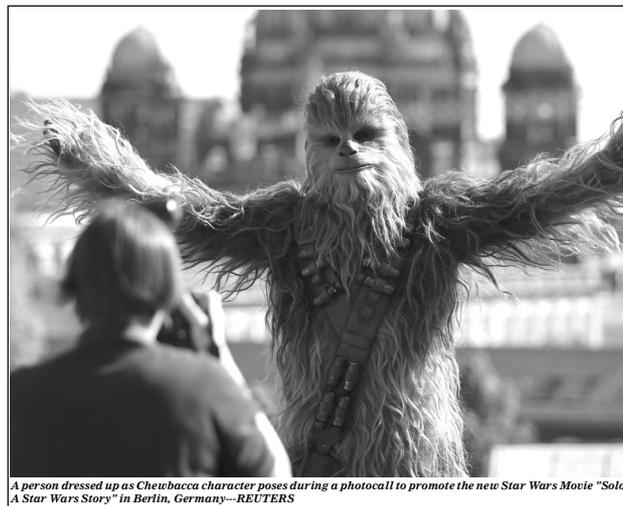
Crimes under special and local laws showed a 5.4 per cent increase. Incidents under women related acts, such as dowry prohibition, immoral traffic prevention, protection of women from domestic violence, and indecent representation of women prohibition, and Sati prevention decreased. However, we have a phenomenal rise in the criminal incidence under special laws relating to children. There was 173.5 per cent rise in prenatal diagnostics, 11.3 per cent in child marriage, and 54.6 per cent under Juvenile Justice (care and protection) Act. It shows that our children have become most vulnerable to all sorts of crime, even more vulnerable than women. There was sharp decrease in incidents against scheduled caste and scheduled tribes, but a sharp increase of 233.3 per cent in breaching the official secrets, along with 17.9 per cent rise in damage to public property were registered. There was also a rise of 4.4 per cent under Arms Act, and 12.2 per cent in Explosive Act.

Crimes under Information Technology have increased by 7.1 per cent. Liquor related crimes have also increased - 2 per cent under prohibition and 15 per cent under excise. There was a decrease of 3 per cent in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substance related crimes. Gambling has increased by 14.5 per cent, electricity theft by 31.1 per cent, crime against

wildlife by 3.6 per cent, and water pollution by 10 per cent. There was 140.5 per cent increase in crime under Emigration Act, and 168.4 per cent under Citizenship Act. Indian Railways suffered 7.5 per cent increase in crime under Indian Railways Act. There was an increase of 39.1 per cent in bonded labours, 213.5 per cent under Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, and 19.7 in insult to national honour.

Crime against Scheduled Castes under IPC have increased by 9.6 per cent. Among such crimes, the highest increase was of attempt to commit rape, which rose by 100 per cent. All crimes except dacoity and arson were on the increase. Murder rose by 11.2, attempt to murder 34, grievous hurt 6.4, assault on women to outrage her modesty by 13.3, insult to the modesty of women by 39.7, kidnapping and abduction by 24.5, rape by 9.2, riots by 17.7, and robbery by 34.9 per cent. Total atrocities against them increased by 5.5 per cent. IPC crimes against Scheduled Tribes increased by 5.1 per cent. The highest increase of 136.3 per cent was under insult to the modesty of women. There was a decrease in murder but 5.7 per cent rise in attempt to murder. Increase in assault on women to outrage modesty was 2.1 per cent, kidnapping and abduction 31.5, rape 2.3, riots 7.5, robbery 11.1, and dacoity 50 per cent. Total atrocities against STs rose by 4.6 per cent.

As for crime against women, abetment of suicides rose by 10 per cent, causing miscarriage without women's consent by 755.6 per cent, death from causing miscarriage by 941.7 per cent, acid attack by 21.2 per cent, kidnapping and abduction by 8.8 per cent, rape by 12.4 per cent, attempt to commit rape by 29.1 per cent, unnatural offences by 352.8 per cent, and attempt to outrage modesty 2.8 per cent. There was 17.4 per cent increase in sexually explicit material. Total crime against children rose by 13.6 per cent. Infanticide rose by 2.2 per cent, foeticide by 48.5, kidnapping by 30.6, trafficking by 53.8, selling minor girls for prostitution by 9.9, unnatural offences by 53.2, and sexual offences by 141.5 per cent. (IPA)



A person dressed up as Chewbacca character poses during a photocall to promote the new Star Wars movie "Solo: A Star Wars Story" in Berlin, Germany—REUTERS

Wuhan Summit: A new template for engagement

FOCUS

Subrata Majumder

A perpetual border settlement between India and China is untenable. Then, why not use economic engagement to soothe the relation. Against the backdrop of US trade war against China, Prime Minister Modi's reciprocation to Beijing's urge for amelioration of ties is a timely step for his Act East policy, which has been shadowed by China's BRI (Belt and Road initiative). India has declined to be party to BRI.

The informal Wuhan summit has helped to morph Doklam tension into a softer China and its yearn for India's support for its role in Asia Pacific region. A progressive economic engagement is the outcome of the summit. Given the fact both countries are the twin propellers for global growth, inter-dependence between India and China is imperative. China needs India for a bigger market and India needs China for enlarging foreign investment.

China fears a big loss of its export market after USA's double whammy to its exports - by raising tariffs on imports from China and curbing China's exports to the world by re-joining TPP. China is skeptical about the success of its BRI, whose main aim is to step up exports utilizing the idle capacity, if trade war

intensifies. China is an export base economy. Trade accounts for 37 per cent of its GDP. India is emerging as an important global market, driven by high GDP growth and a big pool of middle class and non-aging population. India can be a potential offset for China's loss of exports in the longer run.

Although the Doklam stand-off dumped India-China relation in a damn squib, the relation witnessed chances for resurrection after 9th BRICS summit in China in September 2017. There was a series of diplomatic exchanges between India and China. On December 11, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited India. This was followed by the visits of Yang Jiechi, the State Councilor and Special Representative of China on the Boundary Questions.

Reciprocating to the Chinese desire for better relation, new Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale - who was the master mind to put the lid on the Doklam issue as Ambassador to China - visited Beijing for talks with Yang Jiechi. On April 13, India's National Security Adviser Ajit Dovey visited Shanghai. On April 21, Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj visited China to take part in ministerial meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

(SCO). Around that time, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also attended the SCO defence ministers' meeting. These frequent diplomatic exchanges culminated in the Modi-Xi Jinping informal summit, according to Global Times, a leading national daily in China. Such intense series of high level diplomatic exchanges rarely happened earlier, signaling the aspiration of both countries for improving the relation, the daily said. "Friction can be handled with deft diplomacy. With the return of frequent and attentive diplomatic exchanges, the two sides can quickly work out their issues," it added.

What has driven China to make a somersault in its anti-India protest? Is it a fear from its own people, who are doing business in India or to find a major alternative market after the trade war was intensified by USA, China's biggest export destination?

Modi was not averse to economic engagement with China. His relation with China was established well before he

became Prime Minister. As Chief Minister of Gujarat, he visited China four times. Unlike his predecessor, Modi tried to woo Chinese investment, despite the security concerns. Instead of resorting to a trade war to cut trade deficit, the Modi administration took viable economic steps by enlarging Chinese investment.

Chinese companies benefited from this improved economic engagement. Starting 2015, Chinese investment in India surged eight times and became the eighth biggest foreign investor in India from the 26th position. Six top brand Chinese smartphone makers, viz, Xiaomi, Oppo, OnePlus, Gionee, Vivo, Huawei, have set up their manufacturing operations in India. During 2016, Chinese companies proposed US \$ 2.3 billion worth of investment in the country.

As a result, India emerged as an engine for the global presence of Chinese mobile manufacturing companies. India accounts for 60 to 70 of the global sales of these Chinese

companies. For Xiaomi's smartphones, India accounts for 67 per cent of its global sales. For Vivo, it is 73 per cent and for Oppo 48 per cent; for Gionee it is one-fourth.

India's potency sparked after China's lost its vigour as a low cost workshop of the world. According to FDI Intelligence, an outfit of Financial Times, UK, India replaced China as a recipient of FDI in greenfield projects in 2015. FDI in greenfield in India increased by 37 per cent in 2015 and surged further by 18 per cent in 2016, bringing cumulative growth by over 50 per cent. Interest for economic engagement between the two countries accelerated further after the successful launching of AIB (Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank) in 2014. It was China's initiative, which led to the setting up of an alternative Asian mega financial institution on the lines of ADB. China is the biggest stakeholder in AIB and India is the second biggest. It entrusts more power to India in disbursement of loans than ADB.

In summing up, Modi's strategy for economic partnership with China, despite the political differences, is a timely attempt to benefit from the Chinese economic power. (IPA)

Conventional Crossword									
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|--------------------------|----------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Musical composition | 1 Satisfied fully |
| 2 Passing craze | 2 Kimono sash |
| 3 Lessen | 3 Nominates |
| 4 Smoke/like | 4 Consumed |
| 5 Exhalation | 5 Examine |
| 6 Period in history | 6 Commotion |
| 7 Mineral spring | 7 Electrical unit |
| 8 Business transaction | 8 Business |
| 9 Christmas decoration | 9 Inferior horse |
| 10 Morse element | 10 Busy |
| 11 Small secluded valley | 11 Berbs carrier |
| 12 Atelier | 12 Depart |
| 13 Fastener | 13 Very poor |
| 14 Become unsteady | 14 Bridge |
| 15 Fresh trap | 15 Young entity |
| 16 Angry | 16 Norwegian capital |
| 17 Humorous play | 17 Young goat |

SUDOKU: 2184

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Yesterday's Solution 2183

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

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 192

P	L	O	T	S	T	A	G
E	V					E	T
T	R	E	S	S	E	A	T
R	R	E	A	L	M	I	
E	N	D	E	D	P	E	R
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A	C	E				E	R
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