

Dhrupad maestro Ustad Sayeeduddin Dagar dies aged 78



Known as 'Saeed Bhai', he was the youngest of the eight Dagar brothers.

Ustad Hussain Sayeeduddin Dagar, maestro and custodian of the venerable Dhrupad tradition of Hindustani classical music and a member of the eminent Dagar family, passed away aged 78 in Pune late on Sunday night after a brief illness.

He was born in Alwar in Rajasthan in 1939 and was the youngest among the eight famous Dagar brothers

Hussain Sayeeduddin Dagar (20 April 1939 – 30 July 2017), popularly known as Saeed Bhai, was an Indian classical vocalist belonging to the Dhrupad tradition, the oldest existing form of north Indian classical music (Hindustani classical music).

He was a part of the Dagar family of musicians He represented the 19th generation of Dagar Tradition.

His cousins Nasir Moinuddin Dagar and Nasir Aminuddin Dagar were known as the Senior Dagar Brothers. Similarly, Nasir Zahiruddin and Nasir Faiyazuddin Dagar were known as the Younger Dagar Brothers.

His other cousins were Zia Mohiuddin Dagar, Zia Fariduddin Dagar, and Rahim Fahimuddin Dagar.

Supreme Court no to use of heavy metals in firecrackers

Citing health hazards, the Supreme Court on Monday asked firecracker manufacturers not to use heavy metals like lithium, antimony, mercury, arsenic and lead and chemical elements like antimony "in any form whatsoever" in their products.

The apex court held that it is the responsibility of the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) to ensure compliance of ban order particularly in Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu where there are large number of firecracker manufacturers. It also asked CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board) and PESO to make collaborative efforts for setting up of standards with regard to air pollution caused by the bursting of fire-crackers.

WHAT IS PESO?

The Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) with its headquarter at Nagpur and a network of 5 Circle offices, 18 Sub-circle offices and Central Testing Station has been continuing to serve the public and industry for over 100 years in all matters relating to safety in manufacture, storage, transport and handling of explosives, petroleum, compressed gases and other hazardous substances through comprehensive administration of Explosives Act, 1884, Petroleum Act, 1934, Inflammable Substances Act, 1952 and rules framed there under viz. Explosives Rules, 2008, Gas Cylinders Rules, 2004, Static & Mobile Pressure Vessels (Unfired) Rules, 1981, Petroleum Rules, 2002, Calcium Carbide Rules, 1987 & Cinematographic Films Rules, 1948

19th RCEP Trade Negotiating Committee Meeting held in Hyderabad...



India is 'fully committed' to taking forward the negotiations for a mega Free Trade Agreement (FTA) called the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), to ensure that it is a 'balanced' pact that benefits all the 16 Asia-Pacific nations including itself that are participating in the talks, according to commerce secretary Rita Teatota.

RCEP is a proposed comprehensive regional economic integration agreement (mega Free Trade Agreement) amongst the **10-ASEAN countries (Brunei, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam)** and its **six Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) partners, viz. Australia, New**

Zealand, India, China, Japan and Korea. RCEP negotiations were formally launched at 2012 ASEAN Summit in Cambodia. RCEP is viewed as an alternative to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a proposed trade agreement that includes several Asian and American nations but excludes China and India. Till 2017, RCEP member states accounted for a population of 3.4 billion people with a total GDP (in terms of PPP) of \$49.5 trillion, approximately 39% of the world's GDP (combined GDPs of China and India makes up more than half that amount).

India-Bhutan trade & transit pact come into force....



India and Bhutan mutually decided to bring into force the 'new' bilateral Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit with effect from this July 29. The new agreement will further strengthen the bilateral trade relations between India and Bhutan

The agreement provides for a free trade regime between the territories of India and Bhutan. The agreement also provides for duty-free transit of Bhutanese merchandise for trade with third countries. Bilateral trade between both countries will continue to be transacted in Bhutanese Ngultrums and Indian Rupees. It was last renewed on July 29, 2006 for ten years. The validity of this agreement was extended (with effect from July 29, 2016) for one year or till the new agreement comes into force, through exchange of diplomatic notes.

The new agreement was signed on November 12, 2016, and as per its provisions, the pact was to come into force on a mutually decided date.

National Mission For Clean Ganga...

The Executive Committee of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) in its 4th meeting approved seven projects in the sector of sewage infrastructure that development and research.

Three projects were approved in sewage sector in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Central Government will provide operation and maintenance cost for 15 years to all these six projects along with 100% central assistance.

The study will be an extension of a research carried out by National Environment Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) to identify the special properties of river's waters.

What is NMCG?

National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG) was registered as a society on 12th August 2011 under the Societies Registration Act 1860.It acted as implementation arm of National Ganga River Basin Authority(NGRBA) which was constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA),1986. NGRBA has since been dissolved with effect from the 7th October 2016, consequent to constitution of National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga

The Act envisages five tier structure at national, state and district level to take measures for prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution in river Ganga and to ensure continuous adequate flow of water so as to rejuvenate the river Ganga as below:

- 1. National Ganga Council under chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.**
- 2. Empowered Task Force (ETF) on river Ganga under chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.**
- 3. National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG).**
- 4. State Ganga Committees and**
- 5. District Ganga Committees in every specified district abutting river Ganga and its tributaries in the states.**

NMCG has a two tier management structure and comprises of Governing Council and Executive Committee. Both of them are headed by Director General, NMCG. Executive Committee has been authorized to accord approval for all projects up to Rs.1000 crore.

Advance Pricing Agreements (UAPAs) with Indian taxpayers. . .



The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has entered into 9 Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (UAPAs) with Indian taxpayers in July, 2017. With this, total number of APAs signed till date stands at 171 (Bilateral-12 and Unilateral-159). The nine APAs signed pertain to diverse sectors of the economy including Oil & Gas exploration, education, banking, pharmaceutical, manufacturing and IT. They also cover international transactions and provision of software development services, ITES , engineering design services, distribution, contract manufacturing, etc.

APAs provide for signing an agreement between a taxpayer and the income tax department on an appropriate transfer pricing methodology for determining the value of assets and taxes on intra-group overseas transactions.

The scheme attempts to provide certainty to taxpayers in the domain of transfer pricing by specifying the methods of pricing and setting the prices of international transactions in advance.