

Shah arriving on Oct 24

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bharatiya Janata Party president Amit Shah will visit Lucknow on October 24 and hold review meeting with leaders of party's state organisation and the government, including Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The meeting, slated to begin in the morning hours, is expected to continue till evening of October 24.

Besides Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh senior functionary Krishna Gopal, state BJP chief Mahendra Nath Pandey and general secretary (organisation) Sunil Bansal will attend the meeting.

The performance of the ministers of Yogi Cabinet and sitting BJP MPs are likely to be on top of the agenda of the review meeting.

The turmoil caused in national politics by the recent statement of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat asking Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bring a legislation in Parliament for clear-



state brass to improve its performance on law and order front and step up welfare schemes for the poor and the downtrodden.

Meanwhile, a meeting of BJP's state unit was held in Lucknow on Saturday. It was attended by all district chiefs, district in-charges, district convenors and in-charges of Lok Sabha constituencies and other office-bearers.

General secretary (organisation) Sunil Bansal directed the BJP state office-bearers to start preparations for the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

Bansal said that a 'Run for Unity' would be organised in each district on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on October 31. He asked party leaders to ensure participation of maximum number of people in the event.

The BJP general secretary (organisation) said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would unveil the 182-metre statue of Sardar Patel in Gujarat on October 31.

ing the hurdles in construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya will also top the BJP chief's agenda.

A senior leader of the BJP said here on Saturday that the Wednesday meeting would be crucial and would accelerate preparations for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls in Uttar Pradesh.

Sources said the meeting could also propose to remove some ministers of the Yogi Council of Ministers who were facing corruption charges.

Besides, the BJP brass would give some pep talk to the

UP govt to honour kin of 67 martyred policemen today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the India Carpet Expo being held here through video conferencing at 5:30 pm on Sunday.

Textiles Minister Smriti Zubin Irani will be the guest of honour at the India Carpet Expo (ICE) being organised by Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) at Trade Facilitation Centre and Craft Museum, Deen Dayal Hatchkala Sankul, Bada Lalpur here.

Talking to presspersons at Nadesar here, CEPC chairman Mahaveer Prasad Sharma and former chairman Siddh Nath Singh said that Prime Minister Modi would inaugurate the 36th ICE through video conferencing on Sunday while Minister Textiles Smriti Irani would be present as guest of honour.

Recently, the state government had promoted a record number of cops and also started the process for recruitment of about a lakh police personnel to reduce stress on the existing force.

Director General of Police OP Singh said here on Saturday that Police Commemoration Day was observed every year to pay homage to supreme sacrifice of 10 policemen, who died defending the borders with China on October 21 in 1959.

Singh said this year too, UP Police would honour the families of 67 cops who lost their lives in the last one year.

Among the martyred cops are constable Ankut Tomar (27), who died fighting criminals in Shamli in January, and fireman Kamlakant Tripathi, who died when a burning tree branch fell on him while he was trying to put out a fire in nearby sugar-cane and wheat fields in Maigalganj in Lakhimpur Kheri.

Sharma and Singh said the ICE was a unique platform for the buyers to source the best handmade carpets, rugs and other floor coverings under one roof.

They said the objective to hold

PM to inaugurate carpet expo today



CEPC chairman Mahaveer Prasad Sharma talking to presspersons

carpet expo in major carpet producing belt, Varanasi, was to provide unique pick and choose business opportunity to all overseas carpet buyers.

"India has unique capability in adapting to any type of design, colour, quality and size as per the specifications of the carpet buyers and this has made it a household name in international market," Sharma said, adding that the carpet industry had immense potential for growth, both in production and exports.

"The Indian carpet industry is environment-friendly and does not use scarce and perishable energy resources," he added.

As many as 270 exhibitors would exhibit their handmade carpets and other floor coverings for as

many as 300 buyers, Sharma disclosed.

Singh pointed out that when the ICE had started, the export of handmade carpets was to the tune of ₹3,000 crore but now it had reached the ₹10,000 crore-mark with about 60 per cent contribution by Bhadohi, Mirzapur and Varanasi carpers.

He said the handmade carpets of the country were rapidly making place in world because the Indian carpet industry had changed technology as well.

Singh, however, said the bad condition of roads in the city and communication were problems that needed to be addressed to.

CEPC director Jafar Jusseini and executive director Sanjay Kumar were also present on the occasion.

BJP corporator assaults SI, arrested

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Close on heels of a senior police officer posted at DGP office creating ruckus at a posh hotel owned by a BJP leader in Gomti Nagar, a sub-inspector and his female lawyer friend made similar attempts at a Meerut restaurant.

But unlike the Lucknow incident in Meerut, the restaurant owner, who is also a Bharatiya Janata Party corporator, slapped the sub-inspector several times and threatened him with dire consequences.

After the video of the incident went viral on Friday night, the corporator was arrested for

attacking the policeman while the sub-inspector was sent to Reserve Police lines for dereliction of duty.

As per reports, Mohiuddinpur police outpost in-charge, sub-inspector Sukpal Singh accompanied by a woman lawyer went to Black Pepper restaurant on Meerut-Dehradun bypass to discuss a case, where a brawl took place.

The woman ordered for some food and wanted prompt service. But the delay infuriated her and she shouted at a waiter. Restaurant owner Manish Chaudhary, who is a BJP corporator, arrived at the scene and the woman lawyer

and he traded expletives. When the sub-inspector intervened, the Chaudhary slapped him several times, pushed him down and threatened him with dire consequences," the police report said.

Senior Superintendent of Police of Meerut, Akhilesh Kumar, said that while BJP corporator Manish Chaudhary was arrested, the sub-inspector was sent to Police Lines for dereliction of duty.

The SSP said that after all three were brought to the police station, an FIR was registered against Chaudhary under sections 395 and 354 of the Indian Penal Code on the complaint of

that woman lawyer.

He said the sub-inspector was found guilty of dereliction of duty as he had left his post at a time when the district police was busy in Ravan dahan duty and was hence sent to Police Lines.

The sub-inspector also filed a complaint against the BJP corporator.

Meanwhile, the restaurant owner and waiters alleged that the sub-inspector and the woman lawyer were drunk and abused them which led to the incident. A report said a medical test on the sub-inspector and his friend which detected alcohol in their blood.

3 killed in clash during Durga idol immersion

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Three persons were killed during immersion of Goddess Durga idol while several persons were injured in clashes that took place in half a dozen districts during Vijayadashami celebrations.

In Gonda, a 'shobha yatra' was taken out from Katra Bazaar on the occasion of Dussehra on Saturday afternoon.

The situation took an ugly turn as devotees participating in the 'shobha yatra' waved swords and other weapons as the procession passed through a locality dominated by members from another community.

When the devotees started shouting objectionable slogans, the cops intervened to avert any untoward incident.

However, as the troublemakers refused to relent, the police caned-charged them. It left some persons with injuries.

Later, the 'shobha yatra' was escorted to its destination amid tight police security.

In Karnalganj area of Gonda also, some groups participating in the immersion of Goddess Durga idol clashed with members of another community.

Three persons, identified as Sajan Kumar, Rajendra Prasad and Swamideen, were injured in the clash. They

were admitted to a hospital and a heavy police force was deployed to check recurrence of similar incident.

Elsewhere, at Kusa hamlet of Jaunpur, a tractor-trolley carrying an idol of Goddess Durga for immersion ran over a seven-year-old girl devotee, killing her on the spot.

In another incident at Pratapgarh, a 15-year-old boy died after falling into a canal near Khuljan Devi Dham. After his body was fished out, the victim was identified as Lokesh of Kautliya locality of Pratapgarh.

In another incident reported from Vikrampur hamlet of Pratapgarh, Anita Singh died when an unidentified person fired his gun during a 'shobha yatra' in the district on Saturday.

The bullet hit the 35-year-old victim in her chest and she died while being rushed to hospital.

A clash also took place in Kurebhar area of Sultanpur when devotees tried to take out a 'shobha yatra' through a prohibited route.

The situation could be controlled only when senior administrative officials intervened and ensured that the 'shobha yatra' passed through the permitted route.

Three persons, identified as Sajan Kumar, Rajendra Prasad and Swamideen, were injured in the clash. They

were admitted to a hospital and a heavy police force was deployed to check recurrence of similar incident.

Elsewhere, at Kusa hamlet of Jaunpur, a tractor-trolley carrying an idol of Goddess Durga for immersion ran over a seven-year-old girl devotee, killing her on the spot.

In another incident at Pratapgarh, a 15-year-old boy died after falling into a canal near Khuljan Devi Dham. After his body was fished out, the victim was identified as Lokesh of Kautliya locality of Pratapgarh.

In another incident reported from Vikrampur hamlet of Pratapgarh, Anita Singh died when an unidentified person fired his gun during a 'shobha yatra' in the district on Saturday.

The bullet hit the 35-year-old victim in her chest and she died while being rushed to hospital.

A clash also took place in Kurebhar area of Sultanpur when devotees tried to take out a 'shobha yatra' through a prohibited route.

The situation could be controlled only when senior administrative officials intervened and ensured that the 'shobha yatra' passed through the permitted route.

Three persons, identified as Sajan Kumar, Rajendra Prasad and Swamideen, were injured in the clash. They

Forest guard found dead

Lakimpur Kheri: The body of a 52-year-old forest guard at Dudhwa National Park, Sukhpal Singh, was found from a sugarcane field here on Saturday. He was posted at Jatpura beat of Maijani range under the Dudhwa buffer zone.

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given by the undersigned for and on behalf of LIC Housing Finance Ltd, Area Office, Shahajaf Road, Lucknow pursuant to Circular No. 422/Annexure-I of LIC HFL that the Original Sale deed dated 17-03-2012 in favour of the undersigned in favour of Meenakshi Jain Sit-A-K. Jain The said sale deed is registered in the office of Sub Registrar Lucknow in Book No. I, Volume 2098 on pages 315/54 at S.N. 2421, in respect to Plot No. 27 Khara No. 28, area 1000 Sqft, situated at Faizabad Road, Wazir Falloog, Lucknow. The said plot has been lost by its present owner Abdulhak S/o Mhd. Asif. That Smt. Poonam Devi W/o Pankaj Kumar Rao, has applied for housing loan for which he has proposed to sell the property to the undersigned by deeding the same to the said son. Sale done with LIC HFL and as such any person claiming to be the said property covered by the said documents may file claim before me within 15 days from date of publication of notice. In case no claim is filed it will be presumed that the property in question is free from any encumbrance and any claim in respect thereof against the applicant as mortgagee shall be void and ineffective after the lapse of 15 days of publication of the notice.

(Meenakshi Jain Mihira), Advocate
Chamber : Shop No. 1182, Ground Floor, Krishna Tower, Near CMO Office, Kaiserbagh, Lucknow
Mob : 9415426914, 9559985554

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY
Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India
NIFT Campus, Karwar, Jodhpur-342037, Rajasthan, India
Phone No. 0291-2659520

E-TENDER NOTICE

NIFT, Jodhpur invites tenders for under mentioned purchase machinery/material & Services at its campus at Karwar, Jodhpur:-

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Supply of various type of Fabric | 2. Unit Production System(UPS) |
| 3. Expression of Interest (EOI) for Empanelment for out bound/Educational trip | 4. Expression of Interest (EOI) for Empanelment of Event Management Agency for Fashion Show |

Detailed information such as Tender forms, pre-bid meeting, submission of tender, opening of Technical Bids & Financial Bids etc will be available in NIFT Jodhpur website www.nift.ac.in/jodhpur & <https://nifttenders.proc.in>. In future any information regarding corrigendum/addendum, extension of time etc. of above tenders would be uploaded in above mentioned website only.

The date of issue /receipt of tenders etc will be valid as per the tender uploaded on website.

Purchase Officer

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD					
Tender Notice No.: JHS-GSD-WC-RTC-2018-19		E-Tender Notice		Dated 16.10.2018	
Tender No.	Description of work	Qty	Tender Cost Value ₹	Earnest Money ₹	Tender document cost ₹
JHS-GSD-WC-RTC-SI-2018-19	Road Transportation of steel item (M.S. Angle, M.S. Sheet, M.S. Channel etc.) from various points in India to Deputy Chief Materials Manager, General Stores Depot, Jhansi, North Central Railway through Road Trailer Minimum Capacity 21 MT.	262500 (MT-KM)	1273125/-	25470/- (With GST)	
Completion period: 12 months. Tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs on 12.11.2018 and is available on Indian Railway E-Tendering website www.reps.gov.in at E-Tender Works. For detailed information please visit Indian Railway E-Tendering website www.reps.gov.in					
1123/18(I)					

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD

E-Tender Notice No. Sr.DEE/RS/ELS/CNB/2018-19/ET-10 E-Tender Notice Date: 16.10.2018

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/RS/North Central Railway/Kanpur, for and on behalf of the President of India invite the following open E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work up to 15:00 hrs. on 27.11.2018. The details of the tenders are as under

Tender No.	Name of work	Approx. cost ₹	Earnest Money Deposit ₹	Tender Document Cost ₹

Property dealer, kin looted by car-borne miscreants

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

In an incident of road rage, five in a car allegedly looted cash from a property dealer and a gold chain from his wife and their relative, all in another car, in Para police station area on Thursday night. Police sat over the case for two days while denying that loot was executed by the accused and on Saturday lodged a case of dacoity in the incident.

As per reports, Anurag Singh of Gayatripuram in Para, along with his wife and sister-in-law, was returning to his house from Buddheshwar crossing and when he reached Tikonia locality, another Ertiga car hit his car brushing it from one side. This led to a verbal spat between the occupants of the two cars.

Anurag alleged that those sitting in the Ertiga car started bullying him in full public view with commuters remaining mute spectators. "They slapped me and looted Rs 22,000 which I had in my pocket. My wife came to my rescue and they snatched her gold chain. My sister-in-law terrified at their act and she is still not out of fear," he alleged.

Para SHO Akhilesh Chandra Pandey denied the incident when newsmen started querying him about the

Valuables stolen from naval officer's house

Lucknow (PNS): Unidentified miscreants stole jewellery, an LED TV and a scooter from the house of a serving Indian Navy staff in Ghazipur police station area. Police had registered a case in this connection. As per reports, Sujit Kumar Jaiswal of Jay Vilas Colony of Harihar Nagar of the locality, along with his family, had gone to his native place in Ghazipur district where he had organised a mundan function for his son. He left the house on October 15 and on October 19 he got a call from one of his neighbours who informed him of the theft.

Jaiswal said that he cut short his vacation and returned to Lucknow on Saturday. "I found the locks on the gate lying broken and when he entered the house, I found that locks of all the rooms lying broken. The miscreants decamped with my

scooter which I had parked in the verandah inside the house besides jewellery and other items," he stated in his complaint.

"The theft of the scooter from inside the house is very puzzling and this cropped up after a long gap. There are a few instances in which thieves stole the two-wheelers besides jewellery and other items," a police officer investigating the crime scene said. He added there were some instances in which the thieves made off with cars too. "But the vehicles were parked outside the house and the house owners were not at their homes in those incidents," he said. Ghazipur SHO Rakesh Singh said the police were collecting the footages of CCTV installed in the locality. "It seemed that some insider had a role in the theft. We will get a clue about the miscreants soon," he said.

same. He later said Anurag was blowing a minor issue out of proportion and was levelling false charges of loot of cash and

gold chain. "After the news reached the SSP, Lucknow, he cross-checked the inputs from his reliable sources and later

hailed up the Para SHO asking him to lodge a case under appropriate sections of IPC. It was then only that the SHO registered a case on Saturday.

Giving details, the police spokesman said Anurag's car and the unidentified Ertiga car brushed each other from a side and later the brawl ensued. He said the police had registered a case under section 395 of IPC and further investigations were on.

Para SHO Akhilesh Chandra Pandey reiterated his claim that there was no loot and it was a simple case of road rage. "In his complaint, Anurag stated that five persons were sitting in the car and they had committed the loot. In view of number of accused persons, we registered a case of dacoity," he said. The SHO said no evidence of loot against the unidentified accused persons had surfaced in the two-day-long investigation. The SHO, however, was clueless when asked if the police had identified the car number and the persons who were accused of committing dacoity. Sources in Police department said the police had identified the accused persons but they were giving them a long rope to avoid the legal action. "After an investigation, the police will give them a clean chit," the sources said.

come up once the corridor was thrown open for public use. "The feeder services will not start immediately and it will take some time. When the entire corridor is commissioned, all these aspects will automatically speed up," he said.

Keshav said LMRC would be getting their 20th train soon. "The train is expected to arrive at the Transportnagar Depot by November 3. It has been transported from Chennai and will take over 20 days to reach here. Alstom was supposed to provide us all the trains by October-end and it will be our last train," he said. About the progress of construction, Keshav said they were currently concentrating on Badshahnagar crossing. "We are in the process of constructing three piers and we have blocked the lane half way on the flyover which moves from Badshahnagar crossing to towards Nishatganj. This is a crucial part in our construction at the elevated corridor from KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium to Munshipulia," he added.

Scrap godown in Aminabad gutted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A massive fire broke out at a scrap godown in Aminabad on Saturday afternoon. Two fire tenders contained the fire after hectic efforts. The losses were being estimated. As per reports, the residents spotted the godown, owned by Mohammed Wasim of Chikmandi of Maulviganj locality, on fire around 2 pm and alerted the police. A police team, along with two fire tenders, reached the scene. Since the godown is located in a narrow lane, it took time for fire tenders to start the operation. The local police assisted the fire teams in handling the crowd of residents who flocked to the scene to watch the ongoing exercise. The police spokesman said no casualty was reported in the fire mishap.

In another incident, a fire broke out at the basement of an eye hospital (before Bharat



Firefighters in action at the scrap godown in Aminabad on Saturday

petrol filling station) in Kaiserbagh around 8.30 am on Saturday. The police spokesman

said the fire broke out in a heap of garbage which was collected at the basement of the hospital.

He said the fire was contained successfully and the police were investigating into the matter.

Woman found hanging

Lucknow (PNS): A woman, identified as Neetu (35) of Lakdi Mohal Sadar locality under Cantonment police station, was found hanging from a tree inside the railway quarters in Cantonment police area at 3:05 am on Saturday.

Police said Neetu had a verbal spat with her husband Subhash after which she hanged herself from the tree. The police said Subhash and his family members later brought her to Civil Hospital in Hazratganj where she was declared "brought dead". Police spokesman AK Singh said Neetu was hanging from a branch of the tree with a dupatta tied around her neck. "The case was registered at Hazratganj police station as Civil Hospital staff sent a memo to Hazratganj SHO informing the latter about the death of Neetu. Subhash is a mechanic and he has been detained," he said. He did not confirm the reports that Cantonment police had recovered a suicide note from Neetu's possession during the investigation.

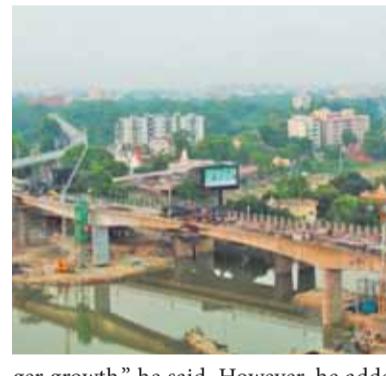
In another incident, 60-year-old Chandrapal Raids of Garhi Chunauti locality of Banthra was found hanging from a tree with a rope tied around his neck early Saturday morning. Police claimed that Chandrapal committed suicide while ruling out the possibility of any foul play. To buttress their claim, the police said Chandrapal's son Kallu Raids had given in writing that Chandrapal left the house around 4 am and later hanged himself from the tree to end his life. The police failed to explain the reason behind the suicide.



Mourners taking part in the '72 taboot procession at Asafi Imambara in Lucknow on Saturday. The procession commemorates the martyrdom of Imam Hussain, the grandson of Prophet Mohammed, along with his 71 companions, including his sons and close relatives in Karbala 1400 years ago

LMRC hopeful of clocking 1 lakh ridership per day from next year

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW



Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation (LMRC) is expecting over one lakh riders per day once the entire North-South corridor becomes operational next year. LMRC managing director Kumar Keshav said they were currently getting 12,000 commuters per day in the priority section from Transportnagar to Charbagh, but things would change once the entire corridor was operational. In terms of target numbers he said that there was no upper limit and they wanted hundred percent seats to be filled by the commuters.

Keshav said it took time for the commuters to understand the convenience and advantages of Metro travel. "In the beginning, there are always riders who want to travel but then, we are looking for stability and frequently visiting commuters and we hope we will reach the one lakh mark in two months. This is what we have seen in other Metros in terms of passenger growth," he said. However, he added that there would be no change in the fares and they would be the same as had been decided at the time of the opening of the priority corridor. Regarding feeder services for all the stations once the entire corridor from the airport to Munshipulia becomes operational, the LMRC managing director said they would gradually

come up once the corridor was thrown open for public use. "The feeder services will not start immediately and it will take some time. When the entire corridor is commissioned, all these aspects will automatically speed up," he said.

Keshav said LMRC would be getting their 20th train soon. "The train is expected to arrive at the Transportnagar Depot by November 3. It has been transported from Chennai and will take over 20 days to reach here. Alstom was supposed to provide us all the trains by October-end and it will be our last train," he said. About the progress of construction, Keshav said they were currently concentrating on Badshahnagar crossing. "We are in the process of constructing three piers and we have blocked the lane half way on the flyover which moves from Badshahnagar crossing to towards Nishatganj. This is a crucial part in our construction at the elevated corridor from KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium to Munshipulia," he added.

पुलिस स्मृति दिवस

21 अक्टूबर, 2018

कर्तव्य पथ पर प्राणोत्तर्ग करने वाले बहादुर पुलिस कर्मियों को श्रद्धांजलि

सन्देश

'पुलिस स्मृति दिवस-2018'

21 अक्टूबर के पावन अवसर पर प्रदेश के उन शहीद पुलिसजनों को मैं श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ, जिन्होंने अपने कर्तव्यों का निर्वहन करते हुए समाज एवं प्रदेश की रक्षा के लिए अपने प्राणों को बलिदान कर दिया है।

(राम नाईक)

राज्यपाल, उत्तर प्रदेश

किसी भी चुनौती से विचलित हुये बिना प्रदेश पुलिस के जिन 67 वीर जवानों ने विगत एक वर्ष में कर्तव्यपथ पर अपना जीवन-सुमन अर्पित कर बलिदान की महान परम्परा का वरण किया है, उनके शौर्य, पराक्रम तथा बलिदान को मैं हृदय से नमन करता हूँ।

(योगी आदित्यनाथ)

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

3040 पुलिस के उन 67 वीर जवानों के पावन बलिदान को मैं सादर नमन करता हूँ, जिन्होंने 01 सितम्बर, 2017 से 31 अगस्त, 2018 तक की अवधि में प्राणोत्तर्ग की गौरवशाली प्रथा को आगे बढ़ाते हुए कर्तव्य के पथ पर अपना जीवन न्यौछावर कर दिया। प्रदेश पुलिस का मुखिया होने के नाते मैं विश्वास दिलाता हूँ कि इन वीर जवानों के बलिदान से प्रेरणा लेकर हम पूर्ण स्वोयोग से कर्तव्य परायनता का मार्ग प्रस्तुत करते रहेंगे।

(ओ०पी० सिंह)

पुलिस महानिवेदक, उत्तर प्रदेश

REFRESHER TRAINING PROGRAMME AT CISH

Lucknow (PNS): A refresher training programme on 'Opportunities for value addition in horticultural produce' will be organised at Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture from October 22 to 25. A group of 25-30 participants from different states will attend the training programme. The participants will be exposed to various aspects of value addition in horticultural crops. The training programme will be fully residential in nature. Agroclimatic Agri-business Centre is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented across the country by National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, an apex level autonomous organisation under the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

REFRESHER TRAINING PROGRAMME AT CISH

Lucknow (PNS): A refresher training programme on 'Opportunities for value addition in horticultural produce' will be organised at Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture from October 22 to 25. A group of 25-30 participants from different states will attend the training programme. The participants will be exposed to various aspects of value addition in horticultural crops. The training programme will be fully residential in nature. Agroclimatic Agri-business Centre is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented across the country by National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, an apex level autonomous organisation under the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

SAPF नीयत - सही विकास

सच्चा एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

कार्पोरेशन बैंक
Corporation Bank

**(Rule-8(1))
POSSESSION
NOTICE
(FOR MOVEABLE/
IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)**

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Corporation Bank, under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the "Act") and the Rules framed thereunder, do hereby give notice to the Borrowers mentioned below, that the Corporation Bank has taken possession of the moveable/immovable property mentioned in the Schedule hereto, in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the Rules framed thereunder, and has given notice to the Borrowers to pay the amount due to the Corporation Bank, including interest and other charges, within the time specified in the Schedule hereto, failing which, the Corporation Bank may proceed to sell the same and recover the amount due to it.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors & Outstanding Amount	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice	Description of the Moveable/Immovable Properties
1. Borrower:- (1) Mohd Shamshul Husain S/O Tajammul Husain (2) Nargis Jahan W/O Mohd Shamshul Husain Guarantor:- Mr. Afqah Ahmad S/O Iqbal Hamad Outstanding Amount: Rs. 15,24,226/- and interest thereon	01.05.2018	16.10.2018	EMG Of Property House Number 102A-433/594/007 At Part of Khasra No 219,289,290 & 292 Situated at Ramnagar, Ward- Garhi Peer Khan- Lucknow Admeasuring Plot Area 46.468 Sq Mt. Registered In The Name of Mohd Shamshul Husain S/o Tajammul Husain. Bounded As Below:- East- Plot No- 103, West- plot No- 102, North- Cemetery, South- Road 15 Ft	
2. Borrower:- M/S Shubham Auto sales, Prop Mr Arvind Kumar Gupta, (1) Mrs Reeta Gupta w/o Mr Arvind Kumar Gupta (2) Mr Shivkant Yadav S/O Shrivath Yadav Outstanding Amount: Rs. 40,85,718.19 and interest thereon	16.04.2018	16.10.2018	EMG of Plot And Building Constructed on Plot At Part of Khasra No -15 DA, Situated at Village- Sarai Muhib, Pargana- Kakori, Mohan Road, Tehsil & Dist- Lucknow Admeasuring Plot Area 185.87 Sq Mt. In The Name Of Mrs Reeta Gupta & Mr. Arvind Kumar Gupta.	

Date: 21.10.2018 Place : Lucknow Authorized Officer Corporation Bank

इंडियन बैंक
Indian Bank

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT - 2002

Branch- Indira Nagar

Demand Notice Date/ Amt. Outstanding	Name & Address of the Borrowers/ Guarantors/Mortgagors/Prop./Acct. No.	Description of Mortgaged Assets
Dated:01.09.2018 O/S Rs. 3,44,773/- as on 01.09.2018 +Int w.e.f. 02.09.2018 & Other Charges	1- Borrower- Mrs. Rekha Chaudhary W/o Kaushilendra Chaudhary Sector 21, Indira Nagar, Lucknow. 2- Co-Borrower: Mr. Kaushilendra Chaudhary Sector 21, Indira Nagar, Lucknow. Loan Account No. 6400367303	All the part and parcel of the property House No. 21/120, admeasuring area 60.59 Sq mtr. Sector 21, Indira Nagar, Lucknow. Bounded By- East: House No. 21/123, West: Road 6 Mtr. Wide, North: House No. 21/121, South: House No. 21/19.

All of you committed default in repayment of loans to the tune of above mentioned amount with further interest at the agreed rate, till date of repayment. The Bank issued notice under the Act on the above mentioned date calling upon all of you to repay the above mentioned outstanding amount. The notice was sent to each of you by Regd. post has been returned unserved. You are called upon to pay above mentioned amount together with interest/cost mentioned above, till date of payment within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest act, 2002 against the secured assets as given above. We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed there under which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities. This Notice is without prejudice to any other right remedy available to the Bank.

Place : Lucknow Date : 21.10.2018 Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

'India won't hesitate to stymie terror activities'

New Delhi/Singapore: India has exhibited measures to disrupt and deter the activities of terror groups and their patrons and would not hesitate to do so again if required, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday, in a veiled reference to cross-border terrorism from Pakistan.

Sitharaman, speaking at a meeting of ASEAN Defence Ministers in Singapore, also said that the presence of terrorist infrastructure and support to terrorists in the "immediate neighbourhood" constantly tested India's patience and as a responsible power it exercised "great restraint" in dealing with the menace.

"However, India had exhibited measures to disrupt and deter the activities of terrorist groups and their patrons and would not hesitate to do so again if required in future," she said, according to a statement released by the Defence Ministry in New Delhi. Sitharaman emphasised India's concern on the grave challenges to international peace and stability due to the threat of terrorism. Condemning the use of terror as an instrument to further state policies, she said that the interplay between states and non-state actors used as proxies to foment violence had worsened this menace.



Speaking at the Fifth ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), she reiterated India's view on the Indo-Pacific, as outlined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as an open, balanced region, connected by open and secure seas, integrated by balanced trade and shaped by a rules-based order, and anchored in ASEAN centrality. She asserted that India was committed to maintaining a sustained focus of its Act East policy in terms of economic, cultural and developmental engagement of the region. The theme of this year's dialogue was 'Strengthening Cooperation, Building Resilience'. The dialogue adopted two resolutions on 'Countering the Threat of

Terrorism' and 'Practical Confidence Building Measures'.

Sitharaman lauded the ADMM-Plus mechanism for emerging as a credible and effective platform forging practical cooperation among the members of the armed forces.

She informed the partners of India's active participation in all the ADMM-Plus mechanism contributing effectively to their success. India and Myanmar are the co-chairs for the Expert Working Group for Military Medicine for this cycle and a standalone Field Training Exercise on Military Medicine will be held in Lucknow in March 2019 along with the release of ASEAN Military Medicine Handbook, Sitharaman said. **PTI**



A Ramayana segment 'Bharat Milap' being performed on the last day of Dussehra celebrations in Varanasi on Saturday **PTI**

Haze engulfs Delhi as pollution shoots



SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi on Saturday was engulfed in a thin haze as air quality deteriorated further with values of Suspended Particulate Matters (SPMs) approaching "severe" on the National Air Quality Index (NAQI) in some parts. Incidentally, average values of SPMs in Dwarka and CRRU Mathura Road were 414 and 402 micro cubic per gram (μgm^{-3}) respectively as recorded by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF &CC). Notably, if the concentrations of pollutants in air crossed 400 (μgm^{-3}), it falls under the category of "severe", hence as per CPCB data, Delhi's air quality can be termed "highly toxic". Further, the CPCB placed 31 places in Delhi under the category of "very poor" on pollution index. Rajouri Garden, Anand Vihar, DTU, Mundka, Narela, Nehru Nagar and Rohini bore the brunt.

The air quality temporarily improved on Friday afternoon after rainfall, but it worsened again in the evening. An official warned that the PM2.5 was reaching a dangerous level.

The Supreme Court appointed Environment Protection Control Authority (EPCA) had on Friday held a meeting with Government officials of Delhi and neighbouring States to discuss the pollution situation. An EPCA member said after taking stock of the situation, it was decided that special attention would be given to vulnerable hotspots where 'poor' or 'very poor' air quality is observed. On Saturday, the PM2.5 (presence of particles in the air with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres) touched a new high at 158. The PM2.5, also called "fine particulates", can be a matter of more serious health concern than PM10.

4 broke siblings kill themselves in Faridabad

Faridabad (PNS): Four siblings were found hanging from ceiling fans in their rented house in Surajkund area near Faridabad in Haryana on Saturday. According to Inspector Vishal Kumar, station house officer (SHO) of Surajkund police station, the siblings — three sisters and a brother — were unmarried and aged between 37 and 52. "The deceased are identified as Meena Matthew (52), Beena (51), Jays (49) and their youngest brother Pradeep (37)," said the SHO. "The incident came to light after a caretaker raised an alarm about foul smell emanating from their rented flat in Dayalbagh. They were found hanging in two rooms. A suicide note mentions financial trouble as the reason for the deaths. They probably died 3 or 4 days back," said a senior police official.

Also, local residents said they may have committed suicide because of poverty. "One of the women had a kidney ailment and had to undergo dialysis. In last six months they had even borrowed money from neighbours. We didn't notice moment in their home for last three to four days," said a neighbour. "The four had lost their parents and a brother recently. Both parents had retired as Haryana Government employees. Their father died six months ago and mother died about two months following which they were facing financial crisis," said another neighbour.

"The bodies are sent for autopsy to PGI Rohtak. All the angles in the case are being investigated and further investigation is going on," said the SHO.

UPA Govt, DMK helped get rid of LTTE: Lanka's ex-Defence Secy

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ COLOMBO

The DMK and its former president M Karunanidhi who passed away on August 7 got a clean chit from an unlikely source. Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, the former Defence Secretary of Sri Lanka, who led the Island Nation's final assault on LTTE during 2009 said that the DMK was quite understanding about the problems faced by Sri Lanka and did not give any space to the Tamil terrorists to operate from Tamil Nadu.

In an exclusive interview to *The Pioneer* at his Colombo residence, the former Defence Secretary, described as the second most powerful person during Mahinda Rajapaksa's regime, also dismissed the claims by President Myriapala Sirisena that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had plans to launch air attacks in Colombo and elsewhere in the island nation by operating aircraft from Tamil Nadu.

"It is a wrong information. The President has been given wrong information about such a plan by the LTTE. It is true the LTTE had some aircraft with them but they would not have used Tamil Nadu to launch any



Gotabhaya, brother of the then President Mahinda Rajapaksa, was the brain behind the obliteration of LTTE which waged terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka for more than three decades

attack on Sri Lanka," said Rajapaksa.

Gotabhaya, brother of the then President Mahinda Rajapaksa, was the brain behind the obliteration of LTTE which waged terrorist attacks on Sri Lanka for more than three decades.

When Mahinda became the President of Sri Lanka in 2005, one of the important policy decisions made by him was to appoint Gotabhaya, a former Lieutenant Colonel in the country's Army, as the Nation's Defence Secretary with a clear mandate to save the country from the terrorism unleashed by the LTTE.

"Since the new Government led by Mahinda Rajapaksa was sworn in, we in Sri Lanka had received all kind of help and cooperation from the Indian Government. Though politicians in Tamil

Nadu were sensitive to the Tamil issue in Sri Lanka, during our regime, the then DMK Government led by M Karunanidhi never allowed the LTTE to operate from Tamil Nadu. Whenever we wanted help of any kind, we got prompt assistance from the Government of India," said Gotabhaya.

He also recalled the fast undertaken by the then Chief Minister M Karunanidhi at Marina Beach in Chennai in May 2009 following wrong news about atrocities on Tamils. "But the moment he was informed about the ground realities and facts, Karunanidhi called off his fast. He too never allowed the LTTE to operate from Tamil Nadu against Sri Lanka," said Gotabhaya.

These are proposed schemes and we will soon fix the criteria for them. For the implementation of the scheme, there will be an office in Parli in Beed district, as large number of cane labourers are from there. A drive would also be undertaken to register them," he informed. In 2014, the State Government had announced setting up of a Sugarcane Labourers Welfare Board to be named after late BJP leader Gopinath Munde.

However, instead of the Board, the State Government has now come out with a welfare

Maha proposes EPF, insurance benefits for sugarcane labourers

Mumbai: The Maharashtra Government has proposed to extend benefits of Employees Provident Fund (EPF) as well as insurance schemes to those cutting, harvesting and transporting sugarcane, a State Labour department official said on Saturday.

He said that the State had around eight lakh labourers engaged in these works in 168 cooperative and private sugar factories. The official said that it has been proposed to extend benefits of EPF, insurance schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, financial assistance for children's education and housing to these labourers.

"These are proposed schemes and we will soon fix the criteria for them. For the implementation of the scheme, there will be an office in Parli in Beed district, as large number of cane labourers are from there. A drive would also be undertaken to register them," he informed. In 2014, the State Government had announced setting up of a Sugarcane Labourers Welfare Board to be named after late BJP leader Gopinath Munde.

Besides, it was also proposed to collect levy from the sugar factories for welfare schemes for cane labourers, said an official said. "This would have established the relationship between the sugar factories and cane labourers its part.

Besides, it was also proposed to collect levy from the sugar factories for welfare schemes for cane labourers, said an official said. "This would have established the relationship between the sugar factories and cane labourers its part.

Besides, it was also proposed to collect levy from the sugar factories for welfare schemes for cane labourers, said an official said. "This would have established the relationship between the sugar factories and cane labourers its part.

Acting on a tip-off, officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) with the help of Assam Rifles, intercepted a vehicle coming from Aizawl to Silchar and recovered "45 pieces of gold biscuits weighing cumulatively 7.48 kg and worth ₹2.45 crore from the baggage of two Myanmarese nationals," a statement said.

The two accused - Thang Thawn Mung and Do Sian Lang - could not produce any valid documents of import and possession of the gold biscuits and were arrested.

On interrogation, it was learnt that the "recovered gold was smuggled into the country from Myanmar through Indo-Myanmar border of Zokhawtar in Mizoram and was to be delivered to Guwahati", it said. **IANS**

other five seats. Independents supported by former Minister and Peoples Conference chief Sajad Ganj Lone won all the 13 seats in the Handwara municipal committee polls in Kupwara. Among the prominent winners was Junaid Azim Mattu who left the regional National Conference (NC) after he disagreed with the poll boycott decision by the NC. Prominent among the losers was Asifa Tariq Karra, the wife of senior Congress leader Tariq Hameed Karra. In Jammu province, the BJP won 34 wards out of 80 in Kathua district, 23 wards out of 63 in Jauri, 13 out of 26 in Reasi, 49 wards out of 79 across seven municipal committees of Akhnoor, RSPURA, Bisnath, Jourian, Arnia, Khour, Gho Manasa in Jammu district. The party workers celebrated party victory by bursting crackers and distributing sweets in the party office.

CBI FILES FIR...

It is understood that PM Narendra Modi and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval were briefed about the developments soon after the CBI's special wing had intercepted the calls of Manoj. CBI Director Alok Verma has moved files to the PMO recommending the suspension of Asthana. RAW chief AK Dhasmana has moved files regarding the suspension of Goel from service. Asthana is facing probes in six cases by the CBI, including accepting bribes from controversial Sandesara Group, and jailed journalist-fix Upendra Rai. The CBI has stated that Asthana was facing probes over these cases and that was the reason he filed cases to CVC against Director Alok Verma and Additional Director AK Sharma.

Tribals to oppose 'Statue of Unity' unveiling by Modi

IANS ■ AHMEDABAD

As the BJP Governments, both at the State and the Centre, gear up for the unveiling of the tallest statue in the world — "Statue of Unity" of Sardar Patel — by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 31, thousands of tribals in villages near the site are bracing for a major showdown against the project.

Local tribal organisations said as many as 75,000 tribals adversely affected by the Statue of Unity project would oppose the Prime Minister and the unveiling of statue at Kevadia in Narmada district.

"No food will be cooked in 72 villages affected by the entire project as we will be mourning on that day, for the project is being carried out for our destruction," said Dr. Praful Vasava, a tribal leader. Traditionally, food is not cooked in a tribal village when they are mourning for the dead.

He said: "Our rights as tribals are being violated by the Government. We don't have anything against the great son of Gujarat, Sardar Patel, and his honour should be maintained. We are not against this development even, but



Final touches being given to the Statue of Unity at Kevadia Colony, about 200 kilometres from Ahmadabad **PTI**

this Government's development idea is lopsided and against the tribals."

The tribals are complaining that their lands were taken away for the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Project, near which is the statue site, as well as for the statue and all other tourism activities which have been planned in the area.

Out of the 72 villages affected by the statue project, the most affected are 32, where 19 villages are such where rehabilitation has not been allegedly completed, six villages where the current Kevadia colony is situated and seven villages in Garudeshwar block, where only compensation has been paid but other commitments like land and jobs have not been fulfilled.

"The government took agitation," he said. "And the 'Bandh' will not only be limited to schools, offices or commercial establishments, but households will also be silent (no cooking) on the 31st joining us."

According to Vasava, this "non-cooperation movement" is being supported by around 100 small and big tribal organisations across the state. "Right from Banaskantha in North Gujarat to the Dangs district in South Gujarat, nine tribal districts will be joining us in the

which is held at a distance away from the accident site. His mother says that Dalbir's body would not be cremated until the family gets compensation from the Government. Seeking job for the widow of Dalbir Singh, his mother said that the State Government should give her a government job so that the family could sustain their livelihood. "We want justice... It is unfortunate that none from the Government or any politician has visited the family," she said. At least 59 people were killed Friday evening after a crowd of Dussehra revellers that had spilled onto railway tracks while watching the burning of a Ravana effigy was run over by a train near Joda Phatah here.

He later visited Amritsar Hospital, Civil Hospital Amritsar and Guru Nanak Dev Hospital, where he met the injured and directed the doctors to provide the best possible medical treatment. The State Government has already announced free treatment for the injured at all Government and private hospitals in the district, besides Rs 5 lakh as compensation to the families of those killed in the accident that took place during Dussehra celebrations. In another directive, Capt Amarinder asked Home Secretary NS Kalsi to prepare detailed guidelines for permission to hold religious and social congregations to prevent such tragedies. The guidelines should clearly define the rules and regulations for holding such events or gatherings in any part of the State on any occasion, per the directives issued by the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

also asked the Home Secretary to issue an immediate advisory for sale and storage of crackers for the upcoming Diwali festival, to ensure strict adherence to the safety rules and guidelines for the same. "While the culpability in the tragic incident would be fixed, it was imperative to ensure that such an incident is not repeated," he said.

BJP SWEEPS...

On the other hand, the Congress won 153 wards across Kashmir Valley, 74 in a straight contest and 79 candidates won unopposed, 23 from Budgam and 34 from Anantnag. In Jammu, the BJP won Jammu Municipal corporation (JMC) with a thumping majority. The BJP won 43 seats in a 75-member House leaving behind its arch rival Congress at a paltry tally of 14 seats. A total number of 18 seats were won by the rebel candidates, mostly from the BJP too. The BJP, however, failed to open its account in the Ladakh region. Here, the Congress won all the 13 seats in the Ladakh Municipal Committee and five seats in Kargil. Six seats in the region were captured by the independent candidates. The BJP, however, failed to replicate its performance in the hilly districts of Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar. The Congress won 14 out of 70 wards in these three districts. In Udhampur, the party won 14 out of 41 wards. In the overall tally the BJP won 212 wards out of 520 wards across Jammu province while Chirag-e-Sharif, the Congress won 11 of the 13 seats, while the remaining two seats were vacant. In Chadoora too, the party won 6 of the 8 seats. Hundred forty-five seats were won by the independent candidates while 13 seats went to the

Saudi Arabia admits Khashoggi killed in Istanbul consulate

AFP ■ RIYADH

Saudi Arabia on Saturday admitted that critic Jamal Khashoggi was killed inside its consulate in Istanbul, more than two weeks after his disappearance tipped the kingdom into one of its worst international crises.

The kingdom also sacked deputy intelligence chief Ahmad al-Assiri and royal court media advisor Saud al-Qahtani, both top aides to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman who has faced mounting pressure over the Khashoggi affair.

The admission that Khashoggi died at the hands of Saudi officials after weeks of vehement denials by the Gulf kingdom comes after President Donald Trump said that the United States, which is Saudi Arabia's biggest backer, could impose sanctions if it was proved the journalist was killed.

Saudi Attorney General Sheikh Saud al-Mojeb said Khashoggi died after "discussions" at the consulate devolved into an altercation, without disclosing any details on the whereabouts of his body.

"Preliminary investigations... revealed that the discussions that took place between him and the persons who met him... at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul led to a brawl and a fist fight with the citizen, Jamal Khashoggi, which led to his death, may his soul rest in peace," the attorney general said in a statement.



A security guard walks outside Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul on Saturday. Saudi Arabia claims Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi died in a "fistfight" in consulate, finally admitting that the writer had been slain at its diplomatic post. The overnight announcements in Saudi state media came more than two weeks after Khashoggi, 59, entered the building for paperwork required to marry his Turkish fiancée, and never came out

key Western ally and bulwark against Iran in the Middle East -- under unprecedented pressure to offer an explanation to take the heat off its rulers.

It evolved into a major crisis for Prince Mohammed, a Trump administration favourite who has portrayed himself as a modernising Arab reformer, but whose image and even position at home could now be gravely undermined.

"Dismissing Saudi al-Qahtani and Ahmad al-Assiri is as close to MBS as it is possible to go," said Kristian Ulrichsen, a fellow at Rice University's Baker Institute in the United States.

"Interesting to see if these moves prove sufficient. If the drip-drip of additional details continue, there's no buffer to shield MBS any longer."

Shortly before Riyadh confirmed that Khashoggi had been killed, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Saudi King Salman agreed in telephone talks to continue cooperation in the investigation into the incident.

President Donald Trump said he doesn't think he was lied to by Saudi leaders over the death of Khashoggi. "I think it's a great first step," Trump said on Saudi Arabia's statement which he says he considers credible.

As many as 18 people have been taken into custody, according to Saudi officials. An investigation in this regard is on. "The United States acknowledges the announcement from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that its investigation into the fate of Jamal Khashoggi is progressing and

In its first reaction to Khashoggi's confirmed death, the White House said it was "saddened" but made no mention of any possible action against its major ally.

"We will continue to closely follow the international investigations into this tragic incident and advocate for justice that is timely, transparent and in accordance with all due process," White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said.

UN chief Antonio Guterres said he was "deeply troubled" adding there needed to be "full accountability for those responsible". Saudi journalist Khashoggi, a critic of the Islamic petro-state's powerful crown prince and a Washington Post contributor, was last seen on October 2 entering his country's consulate in Istanbul.

His disappearance had been shrouded in mystery and triggered an international crisis, with Turkish officials accusing Saudi Arabia of a state-spon-

sored killing and dismembering his body. The public prosecutor said 18 people, all Saudi nationals, have been detained in connection to the probe.

The Saudi king also ordered the setting up of ministerial committee under the chairmanship of the crown prince, widely known as MBS, to restructure the kingdom's intelligence agency and "define its powers accurately", state media said. The controversy has put the kingdom -- for decades a

that it has taken action against the suspects it has identified thus far," Sanders said.

"We will continue to closely follow the international investigations into this tragic incident and advocate for justice that is timely, transparent and in accordance with all due process," the White House Press Secretary said.

Saudi Arabia on Saturday said Khashoggi, 60, was killed inside its consulate in Istanbul in a fist fight did not appear to be credible for some US lawmakers, who demanded that Riyadh be held accountable for the incident.

Senator Lindsay Graham said it's hard to find this latest "explanation" as credible. "To say that I am skeptical of the new Saudi narrative about Mr Khashoggi is an understatement," he said.

"The claim that Khashoggi was killed while brawling with 15 men dispatched from Saudi Arabia is not at all credible. If he was fighting with those sent to capture or kill him, it was for his life. The kingdom must be held to account. If (the Trump) administration doesn't lead, Congress must," Congressman Eric Swalwell.

"Khashoggi's family deserve immediate custody of the remains as they seek some measure of closure," he added.

Khashoggi, who lived in the US as a legal permanent resident and worked for "The Washington Post", was last seen on October 2 entering his country's consulate in Istanbul.

In a statement, Saudi Attorney General Sheikh Saud al-Mojeb said: "Preliminary investigations... revealed that the discussions that took place between him and the persons who met him... at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul led to a brawl and a fist fight with the citizen, Jamal Khashoggi, which led to his death, may his soul rest in peace."

Over 170 dead in Afghan poll violence

AP ■ KABUL

More than 170 Afghans were killed or wounded in poll-related violence Saturday, officials said, as the legislative election turned chaotic with hundreds of polling centres failing to open and voters queuing for hours.

Most of the casualties were in Kabul, where at least four people were killed and 78 wounded in multiple explosions, acting health ministry spokesman Mohibullah Zeer said, after the Taliban warned voters to boycott the ballot "to protect their lives".

Tens of thousands of Afghan forces fanned out across the country as voting began Saturday in parliamentary elections that followed a campaign marred by relentless violence.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani marked his ballot at the start of voting. In a televised speech afterward, he congratulated Afghans on another election and praised the security forces, particularly the air force, for getting ballots to Afghanistan's remotest corners. He also reminded those elected to Parliament that they are there to serve the people and ensure the rule of law.

The Independent Election Commission registered 8.8 million people. Wasima Badghisy, a commission member, called voters "very, very brave" and said a turnout of 5 million will be a success.

At a polling station in crowded west Kabul, Khoda



A woman casts her vote at a pooling station in Jalalabad, capital of eastern Nangarhar province, Afghanistan on Saturday. Tens of thousands of Afghan forces fanned out across the country to provide security as voting began on Saturday in the elections that followed a campaign marred by relentless violence

US-backed Syria offensive kills 35 IS fighters

AP ■ BEIRUT

A offensive by US-backed forces against the Islamic State group's last redoubt in eastern Syria killed 35 jihadists on Saturday, a Britain-based war monitor said.

Twenty-eight IS members were killed in air strikes by the US-led coalition around the town of Hajin, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Another seven jihadsts were killed in ground fighting with the Syrian Democratic Forces, who launched a coalition-backed offensive against the IS-held pocket in the Euphrates Valley last month.

Fighting has killed 414 jihadsts and 227 SDF fighters in total since the assault began on September 10, the Observatory said. Coalition air strikes on IS targets in another part of the pocket on Thursday and Friday killed at least 41 civilians, 10 of them children, the monitor said. IS overran large swathes of Syria and neighbouring Iraq in 2014, proclaiming a "caliphate" across the land it controlled.

But the jihadist group has since lost most of its territory to various offensives in both countries. In Syria, its presence has been reduced to parts of the vast Badia desert and the Hajin pocket in the eastern province of Deir Ezzor near the Iraqi border.

Thousands march in favour of People's Vote on Brexit

PTI ■ LONDON

Thousands of people turned out for a People's Vote march in London on Saturday to demand a referendum on the final Brexit deal struck by the UK government with the European Union (EU).

The campaign, "March for the Future", from Park Lane to Parliament Square was dubbed by the organisers, Open Britain, as the "biggest, loudest and most important" demonstration on Britain's future.

British Prime Minister Theresa May has repeatedly ruled out the prospect of another referendum, saying that the people had already expressed their views in the June 2016 referendum -- when the British public voted to leave the EU by a margin of 51.89 per cent to 48.11 per cent.

But the organisers say that "Brexit negotiations are taking us towards a future that nobody voted for". London Mayor Sadiq Khan is among some of the prominent politicians to throw their support behind the People's Vote campaign, which is demanding a vote on the final deal with the European Union in the form of a fresh referendum.

But the jihadist group has since lost most of its territory to various offensives in both countries. In Syria, its presence has been reduced to parts of the vast Badia desert and the Hajin pocket in the eastern province of Deir Ezzor near the Iraqi border.



Mayor of London Sadiq Khan holds a klaxon horn, as he joins protesters in the People's Vote March for the Future, in London, Saturday Oct. 20, 2018. Some thousands of protesters are marching through central London, Saturday, to demand a new referendum on Britain's Brexit departure from the European Union AP

what we demand is that the British public gets a say in whether they accept the outcome of the negotiations, which could be a bad Brexit deal, it could be no deal, with the option of staying in the European Union," Khan added.

Protestors waving placards such as "Breverre", "Exit This Brexit" and "We Want EU" and shouting anti-Brexit slogans marched through central London. Around 150 bus-loads of people from across the UK reportedly travelled from far and wide for the Saturday's march and rally.

The hashtag #PeoplesVoteMarch began trending on the social media site Twitter as the numbers kept growing through the day.

"Brexit's becoming a dog's dinner. This week's fresh chaos and confusion over Brexit negotiations has exposed how even the best deal now available will be a bad one for Britain," opposition Labour Party leader Lord Adonis, one of the supporters of the People's Vote campaign, said. It's a mess that nobody voted for and the reason we are in such a growing crisis is that those cheerleading for Brexit know the promises they made can never be kept," he said.

3/4th of H1B visa holders in 2018 are Indians: US report

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Nearly three out of every four H-1B visa holders as of October 5 are Indian citizens, an official US report has said.

According to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), there were as many as 419,637 foreign nationals working in the US on H-1B visas as on October 5.

Of these, 309,986 are Indians, the USCIS said in its report. "H-1B petitions by gender and country of birth fiscal year 2018."

The report reveals a massive gender disparity -- only one out of every four H-1B visa holders is female. Of the 419,637 H-1B visa holders, 106,096 (or 25.3 per cent) are females as against 311,997 (or 74.3 per cent males), it said.

Gender disparity is wider among Indians.

Of the 309,986 Indians on H-1B visas in the US this October, only 63,220 or 20.4 per cent are females while nearly 245,517 Indians on H-

Despite talk of equality, women bosses still rare in US

AP ■ NEW YORK

This year was touted as the year of women in politics in the United States, but in the business world, female bosses remain few and far between.

And some warn the situation is unlikely to improve with men unwilling to play the role of mentor to younger female colleagues in the era of the #MeToo movement, which has heightened awareness of sexual abuse and inappropriate behaviour in the workplace.

The departure in

September of India's Indra Nooyi as head of PepsiCo after more than a decade in the job has only reinforced a trend that has been growing for the past two years: the decline in the number of women CEOs even as debate about the need for equality in the workplace rages, and amid increasing calls for women to break through the "glass ceiling".

Recently, a number of prominent women have left their posts as company heads, including Denise Morrison of Campbell Soup, Margo

Georgiadis of Mattel, Sherilyn McCoy of Avon, Meg Whitman of Hewlett-Packard, Ursula Burns of Xerox, and Ellen Kullman of Dupont.

All of them have been replaced by men, a blow for diversity since fewer than five per cent of leaders of the S&P 500 largest enterprises are now women, down from 5.4 per cent in 2017.

"We are going in the wrong direction," said Lorraine Hariton, whose NGO Catalysts advocates for women in senior positions. "Women have gotten

into entry-level positions very successfully, and then they get to middle management, and things stall out," she said. "Women still today are not reaching the top, particularly women of colour."

Dismissing the idea that the glass ceiling is down to women's decision to focus on family rather than career, experts lay the blame more on deep-rooted clichés.

Hariton said her group's research "shows that the stereotype that men 'take charge' and women 'take care' puts women

Woman asked to shun hijab at workplace or resign in Pak

PTI ■ KARACHI

A woman worker of a software firm in Pakistan was told to either stop wearing hijab at workplace or resign, in perhaps the first incident of its kind in the Muslim-majority country.

The incident caused an uproar on social media, leading to the resignation of Chief Executive Officer Jawwad

Kadir of the Creative Chaos company. She was told that she could keep her job only if she took off her hijab by her line manager who said that wearing hijab would spoil the company's image as an "all-embracing" workplace.

The woman said that she was offered alternative jobs in two Islamic banks if she left.

Kadir initially tried to

downplay the incident by issuing an apology. "Yesterday, a senior member of our staff asked a colleague to resign on unprofessional and unethical grounds. She was told that her obligations may come in the way of her performance," Kadir said. "Not only is this action disgraceful but shows extreme poor moral judgement by her hiring manager. I take full responsibility for this failure

and am deeply ashamed that a colleague was put through distress and trauma," he said.

Kadir said the victim has been asked to withdraw her resignation and resume her job. A Facebook post detailing the trauma faced by the hijab-wearing woman caused a hue and cry with majority of people terming it as discrimination against the woman.

The software firm in a Facebook post later said Kadir had been asked to step down "for workplace discrimination".

In an email sent to the board members and associates, titled "My apology is not enough", Kadir said he was resigning as the CEO of the software house.

"I have crossed a line which I deeply regret," he wrote in the email, a copy of which was available on social media.

SHOW TIME

Congrats! It's engaging

**BADHAI HO**

***ing:** Neena Gupta, Ayushmann Khurana, Sanya Malhotra, Gajraj Rao, Surekha Sikri
Rated: 7/10

Ayushmann Khurana is on a roll, giving two back-to-back hits, first in *Andha Dhun* and now with *Badhai Ho!* You could say *Badhai Ho!* is a great film in a small mould — cute, happening and dealing with an issue that has long been lost between the sheets when it comes to parents being assessed by their grown and growing up children, in this case computer engineer Ayushmann and his teenaged brother.

Of course, there is no question of a parental couple engaging in sex, it's taken for granted that they never did it and the children came from celestial intervention! It's embarrassing for the kids even if a stray thought of a romantic relationship between their parents comes to light. And if that romance culminates into a baby coming, there

is no end to it!

Badhai Ho! deals with this societal embarrassment and a woman's travails after she refuses to abort the child despite having young adults as her children. Neena Gupta is stunning in her bloated, aged self as Priyamvada who has a mind of her own despite being a middle-class dutiful *bahu*, mother and wife. She is, in fact, the central character of the film and a perfect fit in that space. Her husband, played by Gajraj Rao, is equally so and the two together complement each other completely — he, as a doting husband, and she as a dutiful mother, *bahu* and wife.

Everything here is real, interesting and arresting. The humour in the situation is never lost though it is more subtle than the raging embarrassment on all faces that visit the screen. The beauty of this film is that every character seems to be the lead, playing his or her part with minimum fuss but maximum impact. The film ambles along this one idea and despite not

taking a break from it, draws you into the middle-class family living in Lodi Colony's Governmental underbelly.

Sanya Malhotra as Ayushmann's love interest squares up the sides of this engaging story with amazing screen presence and beauty, not even once complaining of being put on the periphery of the movie. Surekha Sikri as the cantankerous *sas* plays up the angst of children not being with their elderly parents in a passionate manner and laughter evoking lines.

Gajraj Rao is a delight as Gupta's loving husband trying to balance all zones of life with mother on one side, children on the other and of course his wife becoming pregnant almost in old age as the centre of his existence.

The film has everything for everyone — humour, situation and family drama. The subject, can parents have sex — and a baby — is *hatke* and interesting. This movie will make your week so do go for it!

'Real challenges are the ones that are practical'

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with actor ANANNYA KHARE, who is known for her performance in *Devdas*. She talks about her journey & her latest show *Beechvale*

■ What is your role in Beechvale?
I play Chanchal Beechvale Bhatia. She is from a middle-class family and a homemaker. She is concerned about her family. She is a devoted person but not in a boring and a filmy way. She is straightforward and outspoken in a way that doesn't hurt the other person.

■ What made you say yes?

This role was something different from what I have played in the last six-seven years of my career. I have mostly played negative and powerful roles and this was something that I haven't tried my hands on. It is also because of the producer Ashwini's vision who saw me play Sarla in *Mere Angne Mein*. He thought I fit the bill for this role.

■ How hard is it to get into the skin of the character?

It is very difficult to play different roles because it is another person that you are playing. You have to get convinced of what you are doing and how you want to play the character. It is difficult to do comedy; it is tough to make others laugh.

■ How did acting happen with you?

It happened by chance; it started as a hobby when I was in Class VIII. I used to take theatre workshops during summer holidays. My father, Vishnu Khare, is a well-known journalist and I had a very cultural background. My family wanted to me to do something different other than just taking more tuitions and enrolling myself in more academic classes. They are creative people so they encouraged me to do acting. My first show *Nirmala* happened with me when I was in Class XI. The show was based on Munshi Premchand's novel and I played the role of a 15-year-old girl. At that time, I was doing theater and someone from the serials team saw my performance and they approached me for it. That is how I got my first role.

■ What challenges did you face in your journey?

I went through the normal ups and downs — normal struggle that every actor goes through. The real challenges are the practical ones. When you come to a new city, you don't know about the city, the people who live there, so it is very hard to adapt. There is a language barrier, the food is different, you come directly from a protected environment of your home and start living in a PG accommodation, so you have to adjust to all of those things. These are practical and emotional difficulties. You feel alone, you go through a mental breakdown, you



start feeling what you are doing and then people may try to stereotype you because every individual is different and you may not feel comfortable around them or the way they think about you. When you are young, these things do matter a lot in your life. But as you grow older you realise that differences make life interesting.

■ Which role came close to you?

It is difficult to name one because all the roles that you play are different aspects of your personality. While playing them you bring them closer to yourself. You connect them with your experiences and your life. So every role you play has something of you, different emotions are explored through different roles. There is no role that is close to you because you are not that character, you are yourself, you just experience different emotions

through that role.
■ What are some of the best moments of your journey?

For me each and every moment that I have lived was good but when I was nominated for IIFA for the Best Supporting Role in *Devdas* and when I won the National Award for Best Supporting Role in *Chandni Bar* were the two moments that my family and I cherish a lot.

■ How do you define acting and what is your approach towards it?

Acting is a representation of real life through one's expression and movements. My acting is instinctive, there is no school of acting that I follow. In practical life, you can't follow any school for acting because different mediums require different acting approach. You can't follow a set pattern, you have to keep adjusting, modulating and changing according to the role and the medium.

■ What will make you quit a show?

Not being able to express myself and my role because of any reason, be it because of the other actor or whether the script is not working out for me or because of too much politics off-camera. Also, if there is unpleasantness or if I feel restricted in my roles I will quit a show.

■ Where do you get your inspiration from?

There are two types of inspirations one is practical and the other one is creative. Practical inspiration comes from the thought that you have to pay the bills (laughs) and the creative one is when you enjoy your work.

■ What are your upcoming projects?

Currently, I am very busy doing *Beechvale* and it is not possible to do two shows consistently that too playing lead roles.

TELLYTALE

NEW SHOW — ACE OF SPACE

A lavish house away from the monotony of the world, with all the luxury surrounding you is a sight we all dream of. But, no story ends without a dramatic twist!

With just a blink of the eye and one wrong move, the rooms suddenly squeeze down to an unimaginably small size and the fight for the survival begins! That's the house of *Ace of Space* for you!

Termed as the Mastermind's House, it has all the essentials you can ask for, except one thing — space! The rooms are the themed made with the creative expertise of the famous Bollywood director and design expert, Omung Kumar and production designer Vanita Omung Kumar.

And not just this, it is the first time that Omung has designed the set for a niche show like *Ace of Space*. Commenting on the set design of the show, Omung Kumar said: "Ace of Space is a one-of-a-kind show and it has been an absolute delight to create a design for the set of the house. Working on the design of the house was demanding because we had to be at par with the theme of the show which rotates around having an out of the box and a never seen before house. The house has turned out to be beautiful with elements that add a very eccentric and a fresh essence to the overall vibe. The viewers are in for a big treat as they will witness the craziest house with the most extraordinary themed rooms that most definitely falls in place with this eye catching show."

What makes the show distinct and more grand from other captive reality shows is the uniqueness of the rooms. For the first time on Indian television, you will see the contestants locked in the house either sleeping in a bathtub or gym benches or even sitting in kid-size chairs. It just gets crazier with a plethora of drama and fights to mark one's territory!

With 18 contestants walking in and writing their fate in the 18x18feet room, who will emerge victorious in this fight for space? Find

out on *Ace of Space*, every Saturday 6 PM on MTV.

THE CALLING

A blogger, ex-techie and a banker will vie for India's best job — a one-year travel scholarship from India's leading lifestyle channel TLC. The three courageous contestants — lifestyle blogger Atmaj Vyas; ex-techie Gaurav Sajanhan and banker Preethi Parhasarathy — have been selected from thousands of entries received for TLC's one-year travel scholarship. The trio displayed strong desire to quit their routine job and live life they have aspired to and are also the face



of TLC's new show *The Calling* which will air every Friday on TLC at 8 pm and on the YouTube channel Rise by TLC.

KOFFEE WITH KARAN 6 IS BACK

Karan Johar is back with Season 6 of the show on Star World at 8 pm every Sunday. That the sixth season will be aired today October 21, 2018 was declared by KJo back in April this year.

So far, in five seasons, 113 episodes have been aired. Last season, KJo invited Ranveer Singh and Ranbir Kapoor on the show. This season, he plans to do something similar. Instead of promoting their bromance, the first episode will be about girl power with Alia Bhatt and Deepika Padukone.

The other episodes will have actors Varun Dhawan and Katrina Kaif, Ranveer Singh and Akshay Kumar, Arjun Kapoor and Janhvi Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan and Sara Ali Khan and Aamir Khan who will bring in some fun with their appearance.

**Plan Your Week****Coloured Gourmet Burgers**

What: Gourmet Burgers
Where: Barcelos @Barcelos
When: 11 am-11 pm
Place: Saket



Barcelos is always known for experimenting with the food and being able to achieve the love from all over the world. The specialty of the South African restaurant is its different coloured burgers and Mexican delicacies. The Black Burger Bun, The Red Burger Bun, and the Classic with natural ingredients play a great role in how the food tastes. Head out to the restaurant where you can enjoy their signature handcrafted burgers.

Theatre - Performance Art: The Legend of Ila

Date: October 23, 2018
Venue: India Habitat Centre

Timings: 7pm
Anant Dayal brings to life *The Legend of Ila*, a story in Song. The play tells the story of Ila who at different points of time lives either as a man or a woman. Being almost entirely performed in a song format revolves around the process of exploration of gender fluidity and queerness. It's a revelation as well as a celebration of doubt, wonder and inclusiveness set against the larger cultural framework of Hindu traditions and norms.

World Street Food Fest

Date: October 21, 2018
Time: 11 am-11 pm

Venue: DLF Place, Saket
With the fasting of Navratri coming to an end, DLF Place is all excited to bring the wholeness of a Lebanese shawarma, the zing of an American hotdog along with some yummy French crepes.



The well known street food brands like Firangi House, Shawarma House, Sleepy Owl, Baking Bad, Dilli 19, Zabardast Zaffran, Nayab, Emoi and Shawarma House will be offering their specialities.



IGT 8: Bigger and better

India's Got Talent is back with Season 9 with fresh talent that will leave you in awe. SANDEEPA YADAV brings you some amazing acts that will be showcased tonight on Colors

"I have to add certain flavour of my own as a host and we are trying different ways to bring a change on the platter. Beyond acting and dancing, you will be able to see a lot more of me. There are quite a few things that I indulge myself in," Dhanjani says.

Hosting for the first time with Bharti Singh, Dhanjani will leave no stone unturned to showcasing his talent and keep the entertainment quotient high.

Johar and Kirron Kher, who have been there since Season 1, are going to have a tough time to choose. "Judging from a great magician to a great dancer is definitely going to be tough for the judge. They have been associated with IGT with the responsibility from past eight seasons," Dhanjani opines.

The three judges of the show — Malaika Arora, Karan

contestants to the show will not only inspire you but connect you on the emotional level as well.

"As a host, we need to connect with the contestant to their emotions and story on a very human level. To feel the moment and help them bring out the best. To do good in that moment and the contestant that there is," Dhanjani shares.

TOP ACTS TO WATCH OUT FOR**OUTDOOR SWAY POLE ACT**

Talent knows no boundary, no limitations, no fears and hesitations. All it takes is passion, strong faith and determination to cross miles and touch the sky. One such person is Gunjan, who is literally crossing miles on the height of 65 feet through his sway pole act and free fall at IGT. His stage is his rope on which he walks and does the balancing in the middle of the air.

A gymnast by profession, Gunjan will give you a nail biting moment and leave you in awe through his daredevil act. After being the contestant in IGT5 and Gunjan is back this season with bigger and better acts.

**SOULFUL SINGING**

Meet 13-year-old Shreyas from Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, who despite suffering from Progeria - a rare syndrome in children that leads to premature old age, he never stopped doing what he loves the most — Singing. It was his singing that brought him to the stage of IGT where he sang Kishore Kumar's popular song *Chaltechale mere Geetyaadrankha* and touched the hearts of the three judges and live audience.

**WHAT'S NEW THIS SEASON?**

■ The Hunar Ka Darwaza: Every season, the stage is open for all talent but the *hunar ka darwaza* is one such rare opportunity which changes the life of the contestant.

■ Hashtag: Following the trend of Hashtag, Malaika Arora is giving special names to outstanding contestants in the form of Hashtags(#).

BOND OF TRUST

They lift each other on their arms to 90 degrees and even do hand stand on the other person's head without taking any support. The partner in crime and brothers Rahul and Mukesh are a perfect example of trust.

**RANGEELA RAJASTHAN**

The act by the gymnastic brothers, which got the standing ovation by Karan Johar and Malaika Arora, will definitely surprise you. Kirron Kher and once more from the audience. Ravindra Upadhyay, one of the band's singer, has sung songs in various films, like *Talaash* and *Happy New Year*.

IT'S MAGIC

Get set to groove on the tunes of Swagstan, a singing band from Jaipur, who will sing a fusion on *Kesariya-baalam*, *Swag se swagat* and *Pallu latke*. Their power-packed performance got standing ovation from Kirron Kher and once more from the audience. Ravindra Upadhyay, one of the band's singer, has sung songs in various films, like *Talaash* and *Happy New Year*.

POWER OF



#flike

From the #Lahukalagaan campaign that compelled the Government to scrap tax on sanitary napkins, to #MeToo which throws light on the bigger issue of sexual harassment, the power of Hashtag is bringing big revolutions worldwide on controversial issues that are often brushed under the carpet. SANGEETA YADAV speaks to experts on Hashtag activism and how it is changing mores in the fight for justice

From actors, politicians and journalists, to MNC employees and Government organisations, people from all walks of life are using the power of Hashtag to fight for justice and make an impact. Be it supporting a cause or a movement that people are advocating through social media to creating awareness at large, hashtag activism is empowering every individual to start a movement for change.

Once denoted as a symbol of pound or an object to play tic-tac-toe has now become a mouthpiece bringing revolution worldwide with campaigns like #MeToo which is gaining momentum in India.

"The power of Hashtag is the power to empower, unite and crusade. It is the power to unmask, shame and destroy the perpetrators. It is good to see that the hashtag is empowering so many to do what they may not have done before. Hashtags have evolved the way protests and social interactions have. A lot of it has become reactionary posturing and armchair activism. One Tweet reaches millions. Every re-tweet reaches more millions. It is like instant gratification. There is openness, democracy and dialogues free of fear," Dr Sandeep Goyal, former Chairman of Dentsu India and ex-Group CEO of Zee Telefilm, explains.

Hashtag activism has become a great way to bring a social change in today's time. To do that, one doesn't necessarily need to be an activist. "Hashtag activism is a powerful tool in neo-liberal times. In an age of de-ideologisation and de-politicisation, the possibility of mass collective action is minimal. Every discourse works around identities and is often issue-based. Hashtag activism works effectively in this context where individuals empower themselves through social media and connect with others. We are connected globally and that is one of the reasons why hashtags have emerged as a major tool for social change. It has been initiating change in a big way, especially in the context of issues that relate to the marginalised, including women. Hashtag activism helps victims connect and help build an atmosphere of empathy and sharing. In the age of individualism, it helps build a sense of a community," says Dr

Swapna Gopinath, associate Professor of English, SN College, University of Kerala and postdoctoral fellow, School of Media and Cultural Studies at the Tata Institute Of Social Sciences.

The #MeToo campaign, which has spread like wildfire in India, has brought many people into the scanner, including Nana Patekar, MJ Akbar, Vikas Behl, Alok Nath, KR Sreenivas, Gautam Adhikari and many others. The movement, which was started in 2006 by activist Tarana Burke, went viral in October 2017 when actress Alyssa Milano tweeted it to encourage women who have been sexually harassed and/or assaulted to step forward and reply to her Tweet. This got over 12 million posts within just 24 hours reflecting the magnitude of the problem.

The movement reached Bollywood when Chitrangadha Singh accused the director of *Babumoshai Bandookbaaz* Kushan Nandy last year of insisting that she do many retakes for an intimate scene with Nawazuddin Siddiqui. Swara Bhaskar came out and revealed the manner in which she was asked for sexual favours in exchange for a film role and how she lost a few because she wouldn't give in. She even talked about the lack of safety on film sets where women often experience eve-teasing and catcalling.

Keeping the identity of the culprit secret, Bhaskar shared her story of how she was harassed by a film director during her early days as an actor. She said: "During a 56-day outdoor shoot at a remote location when I was still fairly new, the director harassed me with texts and dinner invites. He stalked me during the day and called me through the night. I was asked to go to his hotel room on the pretext of discussing a scene and would find him drinking. During the first week itself, he started talking about love and sex, and one night, he arrived in my room, drunk and asking to be hugged. It was scary! I was young and alone. I would switch off the lights after packing up and remove my makeup in the dark, so he would think I was asleep and stop calling me. I finally confronted him in the executive producer and made sure that I was escorted everywhere."

But the first mega viral cam-

paign was launched when Tanushree Dutta accused Nana Patekar of misbehaving with her during the shoot of a special song in *Horn OK Please* in 2008. She said he allegedly grabbed her by the arm, pushed her around, asked the choreographers to move aside and taught her how to dance and even wanted to do an intimate sequence with her, although the contract clearly stated it was a "solo" dance sequence. Dutta claimed that the actor made her uncomfortable to an extent that she eventually had to opt out of the song and is still dealing with the trauma that has caused her.

Queen's director Vikas Bahl was accused of sexual harassment by a former employee of Phantom Films for an incident that took place in 2015 in Goa. Bahl's partners Anurag Kashyap and Vikramaditya Motwane came out in support of the allegations, with Kashyap dissolving the production house. Post this, actor Kangana Ranaut also alleged that Bahl used to 'bury his face in her neck and hold her really tight'. Sandhya Mridul and many other actors came out and revealed that Alok Nath would get drunk on the set and harass them.

With so many cases coming up from the entertainment world, Cine & TV Artists' Association (CINTAA) has set-up a high-powered committee to look into all sexual harassment complaints. "Various steps are being taken to address this menace, including but not limited to spreading awareness and encouraging our members to not suffer in silence. Nationally, we contribute billions to Government's coffers but are yet to be even recognised as an industry. We don't know which Ministry to approach to solve our problems — I&B Ministry, Labour Ministry or the Culture Ministry? We have approached the Central Government for formulating a separate Act for the Entertainment and Media Sector which lays down the working conditions and rights of workers in films, television, sports-broadcasting, digital media, live-performances and the news sector," Sushant Singh, General Secretary, CINTAA, says.

Not just Bollywood, even politicians and media professionals have come under the radar of #MeToo. Former Editor and Minister of State for External Affairs MJ Akbar, who

was accused by 17 women journalists of sex harassment, had to resign. He is said to have hired 97 lawyers to fight a defamation case against Priya Ramani, the first person who complained against him, and many others saying they have "intentionally put forward malicious, fabricated and salacious" allegations to harm his goodwill and reputation.

IT IS EASY TO BLAME THE VICTIM AND ASK WHY AFTER SO MANY YEARS? BUT YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS NOT EASY FOR ANY WOMAN TO FIGHT AGAINST A POWERFUL PERSON. THE POLICE OFFICIALS ARE HESITANT TO FILE A COMPLAINT AND IF THEY DO THAT, THE COURT PROCEDURE IS SO LONG THAT IT TAKES YEARS. SOMETIMES ADVOCATES, TOO, LEAVE THE CASE MIDWAY

— ANUJA KAPUR,
CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGIST

was accused by 17 women journalists of sex harassment, had to resign. He is said to have hired 97 lawyers to fight a defamation case against Priya Ramani, the first person who complained against him, and many others saying they have "intentionally put forward malicious, fabricated and salacious" allegations to harm his goodwill and reputation.

The issues that are raised with hashtags are creating ripples offline too with big debates and dialogues among academics and decision makers. One of the most important questions that has become the talk of the town is why are women coming out after so many years in reporting sexual harassment? Why didn't they do it before?

"It is easy to blame the victim and ask why after so many years? But you need to understand that it is not easy for any woman to fight against a powerful person. The police officials are hesitant to file a complaint and if they do that, the court procedure is so long that it takes years. Sometimes advocates, too, leave the case in between. Take the case of Tanushree Dutta who despite having proof and even after filing an FIR, was harassed and faced threats. There is this fear of losing your job, not getting good work, the years-long grind of the court trial, financial obligations and sometimes absence of family and societal support. You get into high depression.

"Even companies don't take any concrete steps to deal with the matter, instead, ask the accused to resign. A #MeToo campaign helps. After making the revelations, the onus is on the women to prove innocence. We need a corrective society which accepts the progressive change towards women-related issues, a proper security system and a mechanism to deal with such issues at the grassroots level," criminal psychologist and advocate Anuja Kapur, says, adding that #MeToo should not be restricted to the workplace.

On the flip side, there are people who are misusing the immense power of Hashtag to get media attention. "It is good that Hashtag activism empowers people and helps them bring a lot of errant individuals to book. But like all power, unbridled and absolute power is dangerous and that is worrisome.

The Hashtag has no control mechanisms and some innocent men are being victimised with no avenue for defence. It's been misused to settle old scores through exaggerated accounts of what may or may not have happened," Goyal says.

Agrees Swati Gautam, founder & CEO, NecessitySwatiGautam: "Its downside being that malicious activism is difficult to detect and conversations can degenerate to tangential, vulgar, politically motivated levels that may then dilute the very cause being advocated. We need a realistic framework of action and clear norms. The National Commission for Women shall hopefully get some teeth, if not a whole denture, to start with; if the SC/ST Commission can have them then why is the women's commission toothless till now? Each and every allegation of sexual harassment should be dealt with on its inherent merit."

Hashtag activism when combined with online petitions and clicks of approval platforms like Change.org, complements the cause in many ways. "Successful campaigns on Change.org are not run in isolation. Supporters end up building strong connections through petitions they sign, mailing decision makers, taking part in tweet-a-thons consolidated with hashtags, showing up for protests. Hashtags can exist on their own but they become more potent when they exist in the context of an online petition or an online campaign on change.org. Hashtags are easy to track online with a simple Google search. In the online campaign space, Hashtags help us keep score of the number of mentions of a campaign," she adds.

For example, in July 2018 the #LightUpDelhi campaign on Change.org was successful in making the Government commit to installing street lamps to light up dark spots outside metro stations. It was started by Delhi-based architect Bhavya Singh after she survived a harrowing stalking incident. The campaign's catchy Hashtag was instrumental in garnering the 33,034 signatures that propelled it to a victory. "In fact, when Bhavya went to meet the Decision Maker Satyendra Jain, the PWD Minister, for the first time to discuss her campaign, she was surprised when he said he had been following the campaign, and

even named the hashtag," Nida Hasan, Associate Country Director, Change.org India, explains.

Hashtags and online petitions are turning out to be very impactful for many other social campaigns. Signing an online petition and demonstrating support for causes on social networks through hashtags is a bit different from how previous generations engaged in movement building. But not doing what previous generations have done doesn't mean this generation is slacking. It's a different type of activism and it's highly effective. For many people, hashtags make them get out of their armchairs and take action. #NotInMyName saw a lot of common citizens making their way to public meetings and rallies and rubbing shoulders with seasoned activists," Hasan adds.

Hashtag activism can be dismissed as useless outrage if there is no meaningful action or social change that comes out of it. "One of the newest campaigns to start on Change.org, complements the cause in many ways. "Successful campaigns on Change.org are not run in isolation. Supporters end up building strong connections through petitions they sign, mailing decision makers, taking part in tweet-a-thons consolidated with hashtags, showing up for protests. Hashtags can exist on their own but they become more potent when they exist in the context of an online petition or an online campaign on change.org. Hashtags are easy to track online with a simple Google search. In the online campaign space, Hashtags help us keep score of the number of mentions of a campaign," she adds.

Dr Gopinath feels that though hashtags activism has been addressing issues faced by the upper and middle class, while the lower sections of society are not finding their voices through this mode. "Hashtags are effective when addressing issues faced by the upper and middle-class population and others who find themselves targets of exploitation and oppression within these classes. This gives courage and confidence to a lot of women to speak out against men who are powerful and are well known in India and address similar issues women face on a day-to-day basis. A sense of solidarity is emerging in a bigger way among women, which is a welcome change. But the lower sections in society, be it class or caste, don't really find their voices through hashtags, at least in the Indian context," Dr Gopinath asserts.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



#METOO: The #MeToo campaign was first started in 2006 by activist Tarana Burke, went viral in October 2017 when actress Alyssa Milano tweeted it to encourage women who have been sexually harassed and/or assaulted to step forward and reply to her tweet. This got over 12 million posts within just 24 hours reflecting the magnitude of the problem. The movement which has now come to India has brought many popular faces into the scanner including Nana Patekar, MJ Akbar, Vikas Behl, Alok Nath, KR Sreenivas, Gautam Adhikari and many others. Many organisations are now setting up the vishaka guidelines which were restricted to the papers and implement strict norms to curb the issue.

#LAHKALAGAAN: Started in April 2017 by SheSays, a women's rights organisation, the

campaign #LahuKaLagaan urged people to Tweet to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley using the Hashtag to make sanitary napkins tax-free. This campaign translated from an online hashtag into a PIL filed before the Bombay High Court. Sanitary napkins were taxed at 12%, counting it among 'luxury items'. Celebrities like Aditi Rao Hydari, Swara Bhaskar, Sorabh Pant, Vishal Dadlani, Shenzay Treasury, Cyrus Broacha, Mallika Dua and many others supported the cause. In July, 2018, the Government scrapped the tax giving sanitary pads a 100 per cent exemption.

#AINTCINDRELLA: On August 4, 2017, Varnika Kundu was driving back home after midnight when she was chased and almost kidnapped by Vikas Barala, son of Haryana BJP chief Subhash Barala, and his friend Ashish

Kumar, in Chandigarh. Though the accused were arrested after a complaint by Varnika and her father, they were later released on bail. She narrated the incident on Facebook which got a shocking reaction from area vice-president of BJP Ramveer Bhatti. He commented: "The girl should not have gone out at 12 in the night. Why was she driving so late in the night? Parents must take care of their children. They shouldn't allow them to roam at night. Children should come home on time, why stay out at night?"

Shocked by his feedback, actress and former MP Divya Spandana created #AintNoCinderella in an effort to remind the world that the fault is not of women and today's society isn't some 17th-century fairytale where women should be held to a

strict midnight curfew. Women from all walks of life started posting pictures of themselves out after midnight under the hashtag #AintNoCinderella in support of Varnika Kundu. This campaign united people who believe in certain values and took a stand up for the right. #NOTINMYNAME: The campaign 'Not in my name' began with a Facebook post by filmmaker Saba Dewan who urged people to voice against the lynching of Muslims and Dalits. The lynching of a 16-year-old boy Junaid triggered citizens, especially netizens, to join the silent rally which witnessed participation from people across India. The day after the pan-India protests, PM Narendra Modi finally broke his silence and tweeted saying 'no person in this nation has the right to take the law in his or her own hands.'

#BRINGBACKOURGIRLS: After Boko Haram militants kidnapped hundreds of girls from a Nigerian boarding school on April 15, 2014, an international campaign was raised to pressure the Nigerian Government to "Bring Back Our Girls". In early May, nearly 5 lakh Tweets had been sent out with the tag. Its origins have been traced back to Nigerian lawyer Ibrahim Abdullahi, who first tweeted it on April 23, 2014.

The Hashtag itself was so well-known and inspiring that everyone from Michelle Obama to Malala Yousafzai participated in the campaign. Global attention and sympathy spurred the US and other international Governments to send aid to Nigeria in an effort to help with negotiations. Unfortunately, to this day, 230 of the girls are still separated from their families.

ABD BACKS INDIA TO DO WELL IN AUSTRALIA

HARSHIT BISHT ■ NEW DELHI

South African great AB de Villiers believes India "has a very good chance" of beating Australia in the upcoming away series notwithstanding their recent losses overseas.

India played better in South Africa than what they managed in England but ended up losing both the high-profile series.

The batting let India down on both tours but de Villiers backed batsmen to do well Down Under in the four-Test series beginning from 7th December in Adelaide.

"They have a very good chance, to be honest with you. They came to South Africa, probably played better cricket (but lost 1-2). Lost in England now but once again the first Test was on a knife's edge and could have gone either way, which would have changed the whole complexion of the series," said de Villiers here on Saturday.

"Going to Australia now, I think if they

can keep the fast bowlers fit they have a very good chance. I saw some of the guys were not hundred percent fit (Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar) but have recovered now. If they can get all the fast bowlers ready, if not the best, they are one of the best bowling attacks in the world at the moment. And we know what the batting unit is capable of," said the 34-year-old.

The former South African international backs Indian batsmen referring them as the best in the world despite their poor outing in England, which cost side way too much.

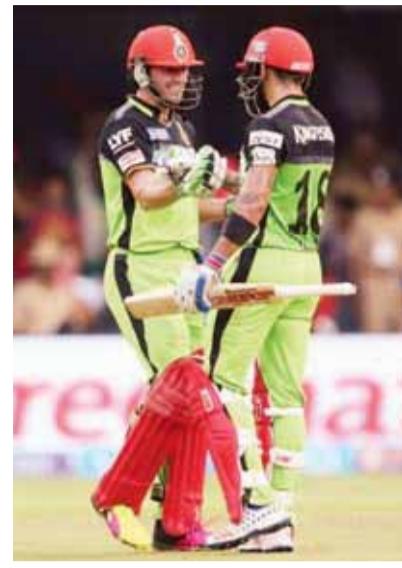
"India's Bowling attack is one of the best but India's batting lineup is the best in the world. So there's absolutely no problem with the batting lineup amid the poor outing in Eng, that's my opinion. They can't always score 500-600 but we know what they are capable of."

The series opener in South Africa and England were fiercely fought but India failed

to win the crucial moments of the game. De Villiers feels the trend of losing the series opener will have to change if India were to do well against Australia, who will be without their star players David Warner and Steve Smith.

"They have got to take the opportunity, especially going to Australia. If you slip first Test match there, it becomes a snowball. Actually anywhere in the world, the minute you are playing away from home, the way you start is very important. They slipped in South Africa and England and it snowballed (into a series loss)," said de Villiers on the sidelines of Royal Stag Barrel Select Perfect Strokes.

Talking about young Prithvi Shaw, who gained highlights after his brilliant debut against West Indies in the recently concluded Test series. Ab says that young Shaw has got a lot of talent and is going to be a big asset.



"He has got that talent. I have seen him playing well in the IPL and told Virat that this guy is going to be amazing one day. But it doesn't matter what we say and that's what Prithvi believes. We'll see how it goes. He has got a lot of talent within him. He is a fantastic player. He has got a bright future. He just needs to tell himself that he really wants to achieve this."

De Villiers who played alongside Virat in IPL for eight years also praised Virat's captaincy saying that he is a great leader.

"Virat is a fantastic captain. Great leader. He has got a really good mind around the game of cricket. He has learned a lot in the past few years and is growing as a captain. He is someone who Indian player follows."

He also added that Indian skipper is well aware of his game and that what makes him different from the others.

"Virat knows his game very well and

that's the secret of his playing. The best possible of playing cricket is to know your strength and that you can maximize when you are out there in the field. And he knows that well which in turn makes him the best batsmen in the world."

On his remaining cricketing career, de Villiers said he is not done yet and is looking forward to playing South Africa's newly launched domestic T20 league next month. He will also continue to play in the IPL.

"I am pretty happy with my decision (of quitting international cricket) but I am not finished yet. You will see me playing around the world in the next few years. I still love the game but playing 12 months in a year got a little too much for me," he said.

"I had to make a really tough decision. But as they say 'never say never'. You never know what is going to happen in the next six to 12 months. It has been a very intense 15 years," he said.

India look to solve middle-order puzzle

Keeping World Cup preparation in mind, Men in Blue seek perfect combination

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

A formidable India will hope to get more answers for their unresolved middle-order puzzle when they take on a reeling West Indies in the five-match ODI series starting here on Sunday, ticking off the home team's countdown to the 2019 World Cup.

The World Cup in England is less than eight months away and India have 18-odd games left to decide their middle order, mainly the number four position where many have been tried but with little success.

The series will also mark captain Virat Kohli's return to white-ball cricket as he had taken a much-needed break during the team's triumphant campaign in Asia Cup.

Kohli is expected to try out a new combination in the middle order that will see Rishabh Pant make his ODI debut, following his exploits in the longest format.

The 21-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman, who scored a century at the Oval in his debut series against England, continued his sublime form with consecutive scores of 92 against the West Indies in the two-match Test series.

The focus once again will be on MS Dhoni, whose batting ability is on the wane and with limited playing time in the middle, the job gets only tougher for the legendary cricketer. However, chief selector MSK Prasad has time and again said that Dhoni remains the first choice wicketkeeper at least till the World Cup.

Dhoni was far from his best in the Asia Cup, scoring 77 runs in four innings with an average of 19.25 and a strike rate of 62.09.

While the top-three select themselves, the spotlight will also be



India vs West Indies
Live from 1:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1

on Ambati Rayudu, who is expected to bat four and will look to carry forward his fine form of Asia Cup where he amassed 175 runs, averaging 43.75 from six innings. However, time may be running out for Manish Pandey as he is yet to cement his ODI comeback after a year's gap.

Looking at the bowling attack,

the spin department will see the potent duo of Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal, while fast bowlers Mohammad Shami and an in-form Umesh Yadav will share the workload in the absence of Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah, who have been rested for the first two ODIs.

Rookie left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed, who impressed in the two matches he played in Asia Cup, will look to grab the opportunity.

Unlike the Tests, the West Indies were expected to be much more competitive in ODIs but they are grappling with multiple woes.

Dynamic opener Evin Lewis has withdrawn from the ODI series citing personal reasons, dealing another blow to the side which is already missing Chris Gayle and Andre Russell.

To make matters worse, coach Stuart Law, who is into his penultimate assignment with the team, will not be allowed in the dressing room in the first two ODIs due to a breach of ICC's code of conduct.

However, the team has veteran Marlon Samuels, captain and all-rounder Jason Holder and pacer Kemar Roach. The squad features three uncapped players — opener Chandrapaul Hemraj, all-rounder Fabian Allen and pacer Oshane Thomas.

The ninth ranked side lost 1-2 to Bangladesh in its last ODI assignment and has not won a series since 2014.

The venue, Barsapara Stadium, will be hosting its second international match after staging the debut game, a T20 between India and Australia last year. The game had made headlines for wrong reasons after the visiting team's bus was attacked on way to the hotel.

Rayudu's consistency will solve middle-order problem: Kohli

GUWAHATI: India captain Virat Kohli on Saturday said his side's middle-order puzzle will be solved if Ambati Rayudu cements his place at the crucial No 4 position in the matches ahead of next year's World Cup.

Kohli said the challenge was to find someone for the No 4 slot and with Rayudu stepping up for that position in recent times, the batting order is more or less settled.

"The only position we were trying to figure out was number four for a long time. We tried many players who unfortunately could not capitalise or cement their places in a way we wanted," Kohli said ahead of the first one-dayer against the West Indies here on Sunday.

"With Rayudu coming in and playing well in the Asia Cup, it's about giving him enough game time till the World Cup so that the particular slot will be sorted for us," he added.

On the back of a strong performance for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL, Rayudu, who scored 602 runs at an average of 43.00 and a strike-rate of 149.75, had earned a national call-up for the ODI leg of the England tour but was dropped after failing the 'Yo-Yo' test.

But he made a successful return to the Asia Cup in UAE last month and played an instrumental role in India's victorious campaign.

"The team felt there — and I also watched him — that he (Rayudu) is designed to play that middle order batsman's role. We feel that our middle-order is more or less balanced now," Kohli said.

"We believe he is the right person to capitalise on that spot. He is experienced and has won many games for his state and also in the IPL. He has a great ODI record already for India. I think the batting order is sorted." PTI

India will also have the services of all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja in the lower-order and in the absence of injured Hardik Pandya, he will have to step-up. The preceding Test series was productive for the southpaw and so was the Asia Cup, where he made his ODI comeback after a year's gap.

Looking at the bowling attack,

the spin department will see the potent duo of Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal, while fast bowlers Mohammad Shami and an in-form Umesh Yadav will share the workload in the absence of Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah, who have been rested for the first two ODIs.

Rookie left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed, who impressed in the two matches he played in Asia Cup, will look to grab the opportunity.

Unlike the Tests, the West Indies were expected to be much more competitive in ODIs but they are grappling with multiple woes.

Dynamic opener Evin Lewis has withdrawn from the ODI series citing personal reasons, dealing another blow to the side which is already missing Chris Gayle and Andre Russell.

To make matters worse, coach Stuart Law, who is into his penultimate assignment with the team, will not be allowed in the dressing room in the first two ODIs due to a breach of ICC's code of conduct.

However, the team has veteran Marlon Samuels, captain and all-rounder Jason Holder and pacer Kemar Roach. The squad features three uncapped players — opener Chandrapaul Hemraj, all-rounder Fabian Allen and pacer Oshane Thomas.

The ninth ranked side lost 1-2 to Bangladesh in its last ODI assignment and has not won a series since 2014.

The venue, Barsapara Stadium, will be hosting its second international match after staging the debut game, a T20 between India and Australia last year. The game had made headlines for wrong reasons after the visiting team's bus was attacked on way to the hotel.

"With Rayudu coming in and playing well in the Asia Cup, it's about giving him enough game time till the World Cup so that the particular slot will be sorted for us," he added.

On the back of a strong performance for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL, Rayudu, who scored 602 runs at an average of 43.00 and a strike-rate of 149.75, had earned a national call-up for the ODI leg of the England tour but was dropped after failing the 'Yo-Yo' test.

But he made a successful return to the Asia Cup in UAE last month and played an instrumental role in India's victorious campaign.

"The team felt there — and I also watched him — that he (Rayudu) is designed to play that middle order batsman's role. We feel that our middle-order is more or less balanced now," Kohli said.

"We believe he is the right person to capitalise on that spot. He is experienced and has won many games for his state and also in the IPL. He has a great ODI record already for India. I think the batting order is sorted." PTI

B'desh nervous of Zimbabwe upset

AFP ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza warned his players against complacency ahead of the start of a one day series against outsiders Zimbabwe on Sunday.

Zimbabwe go into Sunday's game in Dhaka as whipping boys of international cricket after losing every match during a recent tour of South Africa.

The visitors have not won a one day international in Bangladesh since 2010.

"If we win everyone will say this is what should have happened. But if we lose they will take it differently," said Mortaza, whose team are seventh in the world rankings against Zimbabwe's 11th.

"It can create pressure at the back of the mind. It's not as though we have never lost to Zimbabwe," Mortaza said the three match series — with two more 50 over games in Chittagong on Wednesday and Friday — would be doubly important as Bangladesh have only four more series to prepare for next year's World Cup in England.

"They have almost all their senior players back and



B'desh skipper Mashrafe Mortaza speaks during press conference AP

Langer urges Australia to think with their feet

AFP ■ ABU DHABI

Head coach Justin Langer on Saturday urged his batsmen to use their feet in Test matches following his side's 373-run defeat against Pakistan, to lose the two-Test series 1-0.

Langer, himself a batsman of great repute, said feet movement is important.

"You talk about the great Australian players they moved their feet like boxers, every one of them," said Langer, who scored 7696 runs in 105 Tests during an illustrious career.

"They had footwork patterns and then from there you have the skill of run-scoring ability. And it's a really important thing."

"Even in T20 cricket or one-day and most certainly first-class and Test cricket when the ball starts moving around, if you don't move your feet then you're going to come unstuck," said the coach.

"We can only go up from where we are and we are really looking forward to this. The guys are upbeat."

disappointing after the first Test fightback.

"I think really, a huge disappointment," said Langer.

"I thought our preparation was brilliant. We came into the first Test really encouraged, really upbeat. We knew we were evenly matched with Pakistan in terms of ages and games played."

Langer admitted key batsman Shaun Marsh was a big flop in the series, managing just 14 runs in four innings.

"Shaun has obviously had a poor series and he knows that. You can see it in his face he knows he's had a poor series," said Langer of the left-handed top order batsman.

"Whether you're making them in T20 cricket or one day cricket or Sheffield Shield cricket or Test cricket. The only currency of value are runs. That's just the truth of it," said the coach.



PTI ■ BENGALURU

Amitava Tare struck a fluent half-century as a clinical Mumbai defeated Delhi by four wickets to win their third Vijay Hazare Trophy title at M. Chinnaswamy stadium here on Saturday.

Mumbai last won the trophy way back in 2006-07 when they defeated Rajasthan.

Opting to bowl after winning the toss, pacers Shivam Dubey (3/29) and Dhawal Kulkarni (3/30) picked up three wickets apiece as Mumbai bowled out Delhi for a paltry 177 in 45.4 overs.

Later, Tare starred with the bat with an 89-ball 71 that included 13 boundaries and a six and in the company of crisis man Siddesh Lad (48) stitched 105 runs for the fifth wicket to seal the win for Mumbai with 15 overs to spare.

But Tare had his heart in his mouth in 19th over of the innings when he survived a caught behind decision. Repeated TV replays showed the ball had bounced before nestling into Delhi wicket-keeper Unmukt Chand's gloves.

Tare eventually fell prey to Manan Sharma, trapped plumb in front of the wicket in the 31st over but by then he had already taken Mumbai to sniffling distance of a win. Lad's valiant 48 came off 68 deliveries with four boundaries and two sixes but he fell two short of his half century, caught by Dhruv Shorey off Lalit Yadav with Mumbai scoreboard reading 176 for six.

Chasing 178, Mumbai lost in-form Prithvi Shaw for eight in third ball of

Prithvi Shaw for eight in third ball of

the innings after he smashed two consecutive boundaries of Navdeep Saini.

Ajinkya Rahane (10), captain Shreyas Iyer (7) and Suryakumar Yadav (4) all departed cheaply to Saini and Kulwant Khejriwal, leaving Mumbai struggling at 40 for four in 7.4 overs.

Earlier, Delhi began their innings on a bad note with Mumbai pacers Kulkarni and Tushar Deshpande exploiting the moist conditions.

Deshpande (2/30), Dubey and Kulkarni picked up eight wickets between them to rattle Delhi's batting line-up.

</div

SAINA SETS DATE WITH TAI

Nehwal beats Tunjung in straight sets to enter Denmark Open final; Srikanth loses to Momota in last 4 clash

PTI ■ ODENSE

Top Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal stormed into the women's singles final of Denmark Open with an easy win over Gregoria Tunjung of Indonesia but Kidambi Srikanth suffered a straight game defeat in the men's singles semifinals to bow out of the tournament here on Saturday.

Olympic Bronze medalist Saina beat Tunjung 21-11, 21-12 in a one-sided semifinal match that lasted just 30 minutes.

Saina will face world number one and nemesis Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei in the summit clash on Sunday.

Tai Tzu has an overwhelming 12-5 career head-to-head record against Saina. Saina last defeated Tai Tzu in 2013 and since then the Chinese Taipei shuttler has been victorious in the last 10 matches between the two.

This year, world number 10 Saina has lost all her four matches against Tai Tzu, the last being the semifinal clash in the Asian Games in Jakarta in August.

In the semifinal match against Tunjung, it was, however, a cakewalk for Saina as she completely dominated from start to finish in both the games.

With Parupalli Kashyap, with whom she is getting married later this year, cheering her at the corner of the court, Saina reeled off easy points one after the other with her Indonesian rival not giving much resistance.

Saina was 10-4 ahead in no time and extended the lead to 17-8 before pocketing the first game in just 13 minutes.

Tunjung gave a semblance of fight in the second game which lasted a bit



longer than the first.

Saina took a 7-3 lead but Tunjung fought back to level scores at 7-7 but there was no looking back for the Indian from there on as she surged ahead

with a series of points before pocketing the second game to win the match.

In the men's singles semifinals earlier in the day, Srikanth was completely off-colour, especially in the



second game, as he went down tamely to world number one Kento Momota of Japan in 42 minutes.

However, there was not much to separate between the two initially as they were locked 10-10. But from there on, Momota surged ahead by reeling off four straight points.

World number six Srikanth

narrowed down the gap to 13-15 but the Japanese continued his momentum to make it 20-13 to have seven game points. The Indian saved three game points but it was just a matter of one shot for Momota to go 1-0 up in the match.

The second game was even worse for

Srikanth as he trailed all along from 4-4. There was a brief period of a fightback from Srikanth when he made the score 9-11 but from there on the Japanese was unstoppable as he won the second game quickly to pocket the match.

Earlier on Friday night, Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth stormed into the semifinals of the Denmark Open with hard-fought victories over Nozomi Okuhara and Sameer Verma respectively.

Saina, ranked 10th, recovered after the losing the first game to beat familiar foe and world number seven Okuhara of Japan 17-21, 21-16, 21-12 in the quarterfinal lasting 58 minutes on Friday night.

The final point of the match was a long rally which ended with the Japanese finding the net. It was a morale boosting for the Indian star, having lost her previous three meetings to Okuhara including the most recent one in Korea last month.

Saina had also lost to the 2017 World Champion during the team event at the Asian Games in August.

Overall, their head-to-head record stands at 7-4 in the Indian's favour.

Fellow Indian Srikanth too had to dig deep against countryman Verma with little separating the two in an intense men's singles quarterfinal.

In the end, world number six Srikanth prevailed over the 23-ranked Indian in an epic battle lasting an hour and 18 minutes with the final scoreline reading 22-20, 19-21, 23-21.

In the women's doubles, Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy's spirited campaign came to an end with a loss to top seeds, Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota, in the quarterfinals.

Kasatkina wins Kremlin Cup

AFP ■ MOSCOW

Sixth seed Daria Kasatkina of Russia won her first Kremlin Cup title on Saturday when she beat Tunisian qualifier Ons Jabeur in a tough three-setter.

The 21-year-old Kasatkina was runner up here last season and this year she had to battle back from a set down to win 2-6, 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 in two hours two minutes to chalk up her second win over the Tunisian 24-year-old in as many meetings.

"I remember 10 years ago when I was a kid I came here and was dreaming that (some day) I would stand on this central court holding the trophy aloft," Kasatkina said at the award ceremony. And now here I am. The dream came true."

The opponents traded breaks at the start then held their serves until the sixth game when Kasatkina suddenly lost her nerve allowing Jabeur to break twice again to take the opening set in 23 minutes.

In the second set tiebreak Kasatkina, ranked 14th in the world, was slightly more accurate to level the match at one set all after one hour 25 minutes on court.

In the deciding set Jabeur, who was playing her eighth match in eight days, looked obviously tired.



As the set wore on she suffered cramp in her leg and was almost unable to run allowing Kasatkina to produce the deciding break in the 10th game to wrap up the victory.

'FAME WON'T AFFECT'

US Open champion Naomi Osaka admitted Saturday she is still grappling with her newfound stardom but believes the overwhelming attention won't affect her game at the season-ending WTA Finals in Singapore. Osaka said her life had changed since the US Open but vowed to remain focused on tennis.

"With the recognition part, I do feel a bit different," she told reporters in Singapore.

"For me, I can't change who I am. I just focus on my matches, so I just play tennis and I leave the rest up to everyone that I trust." Since winning in New York, the world number four has fallen short in Tokyo and Beijing.

But Osaka has a chance to finish a memorable year on a high in Singapore, which starts on Sunday.

The rising star is the youngest player in the draw and she starts the round-robin event on Monday against American Sloane Stephens.

Simultaneous exhibition marks opening of Chess Academy



Grand Master Sriram Jha lighting the lamp on the inauguration of Shivani Chess Academy on Saturday

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Grand Master Sriram Jha played simultaneously with 15 budding chess players to inaugurate the Shivani Chess Academy at Shivani Public School on Saturday. One of the best exponents of the game, Jha was walking through on each board responding to the brilliant moves made by youngsters. It took the GM three hours to finish all boards as winner. The last player to go

down was Aman Agarwal while Medhansh Saxena gave him a tough fight, but could not convert in his favour. A Vamsi Krishna, Rohan Pandey, Anshuman Nanda and Tanishq also played long battles. Earlier, Shivani Public School CEO Sudhir Dubey welcomed Sriram Jha and GB Joshi, who will be giving coaching in the academy for next three days. LDSCA secretary AK Raizada, arbiter Yashraj, coaches Ravi Shankar and Amit Srivastava

were also present. On the occasion, Jha said that Uttar Pradesh is a populous state and gave the country five Prime Ministers but has failed miserably to produce a chess Grand Master. He added that chess is the second most popular sport in the world and the effort Shivani Chess Academy is putting in to provide facilities and exposure will help players tremendously and ultimately make them become IMs and GMs.

Gogane made a stupendous start by winning two bouts but was outwitted by Rashidov in the 61kg quarterfinals.

Gogane had beaten Andrei Bekrenu 4-3 and Lowe Bingham (10-0) in the qualification rounds.

He still has a chance to reach the Bronze medal round as he has got a reprieve round against Tuvshintulga Tumenbileg from Mongolia.

Sumit to fight for Bronze at World C'ship

PTI ■ BUDAPEST

India's Sumit Malik put himself in line to win the biggest medal of his career as he will fight for a Bronze at the Wrestling World Championships even as Sonba Tanaji Gogane was outclassed by reigning European champion Rashidov Gadzhimurad in the men's free style quarterfinals, here on Saturday.

Malik, the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Gold medallist, overcame Inkar Yermukambet of Kazakhstan 6-1 in the quarterfinals after beating Japan's Taiki Yamamoto 4-1 in the pre-quarterfinals of the 125kg category.

However, he later lost his semifinal 0-5 to China's Zhiwei Ding. In the Bronze medal match he will clash on Sunday.

It was a favourable draw for the Asian Championship Silver medallist and Malik made most of it as he was knocked out at preliminary stage last year. Malik had returned empty-handed from the Jakarta Asian Games this year.

Gogane made a stupendous start by winning two bouts but was outwitted by Rashidov in the 61kg quarterfinals.

Gogane had beaten Andrei Bekrenu 4-3 and Lowe Bingham (10-0) in the qualification rounds.

He still has a chance to reach the Bronze medal round as he has got a reprieve round against Tuvshintulga Tumenbileg from Mongolia.

Rhodes to participate in the Great Delhi Run

NEW DELHI: Former South African cricketer Jonty Rhodes will lace up his running shoes to join thousands of participants in the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon here on Sunday.

Rhodes, who retired in 2003 after playing 52 Tests and 245 ODIs, will run in the Great Delhi Run category.

The IAAF Gold Label Race, known to be one of the fastest courses in the world, has become a preferred event for

world class athletes and India's best.

The \$ 2,800 prize purse event will witness over 34,000 runners in five different categories - Half Marathon, Open 10K Run, Great Delhi Run, Senior Citizens' Run, and the Champions with Disability.

On his role at the event, Rhodes said he was amazed to see the change in mindset of people towards running and fitness in general.



प्रसव के 40 दिन के अन्दर फिर से गर्भ छहर सकता है!

- परिवार को सीमित किये जाने हेतु पुरुष नसबन्दी एक कारण, सरल उपाय है।
- प्रत्येक माह की 21 तारीख को जिला पुरुष चिकित्सालय में पुरुष नसबन्दी विवास का आयोजन किया जाता है।
- 57 एम.पी.टी. जनपदों में लाभार्थी को ₹ 3000/- तथा 18 गैर एम.पी.टी. जनपदों में लाभार्थी को ₹ 2000/- की क्षतिपूर्ति धनराशि प्रदान की जाती है।

पुनः गर्भधारण से बचाव के लिए प्रसव पश्चात् तुरन्त गर्भ निरोधक अपनायें-

प्रसव पश्चात् आई.यू.सी.डी

प्रसव के तुरंत बाद आई.यू.सी.डी. अपनाकर महिला 5 या 10 साल के लिए परिवार नियोजन अपना सकती है।



प्रसव पश्चात् नसबन्दी

परिवार पूरा होने की स्थिति में महिला प्रसव के तुरंत पश्चात् या सात दिनों के भीतर नसबन्दी भी करा सकती है।

गर्भ निरोध के अन्य आसान और सुरक्षित उपाय

राजकीय चिकित्सालयों में निःशुल्क उपलब्ध

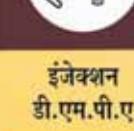
गर्भनिरोधक गोलियाँ

इंजेक्शन एम.पी.ए.

आपातकालीन गर्भनिरोधक गोली

कण्डोम

महिला नसबन्दी



चिकित्सा, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

टोल फ्री नं. 1800-180-5145

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, उत्तर प्रदेश

टोल फ्री नं. 1800-180-1900

Follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NationalHealthMission.UP) [Twitter](https://twitter.com/nhm_up)

चिकित्सा, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

टोल फ्री नं. 1800-180-5145

■ What is your latest song Cheater Mohan about?

It is a fun song. My grandmother tells me that she doesn't understand any of my songs since they are in Punjabi. I kept that in mind for this song. I had a nice melody and a nice beat with a funny message. I sat down with Shakir Ahmedji a dear friend of mine and a great lyricist. I explained the theme to him — what is happening between a girl and a boy today. He put the words together and came up with the name — *Cheater Mohan*. Aditya Dev arranged the music on the composition.

■ Most of your songs are peppy. Is it a coincidence?

I have sung some award winning songs like *Baby Doll* from *Ragini MMS 2* for which I got the Filmfare Award in 2015 for Best Female Playback Singer. People loved that song.

Hence, I am constantly asked to sing, dance/item numbers.

■ You are a pure classical singer. Was it tough to sing for Bollywood?

I used to do a lot as *riyaz* but not so much now. I moved to London when I was young and my voice became light. When you are singing pure classical, your voice is different but I got back to music 10 years later. Over the years, my voice has calmed down.

Talktime KANIKA KAPOOR

After giving hits like Baby Doll and Chittiyani Kalaiyan, Lucknow-born Kapoor is out with Cheater Mohan which has crossed 8 million views. She speaks with Shalini Saksena about her return to indie space among other things



'RIYAZ HAS BEEN A CASUALTY OF TIME'

■ Is there a dream composition?

Yes, there is and one day people will hear it from my heart.

■ When you playback is it important for you to know the actor whom you are singing for?

Definitely! Sometimes you hear a song and find that the voice of the actor and the playback don't suit each other. You have to keep the actor in mind to ensure that there is a connect. But things have become commercial and people really don't bother about such things most of the times.

■ Have you turned down a song because you felt that your voice doesn't suit the actor?

There have been such instances and yes the project has been turned down. It is important that my voice is similar to that of the actor.

■ How would you describe yourself?

I am a straight forward, honest and a person who sings from the heart. People can expect to hear dance, sufi and love songs from me in the future.

■ What made you get into the indie space?

I started my journey from an indie song — *Jugni Jeet*. Then went on to do Bollywood but decided to go back to my roots with this song.

■ Is there a mantra that you follow?

Like I said — honest, straightforward and from the heart.

■ What next?

I have three songs coming out in the near future. Two independent and one song from the movie *Bazaar*.

■ Today, the trend is that one song is sung by two-three singers. What's your take?

It depends. I have never sung a song where it has been sung by another. Vice-versa, none of my songs have been sung by others. Probably the same song is given to different singers when the director finds that he is not getting what he is looking for.

■ Is this the best time for indie music?

It is bigger and better than before. There is more that can be done. The public has to change their mindset and start buying music.

■ Does that mean a singer can make money from independent music?

Why not? There is so much that the space has to offer. In the West there is no distinction between Hollywood and independent music. We can have that here in India as well.

A TASTE OF TRADITION

When travelling in the Middle-East, get to know the rich and varied tastes of cuisine and traditional ways of serving at local pop-up retreats, says SANGEETA YADAV

The best ways to explore a new city is through its local food and what better way to do this other than dining at the home of a resident who serves you authentic delicacies.

If you wonder what an authentic Middle-eastern food tastes like and the traditional way of serving it, head to Sharjah, the third largest and most populous city in the United Arab Emirates. Popularly known as the cultural Capital of the Arab world by UNESCO, the city's culture is firmly rooted in the Islamic traditions and values of Arabia that charm the visitors with its honesty, courtesy and hospitality.

One such person is Fatima Moghani who opens her home to tourists, welcomes them with a traditional *majlis* (an entrance way to welcome guests), dresses you up in a traditional attire and offers you a feast that one is not likely to forget soon.

At the *majlis* of the heritage house surrounded by mango trees, the ladies wearing *abaya* (black cloak) and *shayla* (a long scarf to wrap around the head) welcome you by showering flower petals, offer rose water to wash the hands and show the *oud* (Arabic incense made from agarwood) smoke in *bakhoor* (incense burner) that makes gives the ambience a nice smell and is welcoming. As you remove the footwear and enter the house, the formal greeting are extended as they say *Salaam aleikum* (peace be upon you) and *Aleikum assalaam* (and on you peace) to each other.

The feast starts by serving Arabic coffee with dates. Their coffee is made from Arabic beans (beans) with additional ingredients like cardamom, saffron and sometimes even rose water.

Holding the *dallah* (coffee pot) from the left hand and served from the right in the tiny ceramic cups, the person would start from the eldest male member of the family and serve others to his right. "We serve the guests from the right hand because it is considered to be good. We greet people using the right hand, eat food from that and give things from the right. This is one of the ways to show respect. We keep one meter distance while pouring and serving the coffee in order to not spill on the guest. Also, if the cup



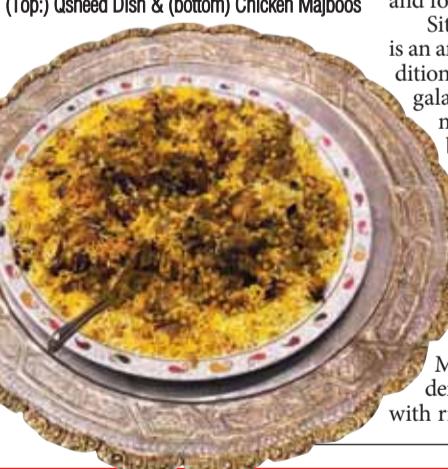
DRESS TO IMPRESS

A trip to the foreign land is incomplete if you don't try out their traditional dress and jewellery. The host — Fatima Al Moghani — dresses you in to their traditional attire. Men are made to wear traditional white robe called *khandura* with a pair of long or short loose fitting trousers and a white head scarf on the head tied on the head with a black piece of cord (*aghra*). They also wear long rope-like *tarboosh* hanging from the neckline.

For the women the bright coloured *jalabiya* (gown) has intricate *tall* embroidery. To cover their eyes and cheeks, women wear traditional *batola* (*burqa*), an outer garment which they wear when they go out is the presence of male. To add charm to the entire look, women wear gold earrings, bracelets, head dress and long necklaces that goes perfectly well with the outfit.



(Top) Qsheed Dish & (bottom) Chicken Majboos



(L-R) Arabic Coffee served in dallah (coffee pot) along with dates and Besbes Coconut Cake

has the slightest of crack or chip on it, it is strictly not used in serving," Fatima says.

They offer you local dates which are high in nutritional value, one can notice henna on their hands that is another tradition which women love and follow by heart.

Sitting on the floor while eating is an ancient culture and the same tradition is carried today as well. For the gala lunch or dinner, the set-up is made on the floor with big bright colourful cushions to sit on.

The first thing that strikes the mind as we think of Emirati food is *qsheed* — meat of a baby shark pounded, boiled, and ground before being minced and mixed with spices. It is a delicacy in the Middle-East which is always in demand; the *qsheed* is best enjoyed with rice.

Another popular dish is *chicken majboos* which is made with steamed *basmati* rice, chicken meat and chickpeas marinated in spices and saffron cooked on low heat.

For vegetarians, the most popular and healthy dish that is in demand across Sharjah is *hummus* with pita bread or *naan*. Hummus is a levantine dip made chickpeas or other beans, blended with *tahini*, olive oil, lemon juice, salt and garlic. Their home-cooked mango pickle is not to be missed. One thing that is most commonly found is dates.

Their lavish spread of lip-smacking desserts includes *phirni*. Then there is Besbes coconut cake decorated with rose petals; ideal for those who like less sweet. A second serving of coffee is served with dates after the meal as well.

Time to say goodbye. The host again burns the *oud* and rose water to wash hands.

WEEKLY NATTER

NEVER WANTED TO STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE AS ACTOR:

Actor Gajraj Rao, who plays a pivotal role in *Badhaai Ho*, says though acting is his first love, he never wanted to put a burden of survival on his passion as a performer.



"Honestly speaking, I never wanted to struggle for my survival as an actor. I struggled to bag a good role in a good film. I always wanted to be a part of a story that is worth telling, and work along with good talent that offers me a learning experience," Gajraj said.

After finishing his formal education in acting from the National School Of Drama, Gajraj worked in the fields of copywriting and dialogue writing, as also in an export-import company, before becoming an advertising professional. "I do not want to tell my family that they have to live in poverty because I am struggling as a creative person. At the same time, I do not want to act in a film where my role has nothing new to offer. So in the last 25 years, I found my way to bag a substantial role in films in a much sustainable manner," he added.

Starting his career in 1994 with the film *Bandit Queen*.

I STILL WORK WITH MY HEART: JACKIE SHROFF

He has a career spanning over four decades in Bollywood and has done over 200 films. Jackie Shroff, who has over five movies waiting to release now, says he still works with his heart.

He made his acting debut in 1982 with Dev Anand's *Swami Dada* and went on to give hits like *Hero*, *Yudh*, *Karma*, *Ram Lakhan*, *Tridev*, *Parinda*, *Saudagar*, *Khalnayak*, *1942: A Love Story* and *Rangrezz*. He was recently seen in JP Dutta's *Paltan*.

He said: "Nothing has changed. I still work with my heart. Some people take me in the films thinking it will change their life or film. Sometimes I look at the banner, sometimes at the script and sometimes at the director. But emotions is something I am associated with." Jackie who has also done movies in different languages like Marathi, Kannada, Punjabi, Bengali, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Bhojpuri and Gujarati says that his work is my break. "It takes me to different parts of the world and I get to meet different people," the 61-year-old actor says and aspires to remain healthy, and reciprocate the "love and affection to all the people who have made me who I am."


'BEWARE OF UNSUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATION'

Celebrity photographer and film producer Atul Kasbekar has denied an anonymous allegation that he and *Cheat India* director Sounik Sen are "sleazebags who harass women with their powerplay". In a statement on Twitter, Ellipsis Entertainment which Kasbekar co-owns, reacted on the allegation based on an anonymous tweet from a newly-created ID on the micro-blogging platform.

The statement, signed by Kasbekar, Tanuj Garg, Shanti Sivaram, Swati Iyer and Piya Sawhney, reads: "We have no received any complaint of inappropriate behaviour by director Sounik Sen from any female member in our unit of 'Cheat India' during the shooting."

They pointed out that the person has produced films like *Neerja* and *Tumhari Sulu*, renowned for their female protagonists which have been beacons for women empowerment. "While we support the #MeToo movement in India, we urge for people to be wary of unsubstantiated allegations, particularly anonymous ones, which could be mischievously made with ulterior motives. We also hope that these do not dilute the credibility of the ongoing movement," Kasbekar said.



— IANS

SAI TAMHAKAR, last seen in the movie *Love Sonia*, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about the challenges she faced working with an international team & supporting social causes

■ Were there any challenges playing Anjali in *Love Sonia*?

There was constant conversation between Anjali and Sai. I had to struggle each day. It is not every day that you get to play a character which is so mysterious; you don't know if she is a nice person. But one thing is clear, she is one person you don't want to be friends with. There was a constant battle — me, being the nice girl in real life, and Anjali the bad one on reel. But it was a lot of fun to play this role and am glad that it was offered to me.

■ You have played bold roles in the past. Has that been a conscious decision?

I have this crazy silver lining to my personality. I don't like to play run-of-the-mills roles, I don't like what others consider normal. I want to play characters that touch me within or change something inside me. I am a kind of an extremist. This reflects in my choice of projects. I love playing such characters.

■ Does that mean you want to send a message to women out there?

When I took up *Love Sonia*, sex trafficking is a global issue. It is not every day that a director chooses such a dark and intense subject. The storyline was just as important as the character I played. It is ridiculous how a human being can stoop so low and take advantage of another.

■ You started off with Bollywood and shifted to Marathi films. Why?

One is always comfortable speaking in the language that is spoken at home. I was and am happy doing Marathi films. Though, in between *Hunterrr* happened. And then *Love Sonia*.

■ What are the changes that have you seen in Marathi industry given that Bollywood too has taken a leaf out of it?

There are many films that are content-driven. The audience has become smart and are open to experimentation and therefore the makers too.

■ You like to make a style statement.

I wear jeans and T-shirt every day. Being vain is not me. I am not a girly girl. But I understand that fashion is part of the game and would want to be on point. I love to be well-dressed and like the compliments that people give.

■ How was it to work with an international team?

It was truly amazing. They are so professional, it is impossible to describe the experience. All the stars have done fantastic work and were so approachable. Everybody wanted to take this message of the film to as many people as possible.

■ You are part of many social causes like clean drinking water and working with hearing impaired children.

We don't respect things that are important to us like the environment. When I started traveling outside of India, I saw how they respect Nature. We don't since we have larger problems to deal with. Hence, I would love to spread awareness on how to preserve our resources. I love to interact with self-made people and since their contribution to the society is hardly ever recognised.

■ What next?

Nothing concrete as of now but I am looking at a few projects. Hope that *Love Sonia* will open more doors for me.



'A crazy silver lining gets me special roles'



the pioneer

agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

**3** The Indian Guru in Kenya

The sheer humility of the narration in Narendra Raval's autobiography is impressive, coming as it does from a self-made billionaire in Africa

**6**

The gaslight effect

There is growing awareness around the signs of coercive control — the psychological abuse of a partner through threats and restrictions

**7**

Learn to pray properly

Our method of praying has to change from ordering God to seeking His guidance, and we will never be disappointed

I'm empathetic to a fault. I really do — embarrassingly enough — tear up when someone squishes a bug in front of me
— Kristen Bell



SRI LANKA

The road to recovery



The island nation has made significant strides after the LTTE's reign of terror ended in 2009. And for that, the country is obliged to former Lieutenant Colonel in Sri Lankan Army, Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, also the younger brother of former President Mahinda. He tells KUMAR CHELLAPPAN how the US and other Western nations played a key role in the 2015 regime change, and how Sri Lanka will never allow its soil to be used by foreign elements to work against India

Once known as the Pearl of Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka has suffered a series of setbacks due to power play and ethnic crisis, which prompted Pope Francis to describe it as the 'tear drop in the Indian Ocean'. Life in Sri Lanka has undergone a major change from the crisis-ridden period of 1975 to 2009, and the 'tear drop' is slowly but steadily on its way to regain the sobriquet of 'the pearl'. The number of people who lost their lives and property during the period of strife runs into lakhs.

Several eminent people, both Sinhala and Tamil, were the victims of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the dreaded terrorist organisation led by Velupillai Prabhakaran.

The remnants of the LTTE days are still visible in the island nation, as people are yet to recover fully from the reign of kidnappings, murders, and mayhem. When there were no healthy men to fight as suicide bombers and terrorists, the LTTE forcefully took away children above the age of six and groomed them as young warriors. Even girls were not spared in this coercive recruitment drive. Adele, wife of the then LTTE strategist Anton Balasingham, played a key role in this ghastly drive. After the end of the conflict in May 2009, human rights organisations have been on the warpath with the Sri Lankan Government with demands to declare the army commanders and political chiefs, who led the country during the civil war, as criminals and prosecute them. Although, they never mention Adele or other LTTE leaders, who wreaked havoc all over South Asia.

Siri recounted the day when he and his journalist wife, Hiranthi, called on Gota to extend Christmas greetings. "Gota spent considerable time with us that day and spoke to us about his challenges and strategies to lift the morale of the forces. By the time we came out of the meeting, we were sure that Mahinda had appointed the right person for the job, and the mission would be accomplished," said Siri, who is leading a retired life in Colombo. The 78-year-old also recollects how Gotabhaya entrusted officers with the responsibility of speaking to each soldier and find out the problems they faced in the fight against the Tigers. "When Gota took charge, he had to deal with some Commanders who he never saw eye to eye with. But Gota was made of dif-

(the Argentine Marxist revolutionary), Ho Chi Minh (the Vietnamese revolutionary), and Yasser Arafat (the Palestine Liberation Organization chief). But Prabhakaran was the embodiment of all that represented evil. The LTTE fought on land, water, and air; its activists died to kill. Any voice different from that of Prabhakaran was silenced.

The media blitzkrieg unleashed by the LTTE across the world portrayed the Sinhalese as a cruel, unethical, dictatorial, and racist regime. The LTTE media had stakes in the media (especially in Tamil Nadu), which portrayed the Tigers as heroes. Pictures of Sinhalese and Tamil children butchered by the LTTE, the Muslims slaughtered by them in Batticaloa, and thousands of Buddhist monks, who were massacred by suicide assassins were conveniently buried by the pro-LTTE media, as well as human rights organisations across the globe.

Gotabhaya entered the Defence Ministry headquarters at a time when the morale of the forces was at its lowest. The LTTE had outnumbered and outmaneuvered the Sri Lanka Army and taken possession of the Elephant Pass, the wild and narrow link connecting the mainland with Jaffna in the north. "The moment he was appointed as the Defence Secretary with the mandate to finish off the LTTE challenge, we knew that Prabhakaran's fate was sealed. The question I asked myself was how long it would take for Gota to give us the results," said Siri Fernando, former corporate honcho and a long-time friend of the Rajapaksa.

Siri recounted the day when he and his journalist wife, Hiranthi, called on Gota to extend Christmas greetings. "Gota spent considerable time with us that day and spoke to us about his challenges and strategies to lift the morale of the forces. By the time we came out of the meeting, we were sure that Mahinda had appointed the right person for the job, and the mission would be accomplished," said Siri, who is leading a retired life in Colombo. The 78-year-old also recollects how Gotabhaya entrusted officers with the responsibility of speaking to each soldier and find out the problems they faced in the fight against the Tigers. "When Gota took charge, he had to deal with some Commanders who he never saw eye to eye with. But Gota was made of dif-

ferent mettle and the LTTE thoroughly underestimated his abilities," added Siri.
Now Gotabhaya, the soldier, has mellowed down. He doesn't speak much because his actions, looks, expressions, and body language are sufficient to make his colleagues understand what is on his mind. Trained in some of the best military establishments in the world, including the Defence Services Staff College at Wellington, Nilgiri, and the Jungle Warfare School in Assam, Gotabhaya is still passionate about his alma mater.

The Sri Lankan forces crushed the LTTE by May 2009, of course, with active and dynamic help from India. The economy of the island nation had been hit severely because of three decades of terrorism. Mahinda, who led the country in its fight against the LTTE, gave a new direction to the economy and development once the civil war came to an end. Massive infrastructure development to make Sri Lanka an El Dorado began in right earnest. The economy gathered pace as the tourism industry flourished in an unprecedented manner. An annual conclave called the Defence Seminar was organised by the Sri Lankan Army to share with friendly nations its experiences in fighting terrorism and the vast knowledge gained by it in counter-insurgency operations. Colombo turned out to be a hub of disseminating skill and knowledge in national development, prosperity, and security in a regional and global context.

But in spite of the excellent leadership he provided to the country in its fight against secessionism, terrorism, and isolation by some of the international bodies, Mahinda lost the 2015 Presidential Elections. He decided to hold early elections to reap the benefits of his good reputation and the image he had gained fighting terrorists and making the country a haven of peace. But he lost, a la Winston Churchill, who was rejected by the people of the United

Kingdom in the 1945 General Election. It was the leadership of Churchill which led the Allies to a great victory in World War II, defeating the then "evils" that included Hitler and Mussolini. It is another thing that Churchill was called out of retirement in 1951 by the same British people and he served them as the Prime Minister till 1955.

"Don't ask me anything about national politics. I am not in politics and won't be able to tell you anything

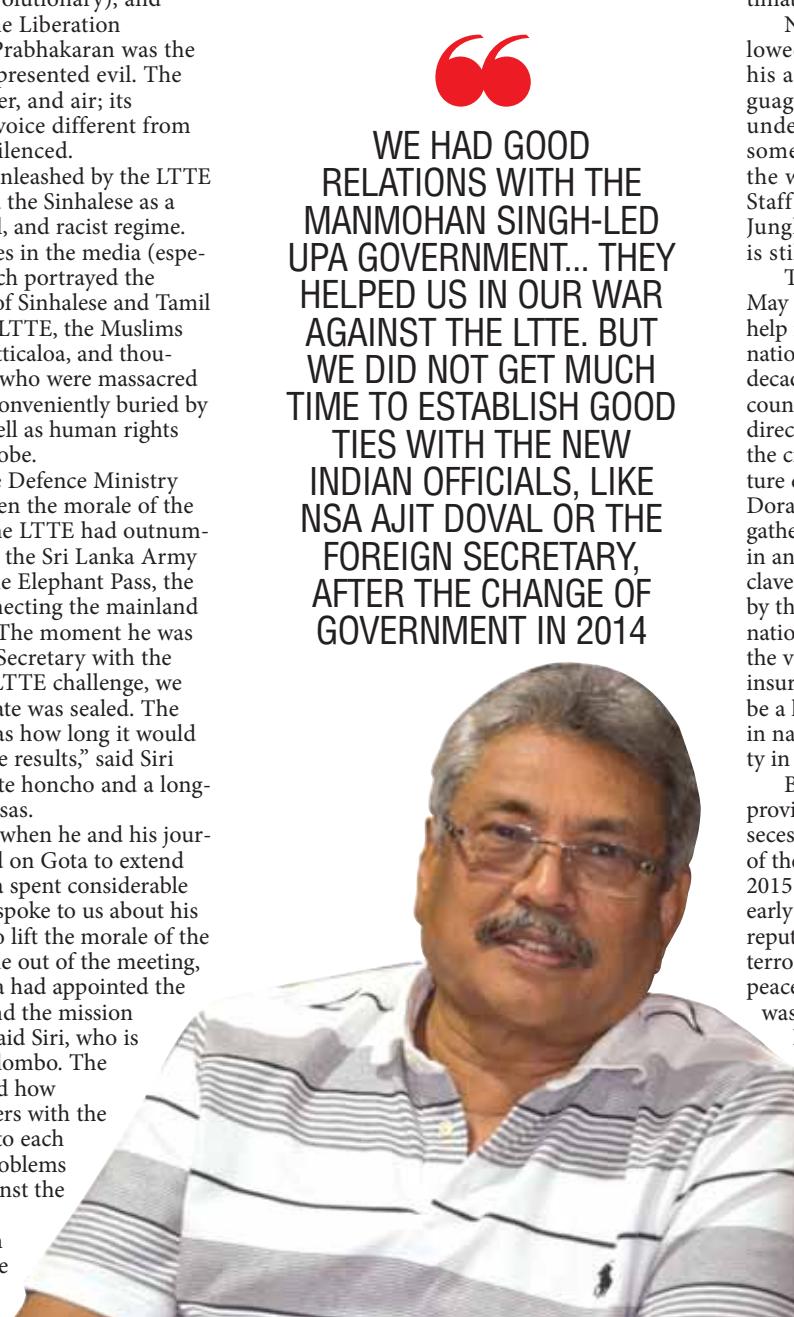
about the recent scenario," were the words with which Gotabhaya welcomed this writer to his house. "Tell me about my friend Dr Subramanian Swamy. He is the best friend Sri Lanka has in India. How is he?" asked Gota as we settled into his beautifully arranged office-cum-library.

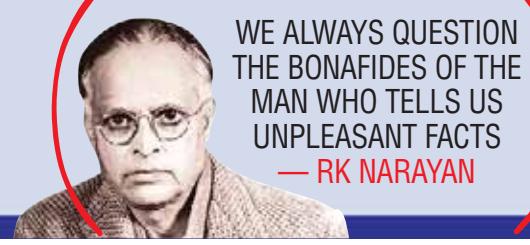
More than the present-day politics in Sri Lanka, what was haunting the mind was the reason behind Mahinda's defeat in the 2015 polls. "It is something that has to be explained in detail. The result of that election is also an experience we gained in our strides to progress and prosperity," said Gotabhaya before revealing the hitherto untold story. The reasons for Mahinda's defeat are as important as the lessons gained by the outside world from the victories registered by the Sri Lankan Army in its war against the LTTE and holds good for all politicians, irrespective of the region, nation, continent, and the part of the world they belong to.

According to Gotabhaya, Mahinda declared the elections well in advance because he was confident of winning. "It was a winnable election because of number of factors. Once the LTTE was wiped out, the country lost no time in ushering in an era of development. Economy was progressing and was in a good condition. The entire country was witnessing developmental activities on a fast rate. We were doing quite well in agriculture; farmers were getting good prices for their crops and were economically well off. All over the country, there was a feel good factor and the general impression was that it was a winnable time and thus the election," explained Gotabhaya.

He pointed out that though there were various forces working against the Mahinda Government, they were a minuscule fraction of the total population. "They unleashed a campaign accusing Mahinda and his family of corruption. They alleged that the Government was authoritarian and Mahinda's family was calling the shots, which were false and blatant lies," he said.

Mahinda's other brothers — Chamal, Basil, and Namal — are active in politics and were holding important positions in the Government during his tenure as the President. Basil was in the Government not because he was the brother of the President, but because he was the main strategist and brain of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party.





The sheer humility of the narration in this autobiography of Narendra Raval is impressive, coming as it does from a self-made billionaire and one of the leading private sector lights of Africa, writes GAUTAM MUKHERJEE

The Indian Guru in Kenya

Forewords to this autobiography of Narendra Raval (nicknamed Guru), one of Kenya's greatest industrialists, include congratulatory letters from Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has long known Raval, and Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta, the Amherst educated son of the legendary Jomo Kenyatta. Another is from Lord Raj Loomba of the UK, whose charitable foundation Raval supports. The Loomba Foundation helps widows in India, and at the behest of Raval, in Kenya as well.

This book speaks endearingly and conversationally, in Raval's voice. It is cast in inspirational terms, with a plethora of slogans, pieties and bon mots, with a clear belief in destiny. It descends from time to time into a family and organisational scrap book — without however taking anything away from the impressive tale at its core.

Raval was born in a joint family in the tiny village of Mathak in the Halvad Taluka of Surendranagar district of Gujarat, the gateway to Saurashtra. His father and family were thrown out of the prosperous family home by his grandfather before Raval turned 10. Raval's early years were spent dodging school and book knowledge, not only while in his father's care, but elsewhere in Gujarat, with his maternal grandparents, and maternal uncles. A key turning point was his induction as a priest into the Swaminarayan sect. It became



something of a lifelong association and network for him. It began in his late teens, as a priest, first in Bhuj, and later in Nairobi, when he was sent to a Kenyan temple. It laid down the basis of his freelance priestly work carried out later at Nakuru, a Kenyan hill resort. It also has a good deal to do with his own spiritual outlook and honesty, his caring attitude towards employees and colleagues, animals and birds. All this combined with Narendra Raval's extraordinary abilities in palmistry and astrology that made him much sought after in the Gujarati business circles in Kenya and the UK.

It was at Nakuru where the young Brahmin priest began to be called Guru for the first time. This, both for his priestly and astrological skills, the latter learned initially during his time at the Bhuj

Swaminarayan Temple.

It was also at Nakuru where he met President Daniel Arap Moi for the first time in rather mundane circumstances when he had tagged along with technicians who had gone to fix the President's TV.

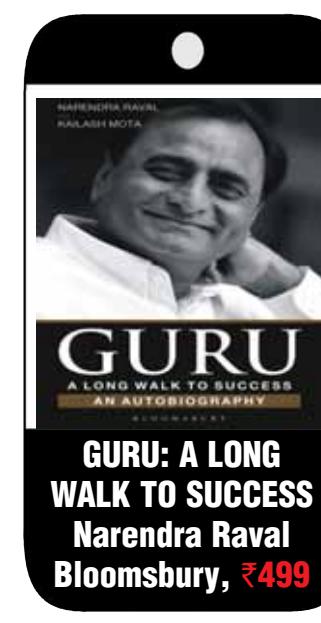
He was invited, soon after, to live in as resident priest and spiritual adviser by the owners of Kenya's most successful steel rolling mills — the Kikuyu Steel Rolling Mills in Nairobi. Raval was thus introduced, in his early twenties, to an opulent business environment by the Dayabhaj H Patel family.

He started going to the office with the head of the family, and learnt about the steel rolling business in all its aspects. By the time, not very long after, this family sold up and went their separate ways, to the US, UK, and elsewhere, Raval had his basic grounding in the steel

business. He also had a renewable work permit for Kenya.

Next, Raval teamed up with some of his Nakuru friends who ran a hardware business — Delta Hardware, and persuaded them to open a Nairobi branch for wholesaling. Introducing more and more steel items to the mix out of his knowledge at Kikuyu, Raval gradually took the business national, started importing quota regulated items, and grew Delta Hardware to the biggest business in its field in Kenya. But Raval was not a shareholder, nor did he work for a salary. The very growth he induced led to the split and closure of Delta by its four partners. By now Raval had also got married to Neeta, a qualified chemist. Though so much had happened, he was only 23 and not yet a Kenyan citizen.

In Raval's life, many turns for



the better, it is seen, was always preceded by being sent back to square one. Married and almost penniless, Raval resolved to set up for himself, opening the "Steel Centre" in the name of Neeta who was a Kenyan citizen already. They rented a warehouse in a new business district of Gikomba in Nairobi, even though it was in a rough neighbourhood.

But in four years, between 1986 and 1990, the business had grown to Kenyan Shillings 1 million. Raval found finance from wealthy friends and friendly bankers, all due to his priestly work of yore and his ongoing astrology that he still dispensed to help many people free-of-charge.

By 1993, Steel Centre in turn was now the largest hardware trading business in Kenya encompassing wholesaling and retail as

well. The two existing steel rolling mills in Kenya could not keep up with demand, and so, Raval resolved to set up a steel rolling mill of his own. The Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) was instrumental in both financing Raval's move into manufacturing (Devki Steel Mills Ltd.) and seeing it through to stability by 1996. And meticulous accounting, he says is: "The heart and soul of your business. A small error, if not nipped in the bud, can bring down a well established business". Gradually, Narendra Raval expanded, acquired, diversified, and backward integrated, growing his businesses into the "one stop manufacturer for all infrastructure products" he dreamed of. This, in time, meant Steel, Building Materials, Cement, and spreading out into the countries neighbouring Kenya as well.

NEW ARRIVALS

MODI AND MARKETS

Dhiraj Nayyar
Westland, ₹599



India is the fastest growing major economy in the world. This momentum needs to be sustained for the next 30 years. Fortunately, a solid foundation is now in place. No country has prospered without the leadership of private enterprise; few have prospered without a political leadership that delivers key public goods. Most importantly, many countries have faltered at the altar of crony capitalism, or stagnated under the spectre of a corrupt and listless political leadership.

THE NEXT PERSON YOU MEET IN HEAVEN

Mitch Albom
Sphere, ₹499

Fifteen years ago, in Mitch Albom's beloved novel, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, the world fell in love with Eddie, a grizzled war veteran-turned-amusement park mechanic who died saving the life of a young girl named Annie. Eddie's journey to heaven taught him that every life matters. Now, in this magical sequel, Mitch Albom reveals Annie's story. The accident that killed Eddie left an indelible mark on Annie. Injured, scarred, and unable to remember why, Annie's life is forever changed as she is whisked her away from the world she knew.

THE GUILTY FEMINIST

Deborah Frances-White
Virago, ₹299

This really is the "everything you have always wanted to know about feminism but were afraid to ask" manual. In 2015 I described myself as 'guilty feminist' for the first time. My goals were noble but my concerns were trivial. I wanted desperately for women to be taken seriously in leadership roles all over the world, but I also wanted to look good sitting down naked. A funny, joyful, frank and inspiring book about embracing both feminism and our imperfections, from the creator of the hit comedy podcast, Deborah Frances-White.



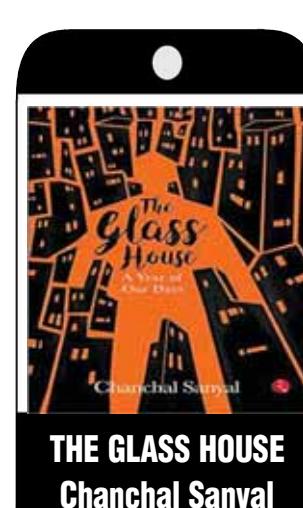
The dream of owning a house for those who do not is a dearly cherished one. But since there is no gain without pain, the dream, usually, is hardly accomplishable without hardships. The gain of a house is fraught with multiple challenges, stressful factors, and even nightmarish uncertainties. Chanchal Sanyal, in his debut novel *The Glass House*, takes a keen look at the house-owning dream — its difficulties, its fragility that is indicated by the title itself, and even its necessity.

The protagonist couple — college lecturer M.B. and his wife, fashion designer Roshni — are young urban Indians, living in Delhi and seeking to gain a house in Gurgaon, part of the National Capital Region of India. As the subtitle to the novel — *A Year of Our Days* — aptly indicates, the story stretches to about a year in the lives of the protagonists and relays accounts of everyday struggles of contemporary urban living. The narrative charts the frustrations associated with the protagonists' house-building, including politics, legal stays, unkept promises of the builder, charges added at a later stage, and risk of having invested years of savings and of having taken on the additional burden of EMIs. M.B.'s successful NRI elder brother Tubluda justly comments, "This middle-class housing game in India is not liberation, it is enslavement." (p.103)

Besides thwarted ambitions, relationship matters, extramarital affairs, misplaced suspicions and misunderstandings, prejudiced notions that steer relationships the wrong way, and workplace politics all form part of the narrative, making it a complex and therefore, fitting — in view of what life for many is today — portrayal. Sanyal employs his acute observation and his wide-ranging experience of dealing with people in different capacities, having gained exposure to varied domains professionally, to shape his characters. Although he plays with stereotypes often, there is no ringing of a jarring note. His understanding of the intricacies of

The fragility of dreams

For young professionals chasing goals of house ownership, this novel provides consideration-worthy perspective, writes RONICA WAHI



relationships and the cracks that lie beneath smooth surfaces of relationships is sharp, and so is his understanding of perspectives and motivations of people in distinct stations of life.

Among the most interesting

aspects of the novel is Sanyal's discussion about Delhi-NCR. His portrait of Delhi is accurate, not only because it is factual correctness, but also because it is unbiased; this portrait lays bare the city's faults and evils alongside its merits. The portrait is also powerful since it shows the love of its creator despite such absence of bias. The truth of the claim in Sanyal's short biography that greets the reader on the first page of the book — "The city and its peoples are of endless

fascination to him" — is revealed as the reader progresses through the book.

M.B., also the novel's narrator, is a lecturer in History and he, fittingly in view of his inclinations, reveals fascinating aspects of the history of the city's geography and popular places. Imagination of what life would have been at a particular place for some individual in times past adds a different dimension to and as if brings alive mere historical facts. He comments on the resilience of Delhi, despite the destructive "development", failed key infrastructural projects, and pollution in and around it, though as he feels despondent in a later portion of the narrative, he imagines Delhi finally surrendering. He particu-

larly dwells, with wit and sarcasm, on the haphazardness of the development in Gurgaon where he and his wife invest all their money for a flat.

The novel takes the readers through the happenings of one year — the point of beginning being the first month of the year and the initiation of the buying process. Events and emotions are recorded in intervals of twenty-one days that make up the parts of the whole up to "Day 379"; just "Day 337" gets three parts — the space accorded sufficiently indicates that multiple important bits are discussed in these. With such division of intervals, the story progresses at a good pace, with recollections making up a major chunk, recollections of the pre-

ceding three weeks to the day discussed as well as of occurrences from the past years of the characters' lives.

With recollections mesh in thoughts, imaginations, and asides of the male protagonist-narrator, and charted are also journeys of learning, growth, hope, and realisations, all gained through happenings and conversations. Despite the gloom over the fate of the flat, hope lingers and the reader wishes for a happy closure as M.B. comments and voices the ardent hope of so many to be able to claim, "This is the permanent address that all government documents keep asking for" (p. 148). The novel says that with the uncertainty of life, getting bogged down by situations is ill. Though certainly important to lead meaningful lives, goals must not determine whether we remain happy. Insights about many aspects of life are also thrown in — for instance, M.B. says for decisive leadership, "Clear instructions with no options, yet, delivered as a request" (p.161).

While the dream, challenges, hesitations, and fears are identifiable, so is M.B. for young urban professionals and particularly for those with academic pursuits. Even the "inverted snobbery of the intellectual for the materially successful" (p.4) that makes M.B. call his rich and imposing landlord "FatBum" is not alien.

The language, wordplay, imagery, and metaphors are vivid and colourful. One interesting comparison is of the "rivers of traffic" in Delhi to those natural streams of water that are referred to as rivers. There are meditations on how English is used by Indians, and the mutated, amalgamated language that many Indians use in their individual ways. Though the text is produced well overall, there are some punctuation errors and typos.

The house-owning dream, despite its fragility, has power enough to keep people ensnared. The novel compels a close look into what must truly matter, ending on a strong note that demands some introspection.



KK SRIVASTAVA

Nascent Gorakhpur Literary Festival

Many literary festivals wane, become dull and then pale into insignificance mainly because of lack of transparency and dominating vested interests. But lovers of literature hope every such festival held in Gorakhpur will act as a stepping stone for the next. Gorakhpur Literary Festival should in due course reach out to pacifying effect of literature and should aim at achieving what Seamus Heaney wrote, "You've listened long enough. Now strike your own."

The market has changed; these days there were more writers than readers. Everyone was speaking at once while no one heard as in an asylum. The only books people read were diet books, cookery books or exercise books. People didn't want to improve the world, they only wanted better bodies.

— Hanif Kureishi in his novel *THE LAST WORD*

Rita Srivastava lives in Gorakhpur. She is a teacher, TV personality and an accomplished announcer. During 1976-78, I was her classmate in graduation in DAV Degree College Gorakhpur. Sometime back, I got a message from her requesting me to attend Gorakhpur Literary Festival in October 2018. That was how I came to know about this literary event though unfortunately I could not attend it. In this article I aim at stipulating a general framework for literary festival like Gorakhpur's which is in its nascence. Different people form different notions about places they are not well acquainted with. People know Gorakhpur because they have chosen to learn of its fame or absence of it based on what they have read or heard about the place. Unfortunately in the absence of effective defence against such notions, people believe that the image of Gorakhpur despite a few noteworthy literary and other artistic accomplishments, more or less, has not improved much. VS Naipaul, whose mother hailed from some village in Gorakhpur leaving it in late 19th century to settle as indentured laborers in Trinidad before good fortunes started dawning upon Naipaul, had no demur, after visiting Gorakhpur around early sixties of last century, in describing it as a "half-made" and "unorganised society". In that "unorganised society", literature boomed; thoughts got propelled out of writers and we have had literary giants like Munshi Prem Chand and Firaq Gorakhpuri — one writing novels in Hindi; the other poetry in Urdu. English continues to be an anathema. Two things have emerged out. First after these two legendary writ-



ers, there is not the third, not only from Gorakhpur but also from entire eastern Uttar Pradesh, who can claim a status akin to either of them. Not that, there are no literary activities. There are writers but their writings are confined to closed literary groups or a few selected local newspapers. Second, I am not aware of any literary piece worth its salt in English from Gorakhpur. Some very enthusiastic readers may accuse me of feigning ignorance. I will like to be enlightened about a few. Self-critique is the best form of defence. It is the best disinfectant. The doubting Thomases can spare sometime to scan the literary scene in Kerala and Odisha to see for themselves how vibrant these places are when it comes to matured literary activities and literary personalities.

Amitav Ghosh is a highly rated writer though I am more comfortable with the books by writers like Raj Kamal Jha, Pico Iyer and Amitava Kumar. But Amitav Ghosh stands head and shoulders above his peers in as much as he shuns literary festivals, never raring to showcase his face before a crowd a majority of which hardly understand what literary books are all about. His articulated views are well expressed in his essay Festivals and Freedom. The essence of this essay is: Books are important; not their authors. "Public spectacles are a sideshow". Great. The relationship between writers, their books and readers gets evolved not in such places of public rendezvous but in private, in isolation where only the book and the reader exist. The message being conveyed here is simple. Faces and personalities vie with each other to decorate the dais in literary festivals. This restricts the scope of such festivals. Should a ravishingly beautiful young actress or a model inaugurate or address a literary festival unless she herself is a literary tour de force? The lines cited in the beginning from Hanif Kureishi's novel confirm the mish-mash between what present day readers prefer to read and what ought to be happening in any literary gatherings. Tastes of readers defy logic behind literary festivals. People

oftentimes don't understand that not all books penned: fiction, non-fiction, poetry or any genre get classified in the category of literary books. The organisers of such literary events ought to be as careful with selection of writers as selection of books or themes. Ensuring a judicious mixture of really known writers and really known books, with a few from aspiring writers factored in between, is the sine quo non for those responsible to host such events. Unfortunately many literary festivals are driven by presence of "vested interests" and "coteries" and only some really serve the objectives of literature and literary events.

Likewise, for many writers not so established, social media sources have become potent instruments for the display of grandeur of achievements and these writers unfortunately fall a victim to walking on the air syndrome, unmindful of the fact that these portrayals imparting joyously rapturous feelings leave momentary visual impact on viewers. Unfortunately they carry the impression that attending such functions tantamount to zenith of their literary pursuits. One is really amazed when confronted with 30 years old writers with twenty books of poetry (mostly self-published or published through non-descript publishers) to their credit. One can

ponder over in times to come. No piece of writing is the end of literature and therefore what is the best stays buried in unknown arenas of human unconsciousness.

No brave claims should be made to improve or modify the society, for writers are least equipped to perform this assignment. They must not assign this assignment to themselves.

The objective of thinking about larger issues society is encountering should not be lost in the humdrum sound and fury of big names and big books. Oftentimes, the untidy, the weird, the oddball forms of art and literature have to be accommodated in order to give a proper and bigger representation to literary skills.

To what extent differing points of view can be resolved into a coherent order of art is something these gatherings should strive for.

Moments of insight should figure during discourses. Literature gives society a vantage point; it paves the way for seeing new or afresh. A sound literary festival should be able to accommodate the unruly, the unmanageable and the discordant.

It must allow at least serious participants to rein in what American poet and critic Robert Pinsky calls, "inward motion of another mind".

In absence of adequate number

of men and women of letters and literary material, many literary festivals the very next day or even in the

post-lunch session of the first day, succumb to less important activities like reciting of local singers locally manufactured songs or turn out to be venues for local *mushairas* or still worse panel discussions on themes which have nothing to do with any form of art. Chattering classes are left with no choices. The sheer is lost. Exploring the unadorned past and contemporary literature making a foray into themes like backwardness, casteism, gender discrimination and insensitivity, regional disparities, terrorism, sexual harassment, incurable diseases, etc, will make pungent material for deliberations and thus consume significant time of events. For this organiser's penetrating gaze should be able to sift the grain from the chaff. Making general plebeians aware of these issues should serve the objectives of a literary festival. Forging connections between writers and masses is essential for any literary festival to succeed.

Taking a clue from Kureishi's lines, I feel tempted to recall a small anecdote before conclusion. I told one of my university mate long associated with academia in Gorakhpur about VS Naipaul's ancestors coming from Gorakhpur. Came out a benign question, "Who is Naipaul?"

I tried to quench his thirst. A more benign remark ensued and ended the conversation, "Uske jaise bahut hain yehan." (Many like him are here.) The problem lies not with his question but his astute observation made later. When ignorance and arrogance blend, they make excellent bedfellows. Major apprehension emanates from such blending. It poses great threat to any creative ventures.

Of late, it is learnt that Gorakhpur is witnessing much desirable progress on many fronts. This should sustain literary activities. The organiser's of Gorakhpur Literary Festival deserve kudos and appreciation for their seminal efforts to organise it. Coming from that place, I can guess how difficult organising it can be. All those in responsible positions should support, by all means, Gorakhpur Literary Festival. The organiser's should not be overawed by "big lit-

rary festivals" in India and elsewhere nor should they mimic any of these. Any efforts at these would be narcissistically wallowing in an exercise in futility. To begin with Gorakhpur Literary Festival organiser's should open its website stating clearly what its vision and mission statements are. The charter should be clearly laid out along with a brief description as to how the organiser's are going to achieve the objectives and raise funds. Most importantly the website should provide facility for public to give their feedback on issues connected with activities of the festival. Transparency must not be surrendered nor any group or coterie must hog its activities. Many literary festivals wane, become dull and then pale into insignificance mainly because of lack of transparency and dominating vested interests. Notwithstanding, lovers of literature hope every such festival held in Gorakhpur will act as a stepping stone for next one: well crafted, gleaming, both lighthearted and intensely serious and enthralling.

Gorakhpur Literary Festival should in due course reach out to pacifying effect of literature and should aim at achieving what Seamus Heaney wrote, "You've listened long enough. Now strike your own." A great objective would be served if this literary festival succeeds, even in a very limited way, in seducing both the participating writers and audience to engage with society's interior melee and sharpen the focus towards mitigating the melee.

(The writer was born in Gorakhpur in 1960. He did his Masters in Economics from Gorakhpur University in 1980 and joined Indian Audit & Accounts Service in 1983. Currently he is Director General in the Office of Comptroller & Auditor General of India. He is a poet writing in English with three poetry collections. His third book *Shadows of the Real* has been translated into Hindi and Russian. He is literary reviewer and columnist for the newspapers *The Pioneer* and *The Daily Star*. His fourth book, a semi-autobiographical literary non-fiction, will be released next month. The views expressed in this article are his personal).

PERSPECTIVE

Energising the third world with innovation



MAKHAN SAIKIA

Keeping in mind the Global Innovation Index 2018, the demand for energy needs to be met with a sustainable solution. Untapped energy sources must be discovered. But then the burden of relocating and processing these should not fall on the poor. True innovative efforts are those which send benefit to the lowest rung of society. In India, this is very vital.

The Global Innovation Index (GII) released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) aims to give innovation multi-dimensional aspects. It offers various tools which can be used to shape policies to spearhead long-term output growth, enhanced productivity and job growth. It is unique mechanism that can create an ambience wherein elements of productivity are continually enhanced.

The 2018 GII Report, which covers about 126 countries, highlights the ranking of innovation capabilities and results. These economies represent 90.8 per cent of the world's population and 93.6 per cent of the global GDP. And this year's edition of the GII is based on the theme "Energizing the World with Innovation". At a time when the population is rising at an alarming rate, the amount of natural resources are fast exhausting around the world. The demands of our industrial societies are increasing day by day whereas the supply of natural resources is on precipitous decline. While they do occur naturally, it might take hundreds of thousands of years to replenish them or it may so happen that they may not be reproduced forever. What we all require is innovations so as to reap benefits from our existing and untapped resources around the planet. The GII 2018 Report says: "Higher levels of technological and non-technological innovation are required to meet this demand, both on the production side of the energy equation (alternative sources, smart grids and new advanced energy storage technologies) and on the consumption side (smart cities, homes and buildings; energy-efficient industries; and transport and future mobility). Innovation plays key roles

on both sides." But the report rightly delineates that technological innovation is not the only solution. What is demanded is "changes in societal norms and cultures along with innovations in organisational processes".

In a global age, purely driven by super connectivity, higher technology and superior human intellect, energy is believed to have held the key for every nation. Without adequate supply of energy, no nation can tap its opportunities for further development. It's time to focus on the critical issue of energy access from production to storage, and from transportation and distribution stage to consumption patterns. The GII Report concludes that supply does not commensurate with the global demand for energy needs. It further highlights the need for a sustainable solution to address the issue. Norbert Schwierers, Barry Jaruzelski and Robert Chwalik mention in the report that an estimated 1.2 billion people worldwide are living without electricity, and 2.8 billion without clean and safe cooking facilities. This demands global concerns and solutions. It is clear that across the globe traditional energy frameworks are undergoing fundamental changes as demands and supplies for energy are unmatched. What is critical here is that private sector investment will play a critical role as this new systems take shape, both from traditional utilities, many of which are seeing this new way forward as an opportunity rather than disruption and from the start-ups and from the entrepreneurs developing and applying new technologies in the renewable space. It so happens that in vast part of the world, companies are implementing projects, often in close collaboration with pub-



lic sector enterprises which show the transformative potential of these new innovations.

Hence, "energy for all" is a goal worthy to be achieved at any cost. But then the issue is to bridge the existing gap between innovation goals and tangible societal benefits. It's a serious challenge. It demands cooperation from both the Government and private sectors accompanied by civil society support. Then only innovative efforts can be successful, particularly in developing society like India. It needs to

to a multi-national supply chain or other resource facilities available for a health business environment. It was found by top research groups that firms at local rather than national level markets were less likely to innovate more than the smaller ones; on the other hand state-owned enterprises are less likely to innovate than their respective private-owned counterparts, particularly in the field of new and emerging product development.

Also it was found that firms with a large number of college graduates were globally more effective on innovative efforts. But firms with highly skilled workers have a mixed impact on innovations. Finally, that firms with higher capacity utilisation i.e. those that sell everything they make, have lower innovation index than their less efficient counterparts. Thus it can rightly be said that in emerging economies, forces of globalisation can be counterproductive for innovations. However it has been observed that easy access to supply chain and business friendly environment in such countries can surely help in fostering innovations. So globalisation and post-globalisation forces are not purely creating anti-thesis for innovations. What matters most is that firms or industries operate within a range of efficiency and increased competition associated with liberalisation and globalisation has different effects on firms/industries depending on their level of technology. This has brought home the message that technology at this age makes more impact while even innovating at the local level.

There is a huge innovation divide that has been brought out by the GII Report to the world. Countries like India requires

working out its way while competing with its neighbour China. For us what we need is a stable polity supported by an environment less influenced by natural calamities and more business friendly. With a huge skilled young workforce and emerging market, India can definitely shine better than many of its counterparts in the developing world. But then growth and development is not all about access to economy and technology. It is also about what flows back to society and how common man gets benefitted by all these. At the end of the day, basic minimum resources should be accessible to the needy. The gap between the rich and the poor should be minimised. True innovative efforts are those which send benefit to the lowest rung of the society. In India, this is very vital.

Keeping in mind the GII Report 2018, the demand for energy needs to be met with a sustainable solution. This will in turn help in enhancing innovative efforts around the world. Untapped energy sources must be discovered. But then the burden of relocating and processing these should not fall on the poor. What we need is a fair deal at the end so as to see to it that global innovation divide is lesser and lesser in coming days. Isaac Newton rightly highlighted the importance of innovation and creativity simply by saying, "If I have seen further, it is standing on the shoulders of giants." It is all about the massive streams of innovations left behind by our elders, we are simply surviving and making progress in our daily life.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)



THERE'S BEEN MACHO
TALK ABOUT COUNTRIES
SURVIVING A NO-DEAL
BREXIT; IT CREATES
SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS

— SIMON COVENY

Elections in five States: Grand alliance talks on hold for now

sunday
gupshup

HARI SHANKAR VYAS

All talks on the grand alliance of the Opposition parties have been put on the back burner for now, and no one will talk about a united front until the results of elections in five States are out. In fact, the Opposition parties are not even talking to each other about the *mahagathbandhan* these days. The parties, which have nothing to do with the elections in five States, say the decision on alliances will be taken only after the results. The BJP has already told its alliance partners that Amit Shah is busy with the elections, so discussions over seat sharing and the alliance formula will be held only after the results. This has also been conveyed to Nitish Kumar, but despite this, the JDU leaders are saying that the seat-sharing announcement will be made soon.

There's another reason why the grand alliance talks have been put on hold. The Congress President Rahul Gandhi is engrossed in the elections of five States, with the party facing a do-or-die situation. It is leaving no stone unturned in campaigning. That is why the parties — which will be going with the Congress, but have nothing to do with these States — have put the talks on hold.

Amid this, there is news that BSP supremo Mayawati has talked to Akhilesh Yadav over phone. Ajit Singh, leader of the RLD, has also spoken to both leaders. However, the final decision will be taken only after the elections. From the alliance point of view, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra are the other important States after Uttar Pradesh. But in these States, there are no talks of alliance as of now. In fact, all regional stalwarts are waiting for the results of five States. The Congress and BJP will also wait for results because after that the political picture of the country will change drastically.

If the BJP fares well, it will go with the JDU in Bihar and the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra on its own terms. If the BJP's performance is dismal, then both the JDU and Shiv Sena would impose their conditions on the party. In the same manner, if the Congress does well, *kshatrapas* will have to go into alliances on the party's terms. In the same manner, if the Congress does well, *kshatrapas* will have to go into alliances on the party's terms.

THE BIGGEST OPPN ALLIANCE

Whatever be the result of five States, one thing is clear from the present political scenario: The Opposition is going to form the largest alliance in



Maharashtra. The Congress and its oldest ally NCP are reaching out to each and every small and big party, trying to persuade them to join the Opposition bandwagon. The Congress and NCP have finalised their alliance partners. Though the seat-sharing formula has not been decided, some arrangement ready and has already been discussed. Both parties will stick to the old formula. The BSP and Raju Shetti's party will also join the Congress and NCP, and will get one seat each from the latter's quota.

Now, the Congress is talking to Prakash Ambedkar's party for a tie-up. On the other hand, the NCP is in talks with Raj Thackeray's MNS. Though the Congress is not ready to take the MNS into the alliance, Sharad Pawar might have other things in mind. The NCP chief might persuade Raj to either not fight the Lok Sabha Elections or field such a candidate who will pose a threat to the candidates of the BJP and Shiv Sena. Apart from that, the Congress and

NCP are also reaching out to the Left parties and AAP. Though these parties don't have much hold in Maharashtra, an alliance will be finalised with them and they will be given a chance to fight the Assembly Elections. A similar arrangement can be made for the SP as well.

THE STRATEGY OF AAP

The Aam Aadmi Party has announced the name of in-charges of all seven seats of Delhi. People are saying that these seven leaders will be the Lok Sabha candidates of the party. While announcing their names, it was said that they would be declared as candidates at the right time. But sources say that these names can be changed at the last moment. That means their names as Lok Sabha candidates are not final.

This must be noted that in the last Lok Sabha polls, the AAP candidates were on the second position, after giving a tough fight to the BJP. But interestingly, the AAP has decided to not give tickets

to any of the leaders who were in the fray last time. Anand Kumar has already been thrown out of the party, while Ashutosh and Ashish Khetan have also left. Rajmohan Gandhi is facing the age barrier, and MLA Devendra Sherawat is considered a rebel. Rakhi Bidlan is the Deputy Speaker in the Assembly, but the party will not give her a chance to fight. Jarnail Singh will also not contest.

This time, the AAP has given a chance to Dilip Pandey instead of Anand Kumar, Atishi Marlena in place of Rajmohan Gandhi, Raghav Chadha in place of Devendra Sherawat, Brajesh Goyal in place of Ashish Khetan, and Rajpal Solanki in place of Rakhi Bidlan. In place of Ashutosh, Pankaj Gupta has been made in-charge for Chandni Chowk seat. Party sources say that many of them are new, so they can

be changed before the elections. This is also being said that if an alliance is finalised with the Congress, then three seats can go to the other party.

NO ENTRY FOR BJP IN UP

There is a new headache for the BJP in UP. People have started opposing leaders, MPs, and MLAs of the party in many places. It started in April and has now become a common feature in both east and west UP, where people have put up 'no-entry' boards. It's common to spot a hoarding with a warning to the leaders and workers of the party to "not be seen anywhere in the area". In Shivkuti of Prayagraj, such signages cropped up after the Unnao and Kathua rape cases. Now, the no-entry campaign has started in the Awadh area. In many villages of Azamgarh, Bahraich, Kannauj, and Unnao, such boards are being put up. At first, the local BJP leaders tried to sort this problem out on their own, but now they have roped in the State leadership.

If the BJP fares well, it will go with the JDU in Bihar and the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra on its own terms. If the BJP's performance is dismal, then both the JDU and Shiv Sena would impose their conditions on the party. In the same manner, if the Congress does well, *kshatrapas* will have to go into alliances on the party's terms

A no-deal Brexit is now closer than ever

What separates the two sides is a deep and structural divide, which can't be bridged by warm words, says PETER FOSTER



'third country' to a Union that is wrestling with a populist menace, of which Brexit is deemed a part.

No-one, least of all Emmanuel Macron, the increasingly erratic and pompous French president, is in any mood to build off-ramps for the British. The German chancellor Angela Merkel, whose governing life-force is ebbing away at home, seems unable or unwilling to rein in her French counterpart. Macron was very clear at Salzburg that without significant progress by the October Council, the plan for a November 'seal-the-deal' summit would not be enacted.

Already there is talk about turning this into a 'planning-for-no-deal' gathering.

So where does that leave May? For now, playing for time — pushing back the final reckoning further towards the March 29 2019 deadline in the hope that the pressure will build sufficiently on her domestic critics to make them more amenable to compromise.

But 'playing it long', as Number 10 strategists like to call it, is itself a sign that the limits of what can be negotiated technically are now very close to being reached.

Put aside the detail (which most people understandably

can't be bothered with) and it boils down to two basic questions from Unionists and Brexiteers — how differently will Northern Ireland be treated from the rest of the UK and how soon will we be 'free' from the EU?

The two questions are obviously interlinked, but it is clear that, in the absence of May's unicorn solutions (shot down in Salzburg) to try to preserve the Union while delivering trade independence, the UK is going to stay in a 'temporary' customs union with the EU for the foreseeable future. And even then, Northern Ireland will be treated quite differently from the rest of the

UK as it remains in the EU single market for goods.

There are, or were, possible compromises and 'fudges' around this reality — what the negotiators call 'wrapping' — but these are fundamentally cosmetic. They only work if you don't look too closely, and all sides are prepared to suspend their disbelief and buy into the illusion that they are anything more than pretification.

Lipstick on the proverbial pig. But listen to David Davis and Boris Johnson, Arlene Foster and Nigel Dodds in recent days, and it's pretty clear that this is about more than semantics. They may be wrong

about a lot of what is possible in the here and now, but they are not wrong that the deal May is negotiating, with its hand-me-down trade policy and constitutional intrusions, is indeed pretty abject. And it will be seen as such, by large swathes of the electorate.

The EU must take their share of responsibility for this situation. They never made a really serious offer on Northern Ireland, forcing it on to the 'divorce deal' agenda without stopping to think that their 'offer' involved regulatory annexation of a piece of UK territory.

This was a massive failure of political imagination. If they had thought about it, none of the other 27 leaders around the table on Wednesday night would ever accept such a deal. But now it is too late. And instead the EU says only that "you asked to leave, it's your problem". This is the language of the playground.

May has made a good many mistakes of her own, mostly the failure to be brave and honest about what was possible. She did not ask to leave the EU (I bet she wishes we never had) but a clear majority of the British public did, at a fully contested referendum. The EU side has never fully accepted this. In any event, her tortuous efforts to plot a way through the Brexit labyrinth are now close to their end. A 'no deal' Brexit — which might yet result in no Brexit at all — is closer than ever.

The Daily Telegraph

NORTHERN IRELAND AND BREXIT

Did Northern Ireland want Britain to leave the European Union (EU)? No. Northern Ireland voted 55.8 per cent in favour of the UK remaining in the EU, substantially higher than the UK average. The vote was strongly split on political lines

Who wanted to stay and who wanted to leave?

The Democratic Unionist Party, the country's largest party, supported Brexit. Sinn Féin, the SDLP, the Ulster Unionists, Alliance and the Green Party wanted to Remain in the EU. The Irish government also supported a Remain vote

How might Brexit impact Northern Ireland?

Northern Ireland faces the unwelcome prospect of a hard land border between the EU and UK. This would put North-South relations under strain. Brexit might also have a disproportionate impact on Northern Ireland's economy, heavily reliant on food exports to the EU

What will happen to the Irish border?

Both British and Irish governments have stated their commitment to preserving free movement and trade between north and south. Difficulties arise from the fact that Ireland will be the UK's only land border with the EU trade bloc

The EU and the Irish governments would prefer for the Irish Sea to be the border between the United Kingdom and Ireland, avoiding a land border. However, Unionist politicians fear regulation that would in any way drive a wedge between Northern Ireland and the mainland UK

Will Brexit lead to Northern Ireland leaving the United Kingdom?

Probably not. However, Northern Ireland would automatically rejoin the European Union if it reunified with Republic of Ireland and the Good Friday Agreement provides a mechanism for that to occur via referendum



IT WILL BE NICE TO BE ANCHORED TO SOMETHING GROUNDED AND IN THE SAME PLACE. RAISING A FAMILY WILL BE A WONDERFUL PART OF THAT

— MEGHAN MARKLE

How can you tell whether your partner is emotionally abusive or controlling?

RADHIKA SANGHANI finds out

THE GASLIGHT EFFECT



There is a growing awareness around the signs of coercive control — the emotional and psychological abuse of a partner, through threats and restrictions, as well as physical violence. This raised profile is thanks, in part, to last year's storyline in *The Archers*. The BBC Radio 4 soap was following a new law on coercive control, introduced at the end of 2015, which can carry a jail term of up to five years. The law — which has been praised by women's charities — can help victims achieve justice and will hopefully instigate cultural change around this lesser known side of domestic abuse. Although it was only used five times between December 2015 and March 2016, there are now signs that emotionally abusive behaviour is being recognised and taken seriously.

Now, the issue has raised its head again, as actress Rebecca Humphries appears to have suggested that her ex-boyfriend, comedian Seann Walsh — who was pictured kissing his *Strictly* dance partner Katya Jones — was "controlling" and has gaslighted her, a term used to describe a man who manipulates a partner into doubting their own sanity. "He aggressively, and repeatedly, called me a psycho/nuts/mental. As he has done countless times throughout our relationship when I've questioned his inappropriate, hurtful behaviour," she wrote in a statement on Twitter.

"This whole business has served to remind me that I am a strong, capable person who is now free; and no victim. I have a voice and will use it by saying this to any woman out there who deep down feels worthless and trapped with a man they love. Believe in yourself and your instincts. It's more than lying. It's controlling."

Walsh and Jones, who is married to fellow *Strictly* professional Neil Jones, have dismissed their encounter as a drunken mistake and not responded to Humphries statement. But it has raised a number of questions for people in unhappy relationships, who might have started to wonder whether their partner's behaviour falls under emotional abuse. That's why we asked national domestic violence charity Women's Aid, to explain what constitutes coercive control — and where the line falls in a relationship.

MORE THAN JUST ONE ARGUMENT

Emotional abuse happens over a sustained period of time, where the perpetrator repeatedly controls their victim. "From our point of view, when we are talking about domestic violence it's not the case that one argument crosses the line and it becomes an abusive relationship," say Women's Aid. "It's a pattern in the relationship, where one partner is controlling and there's an ongoing sense of fear."

ABUSER WANTS TO SCARE VICTIM

"With domestic violence, (usually male) partners behave in a way that's designed to intimidate, frighten or coerce their victim's behaviour," Women's Aid point out. When a victim is frightened of their partner and treads on eggshells out of fear of their reaction, that's a problem. "[It's abuse] if you feel frightened of your partner and you're worrying about the consequences of what externally might be relatively minor things. If he gets angry at the slightest thing. If you have to do every thing his way. If you're worried and feel like your behaviour will set him off."

THE SMALL THINGS COUNT

Women's Aid give one example, where a man told his partner that she had to wrap cheese in a particular way before putting it in the fridge. If she did it wrong, he would scream and shout at her. "We all have funny little things like that. But the point is she was frightened of his response," they explain. "He didn't hit her, but she knew he would see it as a symbol that she didn't love him and she was trying to wind him up. It seems like a minor thing to you — but it has a big impact to them."

A ONE-WAY STREET

In a healthy relationship, equality is present. If one person has particular needs, they accept that their partner will also have their own needs. But an abuser will not think about their partner, and generally puts themselves first. "It doesn't go the other way," explain Women's Aid. "There's no consideration that you're upset. Perpetrators of domestic violence do it because they feel entitled to behave that way. They think their partner is there to meet to their needs and they're entitled to take whatever they want."

“
GASLIGHTING IS WHEN SOMEONE EXHIBITS ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR AND THEN PRETENDS IT DIDN'T HAPPEN — OR EVEN SWITCHES BLAME ON TO THE VICTIM. IT'S ALSO COMMON AMONG PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSERS. IT GETS SERIOUS WHEN A WOMAN STARTS TO DOUBT HERSELF
”

NOTHING EVER HAPPENED

Gaslighting is when someone exhibits abusive behaviour and then pretends it didn't happen — or even switches blame on to the victim. It's also common among psychological abusers. "It can be very confusing," say Women's Aid. "It can cause serious problems when a woman starts to doubt herself. That's very difficult to get your head around as a survivor. It takes a woman a long time to recognise that the nice behaviour and abusive behaviour are both a conscious decision on the behalf of the perpetrator."

UNHAPPINESS DOESN'T MATTER

In a healthy relationship, if one person tells their partner just how unhappy they are with their behaviour, they may be upset, annoyed or both. But they will eventually get over it. An abuser will not react that way. Say Women's Aid: "A perpetrator is unwilling to listen to why you're unhappy and will often minimise what has happened. If they're not willing to do any work towards your relationship that would be concerning, as would be too scared to talk about it. If you feel like you have to give up on the things that are important to you to make your partner OK, and to avoid his bad behaviour, that's where the line is."

CONTROLLING IN MANY WAYS

Women's Aid explain that control is a significant factor in psychological abuse, and a perpetrator can exact it in a number of ways, such as not letting their partner go out or visit friends and family. It can also be financial, with a perpetrator controlling their victim's money, or it can be a case of the abuser not wanting to ever socialise. Control can also extend to the online realm — with tracking software used on smartphones or email and social media accounts hacked.

PERSONAL ATTACKS

There doesn't have to be any physical violence for someone to be guilty of domestic abuse. It's not just about bruises. Often it can simply involve words, where a perpetrator might make comments designed to emotionally manipulate his victim. "[It's abuse] if he or she puts you down and tells you you're stupid and unattractive, that no one else will love you."

The Daily Telegraph

1

CREEPY PLAYING CARDS UNNERVE NEW YORK STATE NEIGHBOURS
Residents of a New York state neighbourhood said they were unnerved to find playing cards in their mailbox as part of an apparent Halloween prank.

Neighbors in the Nevins Road area of Henrietta said they have found Joker playing cards in their mailboxes in recent days bearing what appears to be fake blood and the date 10/31 — Halloween.

"Is it a sign that they're going to come back on Halloween and do something to my property? To my dog?" resident Michelle Meyer told WHEC-TV. "I think the intent was to scare people and I don't understand why this was funny," Meyer said he believes

at least six neighbours have found similar cards in their mailboxes. "It seems small and I want to hope it's a prank but you can't assume it's a prank," Meyer said. "Not anymore." The Monroe County Sheriff's Office is investigating.

(UPI)

PHILADELPHIA BUILDING TAKEN OVER BY TENTACLES

A sculpture installation in South Philadelphia makes it appear as though a building is being attacked by a many-tentacled sea monster. The sculpture at Building 61 in the Philadelphia Navy Yard features more than a dozen inflatable tentacles protruding from the building's windows, as though a giant sea monster is attempting to escape.

The installation is a partnership between the Navy Yard and art collective Group X. "Earlier this year, Group X pitched us on doing this piece," Jennifer Tran, director of Navy Yard marketing and communications, told the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. "Out of all the designs, this one spoke to us because we thought it

was really unique. It's never been seen before in Philadelphia. We thought it really pushed the boundaries." The installation is scheduled to last until November 16.

(UPI)

DINK OINK, HONK HONK: ROGUE PIG GOES HOG WILD IN TRAFFIC

It was a classic case of a ham on the lam. Police in Maine's capital city are looking for the owner of a 50-pound piglet that wore itself out while dodging traffic Saturday evening after presumably escaping. The *Portland Press Herald* reports Augusta police went door to door looking for the animal's owner without any luck. They say the pig is being cared for by a person familiar with farm animals until the owner can be found. The animal was in good condition other than being tired out from running around.

(AP)

SCUBA DIVERS COMPETE IN UNDERWATER PUMPKIN CARVING

Scuba divers in the Florida Keys took their Halloween spirit 30 feet below



the surface for an underwater pumpkin carving contest. The contest, organised by the Amoray Dive Resort, saw the divers going 30 feet below the surface at the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to carve sub-aquatic jack-o'-lanterns.

Participants said the task was complicated by the fact that their buoyant pumpkins kept trying to float away mid-carve. Brothers Sebastian and Gabriel Gimeno, ages 16 and 14, were declared the winners with their pumpkin carving, which portrayed a dolphin and a half moon. The Gimeno brothers were awarded a return dive trip with Amoray Dive Resort.

(UPI)

HOUSTON COUPLE CREATES 'GOOD BOY' BEER FOR DOGS

A pair of Houston bar owners who started brewing beer for their ailing canine a few years ago are now selling Good Boy Dog Beer at more than 20 locations. Megan and Steve Long said they learned how to brew beer for dogs, which does not contain alcohol, when

their Rottweiler mix, Rocky, started having digestion problems a few years ago. The brews are called beer "because we use a lot of the same equipment a brewery does. We just skip the fermentation process," Megan Long told *USA Today*. She said the beer contains all natural ingredients, including vegetables, meat and turmeric, a spice known to aid digestion in canines.

The Good Boy Dog Beer company now has products available at more than 20 dog-friendly bars and restaurants in the Houston area and they also ship their products in cans. The beer is available in three varieties: "IPA lot in the yard," "Session...Squirrel!" and "Mailman Malt Licker."

(UPI)

'WILLY WONKA' PLEADS GUILTY TO CRIMES

The leader of a multi-state ATM and vehicle burglary ring known as "Willy Wonka"

or the "Chocolate Man" has pleaded guilty to 60 charges. *The Salem News* reports that 47-year-old William "Willy Wonka" Rodriguez pleaded guilty Thursday to his role in crimes in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut that netted more than \$300,000 in property and currency.

The Lawrence man was one of five people arrested in August during a police investigation dubbed Operation Golden Ticket. Rodriguez remains jailed on \$500,000 bail pending sentencing November 7 where he faces up to 12 years in prison.

Authorities say the gang wore black clothing and masks, carried police scanners, two-way radios and power tools. They often stole vehicles, which they used to crash into businesses so they could steal ATMs.

(AP)

CULTURE LANE

Johnny Depp defends his casting

Johnny Depp has defended JK Rowling's comments about his casting as the title character in *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*, the second film in the successor franchise to the eight-film Harry Potter series. Rowling had justified Depp's inclusion in the film following allegations of physical abuse made by Depp's ex-wife Amber Heard. Rowling issued a statement in December 2017 saying: "The film-makers and I are not only comfortable sticking with our original casting, but [are] genuinely happy to have Johnny playing a major character in the movies."

In a new interview with *Entertainment Weekly* to promote the film, Depp said: "I'll be honest ... I felt bad for JK having to field all these various feelings from people out there ... But ultimately, there is real controversy. The fact remains I was falsely accused ... JK has seen the evidence and therefore knows I was falsely accused, and that's why she has publicly supported me." He also repeated his intention to sue the *Sun* newspaper for defamation in a story about the film.

In a statement to *Entertainment*



Weekly, Heard's lawyer said: "As the parties agreed in their divorce to resolve future disputes in confidential arbitration, that is the appropriate forum to address Mr Depp's public denials that he abused Ms Heard."

Depp and Heard married in 2015, and Heard filed for divorce in 2016, obtaining a temporary restraining order alleging Depp had been "verbally and physically abusive" towards her. The divorce was finalised in January 2017, and the restraining order was lifted.

Troyer's death ruled as a suicide

Austin Powers star Verne Troyer's death was a suicide, a coroner in Los Angeles has said. The actor, best known for playing Mini-Me in the spy comedy franchise, had openly battled alcoholism and died aged 49 in April. Troyer, who was born with a form of dwarfism that stopped him growing past 2ft 8in, spent the final three weeks of his life in hospital in Los Angeles for alcohol intoxication.

Following an autopsy and further tests, the Los Angeles county department of medical examiner-coroner said Troyer died on April 21 from the effects of alcohol. They ruled his death was a suicide.

Following Troyer's death, tributes flooded in from fellow celebrities. Model and actor Carmen Electra shared a snap of the two of them on Instagram in which she is seen holding Troyer in her arms. The *Baywatch* star posted "R.I.P Verne Troyer" along with the image. *West Wing* star Marlee Matlin described him on Twitter as having a "lovely smile with a caring and big heart".

Singer Vanilla Ice and *American Pie* actor Shannon Elizabeth also posted images of themselves with Troyer following the news of his death. As well as *Austin Powers*, Troyer, who appeared on *Celebrity Big Brother* in 2009, starred in films including *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus*, and *Men in Black*.

Tilda Swinton poses as an old man



Tilda Swinton used prosthetics and makeup to pose as an 82-year-old man in an elaborate hoax for her latest film. The British actor, 57, is starring in the horror remake *Suspicio*, alongside Dakota Johnson, Chloë Grace Moretz and, ostensibly, octogenarian first-time actor Lutz Ebersdorff.

After pictures emerged showing a resemblance between Swinton and Ebersdorff, who was playing a psychoanalyst named Dr Josef Klemperer, the director, Luca Guadagnino, dismissed suggestions they were the

same person as "fake news". But Swinton has now come clean on the stunt and revealed she underwent four hours in makeup every day to make it work — and even donned fake male genitalia. Asked why she was posing as Ebersdorff, Swinton told the *New York Times*: "Undeniably, I would have to say, for the sheer sake of fun above all. As my grandmother would have it — a motto to live and die by — Dull Not To." Guadagnino, however, insists Swinton playing the role of a male was essential because the film is about female identity.



'WILLY WONKA' PLEADS GUILTY TO CRIMES

The leader of a multi-state ATM and vehicle burglary ring known as "Willy Wonka"

(AP)



OUT OF THE BLISS COMES
MAGIC, WONDERMENT,
AND CREATIVITY
— MICHAEL JACKSON

briefly speaking

KETO DIET MAY
PREVENT COGNITIVE DECLINE

Following a ketogenic diet — a high-fat, low-carbohydrate regime — may boost cognitive abilities, a study in mice suggests. Researchers from University of Kentucky in the US showed that the gut and the brain are more closely connected than we once thought, and in fact the health of one can affect the other. "Neurovascular integrity, including cerebral blood flow and blood-brain barrier function, plays a major role in cognitive ability," said Ai-Ling Lin, from University of Kentucky.

"Recent science has suggested that neurovascular integrity might be regulated by the bacteria in the gut, so we set out to see whether the Ketogenic Diet enhanced brain vascular function and reduced neurodegeneration risk in young healthy mice," said Lin. The Ketogenic Diet has previously shown positive effects for patients with other neurological disorders, including epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, and autism.

PAIN DISRUPTION
THERAPY FOR BACKACHE

People with treatment-resistant back pain may get significant and lasting relief with dorsal root ganglion (DRG) stimulation therapy, an innovative treatment that short-circuits pain, suggests a study. Chronic pain — pain that lasts three months or more — occurs when nerves continue to send signals to the brain after the original source of the pain is gone. An alternative to spinal cord stimulation, DRG stimulation disrupts pain signals by specifically targeting the nerves responsible for the pain. This may avoid unnecessary stimulation of nerve fibers that come from non-painful areas, which may occur with spinal cord stimulation. It also helps to meet the need for non-drug pain treatments in select patients. "People who had DRG stimulation reported significant improvement in pain even after a year, which is notable," said lead author.

PPD LINKED TO
MOM'S PAIN AFTER CHILDBIRTH

A recent study has shown that postpartum depression is linked to mother's pain after childbirth. Previous researches had demonstrated the pain associated with giving birth may increase the risk of postpartum depression but has not specified which part of the labor process (eg before, during or after delivery) may be the source of the problem. This is the first study to differentiate postpartum pain from labour and delivery pain and identify it as a significant risk factor for postpartum depression. "For many years, we have been concerned about how to manage labour pain, but recovery pain after labour and delivery often is overlooked," said Jie Zhou, MD, MBA, lead author of the study and assistant professor of anaesthesia at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston. "Our research suggests we need to focus more on helping new mothers manage pain after the baby is born."



DRINKING FROM THE BLISS WITHIN

By learning to meditate and enjoying the eternal joy that lies within, we get protection from temporary sorrows of life, writes SANT RAJINDER SINGH

lar name is meditation.

Meditation is easy. Spiritual teacher Sant Kirpal Singh used to say that it is like closing one drawer and opening another. During the time of meditation, we merely put our thoughts of the world and our problems in one drawer and close it. Then, we open the drawer of meditation and concentrate only on that. When the meditation is over, we can then open the drawer of our thoughts and worldly problems and deal with them.

Meditation entails focusing one's attention at the seat of the soul, located between and behind the two eyebrows. If we can stop putting our attention on our outer eyes and ears for a while and concentrate at the seat of the soul, we will tap into the source of happiness and bliss awaiting us.

Spending two hours concentrating on the eye-focus each day will help our attention withdraw from the body. Generally, our sensory currents which give us sensation of this physical world are spread out through the body. As we concentrate at the seat of the soul, the sensory currents start withdrawing from our extremities. They come up from our feet and legs to our trunk. Eventually they are totally concentrated at the seat of the soul. Once at that point, a vista of divine light and celestial sound opens up for us. We witness the light and sound which is emanated from God at the dawn of creation. Like a current, this stream flows out from God through all the regions. It also returns to Him. When our soul comes in contact with this stream, it can travel on it back to the source.

The journey begins at the third eye. By putting our attention there, the soul begins its voyage to the ultimate source of happiness. This is what meditation is.

God and the soul are eternal. They are all conscious, all bliss, and in a perpetual state of happiness. When we are in that state all our desires and longings for the things of this world dissipate. Our worldly desires become mere trifles when we

experience the astounding joy within. At some time in our lives, we experience some great euphoria, such as when our team wins a football game, or we get a long-awaited raise, or we have any of our dreams fulfilled. For that moment, we are so lost in joy that all other problems suddenly seem like a trifle. We put these former difficulties aside, for we do not want to be distracted from the moment of glory and happiness. This is just a small example to show how tapping into happiness can keep us in permanent bliss so that the problems of the world fade away.

Those who learn to meditate can switch their attention to the source of happiness within even in the midst of sorrow. True, they still undergo the outer pains and sorrows of life, but they are not affected by them. They are drinking from the inebriation from within that cushions the pain and takes their attention off their sufferings.

There is nothing magical about meditation. It is something every person, from a child to an elderly person, can learn. Had we learned how to focus our attention within during our youth, it would have become a habit by now. We would be able to do it at will anytime we wanted. But it is never too late to learn this practice. By learning to meditate we can perfect the art of directing our attention to the source of happiness within us. Then we can drink from the eternal pool of happiness at any time. Outer sources of enjoyment may be taken from us, but we have access to an eternal bliss we carry within.

We realise that this world is but a passing show. The ecstasy we experience within fills us with happiness and we are able to overcome our problems. As we meditate and come in contact with the source of love within, we begin to spread it to others. By following this path, we will always be in tune with the happiness within and will radiate it so that the people we come in contact with absorb it. So, we can spread joy wherever we go.

The writer is a spiritual leader

SINCE CHILDHOOD,
WE HAVE BEEN
TRAINED TO FOCUS
OURSELVES ON
OUR BODY AND
MIND. OUR
TEACHERS HAVE
NEVER TAUGHT US
HOW TO FOCUS ON
OUR SOUL. HAD
THEY DONE SO, WE
WOULD HAVE BEEN
PROFICIENT IN
TAPPING INTO THE
BLISS WITHIN



Let us first learn to pray properly

Our method has to change from ordering God to seeking His guidance. We will never be disappointed; God always finds ways to communicate, says AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Remember, God has set the bar quite high for that as He has clarified in *The Gita*, "Those people who worship Me with undivided attention, meditating on Me — for those practitioners of yoga, I help in getting what one does not have and provide security of what one has." (9.22)

God also considers many factors like I know him as I know everyone but is he in regular touch with me? Does he deserve what he is asking? Should I give what he is seeking? Will what he requires help his cause? Let me take an example for gaining clarity. A person is sick in a family, and a relative is praying for help. This family has a casual relationship with God; they do some *poojas* on festivals, and sometimes go to some temple.

Let us see from God's perspective. There are seven billion persons in this world and most of them fall in this category if we exclude atheists and those who have no real exposure to God like in communist countries. This means that they are not special deserving special consideration. Why? Because God is not very important to them; they are not entitled to special consideration from God.

their duties including attending to their sick family members themselves. God will be very active in helping them. (18.58)

Let us see the logic of God. Whose problem is this? Not God's. Who is best placed to help? The family members of the sick person of course! So shouldn't they be used to help? After all, God must act through a medium — a physical person. A person who prays benefits in two ways. One finds workable solutions which can be implemented. And the negativity disappears because one is no longer helpless and is engaged properly with hope in the heart.

There are general guidelines for praying in different situations. I have already mentioned about sickness in family. The next situation is when we need help, and don't know who can and how. Pray sincerely and God will indicate, because He knows who can and how. Similarly, we are confused between two choices. Both appear okay. Who will

know the answer? God will because He can see the big picture. He can shed light on the various pluses and minuses, which can help us make the decision.

We need something desperately like a material object and do not know where to find it. Again, if anyone knows God will because He is omnipresent. We need protection as all do. We can pray to God — the omnipotent after creating a sound support system; He obliges. We want success. Who can ensure it? God can because He is omniscient. Lastly, we wish to help someone.

Pray to God recommending him or her detailing why that person should be helped. What did we learn? That we must establish a solid relationship with God to deserve His active help, which is unlimited. That we must do all our duties as guided by God; He guides.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com



HIDDEN SOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

Ethics for administrators



The need for ethics is felt in all walks of life. More so, in the administration which is responsible for good governance. Needless to say that the governance in our country leaves much to be desired. The onus is certainly on the administrative machinery headed by the civil servants, particularly the officers of the coveted Indian Administrative Services, the kingpins of India's Administration. Perhaps for this reason there is a complete paper on Ethics, Integrity and Attitude that has been included in the recent past as General Studies Paper-IV for the Civil Services Main examination. The objective of this paper is to test the candidate's attitude and aptitude towards issues related to integrity and probity in public life, and his ability to handle ethical dilemmas that arise during the course of the career of the civil servant. Ethics is certainly a major issue in the present days and challenges in the form of allurement and sometimes threats to career and even personal well-being do arise in public life. Ethics, it must be understood, is a multifaceted concept which often involves grey areas where the decision maker does not find simple right or wrong answers. It is these areas that offer the greatest challenge to the career bureaucrat and the ability to discriminate is often put to test. Ethics is too wide and complex an issue to be understood and evaluated as consistency is often found missing. The issue of ethics is an issue of attitude, even aptitude but largely character. To ensure that anybody entering the coveted ranks of Indian Civil Services remains ethical in his dealings all through his career is difficult. Ethics is that uncanny ability to exercise the right choices when distraction in the form of rewards are too alluring to ignore. But this is the real test of character. Though this one paper may be of some use in finding out the orientation of the candidate appearing for the examination to some extent, the larger issue is the predictive validity of such examination. What is more crucial is the continuous training and personality development of the incumbent once he joins the services as that is where situations fashion changes in attitudes. One paper then may serve to be some kind of an indicator and, that too, not very strong one. But the important issue is maintaining integrity all through. Important because the Indian Civil Services is supposed to be the steel frame of Indian Administration. It is, therefore, imperative to ensure that this steel frame does not rust. Unfortunately the rusting is being evidenced as occasional incidents would point out. The big question is training for ethics. How an administrator has to be sensitised. For an effective training regimen the key areas that need to be focused are empathy, non-partisanship, tolerance, humility and compassion. The periodicity of such training is also a consideration. How long and how often? With changes in job requirements the role of the civil servant calls for a systematic change but the intriguing aspect is that the basic model has more or less remained the same. Hence it is important to reinvent the services with emphasis on emotional quotient and morality quotient. The loyalty must shift to the people and the nation rather than the powers that be. The loyalty to the crown was the hallmark of the British rule. Post-independence this seems to have shifted to the party in power in many cases.

Pathak is a professor of management, writer, and an acclaimed public speaker. He can be reached at ppatah.ism@gmail.com

I MEDITATE. I BREATHE OUT WHAT I CAN'T CONTROL AND FOCUS ON THE POSITIVES
— DEEPIKA PADUKONE



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

You should now listen to your body with care and compassion. Those who are having health issues, it is advisable not to stress about them. You should focus on a healthy outlet to your emotions. Don't overload yourself with work. Indulge in some kind of youthful sport activities that will help you to stay active as well as connect you with your inner child. On the career front, some of you have achieved goals and attained materialistic gains. Even though you are financially sound, do not give too much importance to wealth. Some of you may have a hard time at work place due to your inflexible approach towards change. On the relationship front, those who are committed — your relationship will become stronger and reliable.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Saturday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you if you feel that something is wrong with your body, then you need to pay attention to your concerns. You should not panic and don't feel that you can't do anything about it. Trust your intuition and look for other ways to sort out the issues. Be patient while awaiting results. Ensure proper diet, rest and exercise. At work, things will be the way you want them to be. Some of you may face challenges in a project. It is recommended that you take some time off from work and don't take any important decisions this week. You need to maintain your calm amidst the chaos around you. If you can't stay calm, then seek another position. Those who are committed need to focus on their relationship towards the future. Change your old perspective towards an ongoing issue.

Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Thursday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

It is time to get up and take action to improve your health condition. Your laid back attitude will have a bad impact on your health. Evaluate your health scenario and decide what steps and efforts are required; it could be a physical exercise or a nutritional diet. You need to revive your positive energy. You have to tighten up your belt and get ready to do some hard work at the work place. Some of you may experience a new beginning. Those seeking employment will be hired into a position that will test their skills. For those of you who are already working will be burdened with responsibilities. This is a great time for love. Committed couples will experience a deep sense of bonding. Some of you may enter the next stage of your relationship. For singles, there are chances to meet someone.

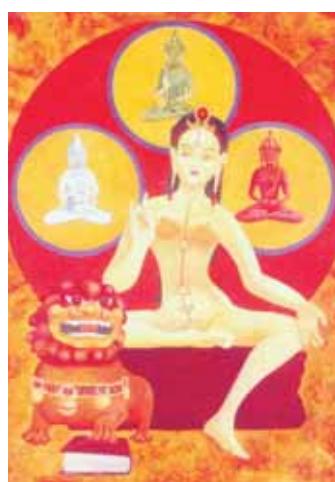
Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22

News related to your health will be positive and your efforts are likely to bear fruit. You have full control of the situations around you. Thus, you must take advantage of this and look for an alternative ways to deal with health challenge issues. How you speak your mind and conduct yourself will matter the most at your work place. Conflict and disagreement with peers is indicated. This will create tension. Unfairness at workplace is likely to cause trouble. But ensure that you are not the creator of problems. You need to choose your battles wisely. This week, you will feel that your relationship has come a full circle. As a result, it may culminate into a marriage and for some there will be a sense of closure. Singles have bright chances of meeting someone special.

Lucky number 23
Lucky colour Off-white
Lucky day Monday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week you should follow the mantra — 'patience is the key'. If your health has been out of balance, then you need to act with great wisdom. Those awaiting test results, don't panic and jump to a conclusion. Trust your intuition. If you feel that a particular treatment is not right for you, then look for another healthcare practitioner. You may face dilemma at the work front. Situations which require immediate action are likely to be there. But before taking any action, you should analyse all the available information. Your own value system is likely to be challenged. Therefore, be honest and seek spiritual guidance. Those thinking to put an end to their relationship should look within and then make the right decision. Ensure that you and your partner are on the same page before parting ways.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Wednesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

A major disturbance on the health front will shake you up. It may be an illness that may take time to heal. This may also affect you spiritually, mentally and physically. The only thing that will save you from becoming negative is an optimist — whatever happens, happens for good and you will use this tough time to make yourself stronger. This week in your career, you are likely to meet a counsellor or a mentor that you needed for a long time. This person will help you with new skills and sound advice. Things will be good if you work in an organised way or as per certain rules. Love is in the air this week. You and your partner will share a positive energy. You will be happy in your relationship. A new relationship is on the cards for the singles.

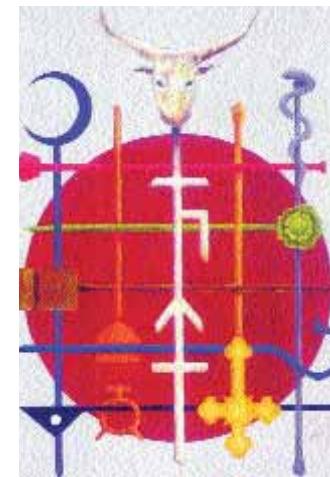
Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Wednesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

In the matter of health, you need to pay attention to your emotions. There will be situations when you will not be able to deal with the challenges with the best of your abilities. In case you are facing illness, then rather than feeling negative about it, start helping yourself with information by talking to experts. Maintain a health regime. Career-wise, this is a very positive time for you. Your efforts will be acknowledged and some of you may be awarded. This will help elevate your confidence in your abilities; ensure that you don't become arrogant. Any self-importance that you display will not go down well with your peers or seniors. Those looking for a new job — the result will be in your favor. Those in committed relationships will have a mystical experience. You will connect with your partner spiritually.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Parrot green
Lucky day Friday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week you need to balance your health with your personal and professional responsibilities. This will make your life hectic and you need to be patient. Amidst all the chaos, make sure you take some time out for your own healing. Prioritise your tasks and avoid suffering on account of your health. Your work front will be filled with stress and anxiety that is likely to affect you. Being worried about the future of your career will immobilise you in pursuing your goals in the present. Do not discourage yourself and opt for a flexible approach to deal with negative situations. Those in a committed relationship are likely to feel disappointed in some situation or with the partner. If that is the case, then you need to look deep within yourself for a solution.

Lucky number 2
Lucky colour Baby pink
Lucky day Monday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You should maintain balance in everything including your routine activities like eating nutritional food and getting adequate rest. In case you are facing health issues, trust that things will get better. You are mentally strong and stable. Ensure a healthy body and mind connection to keep going. This week at career front you may get an increment in your pay or a promotion. Some of you may achieve your goals post a minor setback. This will make you feel a sense of accomplishment. You should be grateful for this upswing. Those seeking a new job, keep trying, you will achieve a better position with a better pay. Love is in the air. You and your partner will bond well and will have a mutual understanding. Married females may conceive. Singles, this is the time to find your partner.

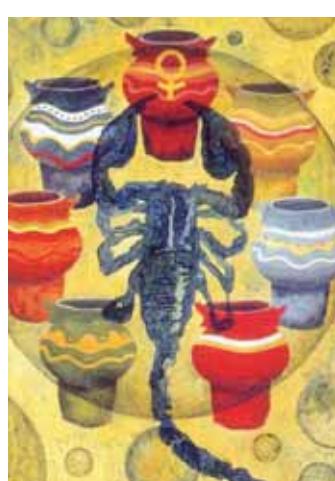
Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You will enjoy strong vitality this week and will be self-motivated to make any health-related efforts. This is an excellent time to make some changes in your fitness plan as you will make more progress. You have to channelise this energy in the right manner; being impulsive may create health problems. At work, all your actions will have their own consequences. You are likely to face a situation in which you have to make a decision. Try to be reasonable and consider others' points of view before making any choice. Some of you need to be fair in your dealings. Relationship-wise, this week is a great time to improve your bonding with your partner. Your positive frame of mind will be received well by your partner. Avoid being impulsive. Singles are likely to meet someone with the same mindset.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Beige
Lucky day Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 22

A news with regard to your health is going to be good. At present you are in a stronger position and have the ability to control your surroundings. This week, any efforts that you put towards your health improvement will be successful. The only thing you need to do is consider an alternate way to deal with health challenges for long-term benefit. Career-wise, you will be happy as money will flow in with an increase in your pay or a promotion. This is because of all the hard work you put in to achieve your goals. Those seeking jobs may get the desired position. At relationship front, you are clear about what you want from your relationship. This is a good sign, but your way of communicating with your partner will be crucial.

Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

You are likely to face health challenges this week. You need to hold your ground during serious health problems. A positive attitude will enable you to do the right things for your health. If a test is required, then get it from a trusted practitioner. You need to walk the path of recovery with courage. Career-wise, things may not be going as per your expectations. If you don't like your job or are facing problems, then remember that you have the ability to improve your environment. Try to have the right mindset before making any decision. Others are likely to oppose you, but you should keep moving forward. Those in a committed relationship may face issues with the partner. It is advisable to have an open conversation to sort out the things.

Lucky number 24
Lucky colour Blue
Lucky day Friday



ASTROTURF

BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

The way one is brought up during early childhood has a long lasting influence on a being's personality frame up. The children remain witness to all that would be going around, even if that doesn't relate to them. They may not understand as to what is happening in real terms. They, however, are quite sensitive and receptive and can intuitively have a sense of good and bad; pleasant and unpleasant; love and hatred; anger and frustration. Accordingly, they pick up positive and negative emotions from the environment. At their age, their mind remains uncluttered. So, they have enough of empty mind-space to store a baggage full of inputs. Unfiltered, these impressions get into the inner realms of their raw mind. That shapes the mind and psyche of a child, which given a small trigger, spontaneously play out even much later in life.

In case of over sensitive children, it has been experienced that even during their infant stage, they often behave in an unpredictable way when faced with unpleasant environmental condition. In one such case, an infant used to cry non-stop whenever his parents were quarrelling. No amount of pampering could soften the child for hours together. After

intensive probing, a pediatrician marked this phenomenon, and accordingly counselled his parents to behave properly particularly in his presence. The irony, however, is that the parents and other family members caught up in their ego trip, often lose their sense of reason. They seldom care that their child would be watching their unseemly conduct. They don't realise that unmindfully though, but they corrupt child's mind-state.

Experience suggests that in majority of cases of those suffering from some short of mental disorder, had a very unpleasant childhood. A sense of fear and insecurity develops in minds of children faced with a turbulent domestic atmosphere. A male child deprived of mother's love, or a girl child lacking father's care, end up having serious personality imbalance. Such children grow with a sense of want and deprivation deeply ingrained in their mind, which reflects later in their usual conduct.

Recently, someone came looking for what is in store of his young son's destiny, whose abnormal mind-trends was bothering him too much. The young man's astrological chart bares open his state of affairs. Evidently, my study began with a look at his mind-signifying Moon, which



occupies a dual sign Sagittarius, and is conjunct Neptune. This speaks of a wavering mind not able to reason out things properly in as much as that his indiscrete ill-timed reactions may put him off with others. He may remain stuck to his self-delusional perceptions, distanced from ground realities, and being subject to unpredictable mood swings. Also, he would be habitually an escapist, not keen to take challenges in life.

Here again, Moon happens to be the 4th lord identified with mother and domestic atmosphere, which is conjunct Saturn, the planet of its nemesis. It, in the first place, is indicative of a disturbed home. Second, he would be deprived of motherly love. Third, he may have a doubting negative mind, habitually suspicious of one and all. Fourth, he may nurse a sense of victimhood. On top of that Moon is involved in unholy exchange of zodiac signs with Jupiter, the 9th lord identified with father. It clearly implies parental separation, which must have been preceded by long drawn confrontation.

The fellow could not digest all these and developed inferiority complex. For, Neptune is locked in unholy relationship with Mars, the *lagna* lord, the prime-mover of the young man. More so,

because of his Aries *lagna* where its lord Mars is firmly placed, which happens to be the most volatile sign of natural zodiac. This by itself is enough to make out an impulsive, aggressive, rash, impatient, intolerant, domineering and demanding character. He will wish to be in command of things. All the more, because the Sun, which is marked with individual identity is ill-disposed off to Jupiter.

That points to his swaggering ego, out of touch with reality, stuck to his self-defined dos and don'ts, and not open to look beyond for the right lead. It is also indicative of a sluggish liver, which makes him vulnerable to being short of energy. If all that was not enough, even intelligence signifying Mercury, is conjunct Neptune, which accounts for his insensible reasoning and judgment. And the result is there to see.

To sum up, the parents and family members should bring up their children with love and utmost care to ensure their healthy growth.

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Write to him at G-102, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi – 110 025
Tel: 91-11-49848475/9818037273
Email: pioneerqueries@bharatastro.com
Website: www.bharatastro.com