

**NATION 5**  
‘MICRODOTS’ TO HELP  
CURB VEHICLE THEFTS

**WORLD 7**  
ISIS CLAIMS KILLING OF 29  
AT IRAN MILITARY PARADE

**SPORT 10**  
INDIAN EVES BEAT  
SL IN 3RD T20

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**USUALSUSPECTS**  
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

## It'll take more than math to upset Modi applecart

The initial reaction to the Bahujan Samaj Party choosing to have an alliance with Aijit Jogi's Janata Congress Chhattisgarh, rather than the Congress, has followed expected lines. The BJP, understandably apprehensive about the consolidation of anti-BJP votes in a State where only a very thin margin separates it and the Congress, is all smiles. On its part, the Congress which has been banking on grand alliances in the three States that go to the polls post-Diwali, is a little dejected. The dejection is coupled with concern in view of the BSP also suggesting it will fight without alliances in Rajasthan and even Madhya Pradesh — States the Congress believes it can win.

The importance of the Assembly elections in Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh need hardly be overstated. The overall outcome may not have a direct bearing on voting patterns in the Lok Sabha elections scheduled for April-May 2018, but there is little doubt that the atmospherics of the pre-campaign will be influenced. If the Congress performs creditably and wins, say two of the three States, it will enter the general election campaign with three booster doses.

First, there is nothing like the smell of political power to galvanise the Congress network, especially its sleeper cells that have gone into hibernation after the party's ignominious performance in 2014. A good harvest in the three Assembly polls will propel Congress sympathisers — and critics of the Narendra Modi Government — to emerge from the woodwork and show their loyalty. A large section of the media which in any case is wary of the Modi Government will bare its fangs more explicitly. The buzz of a lame duck Government awaiting dismissal by the electorate will resonate and affect governance in the final months of the five-year term.

Secondly, the Congress — and, for that matter, all the regional parties that are dominant in their respective States — will once again have access to funds. The funding of political parties before a general election follows a complex pattern. While most corporate groups try to be even-handed and donate to all parties on a proportional basis, a bit of extra is always kept on the side for the party that is emotionally favoured. This was the basis on which funds poured in for the BJP in 2014 — although the greater visibility of the Modi campaign had more to do with the fact that a section of the Congress, knowing defeat was inescapable, chose to conserve its war chests for another day. Whether the concealed war chests will emerge for the general election will depend to a large extent on the perceptions that are formed after the three Assembly polls. This perception will also determine the quantum of target fulfilment of the ₹500 crore the Congress has reportedly set as its goal.

Finally, the outcome of the three Assembly polls will influence the future of the Grand Alliance that many Opposition leaders believe is the key to defeating Modi in 2018. Mayawati's decision to not ally with the Congress has already set tongues wagging. Various reasons — both political and personal — have been offered to explain the decision. The non-political reasons are a matter of pure conjecture and need not be addressed. From the political perspective, it is important to understand that the BSP ecosystem has a logic of its own, quite distinct from the logic that drives the Congress.

It is important to recognise that the core vote of the BJP is made up of social clusters that were traditionally associated with the Congress. An alliance with the Congress runs the automatic risk — in the three States at least — of these groups drifting back to their original political home. Moreover, borrowing a leaf from the old Left, the BSP has always used elections as an instrument of mobilisation and organisational expansion. For the old Kanshi Ram BSP, the important thing was not to win — though that is a bonus — but to expand and consolidate its support among Dalit communities. In Uttar Pradesh, this process is at an advanced state, although the BSP is yet to achieve total dominance among the most marginalised of the Dalit communities. However, in the three States that go to the polls now, the BSP penetration among Dalits is still patchy. Mayawati clearly hopes to increase her party's popular vote substantially. This will give her the leverage to bargain hard with other parties, including the Congress, for the general election.

For the moment, the Grand Alliance project has suffered a setback. However, to argue that this will also be the case in 2018 is, as yet, premature. Even a major BJP victory could propel a nervous alliance of the defeated.

However, purely in terms of optics, Mayawati's decision to opt out of the Congress net is damaging for the Opposition. In the course of the past four years, ever since the Modi-Amit Shah duo transformed the BJP into becoming India's principal (if not dominant) party, the BJP has painted itself as the party of stable Government — a claim that was made by the Congress in earlier decades. This claim has been bolstered by the shambolic nature of the Janata Dal (S)-Congress coalition in Karnataka that was forged only to keep the BJP out. It is entirely possible that shoddy governance will not affect the arithmetic of elections — after all, it is only the swing vote of around 5-6 per cent that decides electoral outcomes. However, elections that turn out to be quasi-presidential in nature often lead to a breakdown in traditional voting patterns. This was certainly the case in 2014 and could happen once again in 2018 if the issue becomes either Modi versus Rahul Gandhi or Modi versus the post-election lottery winner.

Clearly it will take more than a plan centred on arithmetic aggregation to upset the Modi applecart in 2018. Nevertheless, the Assembly polls in three States will offer loose indications of which way the wind is blowing.

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# Reliance our pick: Dassault

France says Rafale maker given free hand; unnecessary row, says Indian Defence Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After former French President Francois Hollande's reported sensational comments that India proposed Reliance Defence as offset partner for the ₹59,000 crore Rafale fighter jet deal, the French Government on Saturday said it is in no manner involved in the choice of the Indian partner.

It added French companies have the full freedom to select Indian firms and Dassault Aviation, manufacturer of Rafale jets, said it is the company's 'choice' to partner with Reliance Defence.

"Dassault Aviation has decided to make a partnership with India's Reliance Group. This is Dassault Aviation's choice," the company said.

Reacting to the French Government's claim and Dassault Aviation's admission, the Indian Defence Ministry said "unnecessary controversies" are being created and reiterated that the Indian Government had had no role in the selection of Reliance as an offset partner in the deal.

The French Government and Dassault company's clarifications came after Hollande in an interview to a French publication *Mediapart* said on Friday, "It was the Indian Government that proposed this service group, and Dassault negotiated with Ambani. We had no choice, we took the interlocutor who was given to us."

Reacting to Hollande's comments, the Indian Defence Ministry had said on Friday, "It is reiterated that neither the Government nor the French Government had any say in the commercial decision."

On Saturday, the Defence Ministry said, "Unnecessary controversies are being sought to be created following media reports regarding a statement purportedly made by the former French President, Francois Hollande, concerning the selection of Reliance Defence as the offset partner by Dassault."

The reported statement perhaps needs to be seen in its full context — where the French media has raised issues of conflict of interest involving persons close to the former President. His subsequent statements are also relevant in this regard. For a rounded appreciation of this matter, it may be pertinent to dwell upon why and how Offset Policy came into play. The Offset Policy was formally announced for the first time in 2005 by the then UPA Government and has been revised several times. To leverage its huge arms imports in order to develop a strong indigenous industry, a flow-back arrangement is made in the defence contracts, which is widely known as offsets, and constitutes a certain percentage of the contract value.

The key objectives of the Defence Offset Policy is to leverage the capital acquisitions to develop

## PM's surgical strike on Defence forces: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of former French President Francois Hollande's reported comments on the controversial Rafale deal, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday launched a fresh attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said "former French president Francois Hollande is calling the PM of India a thief" and that the PM needs to break his silence.

Addressing a Press conference here, the Congress president said it is "obvious that PM Modi is corrupt."

Rahul said the Prime Minister has "betrayed India's soul." Calling the Rafale deal ₹1.3 lakh crore surgical strike on the Indian Defence forces, Rahul said Modi "dishonoured



Congress president Rahul Gandhi addresses the media on the Rafale deal in New Delhi on Saturday  
Alwin Singh | Pioneer

the blood of our martyred soldiers."

"Former French president calls our PM a thief... What is staggering is that the Prime Minister is still silent on it. Not a single word from him," Rahul

said. It is considered to be the sharpest attack by Rahul on Modi on the Rafale deal.

"It is very important for the Prime Minister now to either accept Hollande's statement or state that Hollande is lying and

tell the truth," he said. Rahul alleged that Modi got the contract for his industrialist friend Anil Ambani to bail him out. "The Prime Minister himself has given a contract of ₹30,000 crore to Anil Ambani. Anil Ambani had a debt of ₹45,000 crore and was bailed out by PM Modi," he said.

"The PM and Anil Ambani jointly carried out a One Hundred & Thirty Thousand Crore, SURGICAL STRIKE on the Indian Defence forces. Modi/ji you dishonoured the blood of our martyred soldiers. Shame on you. You betrayed India's soul," Rahul tweeted.

"We are absolutely convinced that the Prime Minister of India is corrupt."

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## Cong chief playing into Pak, China's hands, retorts BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Describing Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a symbol of honesty after Congress president Rahul Gandhi threw the "thief" barb at him, the BJP on Saturday rejected former French president Francois Hollande's sensational claim on the Rafale deal, saying it does not know under what compulsion Hollande said so.

The BJP condemned as "shameful and irresponsible" Rahul's remarks against Modi over the Rafale deal, saying no president of any party has ever



Union Law and Justice Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad addresses the media in New Delhi on Saturday  
PTI

used such language against a Prime Minister.

Hours after Rahul's Press conference, Union Minister

Ravi Shankar Prasad hit back at Rahul saying that the Congress chief is "playing into the hands of Pakistan and China" by seeking the details of the Rafale fighter jets.

The Union Minister also said that Dassault Aviation, the manufacturer of the fighter aircraft, and Reliance had entered into an agreement as early as 2012 when the Congress-led UPA was in power and refuted the allegation that the Modi Government had favoured the Anil Ambani-led company.

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## Three couples among 13 dead in Shimla road accident

PTI ■ SHIMLA

Thirteen people, including three couples, died after a vehicle veered off a road and fell into a deep gorge in Himachal Pradesh's Shimla district Saturday, a police official said. The accident happened at Sanail, three kilometres from Kuddu on Tiyni Road. The ill-fated Trax vehicle (bearing registration number HP 02 0695) was on its way to Tiyni from Swara.

All the thirteen occupants were killed in the accident, Shimla Superintendent of Police Omapati Jamwal said.

While 10 of them died on the spot, three succumbed to injuries at Rohru hospital,



Mangled remains of a vehicle which fell into a gorge near Tiyni in Shimla on Saturday  
PTI

Jamwal said. The deceased included eight members of three families. Three couples were among the deceased.

The deceased have been identified as Matvar Singh (48), his wife Basanti Devi (44), their son Munish (24), Prem Singh (38), his wife Poonam (30), their daughter Ridhima (6), Attar Singh (44), his wife Munna Devi (40), Bittu (42), Bandi Devi (48), Ner Singh (35), Manoj (35) and Anil (28).

A police team led by Jubbal Station House Officer and Swara police post-in-charge reached the site shortly after getting information about the accident. The team rescued three injured people and sent them to Rohru hospital but they died, Jamwal added.

## 'B'deshi migrants termites, will be removed from voters' list'

PTI ■ JAIPUR

BJP president Amit Shah said Saturday Bangladeshi migrants are like "termites" and each one of them will be struck off the electoral roll. Referring to the draft National Register of Citizens recently published in Assam, he said, "The BJP government brought NRC and prima facie identified nearly 40 lakh illegal immigrants." The BJP government will pick out each and every "infiltrator", he said. "BJP sarkaar ek-ek ghus-paithiye ko chun-chun kar matada suchi se hatane ka kaam karegi."

Shah was speaking at a public meeting in Sawai Madhopur district's Gangapur before heading for another



event in Kota. The Bharatiya Janata Party chief was in Rajasthan earlier this month as well as his party and the Congress gear up for the Assembly elections by the year-

end. The BJP government in Rajasthan is like the unshakable *'Angad ka Paani'*, he said referring to a character in Ramayana whose foot even Ravana could not move. The Congress cannot do any good for the country as that party has neither a leader nor a policy, he said. Calling Rahul Gandhi "Rahul Baba", Shah said while he is demanding an account of the work done by the BJP, the people want him to tell them what the four generations of his own family have done. He said Rajasthan was a 'Bimaru' state during the Congress rule but Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje had worked to bring in progress. He said both the central and the state governments had initiated development projects.

## CAPSULE

### DELHI'S AIR TURNS 'GOOD' FOR 2ND TIME THIS YEAR

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality turned 'good' on Saturday, for the second time this year due to persistent monsoon that washed away pollutants from the air, according to authorities. The overall Air Quality Index of New Delhi was recorded at 48 which falls under the "good" category, as per the data of the Central Pollution Control Board.

### TRUMP ADMIN TO REVOKE H-4 VISA WORK PERMITS

Washington: The Trump administration has told a federal court that its decision to revoke work permits to H-4 visa users, a significant majority of whom are Indian-Americans, is expected within the next three months, a move which will have a major impact on Indian women as they are the major beneficiary of the Obama-era rule.

## Health scheme to benefit 1.18 cr families in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As many as six crore people from 1.18 crore families of Uttar Pradesh will be benefited by free medical treatment under a health insurance scheme named 'Ayushman Bharat National Protection Mission'. The scheme will be launched in Lucknow on Sunday by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The scheme was announced by the Centre in the Union budget for 2018-19 in February and took around six months' time to complete the process of implementing it.

Sources in the BJP said that Singh would reach Lucknow from New Delhi on Sunday morning and go straight to Indira Gandhi Pratishthan to inaugurate Ayushman Bharat scheme in Uttar Pradesh.

In UP, six crore people will be entitled for the health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh and get free medical facility in private and government hospitals. Most beneficiaries will be from the socially and economically backward sections. Families included in Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 are the targeted social group under the health insurance scheme.

In UP, state and district level committees have been constituted and have been asked to expedite the process of enlisting hospitals for implementation of the health scheme.

UP Health minister Sidharthnath Singh held camps in government hospitals in Lucknow to make health officials, para medical staff and beneficiaries aware about the scheme.

Chief Secretary Anoop Chandra Pandey said in Lucknow on Saturday that the process to implement the scheme had been completed and it would be launched on Sunday. Pandey added that to facilitate beneficiaries, 'Ayushman Mitras' would be appointed in each district to help patients in availing facilities under the scheme like identification of beneficiary, pre-authorisation of treatment package and assist them in admission to hospitals. The Ayushman Mitras will be paid a monthly honorarium of Rs 5,000 each and Rs 50 as incentive on each beneficiary of the scheme.

The Chief Secretary also directed Health department officials to ensure that Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadi Kendra were opened in each district where medicines at rates lower

## PM to launch Ayushman Bharat mission today

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will roll out the Centre's flagship Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) from Jharkhand Sunday. The ambitious scheme, which was renamed the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan (PMJAY), aims to provide a coverage of Rs five lakh per family annually, benefiting more than 10 crore poor families. Eligible people can avail the benefits in the government and listed private hospitals.

than the market were available to the common man. So far, such kendras have opened in 62 districts.

Meanwhile, during his two-day stay in Lucknow, the Union Home Minister will attend an Assembly sector coordinators meeting and a BJP workers meeting in Alamnagar on Sunday.

On Monday, Singh will attend a function at a private educational institute and, thereafter, attend an inter-state council meeting at Yojna Bhawan. In the evening, he will inspect works of Gomti Nagar railway station and thereafter attend a function to felicitate newly-appointed Governor of Bihar Lalji Tandon.

UP Board gives ample gaps during exams

ALLAHABAD: In order to ensure the convenience of the UP Board's High School and Intermediate students, the board has given them a ample gaps during their examinations keeping the main bathing days of the Kumbh mela in mind. It may be pointed out here that the main bathing of Kumbh, Mauni Amavasya is falling on February 4 so the examinations are scheduled to begin from February 7. Thereafter, the other main bathing Basant Panchami is falling on February 10 and Maghipurnima on February 19. Hence, no paper of UP Board had been scheduled a day prior and the day just after the bathing days. The students had been a given a three day gap from February 9 to February 11 during this span of time. Similarly, four day-long more gap had also been given to the students from February 17 to February 20 for the Maghipurnima snan. In addition to this, two days prior to the last bathing Mahashivratri falling on March 4, their examination would come to an end on March 2. It may be pointed out here that a large number of devotees and pilgrim start pouring in a day ahead of the bathing day and their return to their destination also continued till a day later of the bathing day. This is the reason why they are being given three or more day gap during their examinations period.

Yogi promises ration card to all

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday claimed that no family in the state would be deprived of a ration card. He said that those families, who were left so far, would be provided ration card soon.

Addressing a gathering after reaching Gorakhpur on Saturday morning, Yogi said that his government was ensuring that every poor got cheap foodgrains and hence ration cards were being provided to them. Later, in the day, the CM announced 36 schemes worth over Rs 67 crore in the district.

Yogi said that families coming under Antyodaya had also been provided ration cards.

The Chief Minister added that after coming to power in March 2017, the BJP chalked out several schemes for the benefit of poor families.

With the help provided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his government had provided cheap house to 11 lakh families living in rural areas while 4 lakh poor families in urban areas also got benefited. "We formulated a policy that patients suffering from leprosy would be provided a house by the state government. I assure you that every poor will have a house in the state," asserted Yogi. He handed over keys to 150 families who were given houses under Aasra Awas Yojana or



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath handing over keys and papers of a house to a woman under Aasara Awas Yojana

Pradhanmantri Awas Yojna.

Asserting that there was no substitute to development, Yogi said that by the beginning of the next year, Outdoor Patient Department (OPD) of AIIMS in Gorakhpur would start functioning while MBBS classes would begin from 2020 academic year onwards.

The CM also informed that by October, work for eight new

super speciality wards in BRD Medical College would be completed and services would be also forwarded to the public from November. Yogi also stressed on completing of other projects on time beside maintaining high standard. "Delay in projects not only leads to increase in cost but also results in a compromise in quality," he said. Yogi, who left for

Gorakhnath temple to attend weekly 'Ram Katha Yogyta', will stay in the district on Saturday night. On Sunday, the CM will officially launch 'Ayushman Bharat' health insurance scheme for the poor from Baba Raghav Das Medical College in Gorakhpur, while Union Home minister Rajnath Singh will launch the health benefit scheme in Lucknow.

MOHARRAM-RELATED INCIDENTS

Six killed, 50 injured in UP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

With law-enforcing agencies having a tough time averting clashes during Moharram processions, at least six people were killed and around 50 others injured in separate incidents related to Moharram across the state in the last 24 hours.

There were around six incidents in which tazias caught fire that left several people with burns while some youths suffered injuries while doing aerobics during the procession.

In Ballia, Moradabad, Allahabad and Amroha, tazias were reduced to ashes after catching fire on coming in contact with overhead electric wires.

In Ballia, three people, Sami Khan (22) Salim Khan (18) and Imran (19), were electrocuted when they came in touch with a live wire while taking a tazia on a tractor-trolley in Sikanderpur area late on Friday evening. Besides, four persons also suffered burns.

In Faizabad, two people, who were returning after watching Moharram procession, drowned when the boat capsized in Gomti river in Kumarganj area on Friday evening. One of the deceased was identified as Mohammad Hasib (13) while efforts were being made to identify the other one.

In Moradabad, a tazia was burnt after coming in contact

with a live wire near Jayantipur village in Mahajala area on Friday night. The incident left around 25 people with burns.

In Amroha, a 25-foot-high tazia caught fire after touching a wire in Kanakpur village of Didoli police station area on Friday night. A total of 11 people received burns.

In Barabanki, Latif (45) was critically injured when a tazia caught fire and fell on him at Pakariya Purwa village in Fatehpur police station area on Friday afternoon.

Meanwhile, in Paraspur area of Gonda, an eight-year-old boy was killed when a wall collapsed while they were watching a Moharram procession in Anta village on Friday.

In Allahabad too, a tazia caught fire in Lalgalpalganj area after coming in contact with a live wire in which six people received burns.

Similarly, in Paharpur village of Handia police station area of Allahabad, three people were injured when a tazia caught fire.

Meanwhile, in Gorakhpur, a tazia came in contact with a live wire critically injuring a youth in Bhatara area on Friday night. Irate public later went on a rampage damaging several vehicles and torched Bhatara police outpost. The mob also indulged in brickbattling in which outpost incharge Dileep Kumar Chaudhary and some policemen were injured. Later,

a heavy police force reached the spot and defused the situation.

In Gauri Bazar area of Deoria, communal tension flared up when Vishal aka Kanha (11), who was watching a procession, was critically injured after being hit by the sword being used by a mourner on Friday night. While a critically injured Kanha was rushed to SGPGI in Lucknow, members of two communities came to a head over the incident. The two sides fought a pitched battle for several hours torching several vehicles, including police jeeps and ambulances. Later, a heavy police force rushed to the spot and restored order.

In Bareilly too, agitated at not being allowed to take out a procession from a particular area, a flustered crowd squatted on National Highway-24 in Naktakiya locality on Friday afternoon and blocked the traffic. The incident was triggered when villagers announced that they would not allow Moharram procession to pass through and blocked all roads since Friday morning.

To remove blockade from the highway, a police force from Bareilly district and two companies of Rapid Action Force (RAF) and PAC rushed there but failed to remove protesters. The blockade continued till Friday midnight before protesters were chased away.

Cong a gutter of corruption, Rahul tainted too: Maurya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

In a quick riposte to allegations levelled by Congress president Rahul Gandhi against Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the Rafale deal, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said that Congress was a cesspool of corruption and Rahul himself was out on bail in a scam of ₹5,000 crore.

"The people will give a befitting reply to the Congress during 2019 Lok Sabha poll for making wild charges against the PM. Rahul Gandhi lacks the moral conviction to level such allegation against the PM. The 10-year-long Congress-led UPA government was replete with scams worth ₹12 lakh crore and they were in power with the support from

the Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party," Maurya said at a meeting of delegates of OBC community in Lucknow on Saturday.

Maurya expressed confidence that the OBCs were solidly behind Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Opposition alliances notwithstanding, the BJP would only improve its tally of seats in 2019 elections.

Training his guns at SPO and BSP regimes, criminals had a free run and which has come to an end in BJP regime," Maurya added that the Yogi government was working for the welfare of the poor and downtrodden.

"During the SP-BSP regimes, the benefits of welfare

schemes to the poor were given on the basis of their caste and religion. The BJP government is aggressively pursuing the agenda of inclusive development, where every poor, youths and farmers, irrespective of their caste or creed, are getting benefits of welfare and development schemes," he said.

Underlining the importance of OBC votes in electoral politics of UP, the Deputy CM said: "the OBCs constitute 54 per cent of UP's total population and Narendra Modi would not have become the Prime Minister had OBCs not voted for the BJP and ensured victory in as many as 73 seats in the state. The Modi government has given a constitutional status to the OBC Commission," he claimed.

Shivpal lays down Morcha roadmap

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Secular Morcha founder Shivpal Yadav said that barring 'Netaji' (Mulayam Singh Yadav), his party would not support any candidate even if he/she was from his family. On Saturday, Yadav met senior Samajwadi Party leader and former Rajya Sabha MP Bhagwati Singh and sought his blessings. "We are busy expanding our base and more people and leaders are willing to join the Morcha. Our new party will play a significant role in 2019 Lok Sabha elections. We will play a prominent role in strengthening the secular block against the BJP," said Shivpal in Lucknow on Saturday.

The warring uncle of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav added: "The time for patch-up or any understanding with the SP brass



"I can tolerate 'chori' (theft) but not 'dakaiti' (robbery). I will keep fighting for social justice through the Morcha. There is no point re-considering the decision to quit the SP"

Shivpal Yadav

is gone. I have waited for two good years before taking this decision."

After breaking away from his nephew-led Samajwadi Party, Shivpal began from a scratch. From convincing disgruntled Samajwadis to join his party to initiating social media campaigns for bringing more youths into the fold, Shivpal Yadav has been busy in 'party strengthening exercises'

recently. Sources said that preparations to make the SSM's presence felt in UP politics were in full swing and leaders from across the state were visiting Shivpal Yadav everyday at his house in Lucknow.

Remembering his days with the SP patriarch, Shivpal said: "I have even washed netaji's clothes. I always helped everyone but was cheated many times.

I can tolerate 'chori' (theft) but not 'dakaiti' (robbery). I will keep fighting for social justice through the Morcha. There is no point re-considering the decision to quit the SP"

Sources in the Shivpal camp said that names of the Morcha office-bearers were being finalised. While two lists of Morcha spokespersons are already out, the district units and office-bearers will be finalised soon. By mid-October, formalities related to the registration of the party will be completed.

Even Yadav is not wasting a single minute and reaching out to senior and important politicians on a day-to-day basis. The support team at Yadav's house on Vikramaditya Marg is busy working on social media campaigns and taking care of workers who are turning up to meet their leader.

Rahul's to visit Amethi tomorrow

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Amethi is set to accord a traditional welcome to Congress president Rahul Gandhi, who will be on a two-day visit to his parliamentary constituency after his recent visit to Kailash Mansarovar. A senior Congress leader said in Lucknow on Saturday that there was a tradition in Poorvanchal and Awadh to felicitate people once they return from pilgrimage.

"Amethi is like home for Rahul Gandhi and Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is the most pious Hindu pilgrimage and hence he deserves a special wel-

come," he said. This will be Gandhi's first visit to Amethi after his Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.

UP Congress MLC and leader of the Upper House Deepak Singh confirmed that Gandhi would reach Amethi on Monday and after attending several programmes, he would leave for New Delhi on Tuesday evening.

"During his stay, the Amethi MP will attend the district vigilance committee meeting to review developmental works. Besides, he will also attend several farmers' chaupals and inspect development works done under MPLAD," Singh

said.

Sources also said that Rahul Gandhi might also attend 'prabhat pheri', an ambitious programme of the party, which would kickstart on Tuesday and culminate on Gandhi Jayanti on October 2. During prabhat pheris, Congressmen will stroll through villages chanting 'Ram Dhun' (Raghupati Raghav Rajaram...) and spread the message of love and harmony and non-violence as preached by Mahatma Gandhi. Later, the Congress workers will also take a vow on not allowing anyone to divide the country on caste or communal lines and spread hatred.

QUICK TAKES

UP GUV RELEASES POETRY COLLECTION

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik Saturday released a collection of poetry penned by retired IAS officer Dr Indu Prakash Aron at the Raj Bhavan here. Speaking after the book release, Naik said: "Dr Indu Prakash Aron has discharged his responsibilities in an appropriate manner and also enriched the literature. He has been an able administrator, litterateur, artist and a sensitive poet. The name of the book may be 'Phir Phir Adheer', but there is 'dheerta' (calmness) in his poetry and upon reading the poetry, the depth can be understood." The UP governor on this occasion termed himself as an "accidental writer". Referring to his book 'Charaiveti! Charaiveti!', Naik said: "It is only a collection of memories. The sanskrit phrase 'charaiveti! charaiveti!' means one who sits, his luck also sits. A person who sleeps, his luck also falls asleep. A persons who walks, his luck also walks." UP Cabinet minister Rita Bahuguna Joshi also spoke on this occasion, and praised the poetry collection.

FOUR MEN MOLEST WOMAN AT VILLAGE FAIR; 1 HELD

Muzaffarnagar: A 22-year-old woman was allegedly molested by four men, who torn her clothes and beat her up, when she was visiting a village fair with her brother in Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh, a police official said Saturday. Bhopa police station SHO BP Singh said one of the accused has been arrested and the rest were absconding. According to the police complaint filed by the woman's brother, the four men stopped the motorbike the siblings were riding on and beat them up at the fair in Bhokhari village Friday. The accused then torn the clothes of the woman when she resisted.

MLA BOOKED FOR OPPOSING MOHARRAM PROCESSION

Bareilly: Sitting BJP MLA from Bithari Chainpur here, Rajesh Mishra, his son and supporters were booked on Saturday for opposing a Muharram procession, police said. Five cases were registered at Cantonment and Bithari Chainpur police stations against Mishra and others for opposing a Muharram procession in village Khajuria, they said. The village lies at the border of the limits of the two police stations. "Five cases pertaining to rioting, disturbing peace and obstructing government officials from performing their duty were registered against Rajesh Mishra, BJP MLA from Bithari Chainpur, his son, three aides and 25 unidentified persons," inspector, Cantonment police station, Devendra Kumar Singh said. Later the Muharram procession was taken out under police watch, he added. "Action will be taken against those disrupting law and order, even if the person happens to be an MLA. Cases have been registered and arrests will also be made," Senior Superintendent of Police Muniraj G said. Mishra, however, claimed that the cases lodged against him are absolutely baseless.

Son, two others held for woman's murder

Varanasi: The police on Saturday claimed to have worked out murder case of a woman and arrested her son and his two aides in this connection. The police also claimed to have recovered knife used to commit crime. It may be noted here that on September 20 last, the body of a middle-aged woman was found at Bada Lalpur. The body was wrapped in polythene. The woman was identified as a resident of Aurangabad, under the Sigra police station.

The SSP Anand Kulkarni informed the presspersons that during the investigation the

role of son of deceased Amit Kumar Jaiswal came under scanner as he was absconding from home after the crime.

On Saturday afternoon, the Cantt police got tip-off about his presence in Nadesar and the police succeeded in apprehending him and his two aides Dheeraj and Shivam, also involved in the crime.

During interrogation, Amit informed the police that his father had left home about one-and-half year ago because of atrocities of his mother and added that the behaviour of his mother was also not good with him. He owns an electronic shop.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I Suresh Chandra S/o Ram Datta, Gram Chayali Post Chhanna Gola, District Almor. My daughter's name is Shewani registered in military document where as the correct name is Shiwani which is right.

NOTICE

Be it known to all that I have changed my name from Mohd. Ahad Qaiser S/o Danish Parwez Quaiser (R/o B-3, Shadab Apartment, 69 Shadab Colony, Mahanagar, Lucknow) to Abdul Ahad Qaiser S/o Danish Parwez Quaiser. My DOB is 10-10-2003.

सूचना

सूचित किया जाता है कि खान रुबीना बानो इम्तियाज उम 34 वर्ष, पुत्री इम्तियाज खान, निवासी-633/854/1, आदर्श नगर-2, कंचनपुर नटिवारी, लखनऊ एवं रुबीना बानो ये दोनों नाम एक ही व्यक्ति के हैं।

NOTICE

This is to notify that Shirin Saeed W/o Sri Ahmed Mohammed Khan R/o 512/228, 2nd Lane, Nishatganj, New Hyderabad, Lucknow and Km. Shirin Saeed are the name of one and same person.

NOTICE

This is to notify that I have lost my original registry papers on 13-09-2018. Allen Francis S/o Archi Francis R/o 531/84, Chandganj Kala, Bhindiya Tola, Lucknow.

सूचना

सूचित हो कि मैं, मोह आदिल पुत्र मोह युनुस, निवासी-ई-4/876, विनयखण्ड, गोमतीनगर लखनऊ, मैंने अपना पूरा नाम (Mohd. Sanwar Khan) मोह सरवर खान से बदलकर मोह आदिल (Mohammad Adil) कर लिया है, मुझे इसी नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाये व मेरा नाम मोह आदिल ही मेरे सभी दस्तावेजों में अंकित किया जाये।

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# Gang fleecing job-seekers busted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

An alleged mastermind of a gang defrauding innocents in the name of job in UP State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) and other government departments was nabbed by the cyber cell of Lucknow police on Saturday.

The accused, identified as Durgesh Kumar Sharma aka Kunal of Atrauli in Aligarh, is a high school pass and was running the gang for a long time. He had duped several job-seekers in the past and amassed huge wealth. Police are yet to find details regarding the money he minted. He was nabbed from Hazratganj and three mobile phones, a laptop,

several fake appointment letters, fake training letters and other documents were recovered from his possession.

Circle officer, Hazratganj, AK Mishra, who is heading the cyber cell, said the arrest came during the investigation of a case which the UPSRTC had lodged with the police. "The case was registered against fraudsters who had advertised jobs of conductors and drivers on contractual basis in UPSRTC and a cyber team zeroed in on the mastermind," he said.

Mishra said Kunal owned up his crime and disclosed that he had defrauded several persons in Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Varanasi and Allahabad in the past. Kunal disclosed the modus operandi of



The mastermind of gang in police custody

the fraud racket he and his aides were running. As per his confession, the gang used to get advertisements published in different Hindi dailies about vacancies in UPSRTC, Patanjali Ayurveda and Lucknow City Transport Services Limited. After gullible job-seekers contacted them, the fraudsters would ask them to deposit Rs 500 as registration fees. Later, the miscreants would send fake appointment letters through a fake email IDs. The applicants were asked to deposit Rs 10,000 as security amount for joining. The police suspected that the mastermind of the gang and his aides had duped thousands of job-seekers and had amassed huge wealth.

## Son of minority panel's member thrashed

Lucknow (PNS): A group of boisterous youths thrashed mercilessly the son of UP Minority Commission's member Rumana Siddiqui and his friends for rushing to the rescue of an elderly man, who was being beaten by them in Ghazipur on Friday night. As the police opted for dilly-dallying tactics in handling the complaint, Siddiqui and her supporters sat on dharna at the police station to ratchet up pressure on the police. Later, the police registered a case and four of the attackers were arrested on Saturday.

As per reports, the victim, identified as Nabiullah of Sriшти Apartment in Hazratganj, along with his friends Abhishek Soni of Mahanagar and Vishal Kumar of Gomti Nagar, had gone to Lekhraj shopping complex in Ghazipur police area for some work. Around 8:30 pm, a group of youths, who were later identified as Siraj, Asif, Anil and Vishal (all of Ghazipur village), reached the shopping complex. "The group teased a 70-year-old man and later started beating him up when the latter charged at them. Nabiullah and his friends intervened after which the rowdy group attacked him and his friends," Rumana told newsmen. Rumana said her son suffered head injuries.

She said the police were initially non-committal and were not keen on registering an FIR. "We sat on dharna on Friday

night after which senior officials reached the scene and a case was registered in this connection," she said. She later expressed satisfaction with the police working. Police spokesman AK Singh said a case of brawl and attack was registered and the police started a manhunt for the accused. "The police nabbed the persons named in the case on Saturday," he said. However, he failed to explain if the police attempted to search the old man who was beaten up.

### FOUND DEAD

A missing contractor was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Chinhat on Thursday night. The victim was identified as Babu Lal Prajapati of Sanatan Nagar, Chinhat. He was found lying in a pool of blood on the service road lane alongside Sharda Canal in Kalaan village of Chinhat around 11 pm on Thursday. His scooter was lying abandoned nearby. Passersby rushed the victim to Ram Manohar Lohiya Hospital where he was declared "brought dead". Later, the hospital staff sent a memo to the Chinhat police and a team, led by sub-inspector Abhishek Tiwari, reached there. He said an Aadhaar card was recovered from the victim's pocket and he was identified on its basis. His family was contacted after which the body was identified. The police sent the body for autopsy.

## 6-year-old boy administered injection, dies moments later

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A 6-year-old boy died after he was administered an injection allegedly by a doctor and his compounder at a private clinic in Chinhat on Friday evening. His parents have lodged a case in this connection. As per reports, Dilip Kumar Chauhan of Kalyani Vihar locality near Kamta under Chinhat police station contacted Dr Shashi Kant Mishra around 5 am on Friday after his grandson Manu (6) complained of stomach ache.

"We reached Dr Mishra's house in the locality for Manu's treatment. He sent us to his clinic where his compounder administered an injection following his instruction. A little later, Mishra also reached his clinic and administered an injection to Manu after examining him. A little later, Manu fell unconscious.

However, Mishra asked us to rush the boy to some hospital. Manu was declared "brought dead" at the hospital," Dilip alleged. He claimed that Manu died soon after Mishra administered the injection to him. The family created a ruckus outside the clinic, forcing the police to swing into action. "It is a medical case and the police had little information. We have sent the body for autopsy and will take legal action against Mishra and his compounder if their complicity in the crime is established," police spokesman AK Singh said. He added that a case had been registered and sub-inspector Jai Prakash Yadav had been assigned the investigation.

Meanwhile, a 41-year old woman was found hanging at her house in Aliganj on Saturday afternoon. The woman, identified as Mamta Pandey of Saath Feeta Road

colony, was seen hanging by her family members. Police spokesman AK Singh said no suicide note was recovered and investigations were on. "The woman was found hanging with a saree tied around her neck. She was living with her children and husband Banshi Pandey at the house," he said.

In another incident, a 14-year-old girl, identified as Karishma of Malviya Nagar, ended her life when she was all alone at the rented house she lived with her parents on Friday afternoon. Her father Sushil Kumar, who is a vegetable vendor, said that he, along with his wife, had gone to market to purchase goods, leaving Karishma all alone. "We returned home around 2:15 pm and found the doors bolted from inside. We peeped through the keyhole and found her hanging with a dupatta tied around her neck," Sushil said.

## Love-lorn youth attacks girl's sis

Lucknow (PNS): A jilted lover of Madhya Pradesh travelled to Lucknow in search of girl who he had trapped in his love through WhatsApp and Facebook. When he reached the girl's house in Thakurganj on Saturday, he did not find her, instead he met her elder sister who refused to pass on any information. This made him violent and he attacked her. Residents responded to the distress call of the victim's family and nabbed the miscreant from the spot. He was later handed

over to the police. The critically wounded victim was admitted to Trauma Centre. As per reports, the miscreant, identified as 25-year-old Ajay Bankhede of Indore in Madhya Pradesh, came in contact with the girl, who is a resident of Peer Bukhara locality of Thakurganj.

Around 5:30 pm, he reached victim's house and asked about the girl with whom he had been chatting on phone. As the girl's family refused to share any info about her, Bankhede became furious and he attacked

girl's elder sister Meenu (name changed) with a knife. "He was mad in anger and attacked Meenu several times injuring her critically. I, along with my son, rushed to help Meenu, who suffered cuts. With the help of our neighbours and we somehow overpowered him," victim's mother said. Police said a case of murderous assault was being registered against the miscreant. "He is still in rage and is fuming. He is accusing the girl of inveigling him into love and refusing to marry him," said police sources in the team which quizzed the accused.



(Top) Hindu spiritual leader Swami Sarang performs 'zanjeer ka matam' during the Ashura (10th Moharram) procession (below), which was taken out in Old City on Friday

लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण			
ISO 9001 प्रमाणित			
प्राधिकरण भवन, विपिन खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ (उ.प्र.)			
फोन नं: 0522-2302586			
पत्रांक सं: 371/ई-निविदा/गुआ/2018		दिनांक: 22.09.2018	
ई-निविदा			
पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑन लाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। कार्य से संबंधित ई-निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाइट <a href="https://etender.up.nic.in">https://etender.up.nic.in</a> पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध होंगे। वेब साइट पर उपलब्ध ई-निविदा नोटिस में विशेष ध्यानपूर्वक निविदा डालने की तिथि, श्रेणी, कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि एवं ई-निविदा लागत तथा अन्य नियम व शर्तों का उल्लेख है।			
क्र.सं	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की लागत (रु. लाख में)	ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि
1	मन्त्री आवास विभूति खण्ड गोमती नगर विद्युत उपकेंद्र से पंचशील योजना तक 11 केंडीडो कीडर का निर्माण कार्य।	108.70	22.10.2018
2	इन्दिरा गांधी प्रतिष्ठान में 750 केंडीडो/एच समता के दो अदद जर्नरेंटों की ओवर हालिंग सर्विसिंग, स्थापना का कार्य।	23.43	01.10.2018
3	इन्दिरा गांधी प्रतिष्ठानों में विभिन्न स्थानों पर प्रकाश व्यवस्था हेतु 8 मी० जी०आई० पोल पर एल०आई०डी० फ्लड लाइटें लगाने का कार्य।	4.59	01.10.2018
4	इन्दिरा गांधी प्रतिष्ठान में 100 सीटों वाले मीटिंग हॉल में कांफेरेन्सिंग आडियो सिस्टम लगाने का कार्य।	11.22	01.10.2018
5	इन्दिरा गांधी प्रतिष्ठान में लॉन नम्बर 02 में ओ०एफ०सी० बदलने सम्बन्धित कार्य।	3.32	01.10.2018
6	इन्दिरा गांधी प्रतिष्ठान में 100 सीटों वाले मीटिंग हॉल में इक्वैल ए०सी० लगाने का कार्य।	8.95	01.10.2018
7	जानकीपुरम योजना सेक्टर-जे के सृष्टि अपार्टमेंट के परिसर में प्रकाश व्यवस्था का कार्य।	36.31	05.10.2018
8	गोमती नगर विस्तार योजना के सेक्टर-4 में जुराखनपुरवा में पानीटकी के पास स्थित नलकूप के विद्युत संयोजन का कार्य।	3.35	05.10.2018
ई-निविदा प्रपत्र उत्तर प्रदेश इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट <a href="https://etender.up.nic.in">https://etender.up.nic.in</a> पर देखे जा सकते हैं। ई-निविदाओं के सम्बन्ध में कोई बदलाव अथवा अतिरिक्त सूचना वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी। अतः इच्छुक निविदादाता नियमित रूप से उक्त वेबसाइट देखते रहें।			
मुख्य अभियन्ता			

## Youth suffers firearm injuries, succumbs



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A youth (22) succumbed to firearm injuries which he suffered under mysterious circumstances at his house in Kakori on Thursday night. However, police claimed that the youth committed suicide and that he had made similar attempts in the past too. The police were at loss of words when asked as to why the family did not take measures if victim had attempted suicide earlier too.

As per reports, Ankit Yadav of Saifalpur village of Kakori retired to his room after having dinner with his family on Thursday night. "After a while, his family members heard a gunshot and they went into Ankit's room but only to find him lying in a pool of blood. He was rushed to KGMU Trauma Centre where he was declared 'brought dead' around Thursday midnight," police spokesman AK Singh said.

The Kakori police claimed that Ankit had attempted suicide on a number of occasions in the past also but failed to explain why the family did not take him to any counsellor. The police said Ankit shot himself with a pistol and it was yet to be ascertained if it was licenced. As per police, victim's father Brijesh Kumar Yadav said his son ran a shop and was suffering from depression. Elsewhere, in Nagram, a 20-year-old girl, identified as Malti of Salempur, ended her life at her house on Friday morning. Her brother Vinod Kumar said he had gone to get their ailing mother admitted to Civil Hospital in Hazratganj and Malti, along with her elder sister Shanti, stayed back. "I got a call from Shanti around 8 am and she told me that Malti had ended her life," Vinod said. As per police, Malti was found hanging from the ceiling with a saree tied around her neck.

### भारत निर्वाचन आयोग

## विशेष संक्षिप्त पुनरीक्षण/मतदाता (वोटर) पंजीकरण कार्यक्रम

दिनांक: 1 सितम्बर 2018 से 31 अक्टूबर 2018 तक

### क्या आप मतदाता के रूप में पंजीकृत होने को तैयार हैं ?

सितम्बर

**23**

सितम्बर 2018, रविवार

अक्टूबर

**07**

अक्टूबर 2018, रविवार

अक्टूबर

**14**

अक्टूबर 2018, रविवार

अक्टूबर

**28**

अक्टूबर 2018, रविवार

**फार्म-6**

पहली बार मतदाता या किसी एक निर्वाचन-क्षेत्र से किसी अन्य एक निर्वाचन-क्षेत्र में स्थानांतरण के कारण निर्वाचक नामावली में नाम को सम्मिलित करने के लिए आवेदन

**फार्म-6क**

किसी प्रवासी निर्वाचक द्वारा निर्वाचक नामावली में नाम सम्मिलित किए जाने के लिए आवेदन

**फार्म-7**

मृत्यु/स्थान परिवर्तन के कारण निर्वाचक नामावली में अन्य व्यक्ति का नाम सम्मिलित करने का आक्षेप/अपना नाम हटाने/किसी अन्य व्यक्ति का नाम हटाने के लिए आवेदन

**फार्म-8**

निर्वाचक नामावली में प्रविष्टि विशिष्टियों की शुद्धि के लिए आवेदन

**फार्म-8क**

निर्वाचक नामावली में प्रविष्टि को अन्यत्र रखने के लिए आवेदन (एक निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में निवास स्थान को एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान पर स्थानांतरित करने के मामले में)

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- 18 वर्ष की आयु पूरे कर चुके हों अथवा 01 जनवरी, 2019 को 18 वर्ष की आयु पूर्ण कर रहे हों।

**मतदाता सूची में नाम देखने की व्यवस्था**

- मतदाता सूचियों का आलेख्य 01 सितम्बर, 2018 से 31 अक्टूबर, 2018 के मध्य सभी मतदान केन्द्रों पर देखने के लिए उपलब्ध होगा।
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**काल सेन्टर/शुल्क रहित निर्वाचन हेल्प लाइन नं. -1800-180-1950**

**फार्म लिमिटेड स्थान/अधिकारी के पास जमा करें**

- सम्बन्धित पोलिंग बूथ के बूथ लेवल अधिकारी के माध्यम से
- तहसील स्थित मतदाता पंजीकरण केन्द्र
- तहसील के उप जिलाधिकारी/निर्वाचक रजिस्ट्रीकरण अधिकारी
- तहसील के तहसीलदार/सहायक निर्वाचक रजिस्ट्रीकरण अधिकारी
- जिलाधिकारी/जिला निर्वाचन अधिकारी

**आवेदन की सामान्य व्यवस्था**

- सभी फार्म अपने निकटस्थ पोलिंग बूथ तथा तहसील स्थित मतदाता पंजीकरण केन्द्र से अथवा वेबसाइट [www.ceouttarpradesh.nic.in](http://www.ceouttarpradesh.nic.in) से डाउनलोड कर प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं।
- सम्बन्धित फार्मों पर अपना आवेदन-पत्र (फोटो, पता, जन्मतिथि के प्रमाण सहित) जमा करें।

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# RSS worker beaten to death by rowdies

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

An RSS worker was attacked after he intervened and attempted to save his friend who was lank in a brawl in Jankipuram on Thursday night. The critically injured youth succumbed to injuries on Friday morning.

As per reports, Swapnil Srivastava (19 of sector J) of Jankipuram had returned home after attending idol immersion ceremony at night and later, along with his friend Sarthak Mishra, left his house for Tikoniya Park in the area to meet their friend Abhay Pratap Singh of the same colony on latter's call.

When they were busy in chit-chatting, a group of 20-25 youths, led by Sooraj of Madaion village, reached the scene and the youths taunted at Abhay Pratap. This snowballed into a verbal spat first and later took an ugly turn

when Sooraj and his accomplices attacked Abhay. To save Abhay from being hit by opponents, Swapnil stepped forward and thus invited the ire of attackers.

The residents were scared out of their wits after the brawl erupted and the attackers started pummeling the victims. Some of the youths of the riotous group howled at commuters who stopped at the scene out of curiosity asking them to leave the scene or face their ire. "One of them attacked Swapnil on his head with a brick. He suffered serious injuries. The attackers fled the scene. We rushed Swapnil to a private hospital but the doctors referred him to Trauma Centre where he died on Friday morning," victim's father Om Prakash Srivastava, who also is an RSS worker and works as a teacher in its local unit in Jankipuram.

The laidback police swung into action after the news

reached them and later a case was registered against Sooraj and his aides. "A case of brawl and a case of culpable homicide with no intention to kill was registered. Some of the accused had been arrested," the police spokesman informed.

## ARMYMAN KILLED IN ROAD MISHAP

An armyman was killed in a road mishap in Sadar under Cantonment police station on Saturday afternoon. The victim, identified as Manoj, was deployed in 16 Jat Regiment and was living with his family in Sadar locality. His wife Manju told police that Manoj left for Sadar market for shopping on a scooter. "When he reached near Sadar culvert, a speeding tempo from opposite direction hit the scooter and he died on the spot," she stated in her complaint. The police said the victim was rushed to hospital where he was declared "brought dead".

# Frothy ale and feisty sausages with fiery dips!

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

It's all about frothy ale, feisty sausages with fiery dips that make up for some wholesome festivity. The mention of the fest itself brings in vivid pictures from comic books of tables laden with food and German 'fellas' gathered around kegs making bonhomie and raising mugs in the golden light of the setting sun. Hotel Hyatt Regency captures the mood of the German 'October Fest' at its penthouse to give the Lucknowites an experience of the annual festival which is given by the German Royals to their villagers. The layout of the spread is breathtakingly aesthetic with tall baskets and wooden trays filled with delicious delights.

Head chef, Hyatt Regency, Subhash Jana said he had kept the soul of the festivity intact with focus on the sausages and given it a little Indian twist at some points to give his clients something new. "This is just the right time for the festival as summer is fading away and winter is around the corner and rains also happening. One can consume large amount of beverages at this time of the year which is not

possible when the heat is on," he said. Admitting that Lucknow had developed an adventurous palate, he said that the fest was an attempt to showcase something which was different from the usual food festival.

In the menu, which he has drafted for this 'October Fest', he has stuck to the core item which are the sausages. "I know that the clients prefer mutton and chicken with their ale but I want them to try sausages which form an important part of the fest being user friendly in terms of preparation and storage and without bones and other hindrances can be devoured easily," he added.

The chef recommends "Toad in a hole, which a delicious puff pastry that has been stuffed with a sausage from Nuremberg. The flaky pastry adds on aeons of tastes to the salty sausage which has a delicious smoky flavour.

He said he had given an interesting twist to some of the preparations of the sausages that will have the add on of the contemporary Indian flavours "Normally, people have sausages only for breakfast but here, they can try both pork and chicken sausages. The

## OCTOBER FEST



'Frankfurter@350 degree clay oven' is prepared by marinating the chicken sausage in kasuri methi, kashmiri chillies, black salt and then baked at a temperature at which we bake the tandoori chicken because of which the marination seeps inside the sausage giving it all the flavours. Yet another sausage to which I have an Indian twist is the 'Ghee roast

German bratwurst', wherein the sausage is roasted with cheese cinnamon and curry leaf and served along with 'bhuna zeera aloo'.

The chef said that the "Meat medley" was an interesting mix of cold cuts which include black forest ham, smoked salmon, chicken salami and lamb pepperoni. The 'artisan cheese platter' includes

a mindboggling range of cheese from Europe include edam, gouda, emmental, cheddar, mozzarella, brie which are served with the dainty accompaniments of olives and tomatoes.

Sharing other delights, the chef said that guests could also opt for 'Honey roast pork' which is glazed with grilled apple, star anise and clove as well as cinnamon giving it a crackling surface. "Cottage cheese schnitzel is crispy, made of cheese, thyme and parsley while the potato cheese knodl bursts out with flavours of cheese and chilly coriander pretzel is freshly baked pretzel bread with chilly, cumin and coriander," he added.

Bar manager Sudam said that robust flavours of beer would be served to match the mood of the fest and the flavours were mostly of wheat. "The guests can collect the ale from a modern contraption which we have procured and has a tap fixed in it to create just the right mood in the company of the friends. We are also serving interesting cocktails," he added. The whole fest has been placed in the open at the top floor to get the perfect ambience.

# Woman attempts self-immolation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Peeved over delay in justice to her son, a woman attempted to end her life on Vidhan Sabha Marg in Hazratganj on Friday afternoon. Police recommended her case to senior police officials. As per reports, the woman, identified as Sapna of Ashiyana, reached gate number 3 of Vidhan Bhawan around 1:30 pm on Friday and later poured herself on herself. However, before she could immolate herself, cops present there overpowered her and pre-empted her bid.

The woman told media-persons that her son Gulshan

Kumar, who worked in Moradabad, had died under mysterious circumstances in a house under Majhola police station in Moradabad in 2017. "Gulshan was found hanging in the room and the police claimed that he committed suicide even though he had no reason to commit suicide. I had to run form pillar to post to get a case registered. After making several rounds to Moradabad, the police registered a case of abetment to suicide, discarding my claim that Gulshan was killed and hanged. The Moradabad police apparently wanted to give a clean chit to those responsible for my son's death,"

she alleged. Sapna said she had made several rounds of Moradabad since the registration of abetment to suicide case but the police remained unmoved. "I had no option but to end my life. I hope my son gets justice now that newspapers will cover my story," she added. Police spokesman AK Singh said the matter had been referred to senior officials and also to the Moradabad police through the Lucknow SSP. "A police team from Moradabad will visit the city and the woman will be helped," he said, adding that the police were collecting details of the case.

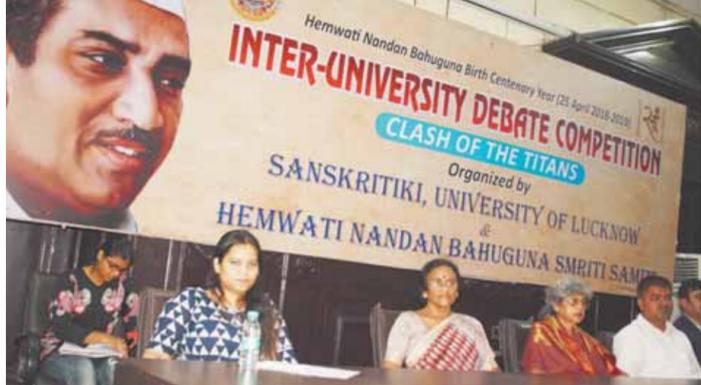
## CITYBRIEFS

### HEALTH CHECK-UP CAMP

In the run-up to World Heart Day (September 29), Vivekananda Polyclinic and Institute of Medical Sciences is organising a week-long free cardiac awareness and consultation camp from September 24 to 29. Free consultation as well as ECG and random blood sugar tests will be conducted at the check-up camp. As per requirements, other investigations like Lipid Profile, Treadmill Test (TMT) and 2D Echo Doppler (Colour Doppler) will be conducted free or on 50 per cent concession, depending upon the affordability of patients. Moreover, patients requiring angiography, angioplasty, CABG or those suffering from ASD, VSD, PDA, heart valve diseases, coronary artery disease etc will be screened and subsequently operated upon at subsidised rates. Meanwhile IMA-Academy of Medical specialties, Lucknow chapter, in association with Krishna Holistic Lifestyle Centre, organised a scientific programme on Holistic Health (Diabetes & Hypertension) at IMA Bhawan. Dr Ashok Chandra, scientific chairperson, IMA Lucknow, was the chief guest while Dr AN Srivastava, chairman of Krishna Holistic Lifestyle Centre, the guest of honour.

### ENTRANCE EXAM

Abdul Kalam Technical University announced the dates of Uttar Pradesh State Entrance Examination (UPSEE-2019). The exam will be held on April 21 next year. Media spokesperson of AKTU Asheesh Mishra



Minister Rita Bahuguna Joshi at Lucknow University during the semifinals of the 'Clash of Titans' debate

said that the decision was taken in a meeting which was presided over by AKTU Vice-Chancellor Vinay Kumar Pathak. "Applications forms will be available from the second week of January and the last date of submitting the

forms will be in the last week of March," he added

### LECTURE

Former head of Lucknow University's Hindi department SP Dixit explored the ideas implicit in former Prime

Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's poetry such as nationalism, patriotism, socio-religious harmony, environmental sensitivity and ethical emotionalism. He addressed the audience under a special lecture series being held on the former PM. The last lectures were on 'Atal and Indian education system, Atal and Indian economy, and Atal and telecommunication. The lecture was presided by Vice-Chancellor SP Singh.

### BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Minister for Tourism and Women's Welfare Rita Bahuguna Joshi said that the HN Bahuguna Smriti Trust had sent a proposal to Lucknow Municipal Corporation for naming one of the city roads after her late father. The minister said this while giving details of the various events which have been lined up

under the centenary celebrations of HN Bahuguna's birth anniversary. She was addressing mediapersons at Lucknow University where the minister attended semifinals of the 'Clash of Titans' debate organised by the Trust. She said that programmes were being held across the country to commemorate the anniversary of her father.

### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES



Regional Science City celebrated its 29th anniversary by organising various educational programmes for school students and general masses. On the concluding day, a popular science lecture on water conservation was organised. With the help of scientists, former scientist (CDRI) PK Srivastava spoke about the ancient Indian techniques of water uses and conservation with the help of. Dr. Srivastava explained today's situation of water availability. He said Cherapunji received the highest rainfall but people were still facing drinking water scarcity there, while Udaipur received very little rainfall but there was no such scarcity.



Heavy rains lashed the state capital on Saturday afternoon. The city received 2.2 mm rainfall. The maximum temperature was recorded at 29.2 degree Celsius, which was four notches below normal. The local forecast is partly cloudy sky

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि. कार्यालय अजीमगंज, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, विद्युत कालोनी-गोविन्द नगर, कानपुर. CIN : U31200UP2003SGC027460

## अति-अलकालीन निविदा सूचना

अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, कानपुर के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित विवरण के अनुसार कार्य हेतु अनुभवी व सक्षम निविदादाताओं द्वारा निविदाये आमंत्रित की जाती है। निर्धारित निविदा शुल्क एवं धरोहर धरनादि <http://dvvn1.org> के टेन्डर ऑफ़िशर पर जा कर पे-नाउ विकल्प का चयन करने के उपरान्त जमा की जायेगी। निविदा शुल्क की जमा करने की रसीद को कार्यालय में प्रस्तुत करने पर निविदा प्राप्त निमित्त किये जायेंगे। निविदादाता के को निविदा के प्रथम नाम में निर्माणाधिकार प्रपत्र प्रेषित करना अनिवार्य होगा-  
1. आयकर, प्रमाण पत्र प्रेषित करना होगा। 2. जीएचएसटीडी पीजीकरण का प्रमाण पत्र प्रेषित करना होगा। 3. विद्युत सुखा निदेशालय द्वारा, प्रस्तुत "ए" श्रेणी का पीजीकरण। 4. निविदादाताओं को कार्य का अनुभव प्रमाण पत्र प्रस्तुत करना आवश्यक है। 5. श्रम विभाग द्वारा मजदूर अधिनियम 1970/1962 में मजदूर आपूर्ति का पूर्व पीजीकरण होना चाहिये (एक प्रमाणित छायाप्रति संलग्न की जाए)। 6. सीबीसीडी के दिशा निर्देशानुसार निविदादाता का पिछले 03 वित्तीय वर्ष का रेट्रोस्पेक्टिव ईयर वैल्यू का कम से कम 30 प्रतिशत होना चाहिये। 7. निविदा में मांगे गये प्रपत्र ही संलग्न करे अनावश्यक प्रपत्र संलग्न न करे। उपरोक्त प्रपत्र प्रेषित न करने की स्थिति में निविदादाता के नाम-2 पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदा को निरस्त करने का पूर्ण अधिकार अजीमगंज निगम, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, कानपुर के पास सुरक्षित है।  
अंशक-1. अति-अलकालीन निविदा सं-09/विद्युतमण्डल/2018-19, दिनांक-27.09.2018।  
अंशक-2. अति-अलकालीन निविदा सं-00/विद्युतमण्डल/2018-19, दिनांक- विद्युत वितरण मण्डल के अन्तर्गत मापी वर्ष से जल भराव के कारण क्षतिग्रस्त हुई विद्युत लाइनों की मरम्मत का कार्य।  
निविदा शुल्क- 1000+जीएचएसटीडी, धरोहर धरनादि-10000.00/-, निविदा बुलने की तिथि-27.09.2018।  
पत्रांक- 2517/विद्युतमण्डल/निविदा प्रकारान दिनांक- 20.09.2018  
अजीमगंज निगम

# Lord Ganesh idol immersion today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Preparations were in full swing for *visarjan* of Lord Ganesh idol with the festivities of Ganesh Chaturthi concluding on Sunday. Though some of the Ganesh Mahotsav committees have carried out *visarjan* on second, fourth and seventh days too, those who celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi for ten days will do it on Sunday. The Ganesh idols will be given a warm farewell with the usual chants of 'Ganpati Bappa Morya, agle bars tu jaldi aa'. Bharat Bhushan Gupta from Ganesh Praktya Samiti said they had started preparations for the *visarjan*. "We follow the traditions of the

Siddhi Vinayak temple where *visarjan* takes place after ten days of the start of Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations," he pointed out.

He said that they would be carrying out *bhoo visarjan* of the idols and for that, they had started digging a pit from Friday. "It is the fifth time that we will be carrying out *bhoo visarjan*. The pit is being dug at Jhulelal Park and it will be 25-30-feet deep. The Lord Ganesh idol will be lifted with the help of a crane and placed into the pit," he said. He further pointed out that over one lakh letters, which have been written by the devotees for Ganesh, will also be buried along with the idol.

## SCHOOLSCAN

### BEST TEAM AWARD

Ananya Kalra and Gurbani Bedi, two class XII students of City Montessori School, Gomti Nagar Campus I, won the best team award in senior category of an inter-school debate competition, organised under the aegis of Association of Schools for the Indian School Certificate (ASISC), UP & Uttarakhand at zonal level. Students of several reputed schools participat-



ed in this contest, wherein Ananya and Gurbani spoke with fluency, logic and efficiency left the judges impressed. The organisers awarded them trophy and certificates.

# NBFGFR decodes complete draft genome of three fish species

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

With the decoding of complete draft genome and functional genes of three important Indian fish species (hilsa, rohu and magur), Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Research (ICAR-NBFGFR) has demonstrated its capabilities in this frontier area of research.

NBFGFR scientists said that the genomes were analysed to identify the genes and complete work had been done within India. These draft fish genomes were accomplished under different programmes. Genome of two important pathogens - Aphanomyces invadans and White Spot Syndrome Virus (Indian strain) - have also been sequenced by NBFGFR and Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA) Chennai, respectively.

"ICAR has given a strong push to develop capability in this field of research through a programme, Consortium Research Platform on Genomics (CRP Genomics) during 2015, led by NBFGFR, which involves institutes on several commodities including crops, livestock, fish, microbes and pathogens," said a scientist. He said that the first draft genome of hilsa, an iconic fish of Indo-Pacific, was completed

under CRP Genomics by ICAR-NBFGFR which was presented during the conference, PAGASIA 2017 at Seoul, South Korea.

"Nearly 32,000 protein coding genes have been identified, which include genes for growth, lipid metabolism and immune function. Researchers at ICAR-NBFGFR have identified important osmoregulatory genes, important for enduring extreme environmental stress conditions, faced during spawning migration of hilsa, he added. It was also informed that the Indian major carp, rohu genome was predicted to have over 40,000 genes and functional role of around 25000 genes have been annotated.

He said that the results were based on the 95% coverage achieved for the whole genome through multiple platforms. "Similarly, Indian catfish, magur genome assembly with 93% coverage was found to have over 51000 genes and near 35000 genes have been analysed to assign biological function. This program on two cultivable fish species, rohu and magur was supported by the department of Biotechnology, Government of India, and accomplished by NBFGFR in collaboration with Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar; Anand Agricultural University,

Anand and Indian Agricultural Statistical Research Institute, New Delhi. The programme generated important genomic information for rohu and magur for the first time and would pave the way for finding genes for aquaculture important traits such as growth, disease resistance," the scientist said.

Under another programme, NBFGFR has established high quality draft genome of oomycete, Aphanomyces invadans, known to cause epizootic ulcerative syndrome (EUS), with 87% coverage. "With a total of nearly 18,000 genes predicted, EUS is one of the most destructive diseases of fresh and brackishwater fishes, which has been reported from 28 countries. Currently, more than 120 species of fishes are naturally infected and the disease causes substantial losses particularly in Asia and Africa. In the Indian strain of WSSV, responsible for losses in shrimp industry, the surprising finding of reduction of genome is also recorded by another independent study done at CAH College, Vellore. The results will help in further studies on the pathogenic mechanisms and identification of virulence factors, thereby, useful to develop novel strategies in disease management," he added.

# Bedi: Inspiration of play came from marriages



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Actor/director Rakesh Bedi said that in the play 'Jab We Separated', which was staged in the city on Saturday evening, he tried to capture the feelings of the couple in the six months' time given to them by the court for a rethink on their decision to end their marriage. Bedi, along with actress Shweta Tewari, addressed mediapersons before the play was staged at a city hotel. Bedi, who has written and directed the play with all its comic flavours, said the inspiration came from all the marriages.

"The play has everything for a person who is married and at all stages, he will be able to relate to it. Shweta Tewari was smiling and also in tears when she heard the script for the first time. She could also identify with the situations since she has faced divorce," he said. He admitted that he got the idea of doing the play because of the increasing number of divorces happening today. "In the tier two and three cities, it is still the mother-in-law who is the villain, but what about the Metro cities where there are nuclear families. The play also showcases a couple and the journey of how they met and how they were getting ready for separation. I have played the role of a senior citizen who is facing the problem of solitude and keeps visiting the house of the couple on one pretext or the other," Bedi said.

# Cong, DMK caught off guard with Rajapaksa statement

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The disclosure by Mahinda Rajapaksa, the former President of Sri Lanka that the then UPA Government was kept informed by the then Government of the island nation about each and every stage of the final phase of the civil war against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in May 2009 has left the DMK and Congress leaders perplexed.

Rajapaksa, during his recent visit to New Delhi to address the delegates of the Virat Hindustan Sangham led by BJP MP Subramanian Swamy had said that a team of officials from India and Sri Lanka were in the know of things about the progress of the war which led to the annihilation of the LTTE and its leader Prabhakaran. The former Sri Lankan president also said that India had cooperated with his country in the last stage of the civil war.

This led to the AIADMK Government in Tamil Nadu to declare on Friday that the party would organise public meetings all

over the State on September 25 to inform the people how the DMK played a crucial role in the murder of Tamils in northern Sri Lanka.

The AIADMK Government got a shot in the arm as World Tamil Forum, an outfit floated by the Lankan Tamils based in Chennai declaring its support to the September 25 public meetings against the Congress-DMK axis. "We know that the DMK leaders were hand in glove with the Congress and the Sri Lankan military in murdering Tamils in northern Sri Lanka. The Tamils extend our support to the public meetings to be held in Tamil Nadu on September 25," said Agni, coordinator of the Forum.

"The DMK has no role in that incident. What the AIADMK Government is trying to do is to divert the attention of the people from the corruption charges faced by the Edappadi Palaniswamy Government," said TKS Elangovan, the official spokesman of the DMK.

Pon Radhakrishnan, Union Minister of State for Shipping, Highways and Finance said in Nagercoil that the disclosure by

Rajapaksa exposed the hypocrisy and double standard of the Congress and the DMK towards the Tamils in Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu. "The Congress should not be allowed to set its foot in Tamil Nadu. It is a party of cheats and crooks. What we should understand from Rajapaksa's statement is that the Congress and the DMK were in secret alliance with the Sri Lankan military in the annihilation of 1.5 lakh Tamils in the May 2009 civil war," said Radhakrishnan.

The Congress in Tamil Nadu, facing factionalism and group war, found it difficult to clear the doubts among the people about the approach of the party towards the Lankan Tamils. S Thirunavakarassar, president, TNCC, stated that the announcement by the AIADMK government to hold public meetings against the DMK was to create confusion in the Congress-DMK alliance. "A wave of anti-AIADMK statement has begun sweeping the State. Hence protest meetings on the Sri Lankan Tamil's issue will never help the party save its Government or come back to power," said Thirunavakarassar.

# J&K: CRPF inducts 500 women personnel to counter stone-pelters

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

In a first, the CRPF has inducted five Mahila Companies (500 combatants) for anti-terrorist operations in Jammu & Kashmir and will help in containing women stone-pelters and areas gheraoed by women during cordon and search operations by the security forces.

The companies operate from a base at Bemina in Srinagar and dispatched to locations based on operational requirements. The women personnel are equipped with assault rifles like AK-47 for operations in the hinterland and 9 mm pistol for close combat in urban settings besides bullet-proof vests.

As part of pre-induction training, the companies were initially deployed in guard duties at various places including the Srinagar airport. The women personnel have also been exposed to riot control and mob control. The companies have been trained in counter-insurgency and anti-terrorist operations for operational requirement in the Valley.

The CRPF has already deployed Mahila companies for anti-Naxal operations in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

A senior CRPF officer handling training in the paramilitary said, "The decision to put trained women on the ground in the Valley was taken as part of tactical requirements as the separatist groups and terror-sympathizing outfits often bring women to the fore to disrupt cordon and



search operations and often engaged for throwing stones on the security forces. In such a situation, our boys (jawans) are at receiving end and the terrorists escape after taking advantage of the disturbance. The Mahila companies will now take care of the stone-pelting women and those disrupting anti-terrorist operations."

The separatist and terrorist groups often made a huge issue when protesting women were injured even inadvertently by security forces during operations or for controlling violent stone-throwing mobs. The human rights groups also used to make a huge issue out of such lawful operations by the security forces against the ultras who were readily backed by local women and children, a source said.

The CRPF has deployed over 60 battalions (60,000 personnel) in Jammu and Kashmir for law and order and anti-terrorist operations in the insurgency-hit State.

Earlier, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police that guards the Indo-China border had deployed five companies for combat operations in the high-altitude frontier.

# Trouble deepens for Hyd school after second complaint of sexual abuse

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

Trouble seems to be deepening for the Azan International school as another minor girl has complained to the police that she and her classmates were also subjected to sexual abuse in the school.

According to the complaint lodged at Golkonda police station the incident occurred on the same day as the incident of rape of a four year old girl came to light leading to the closure of school last week.

The parents of the second victim told the police that they came to know when their daughter spoke of the abuse, she and her classmates were subjected to by an unknown "uncle".

The girl told the parents that the "uncle" pushed her and other class mates into a dark-room and after beating sexually abused her and others. He also threatened to kill them if they told anybody about it.

The fresh case came to light even before the students of the school and the parents could recover from the shock of the first incident a week ago. After the complaint of the rape was lodged last week the school education department ordered the closure of school.

Nayyara Feroz, correspondent of the school said that they were yet to receive any official information about the second complaint.

# Karan Thapar: Rafale could be PM Modi's Bofors moment

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

Veteran journalists and famous TV personality Karan Thapar has said that the statement of former President of France, François Hollande, that Indian Government had suggested the name of Anil Ambani's company for the Rafale deal and Dassault was not given any choice possibly could be "Bofors moment" of the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

It has not only exposed the lies of the Defence Minister Nirmala Sitaraman and Arun Jaitley that it was the decision of Dassault but also showed that the Modi Government insisted that a particular organisation should be given offset making mockery of the rules.

Participating in an interaction with the journalists and journalism students under the aegis of Press Club, Hyderabad here on Saturday, Karan Thapar recalled that Modi can not question the integrity of ex-French President as he had invited him at the chief guest of the Republic Day celebrations in 2016.

"This (Rafale deal episode) has higher profile than Bofors. While there was a smoking gun and money trail in Bofors scandal, here there was a suspicion of a smoking gun now", Karan said.

He recalled that when Swedish Radio had exposed Bofors, the Opposition led by VP Singh had effectively used it and members of all the parties barring Congress had resigned from Parliament.

## RAFALE ROW

# As political blame game escalates, HAL feels tremor

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

As the political war and blame game escalates over controversial Rafale fighter jet deal, the Defence PSU HAL headquartered in Bengaluru is worried over the impact of the deal on its existence. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited with over 29,000 employees spread across the country has very much cash strapped and now looking at a bleak future. HAL in its over 70 years of existence has suffered a huge financial crunch and might affect some of the ongoing projects.

A senior executive who is part of HAL's many projects on the condition of anonymity feels the cancellation RFQ for production of 106 Rafale fighters and technology transfer has hit the PSU very badly. He said "because of the faulty RFQ we have lost the production of

Rafale fighters in our facility. As the impact we are cash strapped. We have only ₹1,500 crore and have to pay ₹400 crores as salaries per month approximately for the employees."

"The SU-30 production is coming to end and the financial crunch has hit the design and development of new projects in the pipeline. We have to stop IMRH (Indian Multirole Helicopter), two aero engine development and new UAV projects apart from others," he said and added that government should come to the rescue of HAL to bring back its glory by reviving projects in the pipeline.

Another senior retired official who has seen the Rafale RFQ from the beginning said for the first time in the history of HAL, MoD wanted to sign a contract with OEM and accordingly introduced new

clauses in the RFP which were, unfortunately, not workable.

He said "I feel there was no other option for the MoD but to cancel the proposed contract due to the defective RFP issued by them. He said "1. Only one contract will be signed by MoD with the OEM. HAL will sign a separate contract with OEM. 2. OEM has to take the responsibility of warranty and delivery of all the aircraft produced by him as well as the 108 jets assembled by HAL. 3. OEM has to include the cost of aircraft assembled at HAL in the overall quotation and 4. Life cycle cost to be included in the quote."

"We all know the result of negotiation with Dassault. It's not higher man hours claimed by HAL or perception of Nirmala Sitharaman about HAL, it's the defective RFP which pulled the curtain before the show could begin" he

added. Another official said the buyback share has affected the financial position to a great extent. He said recently the employees union demanded a pay hike and company could not give them any hike but rejected their demand because of the the financial position.

HAL has the experience of working with Dassault where over 60 Mirage 2,000 fighters were maintained and upgraded recently. Only they have orders for 73 Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) and sources say so far there is no confirmation about 83 LCA and waiting for the confirmation.

HAL which is the backbone of Indian defence forces is struggling for its existence and became an easy prey to the political slugfest of the Rafale deal.

# 'Microdots' to help curb vehicle thefts

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has come out with a draft of 'microdot system' to curb incidents of motor vehicle thefts in the country. Under this, thousands of small dots laser etched will be sprayed with a vehicle identification number on all over the vehicle's body including its engine. As the dots are less than 1mm in diameter it is impossible to locate and remove everyone. This makes it very difficult for a car thief to conceal the vehicle's true identity. It also allows usually untraceable parts to be linked to a particular vehicle, thereby aiding in the recovery of stolen components. The technology is being used in countries like South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Taiwan, Canada, the US and the European Union (EU), among others to prevent and reduce motor vehicle theft.

Officials of Home Ministry said that a microdot is text or an image substantially reduced in size onto a small disc to prevent detection by unintended recipients. It involves spraying thousands of the small dots laser etched with a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), throughout the vehicle.

The dots, which are less than 1 mm across, are carried in an adhesive that fluoresces under Ultra Violet light. It's a simple matter then to identify a treated area and recover one of the dots for viewing under a special magnifier, which reveals the dot's number. Because the dots are spread throughout the vehicle, it is impossible to find and remove every one. "The microdots are brushed or sprayed onto the key parts of an asset to provide complete parts marking," officials said. "All the text on every microdot shall be legible with equipment that magnifies the



text at least 60 times. Characters on the microdot shall be consecutive and not separated by spaces," the draft said.

According to officials, the ministry discussed the technology with several industry experts before arriving at the final conclusion.

The use of marking vehicles with microdots is called Whole of Vehicle Marking (WoVM), officials added. In South Africa it is a legal requirement to have microdot fitted to all new vehicles sold since September 2012.

As per Home Ministry's National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) data, as many as 2.14 lakh vehicles are stolen across India annually. According to NCRB, Delhi is top in the list of vehicle theft as many as 38,644 cases were reported in 2016 followed by Uttar Pradesh with 34,480 automobile thefts. Maharashtra reported third highest 22,435 thefts of vehicles followed by Rajasthan 17,544 and Madhya Pradesh 15,878.

As per Delhi police data, in 2018, an average of 110-120 vehicles being stolen in the capital every day has been reported. What is more shocking is the fact that less than 8 per cent cases are solved by the police. Motor vehicle thefts account for nearly one-fifth of the total number of cases registered under the IPC in Delhi. Last year, cops recovered only 10 per cent of the stolen vehicles. The Delhi Police report states that 41,000 vehicles were stolen in the last year of which around 30 vehicles a month were recovered.

# BJP MLA booked for opposing Muharram procession in UP

PTI ■ BAREILLY

Sitting BJP MLA from Bithari Chainpur here, Rajesh Mishra, his son and supporters were booked on Saturday for opposing a Muharram procession, police said.

Five cases were registered at Cantonment and Bithari Chainpur police stations against Mishra and others for opposing a Muharram procession in village Khajuria, they said.

The village lies at the border of the limits of the two police stations. "Five cases pertaining to rioting, disturbing peace and obstructing Government officials from performing their duty were registered against Rajesh Mishra, BJP MLA from Bithari Chainpur, his son, three aides and 25 unidentified persons," Inspector Cantonment police station Devendra Kumar Singh said.

# Didi blames RSS, BJP for student deaths

Accuses them of creating communal disturbance

PTI ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday blamed the RSS and the BJP for the death of two students during a protest against appointment of Urdu teachers in a school and accused them of trying to create communal disturbance.

Banerjee, who is in Milan, Italy, on an official tour, also came out in support of providing Urdu teachers to Daribhita School in Islampur in North Dinajpur where a clash between protesters and police claimed the lives of the two students.

The BJP has called a 12-hour shutdown in the state on September 26 to protest against the death of the two students.

Warning the saffron organ-

isations "not to play with fire by doing politics on the issue", she appealed to the people of the state not to pay heed to the politics of the BJP and the RSS and foil the shutdown.

"The BJP and the RSS should say why the two students were killed," she said while interacting with journalists from the city who were accompanying her.

"They (BJP, RSS) are like vultures waiting for a death and then start doing politics over it. They do politics even with death of students. First they commit a murder and then play holi with the (dead persons) blood.

"The BJP and the RSS have to answer why the two students were killed. And until they give their answer I ask my party activists to conduct peaceful meetings and rallies in their respective areas without fighting over the issue," the Trinamool Congress supremo, who is currently on an official tour of Europe to invite investors, said.



Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam being garlanded by party workers at the Centenary Celebrations of late Chief Minister MG Ramachandran in Kanyakumari on Saturday

# Rahul Gandhi a 'bechara', reads from a script: Yogi

PTI ■ GORAKHPUR

Calling Rahul Gandhi a "bechara" (helpless), Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said the Congress president was not aware of facts and only reads the scripts given to him.

Adityanath's reaction comes after the Gandhi scion threw the "thief" barb at Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the wake of former French president Francois Hollande's sensational claim on the Rafale deal.

"Rahul Gandhi is a bechara (helpless) as he is not aware of facts and only reads the given script," Adityanath told reporters here at the Gorakhnath temple.

The UP chief minister said after more than 70 years of Independence and successive



Governments headed by the Congress party and the family of Rahul Gandhi, the poor were still neglected.

"The benefits of government schemes have not reached the beneficiaries. If poor people were aware of the schemes, they wouldnt have been deprived," he said.

"Congress and Rahul Gandhi should apologise (to the people of

India). Everyone knows who the thief is," he added.

He further accused the Congress of playing with the "security of the nation".

"They (apparently referring to the Congress) divided the country on the lines of caste and geographical area and also surrendered before terrorism, separatism and communalism," he said.

Showering praises on Modi, the UP chief minister said, the country was "moving on the path of development" under the prime minister's leadership.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has provided houses, toilets and gas connections to the people... These families were deprived and for this Rahul Gandhi's Congress and his family are responsible," he added.

# Thousands take part in rally demanding 8th Schedule status for Khasi language

PTI ■ SHILLONG

Thousands of people took to the streets here on Saturday demanding the inclusion of the Khasi language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

The rally came a day after the Meghalaya cabinet approved a proposal to pass an official resolution in the on-going Assembly session to seek inclusion of the language in the Schedule of official languages and the same will be forwarded to the Home Ministry for consideration.

Organised by the Khasi Authors Society (KAS) and backed by social organisations, the rally also saw participation of political leaders from the state and representatives of the local parties.

KAS president DRL Nonglait informed the gathering that there are over 14 lakh people (1.4 million) speaking Khasi according to the Census 2011 while only 4 lakh is the criteria for a language to be spoken to be included in the schedule of official languages.

# Stern action needed to avenge Pak Army's barbarism against Indian soldiers: Rawat

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Army Chief General Bipin Rawat said on Saturday, stern action is needed to avenge the barbarism by terrorists and Pakistan Army against Indian soldiers.

The comment comes after a BSF jawan was shot and his throat slit recently, followed by the brutal killings of three policemen in Jammu & Kashmir. "We need to take stern action to avenge the kind of barbarism that terrorists and the Pakistan Army have been carrying against our soldiers. It is time to give it back to them in the same coin but not by resorting to similar kind of barbarism. I think the other side must also feel the same pain," the Army

**"We need to take stern action to avenge the kind of barbarism that terrorists and the Pakistan Army have been carrying against our soldiers. It is time to give it back to them in the same coin but not by resorting to similar kind of barbarism. I think the other side must also feel the same pain"**

chief said at a press conference here.

He said talks and terrorism could not go hand in hand, and Pakistan needed to curb the menace of terrorism and not allow terrorist to use their soil against India.

Rawat insisted that action against Pakistan was needed

but not in a barbaric manner. "We have carried out similar actions against them whenever they did something against India on the border. Pakistan has suffered many casualties and we have been able to take on their defence system to a large extent but we never resorted to barbarism," he said.

# PM to launch Ayushman Bharat mission today

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will roll out the Centre's flagship Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) from Jharkhand Sunday. The ambitious scheme, which was renamed the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan (PMJAY), aims to provide a coverage of Rs five lakh per family annually, benefiting more than 10 crore poor families.

Eligible people can avail the benefits in the government and listed private hospitals.

The scheme will target poor, deprived rural families and identified occupational category of urban workers' families, 8.03 crore in rural and 2.33 crore in urban areas, as per the latest Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data. It will cover around 50 crore people. The entitlement is being decided on the basis of deprivation criteria in the SECC database. The beneficiaries are identified based on the deprivation categories (D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, and D7) iden-

tified under the SECC database for rural areas. For the urban areas, the 11 occupational criteria will determine entitlement. Eleven occupational categories of workers include rag pickers, beggars, domestic workers, street vendors, cobblers/hawkers/other service providers working on streets, construction workers/plumbers/masons/labours/painters/welders/security guards/coolies and other head-load workers and sanitation workers. In addition, the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna (RSBY) beneficiaries in states where it is active are also included. There is no cap on family size and age in the scheme, ensuring that nobody is left out. One would only need to establish one's identity to avail benefits under the scheme and it could be through Aadhaar card or election ID card or ration card. Having an Aadhaar card is not mandatory to avail the scheme's benefit. In case of hospitalisation, members of the beneficiary families do not need to pay anything under the scheme, provided one goes to a gov-



ernment or an empanelled private hospital. The National Health Agency (NHA), the apex body implementing the AB-NHPM has launched a website and a helpline number to help prospective beneficiaries check if their name is there in the final list. One can visit the website [mera.pmjay.gov.in](http://mera.pmjay.gov.in) or call up the helpline (14555) to check their enrolment. A beneficiary needs to key in his or her mobile number, which is verified through an OTP and then complete the KYC (know your customer) online without any need for human interface with other documents. They can also call the helpline number to check their enrolment. Each

empanelled hospital will have an 'Ayushman Mitra' to assist patients and will coordinate with beneficiaries and the hospital. They will run a help desk, check documents to verify the eligibility and enrolment to the scheme.

Also, all the beneficiaries will be given letters having QR codes which will be scanned and a demographic authentication conducted for identification and to verify his or her eligibility to avail the benefits of the scheme. The Health Ministry has included 1,354 packages in the scheme under which treatment for coronary bypass, knee replacements and stenting, among others, would be provided at 15-20 per cent cheaper rates than the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS). Modi had announced the launch of the scheme from ramparts of the Red Fort during his Independence day speech. As many as 31 states and Union Territories have signed MoUs with the Centre and will implement the programme over the next two to three months, after its launch on Sunday. Remaining states

and UTs which include Telangana, Odisha, Delhi, Kerala and Punjab have not signed, so the scheme will not be implemented in those states till they come on board. Over 8,735 hospitals, both public and private, have been empanelled for the scheme. "The Prime Minister will launch the scheme on September 23 but effectively it will become operational from September 25 on the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay," said Niti Aayog member V K Paul, who is the chief architect of the scheme. He said in the current fiscal, the burden on the Centre is likely to be around Rs 3,500 crore. Billed as the world's largest government healthcare programme, it will be funded with 60 per cent contribution coming from the central government and the remaining from the states. "We have received applications from 15,000 hospitals for being empanelled... Out of this half, that means 7,500 applications for empanelment are private hospitals," Paul said, adding in some states the process for empanelment is yet to start.

## People of Chhattisgarh mature enough to elect stable govt: PM

PTI ■ JANJGIR-CHAMPA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday virtually kicked off the election campaign for the BJP in Chhattisgarh by saying that people of the state are mature enough to elect a stable government. Addressing a public rally here, he said the only objective of the BJP-led governments at the Centre and in Chhattisgarh was the welfare of the poor and the common people.

"Despite allegations, rumours and misinformation, people of Chhattisgarh have been giving stable governments," he said. Modi said Chhattisgarh was known for violence by Naxals, explosion and bloodshed, and the BJP government has overcome all these challenges. "Chhattisgarh has created its own place among the states which are on the path of development," he said. The Prime Minister said the central government will ensure that power connection is given to each home across the country under the Saubhgya Yojana. Modi also said Chhattisgarh has changed the perception that smaller states suffer from political instability. The Prime Minister said the NDA government did not believe in making schemes for vote bank or to win elections. "Programmes and policies framed by my government are for benefit of all, not targeted at a particular vote bank," he said. Modi also said the BJP wants to create a new, modern Chhattisgarh and "we are moving ahead with the mission of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas".

# Reliance our pick: Dassault

From Page 1

It has been reported that a joint venture between Reliance Defence and Dassault Aviation came into being in February, 2017. This is a purely commercial arrangement between two private companies.

Incidentally, media reports of February, 2012 suggest that Dassault Aviation, within two weeks of being declared the lowest bidder for procurement of 126 aircraft by the previous Government, had entered into a pact for partnership with Reliance Industries in Defence sector.

Dassault Aviation has issued a Press release stating that it has signed partnership agreement with several companies and is negotiating with hundred odd other companies.

As per the guidelines, the vendor is to provide the details of the offset partners either at the time of seeking offset credit or one year prior to discharge of offset obligation, which in this case will be due from 2020.

In view of above, it is once again reiterated that the Government of India has no role in the selection of Indian Offset partner which is a commercial decision of the OEM, the statement said.

The decision to procure 36 Rafale fighter jets in a government deal with France was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi after holding talks with then French President Hollande on April 10, 2015 in Paris. The formal contract was signed in September 2016.

Responding to Hollande's reported remarks, the French Government said it "is in no manner involved in the choice of Indian industrial partners who have been, are being, or will be selected by French companies." Some television channels reported that Hollande's office said he stood by his remarks made to 'Mediapart'.

In its statement, Dassault Aviation said it has decided to make a partnership with the Reliance Defence in accordance with the policy of 'Make in India'. "This offsets contract is delivered in compliance with the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2016 regulations. In this framework, and in accordance with the policy of

Make in India, Dassault Aviation has decided to make a partnership with India's Reliance Group. This is Dassault Aviation's choice," the French company said.

The French Government said, "In accordance with India's acquisition procedure, French companies have the full freedom to choose the Indian partner companies that they consider to be the most relevant, then present for the Indian Government's approval of the offsets projects that they wish to execute in India with these local partners so as to fulfil their obligations in this regard."

The Indian offset policy mandates that foreign defence manufacturers have to invest at least 30 per cent of the total amount of the deal in India. In case of the Rafale deal, the offset obligation is nearly 50 per cent.

Ten days after the Government to Government pact, Reliance Defence and Dassault had announced a joint venture (JV) in the aerospace sector and a year later, the foundation stone of a manufacturing facility was laid in Mihan, Nagpur.

In its statement, Dassault Aviation said the contract for supply of 36 Rafale jets is a Government-to-Government agreement, adding "It provides for a separate contract in which Dassault Aviation commits to make compensation investments (offsets) in India worth 50 per cent of the value of the purchase."

The company also said its partnership with Reliance has led to the creation of the Dassault Reliance Aerospace Ltd (DRAL) joint-venture in February 2017.

"Dassault Aviation and Reliance have built a plant in Nagpur for manufacturing parts for Falcon and Rafale aircraft. The Nagpur site was chosen because of the availability of land with direct access to an airport runway, an essential condition of aeronautic activities," it said.

"Other partnerships have been signed with other companies such as BTSL, DEF-SYS, Kinetic, Mahindra, Maini, SAMTEL.... Other negotiations are ongoing with a hundred-odd other potential partners. Dassault Aviation is very proud that the Indian authorities have selected the Rafale fighter," said the company.

# Woman's throat slit, daughter clubbed to death in W Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a chilling incident, a 60-year-old woman and her 40-year-old differently-abled daughter were found murdered brutally at their residence in West Delhi's Mianwali Nagar on Saturday.

While Shashi Talwar the mother's throat was slit, her daughter Nidhi was bludgeoned to death with a blunt object. The hands of both victims were tied and their mouths gagged, the police said.

The incident came to light on Saturday morning when the victims' maid came for her daily chores. The police said the help rang the doorbell several times, but when there was no response, she entered the house from the other door and found the mother-daughter lying in a pool of blood. "She informed the police about the incident at around 10 am," said the police.

Their bodies have been sent for post-mortem. The police have ruled out robbery angle as jewelleryes were found

intact on the persons and two teacups were lying in the drawing room hinting a "friendly entry". According to the police, initial probe indicated that the murder occurred on Friday evening or night.

The police suspected personal animosity behind the murders. At the same time, some people suspect property dispute could have led to the murder of the woman and her daughter. The police are sifting footage of eight CCTV cameras in the area to identify the



Police at the crime scene

accused. The Police have also recovered three mobile phones from the crime scene and are checking the call details. "Investigation is on," the

police said. Shashi was dependent on the family pension of her late husband. She had two sons. While one lives in Canada, another is in Mumbai.

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RED, ETAWAH

Tender Notice  
No. - 655/RED/Account Section/Tender Notice/2018-19 Dated : 17.09.2018

1. The Executive Engineer UP RED, Etawah on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids form the eligible and approved contractors registered with RED, Etawah, Class A B C, D, E as the case may be. The Bidder may submit bids for Capacity of Bids One or Above of the works.

क्र. सं.	जनपद का नाम	कार्य का नाम	आंकलित धनराशि (लाख में)	घरोहर धनराशि (लाख में)	निविदा मूल्य (रु में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	इटावा	सुरसेना में श्री बलवीर सिंह के मकानसे श्री यतीन्द्र यादव के मकान तक इन्टरलॉकिंग रोड का निर्माण कार्य।	7.17	72000	725.00	1 माह

2. While Putting Tender Attached 100 Rs. Stamp and Revenue with Signature.

3. Tender will Accept by condition of "D" Class Registration Check List.

4. Time allowed for completion of each work is as mentioned in column no. 7 including rainy season.

5. The bids shall remain valid for acceptance for a period of 90 (Ninety) days, from the last date of submission of bids. Bids once submitted cannot be withdrawn.

6. A set of Bidding documents may be purchased from the office of Executive Engineers, Rural Engineering Department, Division Etawah (Pakka Talab Jain Sport Shop) to the respective works, between the hours of 11:00 A.M. to 04:00 P.M. on any working day from 12-10-18 to 19-10-18 for a non-refundable fee for stationary charges and tender cost per set per work as indicated in column 6 in the form of cash or Demand Draft drawn on any schedule bank in favour of "Executive Engineer, U.P. RED Etawah Payable at Etawah. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same dispatched by registered/ Speed post on payment of an extra amount of Rs. 200/- (Two Hundred Only) Applications for issue of Bidding documents by post shall be entertained only up to 4:00 P.M. on date 19-10-18. The Authority inviting tender will not be held responsible for postal delay if any in the delivery of documents or non-receipt of the same. Bidding document can also be downloading from the web site [www.upgovt.nic.in](http://www.upgovt.nic.in) in rural engineering. But its cost i.e. cost of bid documents as mentioned in column 6 above in the form of cash or Demand Draft drawn on any schedule Bank in favour of Executive Engineers, RED Etawah will necessarily be attached with the bid. However for bid document downloaded from the website, the drawings will be available in the office of concerned Executive Engineer.

7. In case of any discrepancy between the downloaded bid document and that available with the concerned Executive Engineer the bid document available in the Executive Engineers.

8. Bid must be delivered to the Executive Engineer Office to the respective work on or before 02:00 PM on date 20-10-18 and Bids will be opened on the same working day i.e. on 20-10-18 at 03:30 PM. In the office of the Executive Engineer in presences of the Bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt or opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be received and opened on the next working day respectively at the same time and venue and validity of bid will be considered from the original date.

9. A pre-bid meeting will be held on 11-10-18 at 12:00 Noon at the office "Executive Engineer, Rural Engineering Department, Division - Etawah" of the table corresponding to the respective work to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in clause-9.2 of instructions to the bidders of bidding documents.

10. Bids must be accompanied with the security of the amount 10% specified for the work in the table Bid security will have to be in NSC, Post Office Saving Bank & Fixed Deposit Receipt of a Scheduled Bank of issued in favour of concerned Executive Engineer.

11. If Contractor Below Tender 0 to 10% so he submitted the Extra Security 0.50% and Contractor Below Tender 10% to Above so he submitted the Extra Security 01% as per G.O. No. 624/23-2-2012-2 Audit/08 TC-2 dt. 08.06.12.

12. A bidder shall not be permitted to bid for work in the division / circle responsible for award and execution of contracts in which his or his spouse's near relative (Defined as first blood relation, and their spouses) is posted as divisional Accountant or as an officer in any capacity between the grades of Superintending Engineer and Junior Engineer (Both inclusive).

13. No Engineer of Gazetted rank or other Gazetted officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the State / Central Government is allowed to work as the contractor for a period of 2 years after his retirement from Government Service, without Government permission. This contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contract or any of his employee is found any time to be such a person who had not obtain the permission of the Government as aforesaid before submission of tender or engagement in the Contractor's Service.

14. Bid document and other detail consisting of qualification, information and eligibility criterion of bidders, plans, specification, drawings, the schedule of quantities of the various classes of works to be done and the set of terms and conditions of contract to be complied with by the contractor can be seen in the office of the Executive Engineer to the respective work between hours of 11.00 A.M and 4.00 P.M. on any working day between 12-10-18 to 19-10-18.

15. Any bidder who is having criminal record is not allowed to participate in the bidding process.

16. Any bidder who is registered with the State Bar Council is not allowed to participate in the bidding process.

17. For works costing more than Rs. 10.00 lacs each bidder is required to furnish in the form of an affidavit in the prescribed Proforma (Annexure -1) all information required for evaluation of the bidding capacity of the Bidder. Each Bidder is required to satisfy himself about his Bidding capacity before submitting his bid. Bidding capacity will be evaluated as mentioned in section 3. Bids of bidder who do not possess the required bidding capacity shall not be accepted in any case.

18. Bidder must submit all information/Documents on prescribed Proforma (RED-T-4, T-5, T-6).

19. The contractor having his own C.C. Mixer machine surface vibrator, joint cutting machine and tanker etc. shall only be qualified for tender.

20. Bidder must submit Physical & Financial Certificate Program Table.

21. Work not transfer for any Bidder, then condition of sanctioned bid transfer so Bond may be reject.

22. Quantities can be vary. Executive Engineer may reject any tender without any reason or any prior information to contractor.

23. 40.00 Lac Amount of work Inserted Tender for Registered Contractor A,B,C,D. Category and 40.00 Lac Above amount work Inserted Tender for Registered Contractor Only A,B,C Category.

24. Conditional bid will not be accepted.

25. Deduction of Income Tax & Labour Cess As per Rules along with Royalty If any contractor fail to submit M.M.-11 there will be deducted 05 time Royalty as per G.O. No. 3385/86-2015-292/2015 dt. 15.10.2015.

Executive Engineer  
Rural Engineering Department  
Division Etawah  
U.P.132267, Daste: 20-09-2018  
विज्ञान बसस्टाण्ड: www.upgovt.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

# RaGa: Institutions like SC, EC being 'systematically captured' by RSS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi Saturday alleged that institutions such as the Supreme Court and the Election Commission were being "systematically captured" by the RSS and said India cannot be run on one single idea.

There is a feeling among the people that one ideology is being imposed upon them, Gandhi said at an interaction with academicians here.

"(RSS chief) Mohan Bhagwat in his earlier speeches has said: 'We are going to organise the nation. Who is he to organise the nation? The nation will organise itself. In next couple of months, their fantasy will be smashed,' he asserted.

During the interaction with eminent academicians from across the country at the Siri Fort, Gandhi said there are two visions of India and the Congress' vision is that India constitutes of people who live in it.

The only way to understand India is talk to its people, he said.

Gandhi alleged that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's vision of India is that of a "golden bird" which it views as a product.

The product has to be monetised and utilised, and they will decide who will do this, the Congress chief said.

"What we are fighting is the attempted capture of this 'golden bird' by the RSS. They have understood very clearly that electoral battle for them, they can win it once, but they can't repeatedly win it.

"They have understood that. So, now what they are doing is that

they are saying elections will come and elections will go, let us capture all of India's institutions and let us capture the golden bird with a bypass surgery," he said.

The educational institutions, the Supreme Court and the Election Commission of India, all these are "systematically being captured", Gandhi alleged.

Citing an example, he alleged, "When Mr (Narendra) Modi came to power, a person from Gujarat was chosen to head the SPG. In a short time, he left the position. He told me that he refused a list of SPG officers handpicked by the RSS, and that is why he was sent home."

Gandhi claimed that the reason behind this attack on institutions was that there were monetary benefits for the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

"For me, it is impossible to lead India, without having a conversation with India. The idea is, I should be a reflection of what is in your heart," he said.

Gandhi told the professors that he knows that they were feeling under pressure and feeling that an ideology was being imposed on them.

"You feel that one syllabus has now suddenly become acceptable to every single institution in India and I want you to understand and realise that you are not alone when you are fighting this battle, this sense, this feeling that you are getting is not only in your heart, it is in the heart of every single Indian person, it is in the heart of the farmers, it is in the heart of the labourers, it is in the heart of small and medium business," Gandhi

# Rupee battles macro fatigue; hits new low

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian rupee remained under intense selling pressure and witnessed a free fall for the fourth straight week, plunging to hit a fresh life-time low against the US dollar before managing a small recovery.

Overall, the forex mood broadly undermined on the back of increasing impact of geopolitical threats and concerns on macro-economic front.

The Government's confidence building measures to curb the currency volatility also fell short of many investors' expectations, causing heavy sell-off and the local stocks to take a massive plunge.

Trading in an extremely volatile market environment, the bruised rupee ended at 72.20, showing a steep loss of 36 paise.

Panic dollar demand from importers and speculative traders sent the home currency sinking to a historic low of 72.99.

It lost a whopping 229 paise in

its four-consecutive weekly slide. Although, the domestic currency managed regain some lost ground, trimming its weekly decline.

The crash came despite the government's recent announcement of a slew of measures to attract more foreign fund inflows into the country.

The Asia's third-largest economy - India is facing severe macro challenges and goldilocks economic conditions are now changing fast.

A sharp spike in international crude oil prices weighed on the trading front towards the tail-end session even as the US dollar fell to seven-week lows after Donald Trump announced fresh 10 per cent tariffs on Chinese imports.

The stubbornly high global crude oil prices are opening up a can of worms to heightened inflation risks and likely to disrupt government's fiscal maths along with deteriorating global financial conditions.

Considering that India is a net importer of crude oil, the impact of this imported inflation is expected to

be significant.

The upcoming week will bring a Fed's monetary policy meeting, with rates expected to be rising by 25 bps. The benchmark 10-year sovereign yield, however fell by 5bps to 8.08 per cent from 8.13 per cent.

In the meantime, crude prices pared gains, following a report that OPEC and its allies are considering a coordinated increase in crude production.

The OPEC meeting with allies in Algiers is expected to focus on production gains as Iranian sanctions and depletion rates in Venezuela look to force the hand of OPEC.

Benchmark Brent crude futures settled at \$ 78.80 a barrel for the week.

Meanwhile, India's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$ 1.207 billion to \$ 400.489 billion in the week to September 14 on account of increase in foreign currency assets, according to RBI data.

In the previous week, forex reserves had declined by \$ 819.5 million to USD 399.282 billion.

## PM's surgical...

From Page 1

This question is now clearly settled in the mind of the Indian people that 'desh ka chowkidaar' chor hai," Rahul remarked at the Press conference, a phrase which he used two days ago at an election rally in Rajasthan.

The Congress, along with other Opposition parties, are now determined to make the

Rafale deal an election propaganda issue both in the forthcoming assembly elections in few states and then the Lok Sabha election 2019.

Rahul also demanded a probe by a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Rafale deal. He said Hollande can also be called to testify by the JPC. "It is clear why various Defence Ministers of this Government have been lying; they want to protect PM Modi," Rahul alleged.

# Cong chief playing into Pak, China's hands...

From Page 1

Ruling out Rahul's demand for a joint parliamentary committee probe into the deal, he told a Press conference that it cannot be done merely to satisfy the ego of "an arrogant and ill-informed leader repeating lies after lies".

Prasad said negotiations between Dassault and Reliance Industries dated back to February 13, 2002. Prasad also cited statements of the French Government and Dassault in which they said Indian and French dispensations had no role in picking the offset partner of the private company, to brush aside the charge of corruption.

Prasad said, "What happened later between the two brothers ( Mukesh Ambani and Anil Ambani) we do not know but there is contemporary evidence of MoU between Reliance Industries and Dassault." He said the UPA Government terminated negotiations with Dassault after a contract negotiation committee had chosen it as the lowest bidder in 2012 following years of process because the company did not

pay it "bribe". "This is the most shameful and irresponsible statement which is not believed by anyone in the country or world. But by levelling these allegations you (Rahul) have smeared black paint on your face," Prasad said.

He claimed Rahul "had no quality or capability" and held on to power because of his family connections. "I can understand the pain of Rahul and company because the corruption has stopped under Modi and doors are closed for middleman".

He also alleged that there was pressure for extraneous considerations and "bribe" for not finalising the Rafale deal during the UPA rule despite holding negotiations for years.

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday advised Rahul not to make allegations against the Government on the Rafale issue without proof.

"The Government has issued a statement on the issue. Let the verification of the report take place. It will clear the situation, it will reveal the truth," Singh told reporters.

LOBE TROTTER

**MALDIVIAN AUTHORITIES ASSURE FREE VOTE**  
Male: Opposition supporters in the Maldives are demanding that officials ensure a free and fair presidential election, as the country prepares to vote in an election seen as a referendum on whether democracy will stay. The archipelago nation's election chief, Ahmed Shareef, said Saturday that all measures have been taken to hold on Sunday's election in a free and fair manner and without violence.

**TRUMP BORDER WALL GOING UP IN TEXAS**  
Los Angeles: The US was to begin construction in Texas on Saturday of part of President Donald Trump's border wall designed to curb illegal immigration, which he calls a security threat. Running along four miles (six kilometers) of the 2,000-mile border with Mexico, the new section will replace existing fencing along the boundary between El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, US Customs and Border Protection said in a statement.

**JAPAN SPACE ROBOTS START ASTEROID SURVEY**  
Tokyo: A pair of robot rovers have landed on an asteroid and begun a survey, Japan's space agency said Saturday, as it conducts a mission aiming to shed light on the origins of the solar system.

**TANZANIA FERRY MISHAP TOLL REACHES 156**  
Dar Es Salaam: At least 156 people have died in Tanzania's ferry accident that took place earlier this week, officials said on Saturday. "We have recovered 25 more bodies this morning," Tanzania's Minister for Works, Transport and Communications Isack Kamwewe told Xinhua news agency. Rescuers were continuing to search for more bodies.

# Trump Admin to revoke H-4 visa work permits

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Trump administration has told a federal court that its decision to revoke work permits to H-4 visa users, a significant majority of whom are Indian-Americans, is expected within the next three months, a move which will have a major impact on Indian women as they are the major beneficiary of the Obama-era rule.

H-4 visas are issued by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to immediate family members (spouse and children under 21 years of age) of the holders of H-1B visa, the most sought-after among Indian IT professionals.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in its latest court filing Friday told the US District Court in District of Columbia that it was "making a solid and swift progress in proposing to remove from its regulations on certain H-4 spouses of H-1B nonimmigrants as a class of aliens eligible for employment authorisation".

The DHS said the new rule would be submitted to the Office of Management of Budget (OMB), White House, within three months.

Till then, the department urged the court to keep in abeyance its decision on a lawsuit filed by 'Save Jobs USA', representing a group of US workers who claim that their jobs have been hit by such a policy of the government that was promulgated during the previous Obama administration.

The Trump administra-



tion is currently reviewing the H-1B visa policy that it thinks is being misused by companies to replace American workers.

The administration has said publicly and also in its court filing that it wants to revoke work permits to H4 visa holders, a significant majority of whom are Indian-Americans and women.

The move will have a major impact on Indian women as they are the major beneficiary of the Obama-era rule.

This is for the third time that the Department of Homeland has informed the court about the delay in issue of Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM).

The DHS has filed three status reports - on February 28, May 22 and August 20. The next status report is due on November 19.

Explaining the reasons for delay, the US attorney said since the filing of the most recent status report, the DHS's senior leadership reviewed the proposed rule and returned it to the USCIS this month for revisions.

"Senior leadership review and the request for revisions is standard practice within the

DHS. When the necessary revisions are incorporated, the USCIS will return the proposed rule to the DHS for final clearance and submission to OMB," he said.

However, 'Save Jobs USA' has sought an early decision from the court, arguing that the longer the case remains in abeyance, the greater the possible harm to the US workers.

As of December 25, 2017, the USCIS had approved 1,26,853 applications for employment authorisation for H-4 visa holders. These count all approvals since May 2015 when the rule was implemented. This number includes 90,946 initial approvals, 35,219 renewals, and 688 replacements for lost cards.

"Ninety-three per cent of approved applications for H-4 employment authorisation were issued to individuals born in India, and five per cent were issued to individuals born in China. Individuals born in all other countries combined make up the remaining two per cent of approved applications," the Congressional Research Service said in its recent report, based on information obtained from the USCIS.

# IRAN MILITARY PARADE ISIS claims killing 29

AFF ■ TEHRAN

Militants shot dead at least 29 people including women and children in an attack on Saturday on an Iranian military parade claimed by the Islamic State group, as Tehran accused a US ally in the region of the assault.

The attack in the southwestern city of Ahvaz came as the country marked the anniversary of the start of its 1980-1988 war with Saddam Hussein's Iraq and prompted President Hassan Rouhani to warn of a "crushing response".

"The response of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the smallest threat will be crushing", Rouhani said on his official website. "Those who give intelligence and propaganda support to these terrorists must answer for it." Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said in a tweet that the attack near the Iraqi border was carried out by "terrorists recruited, trained, armed & paid by a foreign regime".

"Iran holds regional terror sponsors and their US masters accountable for such attacks," he wrote. IS jihadists said via their propaganda mouthpiece Amaq that "Islamic State fighters attacked a gathering of Iranian forces" in Ahvaz.

The city lies in Khuzestan, a province bordering Iraq that has a large ethnic Arab community and has seen separatist violence in the past that Iran has blamed on its regional rivals.

State television gave a casualty toll of 29 dead and 57 wounded, while official news agency IRNA said those killed included women and children among spectators at the rally. Many of the wounded were in

critical condition.

Armed forces spokesman Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi said the dead included a young girl and a former serviceman in a wheelchair.

"Of the four terrorists, three were sent to hell at the scene, while the fourth who had been wounded and arrested went to hell moments ago due to his severe wounds," Shekarchi told state television.

Khuzestan deputy governor Ali-Hossein Hosseinzadeh told the semi-official ISNA news agency that "eight to nine" troops were among those killed, as well as a journalist.

Zarif did not specify which regional government he held responsible for the shooting, but Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards said the attackers were funded by Sunni arch-rival Saudi Arabia.

"Those who opened fire on civilians and the armed forces have links to the Ahvazi movement," Guards spokesman Ramezan Sharif told ISNA. "They are funded by Saudi Arabia and attempted to cast a shadow over the Iranian armed forces," Zarif vowed Iran would "respond swiftly and decisively in defence of Iranian lives".

In a message of condolence to Russia's close regional ally, President Vladimir Putin said he was "appalled by this bloody crime".

"This event once again reminds us about the necessity of an uncompromising battle against terrorism in all of its manifestations," Khuzestan was a major battleground of the 1980s war with Iraq and the attack on the anniversary parade in Ahvaz had significant symbolic value.

The province saw unrest in 2005 and 2011 but has since



In this photo provided by the Iranian Students' News Agency, ISNA, Iranian armed forces members and civilians take shelter in a shooting during a military parade marking the 38th anniversary of Iraq's 1980 invasion of Iran, in the southwestern city of Ahvaz, Iran on Saturday

seen being largely quiet. Attacks by Kurdish rebels on military patrols along the border further north are relatively common. But attacks on regime targets inside major cities are far rarer.

On June 7, 2017, 17 people were killed and dozens wounded in simultaneous attacks in Tehran on the parliament building and on the tomb of revolutionary leader Ruhollah Khomeini -- the first inside Iran claimed by the Sunni Muslim extremists of the Islamic State group. In April, 26 alleged IS jihadists went on trial on charges connected with that twin attack.

The attack in Ahvaz came as President Rouhani was among dignitaries at the main

anniversary parade in Tehran. In a keynote speech, Rouhani vowed to boost Iran's ballistic missile capabilities despite Western concerns that were cited by his US counterpart Donald Trump in May when he abandoned a landmark nuclear deal with Tehran.

"We will never decrease our defensive capabilities... We will increase them day by day," Rouhani said at a military parade. "The fact that the missiles anger you shows they are our most effective weapons," he said, referring to the West.

Iran has ballistic missiles with a range of up to 3,500 kilometres, enough to reach both Israel and US bases in the Middle East.

# Pak PM Imran hits out at India, calls its response 'arrogant' for cancelling talks

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

India's decision to cancel the Foreign Minister-level meeting in New York was "arrogant", Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Saturday, asserting that he was "disappointed" by the New Delhi's "negative" response.

India on Friday cited the "brutal" killing of three policemen in Jammu and Kashmir as well as the release of the postal stamps "glorifying" Kashmiri militant Burhan Wani for calling off the meeting between External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Pakistani counterpart Shah Mehmood Qureshi on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York this month.

Announcing the cancellation of the meeting, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Ravesh Kumar said in New Delhi that the incidents "exposed" the "true face" of



Pakistan's new Prime Minister Imran Khan to the world as well as Islamabad's evil agenda behind the proposal for talks.

"The latest brutal killings of our security personnel by Pakistan-based entities and the recent release of a series of 20 postage stamps by Pakistan glorifying a terrorist and terrorism confirm that Pakistan will not mend its ways," Kumar said.

"Disappointed at the arrogant and negative response by India to my call for resumption of the peace dialogue," Prime Minister Khan said in a tweet.

"However, all my life I have come across small men occupying big offices who do not have the vision to see the

larger picture," he said in a sharp reaction to India's cancellation of the meeting.

Kumar said talks with Pakistan after the "two deeply disturbing" developments would be "meaningless".

"In view of the changed situation, there will be no meeting between the Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan in New York," he said.

Reacting to India's remarks, Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman Mohammad Faisal said on Friday that the "so-called 'disturbing developments'" alluded to in the Indian statement predated the Indian agreement to hold the bilateral meeting in New York.

He said the alleged killing of a BSF soldier took place two days prior to the Indian announcement of its agreement to hold the bilateral meeting.

When the allegations of Pakistan's involvement first appeared, Pakistani rangers

The alleged killing of a BSF soldier took place two days prior to the Indian announcement of its agreement to hold the bilateral meeting; Pak Foreign Office spokesman Mohammad Faisal

clearly conveyed to BSF through official channels that the country had nothing to do with it, he said.

"Pakistan...Categorically reject these allegations...Our authorities would be prepared to conduct a joint investigation to establish the truth," Faisal said.

On the issue of the postage stamps, he said they were issued before the July 25 elections and before Prime Minister Khan assumed office on August 18.

"We choose not to further comment beyond saying that these comments are against all norms of civilised discourse and diplomatic communication," Faisal said.

"We believe by its ill-considered cancellation of the meeting, India has once again wasted a serious opportunity to change the dynamics of the bilateral relationship and put the region on the path of peace and development," he added.

# China summons US envoy over military sanctions

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Saturday summoned the US ambassador to lodge an official protest over sanctions imposed by Washington on a Chinese military unit for purchasing advanced fighter jets and missile systems from Russia, according to a media report.

Also, China has cancelled a reported move to send Vice-Premier Liu He to Washington for talks to end the escalating trade war between the world's two largest economies, following imposition of tariffs on Chinese goods by the Trump administration.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry summoned the US ambassador to protest against US sanctions on the equipment development department of the Chinese military and its director, the official media reported on Saturday.

The US State Department said on Thursday that it would immediately impose sanctions on

the equipment development department of the Chinese military and its director, Li Shanguo, for engaging in "significant transactions" with Russia's main arms exporter.

The US said the purchases of Russian Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets and S-400 surface-to-air missiles by China's Equipment Development Department (EDD) of Ministry of Defence has violated US sanctions on Russia.

It was the first time the Trump administration targeted a third country with its Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act of 2017 (CAATSA), designed to punish Russia for its seizure of Crimea and other activities.

While the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang on Friday expressed outrage and asked Washington to revoke the decision or face consequences, China's military today expressed indignation over the move.

# Trump picks combat over caution in court fight

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Combat won out over caution. White House aides and congressional allies worked all week to keep President Donald Trump from unloading on the woman who has accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct.

But as Kavanaugh's nomination hung in the balance, Trump couldn't contain his frustration any longer and unleashed a direct Twitter attack on the credibility of Christine Blasey Ford, who says Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her decades ago during a high school party.

Friday's tweet landed with a splat in the noxious brew of gender and politics that has taken over a high-stakes confirmation battle playing out against the backdrop of the #MeToo movement.

In keeping with Trump's natural instinct to fight back when under attack, as well as his long pattern of defending powerful men against the claims of women, the president's tweet reflected growing anger over all the focus on Ford's accusation.

Trump initially believed he could support his nominee

without wading into the specific allegations against Kavanaugh since they did not involve him.

But that began to change as Trump watched ongoing coverage of the accusations, particularly on Air Force One TVs tuned into Fox News on his long flight Thursday from Washington to Las Vegas, according to a White House official and a Republican close to the White House.

Both spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss private conversations. Trump began to view the allegations as a scheme to undermine his pick and told one confidant that he doubted Ford's credibility. The "fake" attack on Kavanaugh reminded him of the broadsides launched against him during his presidency and the claims of sexual misconduct that dogged him at the end of his campaign.

Increasingly convinced the accusations were a Democratic plot being advanced by the media, Trump tweeted that if the attack was really so bad, "charges would have been immediately filed with local Law Enforcement Authorities by either her or her loving parents."

# UN chief Antonio Guterres to visit India in October

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

UN chief Antonio Guterres will travel to India early next month, his first trip to the country as head of the world body that coincides with the commencement of events marking the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Secretary-General will arrive in New Delhi on October 1. His visit coincides with the beginning of events to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2 next year, Deputy Spokesman for the UN Secretary-General Farhan Haq told reporters here Friday. On October 1, Guterres will formally open the new UN House in New Delhi and on October 2, the Secretary-General will participate in the closing session of the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention.

During the visit, he will meet President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on October 3. He will also meet with Speaker of the Lok Sabha Sumitra Mahajan before giving a lecture at the India Habitat Centre on Global Affairs on the theme "Global challenges, global solutions".

# Russians tried to help Assange escape from London embassy

PTI ■ LONDON

Russian officials had devised a covert plan to help Wikileaks founder Julian Assange escape to Russia from his Ecuadorian embassy hide-out in London, a UK media report claimed on Friday.

The 47-year-old Assange remains in hiding in a back room of the central London building six years after losing a legal battle against extradition to Sweden for questioning on allegations of rape and sexual assault.

The Australian national had sought asylum from Ecuador over fears of further extradition to the US for sedition and espionage for leaking secretive documents on Wikileaks.

"The Guardian" has now claimed that Russian officials were involved in a "basic" plan to extract the Wikileaks founder from the embassy on Christmas Eve last year and fly him to Russia. The plot, said to have been abandoned at the last moment, was thought to have involved a diplomatic vehicle.

The newspaper said that details of the Assange escape plan are "sketchy".

# Russian model says her UK poisoning scare was no hoax

PTI ■ LONDON

A Russian model at the centre of a poisoning scare in the UK town of Salisbury, who had triggered speculation that the incident may have been an elaborate hoax, has asserted that her fears were genuine.

Anna Shapiro, 30, and her partner Alex King, 42, had been rushed to a hospital on Sunday following the suspect-

ed poisoning scare at an Italian restaurant in Salisbury, the town where former Russian double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia were found collapsed after being poisoned with the deadly Novichok nerve agent earlier this year. Shapiro blamed the media for casting doubt over her account that she and King had been targeted by the Russian state.

# US court sentences Pak-origin businessman for unlawful export to Pakistan military

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A US district court has sentenced a Pakistani-origin businessman to three years of probation for procuring and unlawfully exporting material and equipment to Pakistan for its military.

Imran Khan of North Haven in Connecticut was sentenced in Bridgeport to three years of probation, the first six months of which the 44-year-old Khan must serve in home confinement for violating US export law. Khan has also been ordered to perform 100 hours of com-

munity service and pay a \$3,000 fine. First six months of the three-year probation is in home confinement, John Durham, US Attorney for the District of Connecticut, said Friday.

According to court documents and statements made in court, from at least 2012 to December 2016, Khan and two of his family members engaged in a scheme to purchase goods that were controlled under the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) and to export those goods without a license to Pakistan, in violation of the EAR.

**North Central Railway, Allahabad**  
The Complete details of the Stores tenders issued from the office of PCMM, North Central Railway/ Allahabad are uploaded on IREPS Portal (www.ireps.gov.in). E-tender notices for Stores tenders will not be published in the news papers by the office of PCMM, North Central Railway/ Allahabad any more. Firms desirous to participate in the tenders of this office may visit IREPS portal (www.ireps.gov.in) regularly after registering themselves on IREPS portal and submit their e-bids on this portal only. 1029/18 Ad  
North Central Railways @CPRNCR

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY BID NOTICE-05/2018**  
Tender Notice No. C/SA-A-B Shreni/Khanpan/Nivdha/Stall/16 Date: 19.09.2018  
1. For and on behalf of the President of India, Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Iztanagar Division, North Eastern Railway invites sealed bid on open, competitive, single stage two packet system from food and catering service providers for "Provision of Catering Services at General Minor Unit (GMU) at following stations of A1, A & B Category."  
Tender Document Cost for Each Stall- ₹ 2500/- + 450 (18% GST) = ₹ 2950/- Annexure-Z

Station/Category	Stall No.	G.M.U./G.M.U. (Women)	P.F. No./Loc.	Min. Reserve Price fixed for 1 <sup>st</sup> Year (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)	Prime Location
Bareilly Jn. (A1)	S1	General Women	06 RGB End	1,84,800/-	19,300/-	
	S3	General Women	06 BC End	1,84,800/-	19,300/-	
	S4	General	05 RGB End	1,84,800/-	19,300/-	
Kathgodam (A)	S1	General	NNT End	3,17,520/-	33,100/-	
	S2	General Women	01 HDW End	3,17,520/-	33,100/-	
Bareilly City (B)	S1	General	01 BRY End	1,88,160/-	19,600/-	
	S2	General	01 IZN End	1,88,160/-	19,600/-	
	S4	General Women	02/03 IZN End	1,88,160/-	19,600/-	
Kashipur (B)	S1	General	01 RMR End	5,24,943/-	54,600/-	
	S3	General Women	02/03 RMR End	2,01,600/-	21,000/-	
	S4	General	02/03 LKU End	2,01,600/-	21,000/-	
Haldwani (B)	S2	General	01 LKU End	1,88,160/-	19,600/-	
	S1	General	New HDW End	4,03,200/-	42,000/-	
Lalkuan (B)	S2	General Women	New BC End	4,03,200/-	42,000/-	
	S5	General	03/04 HDW End	4,03,200/-	42,000/-	
	S6	General	03/04 BC End	4,03,200/-	42,000/-	
Pilibhit (B)	S2	General	01 BRY End	2,04,960/-	21,400/-	
	S3	General	01 TPU End	2,04,960/-	21,400/-	
	S5	General Women	02/03 BRY End	1,53,720/-	16,000/-	
Kasganj (B)	S4	General Women	04/05 MRT End	4,09,920/-	42,700/-	
	S6	General Women	04/05 BRY End	4,09,920/-	42,700/-	
	S2	General	06 Center	2,08,320/-	21,700/-	Prime
Farrukhabad (B)	S3	General Women	05 KSI End	2,01,600/-	21,000/-	
	S5	General Women	03/04 KSI End	2,01,600/-	21,000/-	
	S6	General	01/02 CNB End	2,01,600/-	21,000/-	
Fatehgarh (B)	S1	General Women	01 CNB End	1,28,520/-	13,400/-	
	S3	General	02 CNB End	1,28,520/-	13,400/-	
Kannauj (B)	S1	General	01 CNB End	1,31,040/-	13,700/-	
	S4	General Women	02 CNB End	1,31,040/-	13,700/-	

2. The Scope of Work and Terms of Reference is provided in Section A.  
3. Bid Documents: The interested Bidders may purchase 'Bid Documents' which can be obtained between 10:00 hrs. and 17:00 hrs. on all working days from published date to 25.10.2018 in person from the Railway office at the address given below, on payment of non-refundable document fee (inclusive of applicable GST) as annexure Z in the form of: (a) Demand draft/Banker's Cheque in favour of "Financial Advisor & Chief Accounts Officer, North Eastern Railway", payable at Bareilly drawn on any scheduled commercial bank in India. (b) Cash deposited at any Railway station/cash office of the Iztanagar Division, North Eastern Railway duly supported with original Cash Receipt/Money Receipt indicating the Tender Notice Number and date of submission. 4. Bid document can also be downloaded from the website www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in. The bids can be submitted on the downloaded document along with a separate Demand Draft towards the cost of bidding document at the time of bidding, failing which the offer will be summarily rejected. 5. Earnest Money: The Bid must be accompanied by Earnest Money as annexure Z in the form of Bank Demand Draft drawn on any scheduled bank of India. 6. Receipt of Bids: Sealed Bids should be dropped in the designated box from 22.10.18 to 26.10.18 at the address given below. Bids received after 14:00 hours on 26.10.18 will not be considered. Bids received after 14:00 hours will be called "late" Bid and will not be considered further for evaluation. Bids shall be opened on the same day (26.10.18) at 15:00 hours in presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend. For this an authority letter of the firm is required. The onus of dropping the Bid in the box lies with the Bidder. 7. Railway reserves the right to accept/reject any or all Bids without assigning any reason therefor. 8. Address for Communication: Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial) Iztanagar Division, North Eastern Railway, D.R.M. Office, Iztanagar, Bareilly, U.P. 243122. Tele: 0581-2411506, Fax: 0581-2411402, Email: srdcmzn@gmail.com.  
CPRO/C-84 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, N.E.R., Iztanagar  
About any passenger enquiry complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955  
"BEFORE CROSSING UNMANNED LEVEL CROSSINGS LOOK OUT FIRST RIGHT AND LEFT"

SHOW TIME

Powerful, brief & to the point



**MANTO**  
\*ing: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Tahir Raj Bhasin, Rasika Dugal, Rajshri Deshpande, Rishi Kapoor, Paresh Rawal, Javed Akhtar  
Rated: 8/10

The power of Manto, as a writer, personality and self-destruct mode carries the power of an atomic bomb and most of it gets translated into this sepia shaded movie by Nandita Das.

The power of this film and its subject Saadat Hasan Manto lies in the gentle unfolding of the life and times of the writer whose cutting-edge pen was the toast of most Bollywood scripts at one time.

He loved Mumbai as much as he loved himself and yet decided to quit everything dear to him, including the graves of his parents and son, to leave for Lahore because he was "itna toh musalmaan hoon ki maar diya jaoon."

Those were violent and divisive Partition days and Nandita does well to bring up one of the major faultlines in Manto's personality by telling us of his inherent fear of things.

He loved with passion, had immense anger issues over intangibles like the state of society and lived life as a smouldering ember in a time and place where almost everything and anyone was somehow struggling to survive the first wave of independence.

Manto, being the volatile writer who saw the wrongs, especially on women, much more than others, made brevity as much his virtue as reveling in the painful times his vice.

A film on a personality like Manto is bound to be powerful unless the director gets it entirely wrong. The power of Das' Manto lies in the fact that it interestingly captures all the nuances of the times and the people in a gentle

unfolding of explosive events in the life of its main protagonist. The ambience and the atmosphere of those smoky times when intellectuals like Ismat Chughtai and Manto intermingled with the glamorous world of cinema and powered scripts with their literature, thoughts and philosophy over liberal round tables splashed with whiskey and cigarettes, are aptly captured on camera.

The dialogues, pithy and cutting, get to you with one-liners that unfold an entire life and time in a stunning frugality of words. Das compels you to question why Manto would self-destruct in such a manner. Brilliantly, she tells you that the only reason why such a brilliant short story writer with immense power of thought could die at 42 was his belief that he had the artistic licence to do so.

The other high point of the film is the stunning way in which Das inserts the dramatisations of Manto's most loved stories Thanda Gosht, Khol Do and Toba Tek Singh, never once deviating from Manto's unfolding life story. Cameos by Rishi Kapoor, Javed Akhtar, Vinod Nagpal, Divya Dutta, Ranvir Shoree are impactful and rounded.

Nawazuddin Siddiqui loses himself completely in Manto and proves his versatility and brilliance as an actor yet again.

Manto was a meteoric writer who died a meteor's death — a fire of brilliance burning out brightly in the literary sky, often questioned and defiled for speaking the ugly truth of people and society with no punches spared. He was the badshah of brevity — both in writing and death, 42 being no age to die as an alcoholic who desperately wanted to live without alcohol but the realisation came too late in life and too close to death.

A rare movie on a rarest of rare writer!

An equaliser for Denzel fans

**THE EQUALIZER 2**  
\*ing: Denzel Washington, Pedro Pascal, Ashton Sanders, Bill Pullman, Melissa Leo  
Rated: 5.5/10

Denzel Washington has been missing from the big screen for a very long time and it is his presence that saves this slow thriller some blushes.

Other than him, it is all very commonplace here, be it rogue sleuths, rogue situations or rogue villains. Washington returns from the dead quite literally in this one to unravel the brutal murder of his one-time friend and FBI agent Susan who is stabbed to death in her hotel room while on an assignment with Washington's former partner Dave.

Washington keeps a poker face most of the time, killing, spotting and getting into the case with ease. Not an expression generally means an actor is either good for nothing or too good to be true. Washington, we all know, is a specimen of the second category and he uses this trait to the hilt in Equaliser 2 wherein he swears to kill the goons and does so in slow motion.

On the whole, will stick only for Denzel Washington fans. The rest would want some kind of urgency in the proceedings.



Gems shine against all odds

Four contestants from small towns have crossed many hurdles to make it to the Indian Idol platform which they are rocking. SANGEETA YADAV chats them up to bring you a report

**NITIN KUMAR, 22**

Hailing from Una, Himachal Pradesh, Kumar's singing journey started at age five with his father who used to sing bhajans in the temples. "I used to sing the chorus with my father in temples and began learning classical music at the age of seven.

"There was a time when we had no shows and events and faced financial crunch. My father



singing dream took a back seat as he had to look for a full-time job. But my life took a U-Turn when I participated in Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Lil Champs and was adjudged third runner up. This gave me my identity and I gained confidence to work towards my dream," Kumar says and dropped out of school as he was not good in his studies.

He aspires to become a playback singer and a comedian as well.

**ANKUSH BHARDWAJ, 26**

He likes challenges and always remained on the top whether it is about studies or competitions. Son of a daily wage labourer, Ankush Bhardwaj from Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, come out a winner — whether it is about convincing his parents that he wanted to make singing his career or fighting keratoconus disease which has affected his visibility and makes it difficult for him to go out at night. But today, he is making waves at Indian Idol stage. His YouTube videos have touched over a lakh likes.

"My father is a Himachali folk singer and also encouraged me since I was 12. But he is only Class X pass, he couldn't get a better job and had to leave his singing to work as a daily wage labourer. There was no teacher to train me. I started singing in school and practise on my own. My father gifted a Casio keyboard to my elder brother. When everybody used to go to sleep in the afternoon, I used to steal it and learn to play on it. Since it was battery operated, it was difficult to buy them every time they ran out. My parents were not convinced about my making a career in singing. I was depressed and failed in the first year of my graduation. But I bounced back when my dad saw a potential in me when I started winning regional singing competitions," Bhardwaj says.

Talking about the disease which has affected his visibility, Bhardwaj says: "I am at stage III; this means that it has affected my eye len. I have blurred vision in the right eye and had a surgery which was not successful. Now if I go through another surgery, it has many risks involved. But has not deterred me to pursue my dream of being a singer."



**SALMAN ALI, 20**

Coming from the family of professional singers, Ali started singing at the age of seven and was inspired by his father with whom he used to sing ghazals at live shows and sing at people's marriages and jagran in Mewat district of Haryana. But circumstances were such that Ali was forced to discontinue his studies in Class IX and became the sole bread winner of the family. To fulfill his father's dream to become a singer, he participated in Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Lil Champs in 2011 and was second runner's up.

"Platform like Indian Idol enabled people like me, who have no backing in the music industry, to come to this stage on the basis of our hard work and talent. Sufi and qawwali are my favourite and this show trains us to be versatile singers," Ali says.

But coming to this stage was an uphill task. "I had no money; my uncle got me to Mumbai for the auditions and brought a set of new clothes so that I looked presentable. My relatives were jealous of my success and used to spread rumours about me that I am a criminal and there was a court case against me and hence I was rejected in 2011. They defamed me but I never gave up and continued to persevere and here I am prepared to give my best," Ali says.



**RENU NAGAR, 22**

First woman contestant from Rajasthan who made it to Indian Idol in the last 10 seasons, Renu Nagar has awed everyone with her rocking performance. She started singing from the age of five year and comes from the kirana gharana style of singing. Her journey to Indian Idol was full of challenges. "My father is uneducated. He used to sing at various events. Bringing up five children was tough and I never wanted to be like a burden to him. So I started supporting him by singing with him. He never considered me as a daughter but a son who stood by him in thick and thin. Because of financial problem, we were unable to pay the school fee and I had to drop out in Class XII. This made me realise the importance of money. All I had was singing and I decided to make it big in this field. The competition is high and I never thought in my wildest dream that I will be performing on the Indian Idol stage. When I look back, I feel we should have big dreams and work towards. It is great to see when you realise your dreams," Nagar tells you.



TELLYTALE



**EXPERIMENT WITH DIGITAL CONTENT**

Successfully making her mark in the digital entertainment space using the OTT (Over The Top) platforms, film and TV producer Ekta Kapoor has said that the new age digital entertainment platform offers a whole variety of content as per the convenience of the target audience. Since Ekta is known for making drama and supernatural shows on TV which is quite opposite of her

shows on the OTT platform, ALT Balaji and films where she is experimenting with many progressive subjects of the society, she said: "Experiences changed over time, so films have to change based on that. The convenience OTT gives you is the choice that you have now. You don't have to sit through a three-hour movie in a theatre even though you don't like it. Don't like something? Watch something else!

"Acceptance is the biggest word we should learn. I have as much fun making a show like Naagin as much as promoting a Lipstick Under My Burkha. Mobile is going to decide what people want to watch. They might want to watch both Naagin and Narcos or a romantic movie or a thriller, there's a whole world out there!" she said at the recently held Jagran Cinema Summit.

**VICKY KAUSHAL'S MIDNIGHT MISADVENTURES**

The power house of talent and National award winner Vicky Kaushal is the second guest on TLC's entertaining series Midnight Misadventures with Mallika Dua. Vicky Kaushal takes the fun quotient to a different level with an interesting and deeply emotional 2 am conversation with host of show Mallika Dua. Kaushal comes to the rescue of Shalishka alias Mallika Dua who is suffering from a recent break-up. Talking about his little-known facets, Vicky Kaushal added, "I wear a watch only if my character demands it, otherwise I don't like to wear one."

In the truth or dare round, Vicky Kaushal refused to share remuneration details per movie and preferred to eat Mirchi powder. Host of the show, Mallika Dua, said: "Vicky Kaushal is the perfect Hero which Bollywood needs. He is phenomenally versatile and good that whatever he does inspires me. His energy motivates me to take it a notch higher and that's what he did on our set as well. We had a ball of a time where he shared his childhood memory related to homemade food; his favorite dish, breakup story and some tips as well."

Shalishka will develop new recipes; mixing never before mixed ingredients followed by cooking; gossip, healthy conversations and a good face stuffing session over comfort food. Catch the latest episode on Monday, September 24 at 8 pm on TLC.



**SALMAN GETS HIS SINGING BREAK**

Talented contestants from Indian Idol 10 are creating waves across the country with their power packed performances. Salman Ali, the musical prodigy from Haryana has been impressing the judges and audiences along with the guests who make an appearance on India's biggest singing reality show. On the recent shaadi special episode of Indian Idol 10, Vishal Bhardwaj made a special appearance with wife Rekha Bharadwaj. Vishal was stunned with the level of talent on the show and couldn't stop praising the contestants. Salman Ali in particular impressed the veteran composer with his magnificent performance on Dulhe ka sehra suhana lagta hai so much so that the ace composer and filmmaker expressed



his wish to compose a song especially for Salman Ali. "I am absolutely blown away listening to Salman Ali sing! He is a powerhouse of talent and I am tempted to compose a song especially for him! I remember the time when I had composed a qawwali and travelled all over the country to find a singer, even overseas but how did I know that there was a gem in our country itself," Bharadwaj said.

**WATCH OUT FOR KARNSANGINI**

Get ready to witness an epic love triangle set in 10th Century BC with KarnSangini on Star Plus, a fictional story inspired by Kavita Kane's famous book Karn's Wife: The Outcast's Queen. It narrates the never-seen-before tale of a royal princess Uruvi who chose her love and stood by it against all odds. Talking about their new show, producer & writer Shashi Mittal, says: "The show is extremely special to all of us as it brings to light a new narrative of an epic like Mahabharata. Love triangles always call for a good narrative and we thought why not add some fiction and set one such triangle in the backdrop of the epic Kurukshetra war? KarnSangini is the untold tale of Karn and his Sangini. Uruvi and showcases a love story that transcends all class and social barriers. It's a show that proves love triumphs over all!"



**JUNGLE KE BAAHUBALI**

EPIC continues its quest of bringing the wonders of India to its viewers and raises the bar by airing multiple global award-winning film Jungle ke Baahubali for the first time on TV. The world TV premiere of this film will air exclusively on EPIC, split into two parts — first part went on air on September 22 and the second will go on air on September 29 at 3pm, 5pm, 7pm and 9pm. Jungle ke Baahubali is an odyssey into India's picturesque and unique wetland canvases and the spectacular wildlife in them. The project entailed seven years of research that involved observing and filming the wild

Asian Elephant and the One Horned Indian Rhinoceros in its natural environment. The film's director Sumesh Lekhi along with his crew spent time with villagers understanding how their daily lives are affected. The EPIC line-up for World Tourism Day will bring out the international theme of Creating Sustainable Tourism and celebrate India and the tourism potential India has to offer. The programming for the day are curated episodes from an array of shows like Indipedia — a foreigner exploring and understanding India; Ekaant — a show on



historically significant abandoned places; EPIC Specials — Andamans — Jewels of the Sea anchored by Tom Alter; Nandadevi — a pilgrimage feature show hosted by Vivek Oberoi and Wilderness Days — a series on India's rich and diverse wildlife. The special will showcase on September 27 from 1 – 7 pm. Close on the heels of World Tourism Day is World Architecture Day on October 1 where EPIC will air episodes from its popular shows — Sanrachna and Made In India that tell the stories of India's ingenious structures and architectural marvels. The show will air on EPIC on October 1 from 1-7 pm.

'Big B is very encouraging, sensitive and supporting'

SUDHA VARGHESE, Nari Gunjan CEO who won ₹25 lakh on KBC Karamveer, talks about her experience on the show and how she plans to spend the prize money. SUNDAY PIONEER reports



**Tell us about your experience as KBC Karamveer?**

My experience on Kaun Banega Crorepati 10 was wonderful as I had never imagined coming to this platform. KBC Karamveer is a good way of educating the masses and community to become aware about the sufferings of the people. It gives an opportunity to the concerned people to think about the happenings in the society, community or world and understand our contribution towards the same. Why is the situation so negative and oppressive for women, why are they marginalised? There is a hidden world that suffers from injustice, discrimination and issues that affects their lives. It is a good initiative and these kind of campaigns and episodes will help in changing the attitude towards injustice.

**Tell us about Nari Gunjan.**

The organisation is for the women who are most marginalised and are left out from the society. We are still at the growing stage but now I can see small changes coming because of the education. Now, I can feel that we are not frightened to take issues related to women. We need more people to go out and help more and more women.

**How was your experience playing KBC with Amitabh Bachchan?**

Amitabh Ji, he always maintains

TO CHANGE SOMEONE'S MIND-SET IS THE HARDEST PART IN LIFE AS YOUR BELIEF HAS BECOME SO STRONG THAT YOU CAN'T CHANGE. SUDHA JI WORKING TOWARDS CHANGING THE MIND-SET OF THESE DALIT GIRLS HELPS US IN DEVELOPING OUR COUNTRY'S FUTURE. FIRST, YOU REALLY NEED TO SHOW THE GIRLS THAT WHATEVER IS HAPPENING ISN'T RIGHT AND DON'T ACCEPT IT, REPORT IT AND SEEK HELP. VOICE IT OUT. WHEN A WOMEN IS ABUSED AND LATER CONFRONTED, THEY WILL NEVER ACCEPT IT AS THERE WILL BE NO BREAD EARNER IN THE FAMILY. SUDHA JI PROVES TO BE THE PERSON WHO GUIDES DALIT GIRLS AND HELPS THEM

— ANUSHKA SHARMA

the charm, keep the vibe lively and the nation on their toes in the show. I like how heartily he was trying to understand what was being shown and shared. He is very encouraging, sensitive and supporting. He catches and understands issue people face deeply.

**What do you plan to do with ₹24 lakh?**

Our focus for the neediest women. The women who were

landless, had no assets and today they have dared to follow one or the other livelihood options and are trying to become economically empowered and because of that they could send their children to study and are taking challenges to go into new avenues. We've 350 women doing agriculture and food processing or started some shops, selling food or fruit. Great ambition and desires are always needed to go ahead.

## KAHAN GAYE WOH CROREPATI?

KBC has churned out many crorepatis and transformed their lives. But it wasn't easy for them to handle instant fame and richness that brought new challenges. SANGEETA YADAV caught up with these millionaires who talk about their ups and downs

## En route to CSR



Harshvardhan Nawathe with his family

**HARSHVARDHAN NAWATHE,**  
FIRST CONTESTANT TO WIN ₹1 CORE  
SEASON 1, 2000

He believes that there are no shortcuts to hard work and perseverance. He aspired to become a Civil Servant but destiny had something else planned for Harshvardhan Nawathe, who with his knowledge power, became the first crorepati at the age of 27 in 2000.

"After completing my graduation in BSc Honours from Jhunjhunwala College, Mumbai, I started preparing for the Civil Services. There was a big question mark on what the future had in store for me. When KBC was launched for the first time, it became an instant hit. One day, I was watching the show with my mother and she realised that I was able to answer all the questions. She told me that I should give it a try," the 45-year-old recalls, adding that he was an avid quizzer during his school days.

It was his fourth attempt that got him through to not just the first round but clear the fastest finger first too. Never in his wildest dream had he imagine that he would be sitting next to superstar Amitabh Bachchan. "I have grown up watching Mr Bachchan's movies. You are awed by his personality and humble nature. He knows the effect he has on people so he goes to every contestant and talks to them to make them feel comfortable," Nawathe tells you.

After winning the jackpot on the show, Nawathe became a star overnight but that brought its own challenges. "Success is glorified and it is daunting to manage fame and the riches that came. Post winning KBC, I had police protection as I couldn't walk alone on the streets. We didn't had camera phones those days, so people would come running for autographs. People would start asking you questions to check my knowledge. While having dinner in a restaurant, people would approach me. When I refused they would say 'kya hai... ek show jeet gaya toh tu khud ko kya bada hero samajhta hai?' Some people approach me to seek donation for various causes," Nawathe tells you.

Talking about how he spent ₹70 lakh, the amount he received after entertainment tax deduction, Nawathe tells you that he bought a top-end model of Maruti Esteem, paid fee to pursuing an MBA at Edinburgh University, UK and bought a house.

Getting a job was not easy. The moment interviewer would get to know that Nawathe was the KBC winner, they would treat him differently. "Once they realised who I was, suddenly the person who was interviewing me would feel that he is not the right person to interview and would send me to the CEO who would ask everything about the KBC and how I spent the money. Some told me that why I wanted to work since I was a crorepati. You should buy a beach house and retire for life. But KBC was a stepping stone to create a better life," Nawathe says.

Circumstances made it difficult for Nawathe to continue his preparation for Civil Services. But he never deviated from his dream to work for people welfare. "I joined IL&FS as project manager and was assigned a Government project to work with the sugar farmers to generate electricity through sugarcane waste. I joined Hyderabad-based NGO called Naandi Foundation to start the largest Urban Education School Programme. We worked with 30,000 children in more than 100 Government schools who didn't have grade specific competency and were given extra coaching classes within the school premises," Nawathe says, adding that from past six years, he has been looking after the CSR projects of Mahindra and Mahindra.

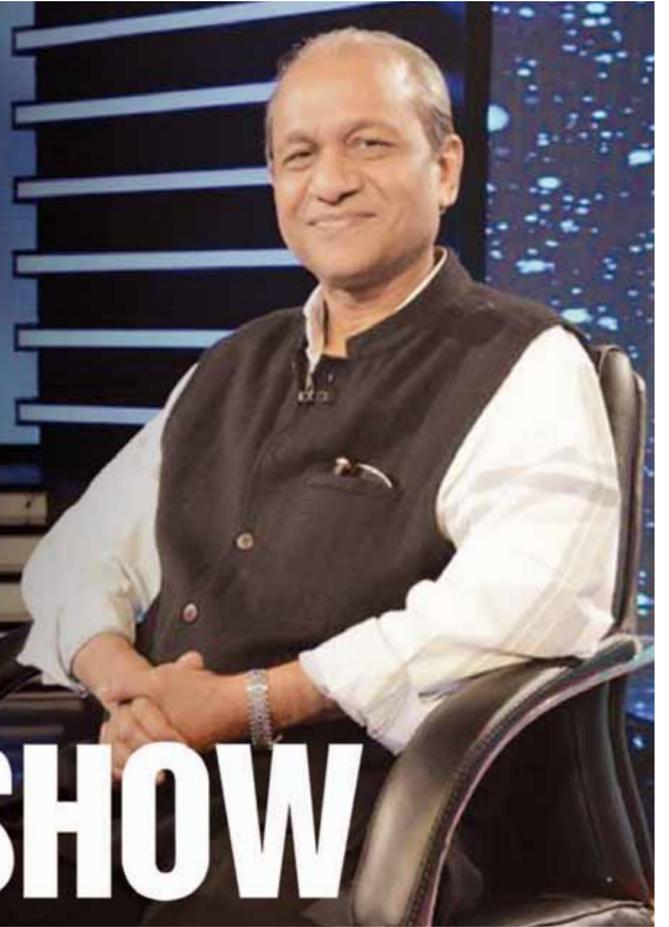
Luck favoured Nawathe a second time when he sat on the hot seat in 2005 as a celebrity and won ₹25 lakh for charity. At personal front, Nawathe and his parents would be besieged with marriage proposals.

"I was walking on the streets and suddenly a man comes up to me and asked if I was married? 'We are from the same caste and I was wondering if I can have your home address so that we can come to meet your parents,' he said to me. My mother was approached by a woman who said they have three daughters and I could choose any one of them. It sounds very funny now but back then, it was frustrating. There was a lot of pressure on me to get married but I wanted to be set in my career before I got married. In 2007, I married Marathi actress Sarika Nelatkar — it was arranged — and have two sons — Saransh (10) and Triyansh (six month old)," Nawathe shares.

His next of the wish list is to start a school for the poor children — quality education for free of cost. "Go ahead with full commitment, have clarity on your goals. There will be challenges but don't get overwhelmed by it. KBC was a huge opportunity to where I got to explore my potentials. What you do after KBC will depend a lot on your values, upbringing and how you want to live your life," Nawathe says.

## SUNDAY INTERVIEW

# FROM SCRATCH TO NATIONAL CONTEST, KBC REIGNS AS INDIA'S ONLY PEOPLE'S SHOW



Quizmaster SIDDHARTH BASU talks to SANGEETA YADAV about the making of Kaun Banega Crorepati and how it has brought a big transformation on TV and people's lives

**How has your journey been from making Quiz Time in 1985 to Mastermind and now, KBC?**

It was full of challenges but a rewarding experience to make not just a knowledge-based show but a national contest. For KBC, the suggestion came from Star Plus which was looking for a game changer and a flagship driver to kick start their 24/7 Hindi programming. At that time, *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire* was making waves worldwide and we were the 26th country to adapt this international show. Because it had a knowledge-based format and we at Synergy had the best credentials in this genre of shows, I guess they came to us.

**How did you convince Amitabh Bachchan to host it?**

Sameer Nair, then of Star Plus, persisted for a long time. Mr Bachchan was hesitant. He was advised not to do TV. He was told that 'chhote parde par aake chhote bann jayengey'. We met him in London. He wanted to see live how the British programme was recorded. After seeing it, he put one condition — only if we do it

the way they were doing, would he give his nod as a host. We got the resources and did the show in the same manner. Nothing on that scale had been done before — the level of participation, putting together the crew of 250-300, the technology and the telecom interactivity for selection and the size of the prize. The tin shed studio in Mumbai was transformed into a fully air-conditioned set. We were based in Delhi, we shifted to Mumbai and started from scratch.

**How was the response?**

It was like a magic and a dream come true. From day one, the minute the show would go on air, the traffic on the roads would reduce, one could hear KBC tune from every nook and corner. It was an indescribable feeling to see the change in the fortunes of the participants overnight and Mr Bachchan was thrilled with it.

**You also launched KBC in eight regional languages...**

Malayalam has been outstanding with four seasons — almost 400 episodes. All our knowledge shows in Malayalam

“FOR KBC, A TIN SHED STUDIO IN MUMBAI WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED SET. WE SHIFTED FROM DELHI TO MUMBAI AND STARTED FROM SCRATCH. MR BACHCHAN WAS HESITANT. WE MET HIM IN LONDON (TO SEAL THE DEAL)”

have done well but this (Hindi) was exceptional. Then we did in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Bangala and Marathi. Bhojpuri didn't do that well because we targeted the wrong audience and the channel Mahua got into a lot of trouble.

**Did the merger with Reliance help?**

Actually the merger was with Adlabs, who soon moved out of their partnership with Reliance. For us, it was more of a psychological merger, to have the backing of a company as the size of our projects had grown very large because it only helped us with financial resources for which we were earlier dependent on the banks which used to take their own time. Thus, we became Big Synergy in 2007. Our partners let us do things our way. We grew organically and did different genres of shows like *Jhalak Dikhlaa Ja*, *Sach Ka Samna*, *India's Got Talent* and *Aapki Kacheri*.

**Many coaching centres cropped up to train people for KBC...**

I don't think you need to take

up any course to be able to get into the show. There is no one way to prepare for a general knowledge show like KBC. All you need to do is keep your eyes, ears and mind open and read extensively. If such institutions are exploiting people, then that is unhealthy. But if it is well-meaning and through that people generally gain confidence and expand their awareness and education, then it is fine.

**There were many contestants who were on the verge of winning crores but lost...**

It is always heartbreaking to see that. Within hand's reach, despite our counselling and frequent reminders from our host to be sure of the answer, contestants have lost the game. We counsel everybody before they sit on the hot seat and during breaks, and tell them that it is an easy game with multiple choice question format and lifelines. However, they should not forget that there is a sting in the tail, that their first mistake is their last. You can quit but you can't make a mistake. It is also not a guessing game, however, it is your right to take the

risk. Without the risk, the game can't be what it is.

**What do contestants take back?**

It isn't just about winning lakhs or crores of rupees. Even small amount matters. Many come for validation that despite all the challenges, here I am. The role of the money in this show is to add to the drama of human knowledge, emotion, competition and dilemma. It tests you how sensible, knowledgeable and balanced are you to resolve the dilemma? The DNA of the show is — you can see a life change right in front of your eyes in a TV programme. KBC is all about human stories unfolding through knowledge, through a show that touches millions of lives.

**Where does KBC go from here?**

If we can foster the culture of knowledge, finding things out for oneself, through discovery learning or establishing facts and having a questioning mind, it is going to be very good for the individual and society. I will be delighted.



Rahat Taslim with Amitabh Bachchan after her win

## Small town, big dreams

**RAHAT TASLIM**  
FIRST WOMAN TO WIN ₹1 CORE  
SEASON 4; 2010

She was one of the brilliant students of her school and passed Class XII with flying colours. To ease the burden of her mother and help her take care of their mentally challenged father and siblings, she preferred to get married at the age of 18 in 1992 but never gave up hope for higher studies. Meet the first woman to become crorepati in Season 4 — Rahat Taslim from Jharkhand — who now has a successful garment business and runs a tailoring center where she teaches other women to become financially independent.

"My life was like any other typical housewife managing children and husband. But I was very passionate about studies. It took me three years to convince my husband to let me do my graduation in BA History (Hons). I was also preparing for Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSE) and an entrance exam to qualify for teaching.

After finishing all household work, I would sit down to study between 2:30 pm to 4 pm and make my two children study too," Taslim recalls.

She was an avid viewer of KBC and decided to give it a chance. "I made it to the first round at first go and qualified for the hot seat as well. Sitting in front of Big B was a nerve-wracking. I couldn't believe that I, coming from a small village, will be able to travel to Mumbai, sit in front of superstar and watched by millions of people on TV," Taslim says.

She gives credit to her husband who supported her. "When I won the jackpot, I couldn't comprehend what had happened; I became a celebrity overnight. It was quite a filmy moment. The money that I had earned was spent in building the house and got my daughter married. I started a garment business which is now looked after by my son. I restarted my training centre to train women in tailoring. Money comes and goes but the name and respect that I have earned through KBC will remain forever," Taslim says.

## Quest for knowledge

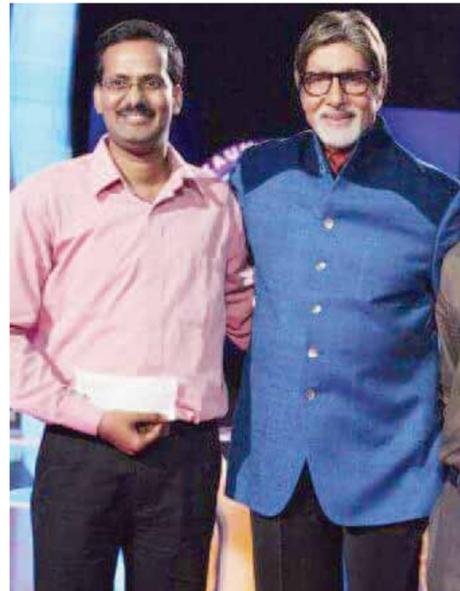
**ANIL KUMAR SINHA**  
WON ₹1 CORE  
SEASON 5; 2011

His hobby is to gain knowledge. His dream to get into the banking profession made him prepare for the competitive exam. To meet his daily expenses, he would coach others at Banking Services Chronicle in Patna. Meet Anil Kumar Sinha, whose life before and after KBC was an uphill journey. Especially after the sudden death of his father, the only bread-winner in a joint family. But his uncle stood by him in thick and thin.

When KBC was launched, he imagined himself sitting on the hot seat and his dream came true after 11 years of hard work and perseverance.

"I decided to prepare for KBC not for the money but to test my knowledge. All my five brothers supported me; they would read books and make notes for me to read. That made the mammoth preparation easier," Sinha recounts.

But that didn't mean that he didn't clear his banking exam, he did and started working in 2006. Before making it to the hot seat, he tried his luck at other knowledge-based TV shows. "I went to the final round of *Kum Ya Zada* hosted by Manoj Bajpai on Zee TV but couldn't hit the jackpot of ₹3 crore. I had the option to quit the show and return home with ₹30 lakh. After this, I also got selected to play *Bhojpuri KBC* hosted by Shatrughan Sinha and was in final 10 but couldn't make it to the hot seat," Sinha tells you.



Anil Kumar Sinha with Amitabh Bachchan after his win

He finally got selected for KBC season 5 in 2011. "That was my life's biggest exam. After winning ₹50 lakh a day before, I got Sunday off and this was the golden opportunity for me to study. I had got all my 11 years of notes and locked myself in the hotel room to study. People thought that I had gone mad. When I reached ₹5 crore question, I have the choice to take my last lifeline but I decided to quit and won ₹1 crore. People thought that it is difficult to have two crorepatis in the same season

but I became the second crorepati after Sushil Kumar who was also from Bihar," Sinha says.

At present, working at Union bank of India, in Delhi, Sinha also wrote a book *Kaise Bane Crorepati* which he gifted to Big B when he was called on the show for the second time as expert advise (Tribhuni). He is now planning to write another book *ABC of KBC*.

He invested all the money in buying a property in his mother's name that can equal-

ly get distributed to all the brothers. "KBC's victory is not just mine, it was everyone's victory because my brothers used to help me. I said in the show that I would give everything to my mother because whatever I am today is because of her. But my wife and in-laws were not happy. She said that the money was hers as well and I should have taken her consent? I told her that when the person who can get her crores was with her why did she need the money that we can win again. She asked for a divorce and we parted ways," Sinha tells you, who got married again in 2016 and was blessed with a baby girl.

"After one month of her birth, we got to know that she has a heart has some problem. We shifted to Delhi for her treatment. Doctors said that she needed an operation. There is 5 per cent risk and would cost ₹3.5 lakh. After the operation, she was in ICU for 40 days. It was heart-wrenching to see my five-month-old baby in that condition. After six months, My wife suffered severe health issues but recovered soon," Sinha says, who was blessed with a baby boy a few weeks earlier.

Unfortunately, the uncle who stood by him passed away last year due to a heart attack and his younger brother in a railway accident. But he now feels that his life is back on track and tells you that the secret to success is to think positively. "When you think positively, you get positive results. Luck, labour and chance can bring you to KBC, the rest is up to you," Sinha says.

# MEN IN BLUE EYE FINAL SPOT

With three wins in as many games, confident India face unpredictable Pakistan in super 4 clash

PTI ■ DUBAI

Favourites India have no grounds for complacency as they wait to see 'which' Pakistan turns up in the Asia Cup here on Sunday, well aware of the unpredictable arch-rivals' penchant for surprising not just opponents but themselves, too.

India are eyeing a place in the final after three wins in as many matches, while Pakistan will look to step up their game in the Super Four match, after a scare against Afghanistan.

India walloped Pakistan by eight wickets in the group game three days ago but if history is any indication, the Men in Blue will take their traditional rivals lightly at their own peril.

After being made to work hard by minnows Hong Kong in their tournament opener, India got their act together in the much-awaited group game against Pakistan and produced a clinical display to make short work of Sarfraz Ahmed's team.

Chasing a small target, India were hardly tested as a half-century from skipper Rohit Sharma ensured that the team was home with as many as 21 overs to spare.

Even without their talismanic captain Virat Kohli, the Indian batting looked formidable and lived up to the billing by scoring freely on surfaces that are not really perfect for stroke-play.

Opening the innings, Rohit was at his fluent best against Pakistan and followed that up with another fine knock of 83 in the seven-wicket win over Bangladesh, more than making up for the failure against Hong Kong.

Rohit's opener partner, Shikhar Dhawan found himself amongst the runs after a torrid time in England's seaming conditions, scoring in all three matches, including a century against Hong Kong.

The middle-order duo of Ambati Rayudu and Dinesh Karthik will again look to grab the opportunity with both hands by making useful contributions in the big game.

Rayudu missed out against Bangladesh after making an unbeaten 31 in the group game against Pakistan.

Veteran Mahendra Singh Dhoni



Kedar Jadhav celebrates with teammates after dismissing Pakistan's batsman in Asia Cup AP



managed to spend some time in the middle on Friday, remaining unbeaten on 33 off 37 balls. Then there is Kedar Jadhav, who has often proved his worth with the bat besides his bowling.

Coming back to the ODI side after more than a year, Ravindra Jadeja marked the occasion with a fine four-wicket haul against Bangladesh, and he seemed hungry for more. Pakistan will be wary of the threat posed by the left-arm spinner, who is also a handy bat lower down the order.

INDIA-PAKISTAN IN ODIs				
Type	Played	Ind	Pak	N/R
In UAE	27	8	19	-
Asia Cup	12	6	5	1
D/N matches	43	21	22	-
Last 5 matches	5	3	2	-
Overall	130	53	73	4

INDIA-PAKISTAN LAST FIVE ODIs			
Date	Venue	Result	Faisal Features
02-03-2014	Dhaka	India(245-8) lost to Pakistan (249-9) by one wicket	
15-02-2015	Adelaide	India (300-7) beat Pakistan (224) by 76 runs	
04-06-2017	Birmingham	India (319-3) beat Pakistan (164) by 124 runs (D/L)	
18-06-2017	The Oval	Pakistan (338-4) beat India (158) by 180 runs	
19-09-2018	Dubai	Pakistan (162) lost to India (164-2) by 8 wickets	

India vs Pakistan  
Live from 5:00pm IST  
STAR SPORTS 1 & 1HD

India will look to the pace duo of Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah to make the initial breakthroughs and put Pakistan on the backfoot before the spinners are introduced.

Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav are the two mainline spinners, but it was Kedar, who picked up the most number of wickets among the slow bowlers in the last game against Pakistan.

Pakistan will look up to their seasoned campaigner Shoaib Malik for inspiration. All-rounder Malik made 43 against India and saved his team the blushes with a crucial knock against a spirited Afghanistan on Friday night.

Opener Fakhar Zaman, who made a name for himself with a match-winning hundred against India in the final of Champions Trophy last year, flopped in their first game here.

Fakhar will look to make amends and so will be the likes of batsmen Babar Azam, Sarfraz and Iman-ul-Haq.

Pakistan's another cause of concern is the form of their strike bowler Mohammad Aamir, who has not been among the wickets in recent time.

While the left-arm pacer failed to deliver against India in the group game, he was not played against Afghanistan. The likes of Hasan Ali and Usman Khan will have to step up their game if their team is to do well.

## SQUAD

**India:** Rohit Sharma (captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Ambati Rayudu, Dinesh Karthik, MS Dhoni, Manish Pandey, Kedar Jadhav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Khaleel Ahmed, Siddharth Kaul, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravindra Jadeja, Deepak Chahar  
**Pakistan:** Fakhar Zaman, Iman-ul-Haq, Babar Azam, Shan Masood, Sarfraz Ahmed (captain), Shoaib Malik, Haris Sohail, Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Faheem Ashraf, Hasan Ali, Junaid Khan, Usman Khan, Shaheen Afridi, Asif Ali, Mohammad Amir.

## Rohit hopeful of repeating performance against Pak

PTI ■ DUBAI

Hailing his team's "clinical performance" against Bangladesh, India skipper Rohit Sharma says they would look to replicate the show in Sunday's Super Four Asia Cup match against arch-rivals Pakistan here.

Rohit played another classy knock after comeback man Ravindra Jadeja picked up a four-wicket haul to set up a seven-wicket win over Bangladesh on Friday.

"It was a clinical performance from the start. We bowled very well and we always knew it was going to be better batting under the lights. Very good from everyone. It was important on a pitch like that to rotate the bowlers and now allow the batsmen to settle," Rohit said at the presentation ceremony.

India bowled out Bangladesh, who batted first, for a paltry 173, and then chased down the target with plenty to spare.

"We wanted to rotate the bowlers in shorter spells. It was a challenge for us, but I think they responded well. We always knew if we stuck to tight lines, the wickets would come."

Jadeja, played another ODI after a long time, to come out and bowl like that was a great effort from him. Great effort from everyone, I don't want to single out anyone," said Rohit, who scored an unbeaten 83.

India next play against traditional rivals Pakistan, having already beaten them in the group stage.

Rohit said, "When everything goes to plan, it looks easy. We will go back and recover and come back fresh against Pakistan and try to replicate this performance."



Rohit Sharma in action against Pakistan AP

Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Mortaza urged his batsmen to shoulder more responsibility.

"From the start we kept losing wickets. Today we were just all over the place," Mortaza said.

"If you score 170, it's a difficult ask of the bowlers. The batsmen need to take responsibility, especially after failing to score in back-to-back matches."

"The next match is against a tough team with good bowlers. We need to bat well."

Bangladesh batsmen faltered again, having come a cropper in the run chase against Afghanistan on Thursday night.

However, India were hardly troubled in the chase after Rohit and Shikhar Dhawan (40 off 47) provided a solid start with a 61-run stand.

Dhawan, like in the game against Pakistan, looked in good touch but was not able to play a long innings.

Rohit changed gears after Dhawan's departure, bringing up his 36th ODI fifty with a towering hit off Shikhar Al Hasan over deep mid-wicket.

## SINGLES

### INDIA FINISH 2ND IN ASIAN SNOOKER C'SHIP

**DOHA:** India settled for the Silver medal after losing to Pakistan 2-3 in the final of the Asian Team Snooker Championship here. After Babar Masih put a fluent 81 break to win the first frame against Pankaj Advani, Malkeet Singh restored parity with a 52 break win over Mohammad Asif. The doubles was the turning point where Asif played out of his skin to pull back a 62-point deficit and allow his partner Masih to wrap up the frame 70-72. Pushed on the back foot, Pankaj displayed fine potting to craft a frame-winning 68 break. It was then again down to Malkeet to save the day for India, but he could not on this occasion. Hours before that, Malkeet played the match of his life under pressure to clinch the deciding frame against Pakistan 2 and a berth for the Indian team in the final.

### WOODS MAINTAINS LEAD AT TOUR C'SHIP

**ATLANTA:** Tiger Woods edged closer to snapping a five-year winless drought as the 14-time major winner maintained a share of the lead at the halfway stage of the Tour Championship. Woods birdied the final hole en route to a 68 to tie the Justin Rose (67) at seven-under par 133 in heatwave conditions at the East Lake golf course in Atlanta. Rory McIlroy, winner two years ago of both the FedEx Cup and Tour Championship, remains in the hunt in sole possession of third after shooting a 68. "The best way to describe today is I ground out a round," said Woods, a former two-time winner of the season-ending tournament. "I wasn't quite as sharp as I was Friday, but I hung in there and tried to miss the ball on the correct sides so I had angles. For the most part, I did that." Woods' last victory was in 2013 at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational.

### CHONG WEI DIAGNOSED WITH NOSE CANCER

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Legendary shuttler Lee Chong Wei has been diagnosed with early stage nose cancer and he is undergoing treatment in Taiwan, Badminton Association of Malaysia (BAM) said Saturday. "In response to recent reports concerning Datuk Lee Chong Wei, BAM confirms that the player has been diagnosed with early stage nose cancer," BAM President Datuk Seri Norza Zakaria said in a statement in their website. "Chong Wei is currently in Taiwan seeking treatment and I am pleased to inform you that he is responding well to his treatment and is currently resting and recuperating amongst family and close friends." Two months ago, BAM had issued a statement a couple of months back saying that Chong Wei had been diagnosed with a respiratory-related disorder in July and was taking a break. BAM said: "We urge everyone to respect his privacy and that of his family. BAM is in constant contact with Chong Wei and we will offer any support we can to our legend."

### SELECTION TRAIL FOR GYMNASTIC WORLD C'SHIP

**NEW DELHI:** Top Indian gymnasts, including Dipa Karmakar and Rakesh Patra, will feature in the selection trials here on September 29 and 30 for next month's Artistic Gymnastic World Championship in Doha. A selection trial has been scheduled on September 29 and 30 to select the team for the World Championship, India's long time gymnastics coach GS Bawa said. Indian gymnasts were left in the lurch after reports emerged that the sports ministry refused to clear the team for the World Championship in Bulgaria since the Gymnastic Federation of India (GFI) is de-recognised and stands suspended as per the National Sports Code. "A maximum of six members — three boys and three girls — will be selected for the World Championship," Bawa said. The selection trials will decide who makes the cut for the prestigious tournament.

## Asghar, Rashid & Hasan Ali fined 15%

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Pakistan all-rounder Hasan Ali along with Afghanistan duo of Asghar Afghan and Rashid Khan have been fined 15 per cent of their match fees for different incidents during their Super Four match in the Asia Cup on Friday.

They have also received one demerit point each for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct. Afghanistan skipper had brushed his shoulder with Hasan as he passed him while taking a run when he was bowling the 37th over.

The incident involving Hasan happened in the 33rd over of Afghanistan's innings when he threatened to throw the ball towards striker Hashmatullah Shahidi off his own bowling.

Rashid was charged and fined for giving a send-off to Asif Ali in the 47th over of Pakistan innings. Hasan and Asghar were found guilty of breaching Article 2.1.1 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "conduct that is contrary to the spirit of the game", while Rashid was found to have violated Article 2.1.7, which deals with "using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batsman upon his/her dismissal during an International Match," according to an ICC release.

While Hasan and Rashid have received demerit points for the first time, it is the second occasion that Asghar has been handed a demerit point within a 24-month period.

In February 2017, Asghar received a reprimand and one demerit point for showing dissent against an umpire's decision in an ODI against Zimbabwe. As such, he now has two demerit points.

After the match, all the three players pleaded guilty to the offences and accepted the sanctions



Rashid Khan bats during his innings against Bangladesh AP

proposed by Andy Pycroft of the Elite Panel of ICC Match Referees.

The charges were levelled by on-field umpires Anil Chaudhary and Shaun George, third umpire Rod Tucker and fourth umpire Anis-ur-Rahman.

Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points.

Earlier on late Friday night, Experienced Shoaib Malik conjured up a crucial unbeaten 51 under pressure as Pakistan survived a scare from Afghanistan, winning their Super Four match of the Asia Cup by three wickets.

Chasing a competitive 258 to win, Pakistan overhauled the target with just three balls to spare with former captain Malik playing the match-winning knock from 43 balls.

Pakistan required 10 runs from the last over and Malik dispatched pacer Aftab Alam for a six and four after playing a dot ball.

Wickets kept falling for Pakistan with star Afghan spinner Rashid Khan yet again proving his utility with a three-wicket haul but Malik held his nerves to keep one end tight.

## I DON'T HAVE TO PROVE ANYTHING: JADEJA

PTI ■ DUBAI

Ravindra Jadeja kept count of the number of days he was out of India's One-day squad and once in, he made it count with four wickets, and stated "I don't have" to prove anything to anyone.

The left-arm spinner, who is also a handy bat, returned, in his own words, after around 480 days, with very impressive figures of 4/29 and bagged the Man-of-the-Match Award in India's seven-wicket win over Bangladesh in the Asia Cup.

"I will always remember this comeback because I returned to the team after a gap of around 480 days. The earlier gaps have not been this long," Jadeja told reporters at the post-match press conference.

Making a statement of sorts, he said, "I don't have to prove anything to anyone. What my ability is, I need to sharpen it. I don't have to show anyone what I can do, I need to challenge myself."

With less than a year left for the 2019 World Cup, Jadeja might have sent a timely reminder to the selectors about his prowess, but he said he was not thinking that far ahead.



Ravindra Jadeja celebrates after dismissing Shikhar Al Hasan on Friday AP

focus is to perform in this series."

Jadeja, back in the Indian One-Day International team for the first time since July 2017, foxed the Bangladesh batting line-up with his smart bowling.

"Even in Test cricket, because the last few series have been overseas, I haven't been getting chances consistently. So I was determined that whenever I get the chance I will perform, that's all that I can control. I was only focused about my own game and how I can improve further," he said.

The Saurashtra cricketer is known for his ability to bowl his spinning deliveries quickly.

"On a slow wicket, you have to bowl with more of your own effort. On a normal wicket, the ball goes through quickly after bouncing so it doesn't give the batsman as much time. But on a slow wicket you have to bowl with more effort," said Jadeja.

Asked about Sunday's Super Four match against arch-rivals Pakistan, he said, "Be it India-Pakistan or any other country, playing for India is a matter of pride. But India-Pakistan is something everyone is excited about."

## Warner returns with hundred

AFP ■ SYDNEY

Disgraced cricketers Steve Smith and David Warner made stunning returns to Australian cricket on Saturday, with the pair both notching up big scores in front of some of the largest grade-level crowds the country has seen.

Former captain Smith looked as though he had not a missed beat, with a classy 85 of 92 deliveries for Sutherland against Mosman in New South Wales grade cricket.

He was greeted with loud applause from hundreds of fans when he walked out to the pitch at Sydney's Glenn McGrath Oval, supporters delighted to see a return of his trademark fidgeting at crease.

"It's awesome to see him playing," Sutherland teammate Shane Watson told Cricket Australia's official website.

"I'd prefer him to be playing for Australia, but the support that he got, the warm applause when he scored



David Warner celebrates after scoring a century for Australia AP

runs and also when he got out shows that everyone is supporting him."

Randwick-Petersham against St George.

The impressive innings included a huge six hit out of the ground, to the delight of hundreds of onlookers crammed into the small ground.

"It's great to have him back," cricket fan Kim Perry said. "He's a great entertainer for Australian cricket."

The pair are serving one-year suspensions from international and state cricket for the scandal, while opener Cameron Bancroft was banned for nine months.

"I think they will probably welcome them (Smith and Warner) back after they've done their time. Not before," said 82-year-old cricket fan.

Smith and Warner are expected to spend more time at their respective grade-level clubs in New South Wales this summer if they decide not to join the new Twenty20 competition in the UAE.

## EVES WIN 3RD T20

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Young Jemimah Rodrigues scored a power-packed 40-ball 57 as Indian women won the third T20 International against Sri Lanka by five wicket here on Saturday.

India now enjoy an unassailable 2-0 lead in the five-match series with the second encounter being a washout.

Opting to field, India restricted the islanders to 131/8 with Shashikala Siriwardene (35) and Nilakshi de Silva (31) being the chief contributors. India comfortably chased down the target in 18.2 overs.

For India, rookie medium pacer Arundhati Reddy kept things tight with figures of 2/19 in four overs. Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur also chipped in with a couple of wickets in the penultimate over.

In reply, Rodrigues anchored the chase with six boundaries and two huge sixes adding 53 runs for the fourth wicket with Harmanpreet (24).

The two sixes came off pacers -- one off Uedshika Prabodhani and other off Sreepali Weerakoddy. Rodrigues had scored 36 in the first T20



Indian women's cricket team celebrating their victory AP

International. While Harmanpreet and Rodrigues were both dismissed in the same over by Chamari Atapattu, India didn't panic with only 19 runs to get.

Veda Krishnamurthy (11 no) and Anuja Patil (8 no) completed the chase without much difficulty.

It was Patil, who hit a boundary off Prabodhani, to bring up their second win in the series.

# Goal rush in Premier League

Man City net five, Burnley four while L'pool, Leicester score three; Utd end draw

AFP ■ LONDON

Liverpool and Manchester City's shootout for the Premier League title intensified on Saturday with comfortable wins over Southampton and Cardiff, while Manchester United were held 1-1 by Wolves on the day Alex Ferguson returned to Old Trafford.

Jürgen Klopp could afford the luxury of handing Xherdan Shaqiri his first Liverpool start for a 3-0 victory at Anfield and Wesley Hoedt turned the Swiss international's deflected shot in for the opener before Joel Matip and Mohamed Salah's first goal in four games sealed Liverpool's seventh straight win in all competitions.

City edged ahead of Chelsea, who travel to West Ham on Sunday, into second, two points behind the leaders, as they bounced back from a shock Champions League defeat to Lyon in midweek by thrashing Cardiff 5-0 in the Welsh capital.

United, though, are now eight points off the top as a run of three straight wins to avert an early season crisis came to an end against an impressive Wolves while Ferguson watched on for the first time since undergoing emergency surgery on a brain haemorrhage in May.

**SHAQIRI STARS**  
Liverpool stormed back to the top of the Premier League with 3-0 victory over Southampton with Mohamed Salah back among the goals at Anfield.

Liverpool's momentum continues to build after victory against top four rivals Spurs at Wembley last weekend and a thrilling late 3-2 win over Paris Saint-Germain on Tuesday in the Champions League.

The strength in depth now on offer to Klopp was shown in midweek as Daniel Sturridge scored on his first start of the season.

This time it was Shaqiri's chance to shine on his first start since his summer arrival from Stoke.

# Federer-Novak suffer defeat, Team Europe leads

AFP ■ CHICAGO

Kevin Anderson and Jack Sock spoiled the doubles debut of Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic but Team Europe still led Team World 3-1 after the first day of the 2018 Laver Cup.

The exhibition is taking place on US soil for the first time and features 12 of the world's top players squaring off against each other in a three-day showcase which wraps up Sunday in Chicago.

The format calls for shorter matches. If the players split sets, they go straight to a 10-point tiebreaker. On Saturday, wins will be worth two points each instead of one.

Bjorn Borg's favoured Team Europe are trying to defend their crown against Team World which is captained by the legendary John McEnroe.

Federer, Djokovic, Alexander Zverev, Dimitrov, Goffin and Edmund make up Team Europe. Federer played in the first Laver Cup but Djokovic is taking part for the first time.

Sock, Nick Kyrgios, John Isner, Tiafoe, Anderson and Schwartzman are representing Team World. The event is named in honour of tennis legend Rod Laver, who won a record 200 singles titles, 11 Grand Slams and five Davis Cups for Australia.

Earlier in the day, Europe's Dimitrov cruised past Frances Tiafoe 6-1, 6-4, Goffin saved two match points to outlast Diego Schwartzman 6-4, 4-6, 11-9 and Edmund toppled World's Sock 6-4, 5-7, 10-6.

This is the second instalment of the Laver Cup which has been dubbed the Ryder Cup of tennis — although it lacks the tradition

# Could have won by fancier scoreline: Bibiano

**KUALA LUMPUR:** After defeating Vietnam to kick off their AFC U-16 Championship campaign on a positive note, India's head coach Bibiano Fernandes said that there is "still work to be done" and that they could have won by a bigger margin.

# Allahabad win overall c'ship



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Allahabad bagged 63 points to win the overall championship in the 52nd UP State Junior Athletics Championship at KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium on Saturday. Asian Games silver medalist Sudha Singh also graced the occasion.

## INDIAN CUSTOMS

Numerous initiatives for

Indian Customs has initiated various reforms for Ease of Doing Business.

- Mandatory filing of Bill of Entry within specified time has resulted in discipline among the trade and reduced release time in case of imports.
- An online paperless processing of application, E-SANCHIT, allowing traders to submit all supporting documents for clearance of consignments electronically, has been introduced.
- Enhanced facilitation through Risk Management System has resulted in lesser time taken for clearances.
- Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) scheme provides faster Customs clearance and simplified Customs procedures to business entities. More than 1405 entities (as on 31.08.2018) are already getting benefits under it.
- Direct Port Delivery (DPD) allows registered importers to complete Customs clearances at the terminal itself and containers can be taken directly to factories without going to CFS.
- Direct Port Entry (DPE) allows direct entry of export cargo into port terminal without any need for going to CFS.
- E-sealing of containers has been introduced replacing earlier practice of supervised sealing by department officers. It has enhanced the integrity of cargo as RFID tamper-proof e-seals are being used to seal containers now.

The overall impact of above reforms in terms of time and cost associated with imports and exports can be judged from the data of Time Release Study (TRS) 2018 conducted at JNCH, Mumbai, as under:

- The percentage of cases of filing of Advance Bills of Entry has increased to more than 58%.
- The average release time for imports has improved to 144.18 hours in 2018.
- The average release time for DPD facilitated Bills of Entry is 84.48 hours.
- In case of Bills of Entry for auto-components falling under Customs Tariff Heading 8708, the average release time is 91.52 hours.
- The net average export release time, arrived at by excluding the domestic transport time from the gross average export release time, is 84.1 hours.

Importers and Exporters can track their documents and containers on the ICEGATE website.

- The location of containers can be traced using facility "Track your Container" on [www.icegate.gov.in](http://www.icegate.gov.in) for cargo moving to Nhava Sheva, Hazira and Mundra Ports only.
- The current status of Bill of Entry or Shipping Bill can be traced by logging into the ICEGATE website.
- Electronic tracking of Nepal-bound cargo has already been launched by Customs.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

[www.cbic.gov.in](http://www.cbic.gov.in)

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**Talktime**  
SUNIL GROVER

Comedian-turned-actor, your very own Dr Mashoor Gulati & Rinku Bhabhi, will tickle your funny bone as Dipper Naradmunni in the film Pataakha. He speaks with Sangeeta Yadav about working with Vishal Bhardwaj, his struggles and dealing with controversies

# 'PLAYING A WOMAN IS CREATIVE'

**How was your experience working in Pataakha?**

It was amazing. I play Dipper Naradmunni who pulls everyone's leg and takes up different jobs. One day, he sells sarees, another day he is a vegetable vendor. The film is an adaptation of Charan Singh Pathik's short story *Do Behnein*. There is no Bollywood film which has shown a relationship between two sisters who are at loggerheads and always in cat fights. It was fun shooting this film. I felt nostalgic when I was doing this movie as it reminded me of my good old growing up days in Mundi Dubwali amid villagers, buffalo and cows.

**Do you think each role you take has to match up to Dr Mashoor Gulati or Rinku Bhabhi?**

Not really! I love observing people and studying human behaviour. How humans react to different things differently or similarly. I can look at living

and non-living things and pass my time. There is so much beauty around you — in things and of things. I want to become so many people and characters and live different lives in one life. I feel blessed and grateful to be in a medium where I get to do what I love and keep exploring.

**How was director Vishal Bhardwaj as a director?**

He is a great learning experience. He is clear about what he wants from his actors and how his story should unfold. His characters are well-defined. When we started shooting, he allowed us to experiment with our roles and was open to suggestions. I was playing the character a little over the top so Vishal sir asked me to tone it down. I changed it and on the fourth day, I understood what he was looking for. I completely surrendered to him.

**The portrayal of women in this film is very different...**

Yes, many women who have had fights with their sister or friend will be able to relate to Badki and Chhutki played by Sania Malhotra and Radhika Madan, respectively. The time has come

**For the time being, yes controversies bother me but after some time, you have to get back to work. I am here to entertain people and keep myself happy. To describe myself in one line I believe in the dictum 'live & let live'**

woman is not easy and I have immense respect for them. That is why I love to play the role. Women in my life have contributed a lot whether it was my mother, sister or my friends and teachers who helped me grow in my career. Thank God, I was in the co-ed college for some time. I had women around, I would dress up nicely and take a bath regularly, otherwise I was like a typical hostel boy.

**What has been your biggest struggle?**

The struggle is to find time to get into the character's skin, read scripts, meet people and social obligations. Sometimes I feel the pressure of work and have limited time to decide what projects to take and to live up to audience's expectations.

It is always an exam. We need to work hard to excel in whatever we do. The struggle is to get better, to understand what kind of approach you should have towards the character and to learn new things, keep reinventing and try to do something which has not been done before.

**What is not funny according to you?**

Life should not be taken seriously. Humour lies in everything. All you need

to know is how to extract it. There are a few things which are not funny. To challenge anyone's belief who has lived with it throughout life, demeaning someone for having been born in lower class, caste or the work they do, disrespecting people, making fun of someone's weakness or belittling someone for being slow because they have a disability is not funny. I do not laugh at people's situation and for what they are. I like to laugh with them. I find this very beautiful.

**Do controversies bother you?**

For the time being, yes it does. But you have to get back to work. I am here to work — to entertain people and keep myself happy in the process. To describe myself in one word is 'celebrate'. I live and let live. Enjoy, forgive, forget, respect and work hard.

**Any plans for TV?**

Right now, I am busy shooting for Ali Abbas Zafar's movie *Bharat* starring Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif, Tabu, Disha Patani, Jackie Shroff and Nora Fatehi. It is an official adaptation of the 2014 South Korean film *Ode to My Father*. I am looking forward to doing more substantial role in films.

# 'I've lost myself in my roles'

Nawazuddin Siddiqui tells SANGEETA YADAV that he is still a struggling actor looking for new challenges like doing biopics on Manto and Thackeray, and venturing into rom-coms

After giving a stellar performance in *Manto*, 44-year-old Nawazuddin Siddiqui, who charged '1 as fee from director Nandita Das, feels that the vision behind making such a film is bigger than monetary gain.

"I felt ashamed to take money for playing Indo-Pakistani writer Saadat Hasan Manto who has been a great inspiration to me. You can't put a price tag to bringing him alive on screen. Das and I shared a similar vision behind making this film and it is my honour to have contributed by doing justice to Manto's role. It has been a long struggle of six years to write and direct *Manto* and get the right producers for this independent film for a commercial release. It takes a lot of courage and perseverance to make such a film without giving up," Siddiqui says.

He feels that there are unnecessary theories created in the industry which is a wrong approach to get into the character. "We have created unnecessary theories in the industry to get into the skin character. All that is nonsense. To get into the skin of the character means you need to understand the character's psyche and internalise his thought process deeply. That is what I did. Manto was a wise, experienced and sensible man. You can't characterise him emotionally. Even when I acted him out, my approach was to let the audience be emotional by the portrayal and not me," Siddiqui tells you.

All this is easier said than done. "When you internalise, it affects your psyche. We are not computers but human beings and when you finish playing that role, some of the character stays in you somewhere. To bring that character out of you completely, you have to come to a zero. I try to meet my friends, go to my village, get scolded by my wife and meet my children who keep complaining that I don't give them much time. All this brings me back to the real world," Siddiqui shares.

A scene that will stay with him forever is one shot with no dialogues. "My friend Shyam, played by Tahir Bhasin, becomes a superstar whereas Manto is going downhill as his writings aren't helping him eke out a living. He is broke and becomes an alcoholic. When Shyam visits him, he gives Manto money but he refuses with self-respect. No matter what the situation, his beliefs, habits and characteristics remained the same. He



CHALLENGES HELP ME GROW AS AN ACTOR. THE STRUGGLE IS TO BECOME AS HONEST AS I CAN IN REEL LIFE. I WAS DESTINED TO BE AN ACTOR AND THAT KEPT ME MOTIVATED. THE PROCESS OF FILMMAKING FASCINATES ME AND GIVES ME IMMENSE HAPPINESS

remained courageous and stood by truth. The proof is that even after so many years, he is remembered. His thoughts and writings are relevant even today. For instance, he always portrayed grey people. *Sachh haarta hua zaroor dikhta hai par kabhi haarta nahin hai*. In the end, it wins and Manto's journey is the biggest example," Siddiqui says. The actor's own journey has not been without struggles and he still calls himself a struggling actor.

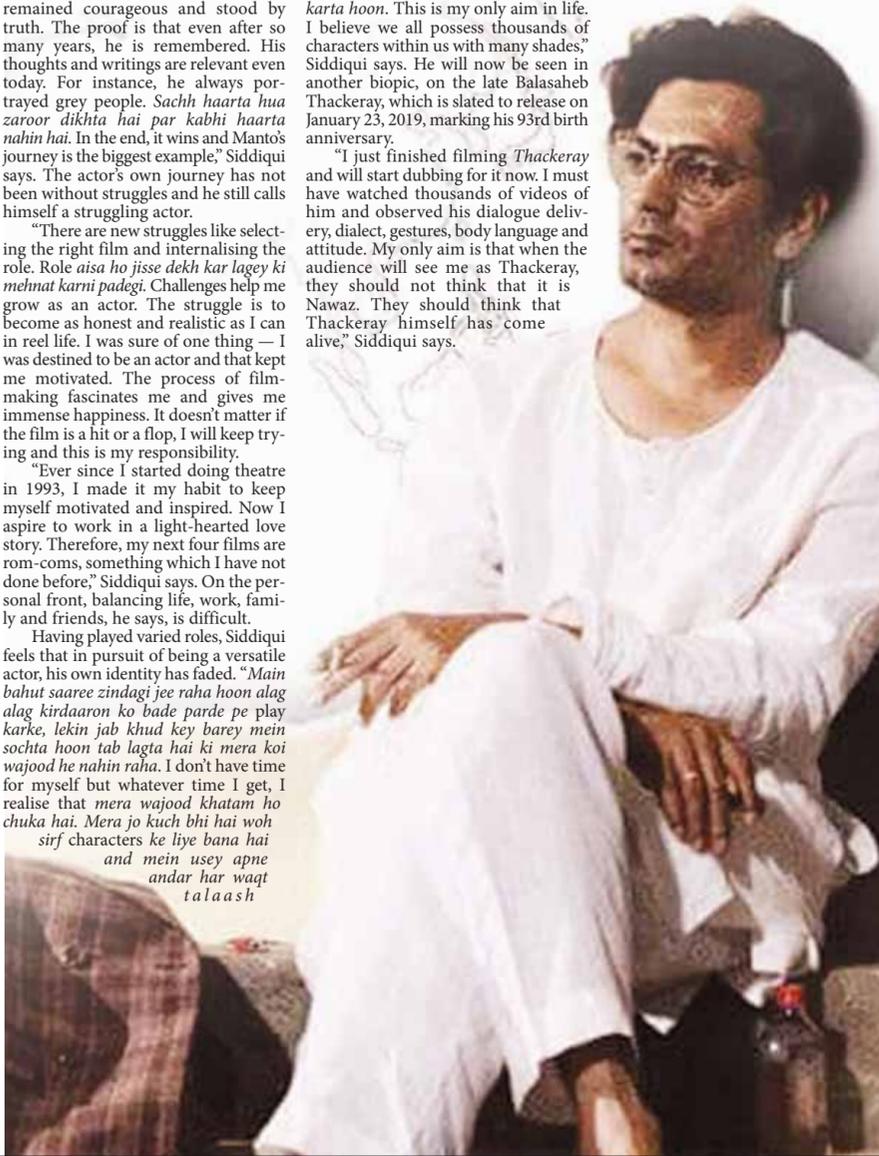
"There are new struggles like selecting the right film and internalising the role. Role *aisa ho jisse dekh kar lagey ki mehnat karni padegi*. Challenges help me grow as an actor. The struggle is to become as honest and realistic as I can in reel life. I was sure of one thing — I was destined to be an actor and that kept me motivated. The process of filmmaking fascinates me and gives me immense happiness. It doesn't matter if the film is a hit or a flop, I will keep trying and this is my responsibility.

"Ever since I started doing theatre in 1993, I made it my habit to keep myself motivated and inspired. Now I aspire to work in a light-hearted love story. Therefore, my next four films are rom-coms, something which I have not done before," Siddiqui says. On the personal front, balancing life, work, family and friends, he says, is difficult.

Having played varied roles, Siddiqui feels that in pursuit of being a versatile actor, his own identity has faded. "*Main bahut saaree zindagi jee raha hoon alag alag kirdaaron ko bade parde pe play karke, lekin jab khud key barey mein sochta hoon tab lagta hai ki mera koi wajood he nahin raha*. I don't have time for myself but whatever time I get, I realise that *mera wajood khatam ho chuka hai*. *Mera jo kuch bhi hai woh sirf characters ke liye bana hai and mein usey apne andar har waqt talaash*

*karta hoon*. This is my only aim in life. I believe we all possess thousands of characters within us with many shades," Siddiqui says. He will now be seen in another biopic, on the late Balasaheb Thackeray, which is slated to release on January 23, 2019, marking his 93rd birth anniversary.

"I just finished filming *Thackeray* and will start dubbing for it now. I must have watched thousands of videos of him and observed his dialogue delivery, dialect, gestures, body language and attitude. My only aim is that when the audience will see me as Thackeray, they should not think that it is Nawaz. They should think that Thackeray himself has 'come alive'," Siddiqui says.



# 'MY SUCCESS IS DUE TO MY FANS'

DARSHAN RAVAL, singer and YouTube sensation, is back with yet another song *Baarish Lete Aana* that has garnered 20 million views. He speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about the secret behind his success

**What is your latest song *Baarish Lete Aana* all about?**

Every monsoon I release a song on *baarish*. This is the third year in a row that a song on this subject has been released. It is for people who love this season, believe in love and sad songs.

**This is the third time that you have had more than 10 million views. What is the secret?**

I really don't know. Actually, the first song has now been viewed by 100 million people. The secret, therefore, lies in the people who love my work. I am honoured by the love they shower on me whenever I release my work. I always say that it is my fans who are responsible for what and where I am today.

**You love to sing love ballads. How would you define love?**

My entire life has been around love. I have always loved my mother. My family has taught me to love everyone. In order to be loved back, there is a need to give love.

**It has been seen that some stars reach the peak fast and fall just as fast. Is there some way to remain on top?**

It is all about how much one believes in oneself. Opportunities and luck come later. It favours those who work hard and are passionate.

**What is the reason for the popularity of indie music?**

People started listening to Bollywood songs and then indie happened. For musicians, a song is a song. Like for me, I never differentiate between Bollywood or non-Bollywood. The song has to be good for me. All I know that music should touch people's lives. Any good song will do well.

**Is that how you define success?**

As long as my songs do well — in whatever space — I am happy.

**What is your mental framework when you enter a music studio?**

When I am dubbing my song, I know the emotions to put in the song and carry that into the studio. When I dub for another person like Himesh Reshammiya or Sachin-Jigar or any other composer, I go with a blank mind. They give me the brief, I understand the lyrics, get into the zone and then record. To go with a blank mind, it helps me. If I got with too many emotions, there will be a clash. With a blank mind, I can shape the emotions that the composer is looking for.

**Is it difficult to switch?**

Not really since I sing for others and compose my music. But yes, there are people who want to do only one, then they may face some difficulties. I don't do to both so am able to make the transition with ease.

## VILLAGE ROCKSTARS GOES FOR THE OSCARS

*Village Rockstars* has been selected as India's official entry to the 91st Academy Awards following which members of the Film Federation of India (FFI) urged the Indian film industry and the Government to promote the Assamese film for the final round.

The chairman of the committee SV Rajendra Singh Babu, also a veteran film producer, made the announcement. Talking about the selection of the film, Anant Mahadevan, one of the members of the committee, said: "One of the criteria is that the film has to be rooted in India with a universal message. The film has to be professionally and technically well made with hardly any flaws to capture and a well-performed film. It was absolutely an unanimous decision. The film *'Village Rockstars'* got votes of all the jury members unanimously. We are very proud of this film."

As many as 28 films were shortlisted. Some of the big budget Bollywood films like *Padmaavat*, *Raazi*, *Hichki* and *Pad Man* along



with some of the critically acclaimed movies like *Love Sonia*, *Manto*, *Kadvi Hawa* and *Gali Guleiyari* made the list. But why do Indian films generally don't make it to the final round of Oscars? Rajendra explained: "Many Indian films reach there but because of their rules and perspectives, our films might not be eligible. The film which is selected from here should be properly presented at the Oscars, and that needs huge money. When a film goes there, we need at least ₹2 crore to promote it, to present it to the Academy members. There are many processes, and we may be failing there."

## WEEKLY NATTER

### NO ONE CAN MATCH DILIP KUMAR'S TALENT: GHAI

Filmmaker Subhash Ghai says he hasn't met any actor who can match up to the talent of veteran star Dilip Kumar. Ghai worked with Dilip Kumar in *Vidhaata*, *Karma* and *Saudagar*. "My problem is that after working with Dilip Kumar in three films, I haven't been able to notice any star above his acting power on screen in spite of many talented actors today. Since myself been an ardent student of acting for five decades though not as an actor," Ghai tweeted.

Dilip Kumar, whose real name is Yusuf Khan, became a name to reckon with in the 1950s and 1960s through his performances in films like *Aan*, *Daag*, *Devdas*, *Madhumati*, *Mughal-e-Azam*, *Leader* and *Ram Aur Shyam*.

After working for about six decades, he stepped out of showbiz in 1998 after *Qila*.



### LAMBA'S THEATRE DEBUT

After a career in Bollywood, actor Minissha Lamba's acting career has taken on a new lease of life in a different medium — theatre — with her solo play *Mirror, Mirror*, enacting 13 characters.

The 75-minute play is the dramatised story of two identical twins, whose sibling rivalry transcends the bounds of the normal. As the little girls Minal and Maanya grow up, more characters enter and all of them are single-handedly played by Lamba.

But her foray into theatre comes at a time when, in her own words, "nothing was happening". She said it seemed too daunting a task for her to take on.

"Although the role fell in my lap, I was in a complete flux, thinking it's theatre. This is where the director Saif Hyder Hasan stepped in saying: 'It's acting, you're an actor. It's just a different medium,'" the 33-year-old said.

"When Saif sir narrated the story, I loved it, but it seemed to be so daunting. I just committed myself to it right there and then, thinking that if I go home, I might change my mind," she



After four hours of rehearsals and voice lessons each day for 45 days, what seemed daunting and made her mouth run dry by the fourth scene, had transformed into a 'breeze'. How did she prepare for each of the 13 characters? "The characters came very organically to me. The children were the easiest, since children's behaviour and mannerisms are generic. Getting that manly voice was a bit tough and so was switching between them," she said. Minissha, who even resorts to singing dialogues for a male character — protagonist Minal's husband — said she borrowed many Disney tunes.

# the pioneer agenda

I never want to stop learning or being challenged, and I never want to stop challenging my partner. That will lead to success — Mila Kunis



## FROM THE INSIDE



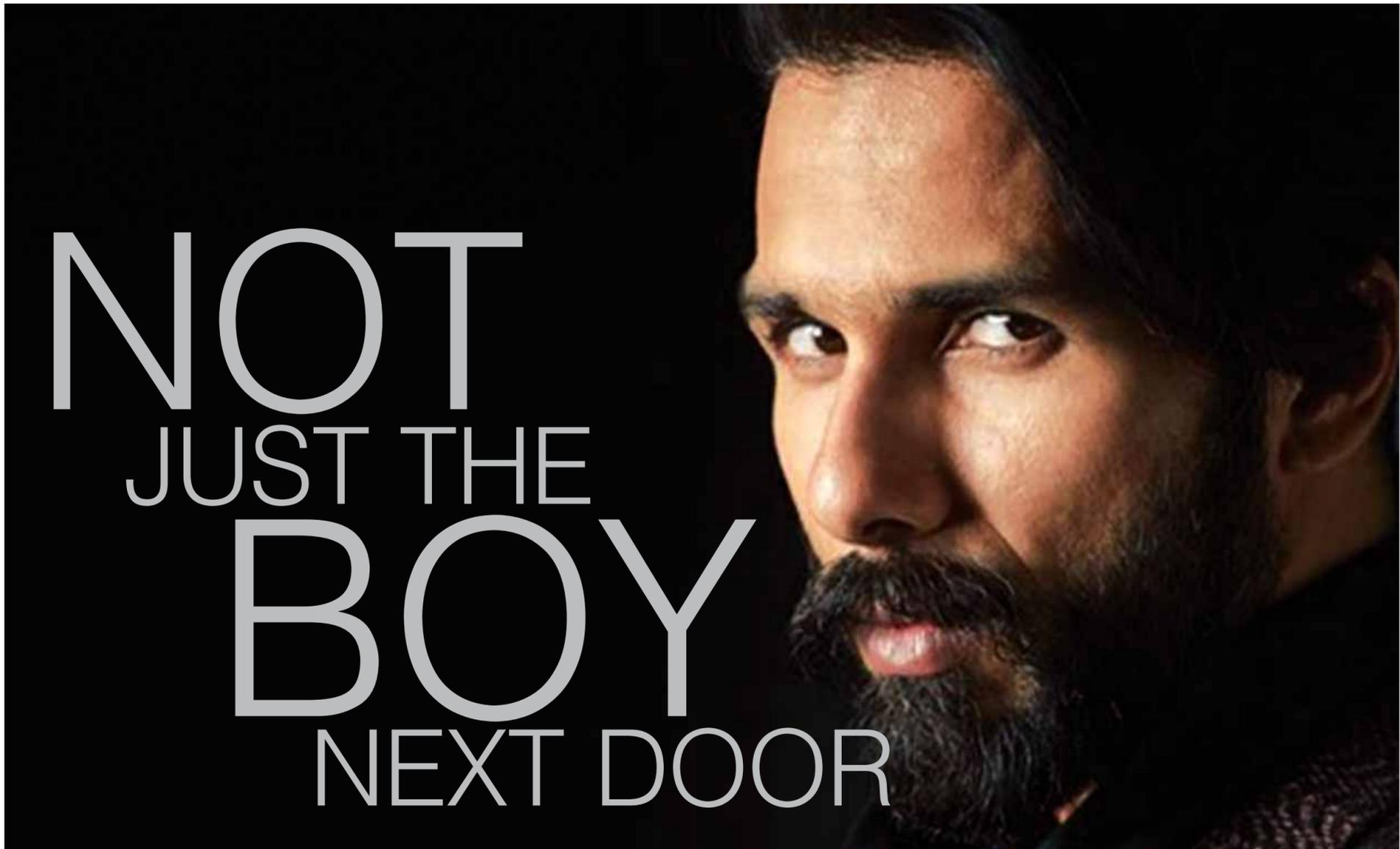
**3 A chink in the armour**  
In his new book, Kapil Sibal charts the history of India's governance and shows how the BJP Government has failed to keep its promises



**5 May trade prosper...**  
Theresa May's Chequers plan, which is aimed at protecting trade cooperation, is disliked by the Brexiteers as well as Brussels



**6 Henry VII's birthplace**  
Archaeologists believe they have identified the exact site of Henry VII's birth in 1457 after excavations in the grounds of Pembroke Castle



When we meet **SHAHID KAPOOR**, he undoubtedly has the laidback elegance of a star in comfortable casuals. But then he asks the photographers to spare him, switches off and settles in for a coffee conversation of sorts, recalling his years of jumping around Press Enclave. That child-like curiosity to explore the world has been the bedrock of the fine actor that he has become. The process wasn't easy as an industry outsider with chocolate boy looks who danced for fun at a time when content and stories lacked the bandwidth they have today. But he was one of the few who pushed the envelope. Here he is, effervescent, honest, fighting and forever a student of life with strong family values. Excerpts from an interview with **RINKU GHOSH**

**Y**ou credit a lot of your early influences to the way they have shaped you, but obviously, as a person and then the actor you have become. What were those influences?

Growing up in Press Enclave, I was surrounded with journalists, intellectuals and their families, so there was a certain culture vibe. I was quite a naughty kid and very spoiled by my grandparents as I used to live with them. I was very close to my maternal grandfather and my strongest memories are of him dropping me off to school (Gyan Bharati) every morning and the conversations we had. I don't remember a single day when he didn't walk me to school. He was an extremely learned man and I was very attached to him, imbibing my fundamentals. So whenever I come to Delhi, it reminds me a lot of my grandfather. In that sense, this city is my influencer.

I think the times that you have spent in life before you became an actor, when you have been living life just as anybody else has, make a very big part of whatever it is that you portray later because those are the associations, memories and experiences that help you interpret different kinds of situations and scenarios. For example, *Batti Gul Meter Chalu* is a very grass-root film, a very heartland film. It's a film about simple people, their problems and their interpersonal relationships and to be able to recreate that as an actor convincingly, you have to draw from certain real life experiences that I have had first-hand.

**Is this film a satiric comedy? How would you classify it?**

I would say that the film is very quirky and entertaining. I actually feel that there are two films in one film because the first half of the film is about friendships, their inter-currents, dreams and aspirations, and the second half of it is the reality of life as it challenges them, the social issues and electricity being the fundamental human right to access. How power supply sets the everyday tenor of life and how faulty meters and power thefts besiege the common man as he cannot identify the faceless enemy are the big questions. Where will the *aam aadmi* (common man) go and raise his

voice, who will hear him? Sitting in the comfort of a couch, power pilferage might seem very small and not even make the headlines of the morning newspaper, especially when we read that rural electrification is 100 per cent, but the kind of impact power distribution patterns and their abuse have on ordinary people is huge. There's actually a three-and-a-half minute speech in the climax of this film, which is a monologue delivered by me and we did it in a single shot. It was a four-page content and it made me cry because it spoke about the problem from a common man's perspective with facts and logic. India needs to hear this voice. I was very emotionally moved by that speech when I read the script and it stayed with me in much the same manner that certain chapters leave an imprint when you are reading a book. I felt this is the reason why this film should be made. So I signed up.

*Haider* and *Udta Punjab* dealt with socially relevant issues. *Haider* spoke about the issue of human rights in a disturbed area, a very sensitive subject. Tommy Singh revealed the ugly face of youth trapped in the menace of drug abuse. But the issue that really bothers me these days is that of farmers' suicides. The agrarian crisis is real and pan-India.

**How did you process the requirements of these twin roles?**

It was very difficult. Shooting *Haider*, I came across locals, students and others up close and got to know their perspectives. We shot in places that were restricted and where we had just an hour's permit from the Army. There was a time when our shooting was cancelled and we were told to go back to the hotel and were not explained why. The next day, we were told there were two known terrorists who had been seen doing a recce of our crew site. *Udta Punjab* again dealt with a taboo subject. When I heard the script, I was in shock because my understanding of Punjab was very different till then. I was like really, is this happening? And I was told it's a massive problem. Your perception might be something and that might be even true but this is a growing menace and if you want the rosy perception to stay, then the drug problem has to be addressed, accepted and

dealt with. Till the time you don't accept there's a problem, how will you solve it? *Batti Gul...* is not as dark as intense. The format is entertaining, accessible and easy to absorb.

**There was a time when issue-based films were considered arthouse and then there was the mainstream which dealt with the cliché of the rich-poor divide. Now the lines have blurred and issue-based commercial films have gained commercial credibility. How difficult a job it is to walk the line as an actor?**

I find it much easier. Honestly, I used to find it very troublesome when I had to participate in films which were too flighty for my liking. I was 21, so I guess people thought being in college was the only thing I could pull off at that time and that was a huge psychological barrier. My age and my boyish looks were like an impediment in my career because they restricted the offers that came my way. *Yeh* to dance *karta hai*, cute *lagta hai*. I have struggled with that perception for a good 10 years and it is only in the last five years or a bit more that I have been able to reinvent myself. During that time, I have pushed myself very hard to search for and take up offers which weren't run-of-the-mill or expected of me, which weren't putting me in a box. I may have lost out on mainstream work in the process but I needed these roles. I think as an actor it is very claustrophobic to inhabit a confined space, though as a star it might be satisfying. There are many cases where people have loved stars for what they have done in a certain space and the latter have done exceedingly well for many years, but that's not my call.

I have always understood cinema as a way of representing life, telling stories about different people, having different experiences, feeling enriched by those experiences, learning from them and somewhere being impacted by them as a human being. I saw acting as a very enriching opportunity to participate in something that can help you understand life at a really different level. I mean, how many people would be able to do so many different things in one life? So as a profession, acting really excited me because I could get closer to the depth of life's myriad experiences.

**What was the film which changed your image?**

It started with *Kaminey* but I guess the mould started cracking with *Jab We Met*. I remember there was such a big conversation whether, as a hero, I should wear glasses or not. It used to be so hard to convince everybody back then that glasses would not emasculate the hero. Or that they didn't signify tragedy or depression. I'm fortunate that Imtiaz (director Imtiaz Ali) was forward thinking and we could do things in that film that might sound so stupid today. Yet, it was a big deal then. I am eternally grateful for my role in *Kaminey* because it provided me an opportunity to surprise and shock people at the same time and that, as an actor, but happens once in a while. However, it also raised my bar. For me to surprise people that much today is more difficult because they have a certain expectation and reference point. So I have to consistently rediscover myself like I did in *Haider* or *Udta Punjab*. The idea is to do different films and be an Indian character from across its geographical sweep. Now, I have Arjun Reddy to explore.

**How challenging is *Batti Gul* after those two intense performances? This one is also a complex character?**

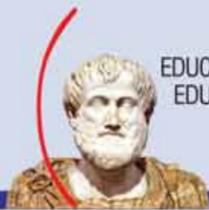
He's the kind of guy you would come across very often in life and most of the time, you wouldn't like him. I don't think I'll be very likeable in the first half of the film because I'm not such a nice guy; I'm pretty self-absorbed and a little full of myself, bit oversmart, cocky, very *jugaadu*, not necessarily doing the right thing, but obviously very entertaining. The kind of voice used is not very nice to the ears; it's slightly sharp, roguish, raw with a hard texture. I have tried to make the character what he is. But at some level, he also has to be relatable as a human who fights when he has to.

**How do you reconcile the star and the actor within you?**

I don't address the star so much within a film.



SITTING IN THE COMFORT OF A COUCH, POWER PILFERAGE MIGHT SEEM VERY SMALL... BUT THE KIND OF IMPACT POWER DISTRIBUTION PATTERNS AND THEIR ABUSE HAVE ON ORDINARY PEOPLE IS HUGE



EDUCATING THE MIND WITHOUT  
EDUCATING THE HEART IS NO  
EDUCATION AT ALL  
— ARISTOTLE

# A SOCIETY GONE AWRY

We are accustomed to writing angry posts about crime and tragedy in the country and blaming the Government for anything that goes wrong. It's about time we took responsibility for building the nation we want to live in, writes PRAMOD PATHAK

**W**hy all these flies, why all these gliding ghosts, why birds and beasts, from quality and kind, why old men, fools and children calculate; why all these things change from their ordinance, their nature, and pre-formed faculties, to monstrous quality — why, you shall find that heaven hath infused them with these spirits to make them instruments of fear and warning unto some monstrous state," asks Cassius in William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*. He tries to suggest that when all the things around us cease to exhibit their regular or inherent qualities and take some horrible shape and form, it is a warning from heaven — the unnatural state of things warns us that something untoward is likely to happen.

In *Julius Caesar*, these were projections used to unnerve a gullible Casca into believing that Caesar's rise to glory was what the heavens did not approve of. However, it can apply even to the world we live in today. The screaming headlines, the scary news reports full of spine-chilling details that we wake up to every morning suggest that something is rotten in our seven-decade-old democracy.

There are recurrent signs of our society going awry. Recently, three girls died of hunger in the nation's Capital. In the same National Capital, members of one family were found dead under suspicious circumstances. Reports suggested that they were under duress. And why just the Capital? In July, Jharkhand saw six members of a family end their lives over similar reasons. And just two weeks later, in the same State, seven members of a family committed suicide, leaving a note which said that they were taking the extreme step because they were in debt. They had been unable to repay a substantial amount of money they had borrowed from different sources for the medical treatment of their child. Are we gradually drifting towards an orderless society? Has it become normal for us to read about people dying for such reasons or to find out about mobs lynching people in broad daylight?

The Nirbhaya case of December 2012 was, it now seems, just a precursor to the horrors that are now unfolding. Reports of gang rapes continue to appear, that too at a nauseating frequency. This tendency to treat women with violent contempt has brought India the kind of infamy that will take some time to be wiped off. Nirbhayas are wronged across the country on a daily basis — be it in Bihar's Muzaffarpur or Haryana's Jind. If the global opinion finds India among the most unsafe places for women, we have only ourselves to blame. Reports about sexual exploitation of more than 30 minor girls at a State-supported shelter home in Bihar scream of a collective failure for us as a society and a country. For how long and to what extent will this go on?



Rise in population and the resultant crowding that social scientists have been warning India against for quite some time, still continues. The fact that it is the cause of many evils has become common knowledge. And still, it persists to threaten us with more mind-numbingly dreadful incidents in store.

There is another aspect to the story that throws up a contrast. It is to do with the rise in the Gross Domestic Product and the growth prospects of a trillion dollar economy. Whether it is financial jugglery or fuzzy logic is besides the point. Because the fact is that even these seemingly promising statistics are hardly reassuring when one looks at the social evils staring us in the face. Because the question is, how is this kind of progress ever going to help us?

Governments have become the

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO THINK ABOUT WHAT WE ARE REALLY ANGRY ABOUT. WE MUST FIND THE REASONS FOR THIS DERAILMENT IN SOCIETY. WHY DOES EVEN IMPROVEMENT IN EDUCATION FAIL TO CURB BASAL TENDENCIES?**

favourite whipping boy of all and sundry for any kind of problem that society faces. Maybe it provides some kind of catharsis, a vent for pent-up feelings that mount year after year. The frustrations, the angst, the failures, the lapses and of course the wasted opportunities — they all pile up and reflect in our statements about our Government. However, we need to introspect to find out if our ire is directed right. An honest evaluation will reflect that it is not. Had it been so, we would have rid ourselves of the problems that continue to bother us today at the same nagging pace even after we have had 16 Parliament Elections and chosen 14 Prime Ministers. We could not get the redressal of our grievances because we have been barking up the wrong tree. The Government is not the problem. The problem is somewhere

else. In the society, which seems to have lost the fundamental human qualities of compassion, love, camaraderie and concern for fellow beings, a society that has turned paranoid, it is important to think hard about what it is that we are really angry about. We must try to find out the reasons for this derailment in society. It is a job cut out for social scientists. Why does even advancement in science and technology, or growth in economy, or improvement in school education fail to curb these basal tendencies?

The one word that can define the state of our society today is 'anomie'. As self-interest gains precedence over national interest, the situation only worsens at every stage. Problems that earlier affected smaller areas and for shorter duration have acquired gargantuan proportions. For instance, floods

used to be a regular feature in various areas of several States as swollen rivers would run amok. But with every passing year, boundaries of the areas affected by such a calamity keep expanding. There are areas where people have started to dread the rainy season. And the same applies to droughts. Only a couple of months ago, parched farm lands forced farmers to end their lives. Come winter and long duration of widespread fog affects life in many regions. We have not improved our handling of these problems. We have become more vulnerable. Because our standard response to this is complaining about the aid in the form of cash and kind. It's simply convenient to talk about the role of the Government, write some angry Facebook posts, and eventually forget about what happened. We fail to talk about the role of individuals in creating an environment for sustainable development, in identifying ways through which we can help our society and our economy progress simultaneously.

Commercialisation and commodification of everything has brought our society to an impasse. Posts on Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp do indicate that people at least understand that something wrong has happened and that they want to create awareness about it. But it should not stop at just that. Our duty as individuals should not begin with reading those posts and end with forwarding them with one or two added comments. There is a need to think of the remedies to reinvent society. The first thing that is needed is 'renovision' — a different, perhaps more rational way, to look at the problems that face our society. We have been playing the blame game for far too long.

When we invoke the Constitution, our focus should not be on just the fundamental rights. It is about time we gave a thought to our fundamental duties, too. Our emphasis on technology-based education has, at some instances, come at the expense of inculcating the right values and inspiring interest in the social sciences. Progress cannot be guaranteed by technological advancement alone. It comes from a proper attitude. The attitude that guides one to think right and drives one to act right.

For decades, our focus has been on functional literacy. Computer literacy, too, quickly acquired a place of importance in our scheme of development. But in this process, we might have made the blunder of neglecting ethical literacy. It is time for us to go back to the basics. Ethics will form the very core of our development as a society. As individuals, we clearly and urgently need to get much better at being able to discriminate between right and wrong. As Swami Vivekananda once said: "So long as the millions live in hunger and ignorance, I hold every person a traitor who, having been educated at their expense, pays not the least heed to them!"

FROM PAGE 1

**B**ut you have become a star over time. So you cannot completely ignore or disregard it either.

I am not disregarding it. I have a huge amount of respect for my fans. I am very grateful for being in that category and I wanted to get there, it's not like I didn't. But now I have grown out of the infatuation of being a star. You know an actor is fascinated by this whole concept of being a star and then that kind of becomes his/her guiding force. That's somehow not the best thing though. I think it's nice to not take yourself seriously or carry the tag because it's a baggage that will overload whatever it is that comes your way. I think it's nicer to know that you happen to be a star but not function on the basis of that. You ought to be an artiste. At least that's who I am.

Eventually, you have to find yourself. And whatever success you get will be truly relevant when you become original and say something that is different. I have seen people also connect to your truth. Our audience is actually so accepting and sensitive. And the camera never lies, so you've got to be honest.

Have you, therefore, eased your position in the fraternity because, let's face it, there are industry pressures of being seen with the right set of people or circuit. Have you been accepted more than the initial years?

I think fundamentally I see two things that are different. First, I have never been somebody who has been in the centre of the spotlight or wanting to be the

most popular person in the room. Having said that, I'd love to know people and them to know me more but that has to happen organically and naturally. I have tried at different times in my career to be someone who I am not and honestly I have not enjoyed it. I think I have my own unique personality, good or bad. And I think 15 years into the fraternity, people may like it or not but have come to terms with it.

Second, I think I am comfortable in my skin and that's the most important facet for every human being. You are happy with yourself only when you're happy with what you're doing.

**What has been your actor's workshop? What were your first film inspirations?**

There are so many films and so many actors like Dilip Sahib to Balraj Sahni. But my first film experience was at Anupam theatre, now PVR Anupam. It was a documentary on white elephants (laughs). That was my strongest memory though not very exciting. I have subsequently watched serious classics. For example, *Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam* has been one of my favourites. At the same time, I loved Jackie Chan. Yes, the *Sherlock Holmes* series on TV, with Jeremy Brett, had a deep impact. There were all kinds of stuff but as you grow older, obviously you need to understand cinema and do take

## Not just the boy next door



it a little more seriously. My father was also somebody who hugely inspired me as an actor and even though he worked largely in television, his roles were so fine and well-crafted.

The same goes for my mother, especially when it came to classical dance. During her performances, she has been exponentially at another level. So what started inspiring me was the skill that they had and the refined movement of that skill. It became something that I aspired for, the fact that they are so good at it.

I remember attending an acting workshop at NSD conducted by Naseer sir (Naseeruddin Shah) for only a week where I met Randeep Hooda too. I had, at that time, already become an actor and was getting some work, so I thought *ki thoda better kar lete hain skills apne aap before kisi ko pata chale ki bohut kharab hai yeh* (laughs). As I said, I saw my parents work really hard to be exceptional. It is never just about popularity but about the skill and drill of the craft.

**So how do you go with that drill and process your acting skills? Do you research?** I am good with my instincts. I really feel that these days, a lot of research is done by writers and filmmakers. The material is in front of you, you just have to absorb and interpret and that

happens once I start shooting. I stay within that character's defined zone for that time.

Because I feel that you can spend six months doing a film and after you're out of it, you don't really know what it was. That happens. So concentrated time works for me.

**How do you balance your family and work, now that you're a hands-on father? As someone who is transiting through changing times, both societally and in cinema, how do you keep it real?**

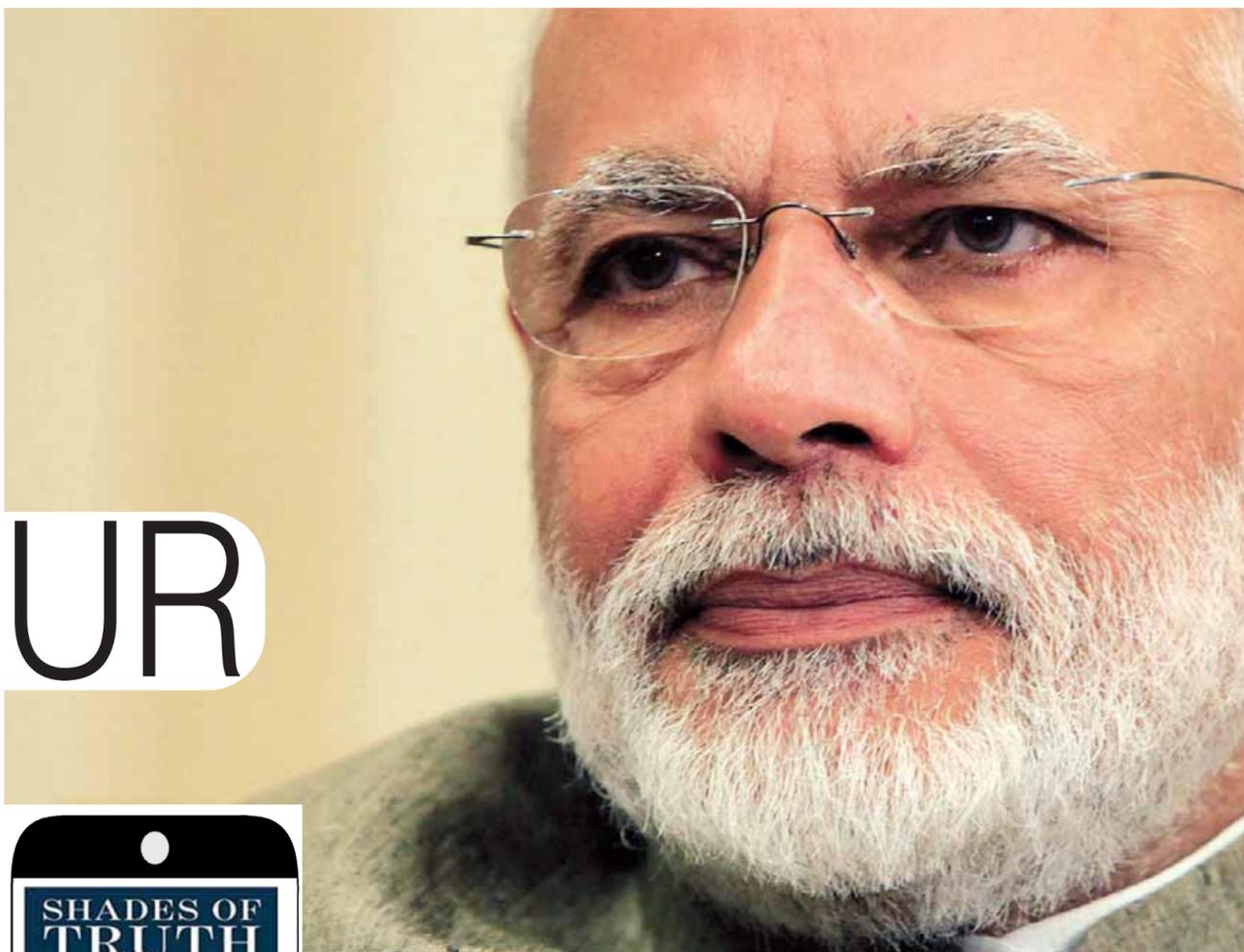
First, I want to express very candidly and honestly that individuality is a huge part of being a youngster today and I have gone through this phase. I have been living alone since I was 22. Even though I was close to my parents, I was living alone. So I am used to this phase of wanting to find myself and being my own person. But it is because of this that I also feel a family is the bedrock of society. You truly understand that when you have it. So that is something I would definitely want to say openly. I can see that people are afraid, unsure and sometimes not even prepared to give so much to something as marriage and a home, but I feel that what you give to it is nothing compared to what you get from it. Whoever I am and what I think is largely governed by my personal life and the space that I have today. Even the actor that I am draws itself from my personal space. My family is my nucleus. Even when there are bits of my life, my daughter Misha, on social media, it is an organic extension of this fundamental truth.



IT IS OUR CHOICES THAT SHOW WHAT WE TRULY ARE, FAR MORE THAN OUR ABILITIES — JK ROWLING

This book charts the history of India's governance and shows how the current BJP Government, too, has failed to keep many of its promises, says AMIT GOEL

# A CHINK IN INDIA'S ARMOUR



You never know what the voter will do. Will have to wait till 2019," says Kapil Sibal in the conclusion to his new book titled *Shades of Truth: A Journey Derailed*. As he pens his ideas and thoughts in his latest literary presentation, he is quite vociferous when talking about the current political situation and what the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections might bring along. As the reader moves along the writer's line of thought in this comfortably sized book spanning around 250 pages, his detailing of how the Indian society has developed fault lines in the past four years since the installation of the Modi Government in 2014 comes across sharply and unabashedly.

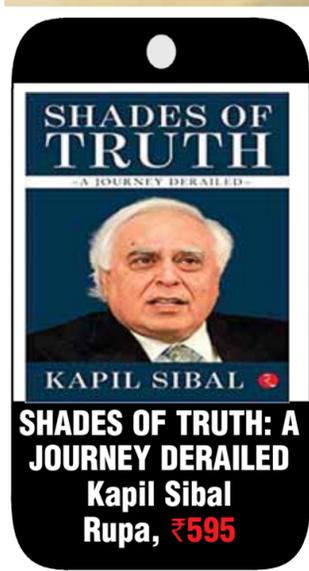
Through his book, Kapil Sibal has presented his case on why the Modi Government should not be voted back to power. The Congressman's antagonist Modi becomes the protagonist in his book. He recounts how Modi, by way of his mesmerising and magical speeches and tongue-in-cheek acronyms, has succeeded in misleading the voter into distrusting the Congress. He further explains how Modi has created a poor image where the Congress has been inefficient and corrupt not only in the

past few years but all through the 60 years of its rule at the Centre.

The reader is duly escorted through India's journey from being hailed as a culturally and socially diverse country in the past to being called a dubious and deviant society that has little or no respect for peace and harmony. This bipolarity is evident in all spheres of life in modern India. India, as the largest democracy in the world, has been witness to some of the most tempestuous times in its history, either on account of numerous invasions and attacks that time and again convulsed the nation or on account of its own dogmas and prejudices that left an indelible impression on the cultural and social canvas of India.

History is also witness to the fact that we as a race are quite resilient and have mostly responded positively to change during upheavals and vicissitudes alike. Be it the two decades of colonial suppression or the aftermath of a painful Partition, India has always picked up the pieces and managed to reconstruct itself.

After all, we are a country of 1.3 billion with a diverse culture and an enviable heritage to back us. Despite the tensions and turmoil that accompanied India's struggle for Independence, new-



found freedom in the post-Independence era presented a tabula rasa with enormous potential to create a safe, secular and sustainable model of a nation for others to envy and replicate. Unfortunately, over the past four years, the BJP seems to have missed the bus and has afflicted the nation with intolerance, boorishness and bigotry. India is grappling with issues such as caste-based reservation and politics, *gau raksha*, women safety and gender equality, corruption and religious fanaticism.

Lucid and simple in its style of writing, the book also captures the events leading up to the Congress's debacle in 2014. It starts with scams like 2G and Coalgate and ends with Anna Hazare's Arab Spring, which had

people convinced that the Congress Government had to go. Sibal also blames the CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General of India) for having acted in a partisan manner. However, he does not make any effort to admit that corruption did take place in Spectrum and Coal allocations while dismissing them as false propaganda by the BJP and CAG. According to him, Modi rule has compromised on each of the three pillars of democracy — judiciary, executive, and media.

Normally, a book written by a politician is reviewed critically and consumed with a pinch of salt, taking into consideration the bias that the writer might have. But, besides being a politician, Kapil Sibal is also an astute

lawyer and a Harvard graduate. That's why his claims in the book are accompanied by convincing arguments. But still, the fact that he's a Congressman cannot be fully ignored.

Personally, it would have been a delight to read about the good things that the Modi Government has done during its tenure as well because that would have made the book a more balanced read. Just like it would be interesting to hear Modi saying that whatever happened in the country in the past 70 years was not all that bad. From the point of view of the anti-Modi brigade, the book is a must-read, although one does get a feeling of déjà vu at points as the book progresses. For die-hard Modi *bhacts*, it's a serious no-no.

## NEW ARRIVALS

**LOOKING FOR THE NATION**  
Manash Firaq Bhattacharjee  
Speaking Tiger, ₹350



This compelling book comes at a time when toxic nationalism is causing the violent and systematic exclusion of political, religious, sexual and other minorities. Manash Firaq Bhattacharjee reminds us that the modern nation-state, built on fear and an obsession with territory, is often at odds with democracy, justice and fraternity. Analysing the ideas of thinkers who laid the political and ethical grounds of India's modern identity, he shows how we have strayed from their inclusive, diverse visions.

**KASHI: SECRET OF THE BLACK TEMPLE**  
Vineet Bajpai  
TreeShades, ₹295

*Kashi — Secret of the Black Temple* is part 3 of the Harappa Series, written by Vineet Bajpai. It is a fiction novel that blends mythology and history with a modern-day thriller. It's 1699 BCE, and the setting is the marshes of Aryavarta. As the titanic waves of *pralay* swallow city after city, a final battle for the Ark and the Earth begins. A ruthless barbarian-king threatens the very existence of mankind, heralding Kaliyuga — the eon of Kali. 2017, Banaras — a sacred *nakshatra* erupts in the night-sky as the fateful, prophesied hour arrives.

**WINDHORSE WARRIOR**  
RC Friedericks  
Niyogi, ₹795



*Windhorse Warrior* offers an inside look at the struggles and aspirations of the Tibetan people during the 1950s. It is a tale that weaves together the politics of occupation and resistance, an other-worldly romance between a Chinese Communist and an educated Tibetan woman, and the soaring vision of the Tibetan spiritual heart. Chuang Wei Ming, a young zealot from Shanghai, arrives in Lihang — on the eastern Tibetan plateau — with a mission to prepare the people for Maoism but soon outgrows its limiting worldview.

# Of romance and revenge

Mukul Kumar's book takes a plunge into an analysis of all the complexities that plague marriage and tempt individuals to overstep its bounds. It talks about how the social institution often threatens individual identity

Naturally given to offering his readers slice-of-life tales, bureaucrat-author Mukul Kumar seems to be on a quest to solve possibly mankind's oldest puzzle — marriage. The result is his second novel, *Seduction by Truth*, which will be released by Bloomsbury, India just before Dussehra in October.

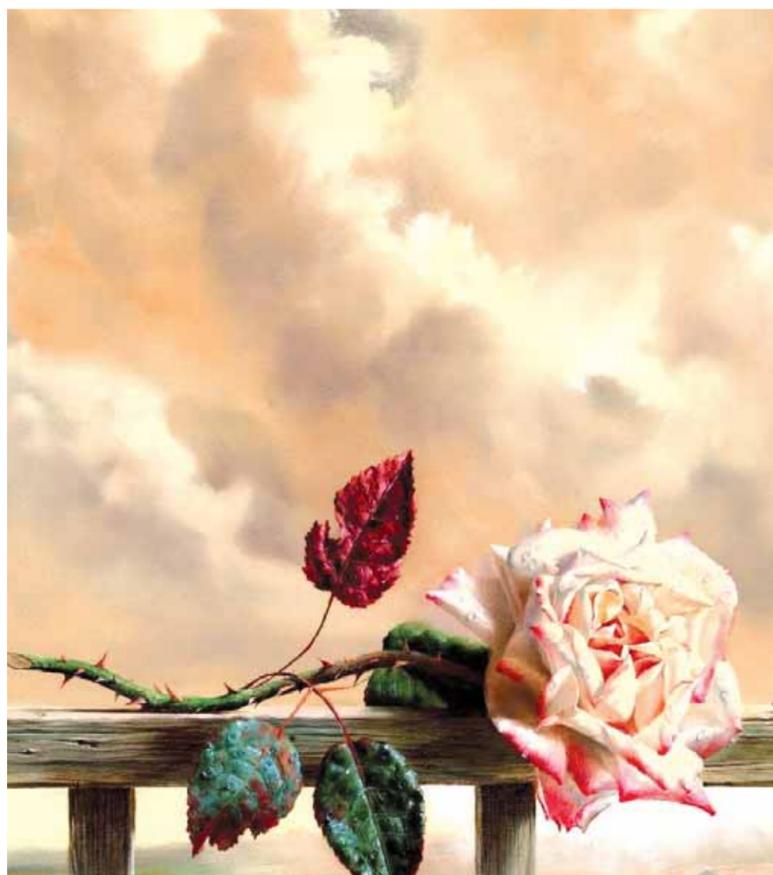
Belonging to the Indian Railway Traffic Service, Mukul is a civil servant of the 1997 batch. In his successful career of 20 years, Kumar distinguished himself from others with his dedication to service in the Indian Railways. He has been honoured with the National Award for outstanding performance by the Ministry of Railways. The officer takes pride in and draws immense satisfaction from his service. He fondly shares, "Individual efforts, even the small ones, that are aimed at keeping the wheel moving, and helping the huge population reach their destinations fill me with a thrilling sense of service." Kumar holds a senior and an important position in Northern Railway, Delhi.

Passion and love for literature is something that he has inherited from his father, a professor of English Literature. He would often talk to Kumar about accomplished authors and introduce him to their worlds of imagination when he was enjoying his early school days in Bihar. Poetry came naturally to this little author, then. He started composing poems as early as when he was in Class VIII. His creative sensibilities were first embodied in an anthology of English poems — *The Irrepressible Echoes*, which was published in 2012 at Nagpur. Kumar had lots of stories to

share with the world — stories of young minds, old people, and couples in love. Now, he shares stories of couples struggling with dwindling passion in marriage. Kumar has a penchant for going into the seemingly inaccessible recesses of human behaviour and crafting lifelike characters that readers can instantly relate to. His writings show the conflict between individual and society. Philosophy, mythology and poetic style complete the package of Kumar's writing.

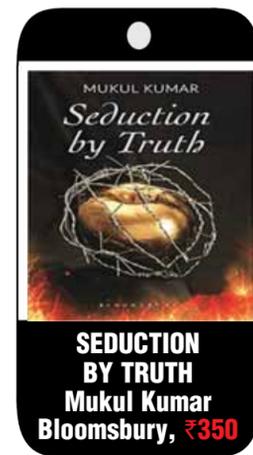
*Seduction by Truth* is a bold and unorthodox take on marriage. It deals with the dip in passion when the initial gloss of attraction between the spouses dries up after a few years of marriage. It spins a story about what happens after that. Can desire be renewed or is overstepping the bounds of marriage the only panacea for passion? Daringly yet honestly, Kumar has captured the sensitive truths about marriage, adultery, society, and tradition, which many couples grapple with in the modern world.

Dark realities like marital rape and deprivation of sex have been portrayed in a subtle and sensitive manner in this narrative. The author has very diligently tried to study the matrix of sex, love and trust in marriage through the protagonist's extramarital relations with many women. While writing about adultery, the author adds complexity to the narrative as ideas about revenge, religion, and gender roles also creep into the account. Shiva, the protagonist, calls his journey an act of "intellectual masculinity" even as he struggles with handling the complex emotions emerging in the course. It's a unique



THE NOVEL TRIES TO UNDERSTAND THE COMPLEXITIES OF MARRIAGE, STUDYING THE BOND BETWEEN A HUSBAND AND A WIFE AS DISTINCT INDIVIDUALS. IT RE THINKS ACCEPTED IDEAS AND ANALYSES ADULTERY IN FRESH LIGHT

journey which has to do with Shiva's attempts at 'winning' against his adulterous wife and at fulfilling the void of sex in his life. It also deals with Shiva's need to study the behaviour of other couples in order to understand marriage as a social institution. Eventually, Shiva's journey takes a spiritual turn when he



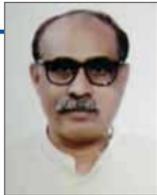
begins to seek redemption. The novel tries to understand the complexities of marriage, studying the bond between a husband and a wife as distinct individuals. It rethinks accepted ideas and analyses adultery in fresh light. Since the setting of the story involves many countries, the readers get a peek into Hindu, Islamic, and Christian traditions and beliefs about marriage and sex. The narrative travels through the posh suburbs of Delhi, the land of Baku in Azerbaijan, and then through the Renaissance country, Italy.

Through this novel, Kumar has tried to distinguish the woman from a wife, a man from the husband, the extraordinary from the ordinary, and the absolute truth from deduced truth. He concludes that there is no absolute truth. *Seduction by Truth* gives the woman the centre stage. It argues that she can unapologetically choose to be a woman first, and a wife later.

## PERSPECTIVE

Education sans  
values is useless

One of the fundamental aims of the education is to identify and promote core values of the society. The core values of India are world peace and betterment of the humanity



SATISH KUMAR

If I had to advise a 14-year-old kid to choose between sports and Geeta reciting, I will advise him to play sports  
**SWAMI VIVEKANAND**



The debate on the need for foreign faculty members is picking up, even as the concept of "Gurukul" has been pigeonholed as traditional. Rubbing salt into the wound is the exodus of brains from quality educational institutions in India to the US and the EU, indeed for greener pastures. To address this burning issue, the Central Government is trying to reverse the brain drain into brain gain through the scheme of Prime Minister Schemes of fellowships. Though it is not enough, well begun is half done.

One of the fundamental aims of the education is to identify the core values. The core values of India are world peace and betterment of the humanity. It flows from the cultural heritage of India. There is need to connect children with Indian heritage along with the western tips.

(The writer is Head of the Department of Political Science, Central University of Haryana)

## Default settings curb choices

In the case for AC, default temperature is the temperature which is automatically assigned by the manufacture when the machine is switched on. Defaults are portrayed as mechanism to ensure welfare of society but there is scepticism around their adoption as it is seen as authoritarian and paternalist move by the Government to make choice for the consumers



VANDANA MAURYA



MADHAV GOVIND

Recently the Ministry of Power (MoP) issued a notification to set temperature of air conditioners (ACs) as default at 24 degrees Celsius in all major commercial establishments such as airports, hotels, shopping malls, offices and Government buildings to save electricity and reduce emissions.

Manufacturers of ACs are asked to maintain default temperature and are also advised to set a label on ACs indicating the optimum temperature as part of consumer awareness which can help consumers to make informed decisions. This announcement by the Ministry drew huge public response from various sectors. A few appreciated the move and others simply raised questions about attempts by the Government to control the personal choice of service.

## Understanding defaults

In the case for ACs, default temperature is the temperature which is automatically assigned by the company or maker when the machine is switched on. It is a setting or position that has been pre-selected but can be changed by the users if they wish to do so. This is a mass default as it applies to all consumers of a product or service, without taking consumers' individual characteristics or preferences into account.

In setting default, policymakers take initial decision for consumers without their knowledge (occasionally) but also keep a scope of changing that decision if they want to.

Many of us fail to acknowledge that defaults have become part of our lives. Take an example of wallpaper of laptops or mobiles when we unpack it for first time. That wallpaper is a default; it will stay unchanged until we change it. Similarly we have lot of default setting in MS office which will not change until we do it. Research in various fields e.g. decisions to buy insurance, organ donation, breaking unhealthy food habits, improving environmental concerns, addressing privacy concerns in various countries have shown that policymakers made decision as a reference on behalf of users and set a default for users' welfare which resulted in positive outputs.

An experimental study was conducted by Danieal Pichert and Konstantinos V Katsikopoulos in 2008 in which they noted that consumers use more of green electricity (electricity generated from renewable resource) given to them as default as compared non-green electricity. In other study named "Can indifference make the world greener", Johan Egebark and Mathias Ekstrom in 2013 conducted a natural field experiment in which they changed the default setting of printers from "print on one



side" to "print on both sides" at a university and noticed 15 per cent reduction of paper consumption for printing.

From the above studies, it is evident that when people are provided with environment friendly options as default, they tend to stick to it and do not take decision to opt out of it until their intention changes or their requirement of the service changes.

## Faulty defaults or restricting choice

Defaults are portrayed as mechanism to ensure welfare of society but there is scepticism around their adoption as it is seen as authoritarian and paternalist move by the Government to make choice for the consumers. But, these settings are usually based on libertarian paternalism (the term was coined by Richard H Thaler and Cass R Sunstein in 2003) which suggests that it is possible and legitimate for private and public institutions to affect the behaviour of consumers along their freedom of choice. The libertarian aspect insists that people should be free to opt out of a specified arrangement and should be able to make their decision, whereas paternalist aspect emphasised on the autonomy of private and public institutions to make attempts to influence consumers' choice for the welfare of society.

The libertarian paternalism is considered as a weak and non-intrusive type of paternalism as choices are not blocked and does not impose huge sum of cost for deviating from the policymakers' option.

But what is the extent of paternalism and liberalism used in devising defaults? Is it 50-

50? The answer may depend on the conditions on which defaults are set. Defaults are set because users are not always rational in their decision making and bound by their habits, intentions and lack of enough information. If consumers are overloaded with information which is complex and difficult to understand, then they don't tend to choose the best available option rather they opt for first available option or option that satisfies the minimum requirements (known as satisficing) at less effort and cost.

In general, defaults are for welfare of society and therefore sticking to default can be considered as a rational decision as it can save time, effort and money.

Default setting remained unchanged by the consumers when it is completely unobserved by the users or when it is not affecting the users adversely. But, if the default goals are unrealistic i.e. if they are too low or too high as compared to self set goals, then they will detrimentally affect behaviour of users and the impact can be negative or positive depending on the reason of default.

It is observed that unrealistic and extreme defaults are less likely to stick for long period of time and can be rejected by consumers especially when they do not trust the policy makers who are devising default setting.

## Way ahead: Smart default

Air conditioning technology is one of the technologies which is predicted to be widely adopted in coming days especially when the temperature is expected to increase due to change in climatic conditions. When

the temperature of air conditioners is proposed to be set at 24 degrees Celsius as default for major establishments, then the major point to keep in consideration is that all establishments don't have similar consumers and these consumers require different services.

The temperature in an Information Technology (IT) firm will have different requirement as compared to an office or a library. The IT firms may require keeping the ACs at 16 degrees Celsius as they want the machines to be maintained properly even though this temperature is highly uncomfortable for the employees. But a library can easily maintain the temperature of 24 degrees Celsius. In this case, default setting for library can be successful but for an IT firm it may fail. Therefore, it would be better if the mass default can be more of smart default.

It can be a smart strategy in which various defaults can be set for various sectors depending on their requirements of service keeping in consideration various factors i.e. demographic variables or climatic variables etc. It would be relevant to observe and understand the behaviour of consumers and identify the factors which nudge them towards sticking to default and saving electricity.

This shift towards smart default will have better chances for sticking for long time.

(Vandana Maurya is a PhD scholar at Centre for Studies in Science Policy, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Professor Madhav Govind teaches at the same centre)

## INSIGHT

## Fearing success more than failure

During the fourth innings of the first Test in Cape Town against South Africa earlier this year, India was set a modest target in challenging conditions. Part of the commentary team for the series, former South African great Jonty Rhodes commented, "How India bat in this innings will define how they bat in the rest of the series and on the tour to England and Australia later this year." His words have turned out to be profoundly prophetic so far.

Good beginnings are crucial in Test cricket. Only the great West Indies team of the 1970s and 1980s were masters of winning from being behind the curve in a series. But even with them it was an exception. The great Australians of the 1990s and 2000s invariably won series by making a strong impression in the first Test of most series they played. Great victories in the first games were enough to deflate oppositions for the rest of the series. By the middle of most series, the Aussies had done and dusted most oppositions. First games define a series more often than not. Good teams realise it, great teams capitalise on it. India, though, have wanted to prove Jonty Rhodes right.

Behind both series losses lies the fact that perhaps the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is working to maul Indian Test cricket performances overseas. India



begin the South Africa tour without a practice game and the one before the first Test at Edgbaston was a token. This showed utter lack of seriousness and how low in importance Test cricket was in the Indian mindset. It is something even the usually pro-India Sunil Gavaskar criticised.

India lost some unquestionable winnable games against a team that was a basket case with issues on and off the field: Openers in poor form; a captain in iffy touch; an all-rounder with a pending court appearance; an ageing

seam bowling unit and untested second-in-line bowlers. Could one have asked for an easier opposition? As for India, one may have reckoned they'd have consolidated the biggest problem area after the Test series in South Africa: top order batting. But did it happen?

After this series, though, there is a greater credibility crisis over the International Cricket Council's Test rankings. Number one teams are supposed to have at least an edge over their rivals. It is the opposite now. India is still the number

one side after a 2-1 defeat in South Africa and a 4-1 defeat in England. This is a travesty of the sport's rankings. Midway in the series India's head coach Ravi Shastri had the gall to say that Indian had won three series abroad. He didn't mention those were against weak teams like Sri Lanka and the West Indies. This is poor mental form.

Indian Test batting in demanding overseas conditions is the worst casualty of the Indian Premier League. In England (and South Africa), almost every batsman barring

Kohli was called out for his technique and temperament. The two losses in South Africa and the two out of the four losses in England happened when the Indian team were in winning positions. They choked exactly like they have in the past and like their batting ancestors of yore. They don't have the bloody-mindedness to guts it out when it matters. But batting masterclasses don't happen in England even for their home batsmen without preparation.

Kohli spoke much about "intent" like he did in South Africa, but it now sounds mis-

placed. While he may have the game, skill and mental strength to mould his batting according to the opposition, the conditions and the game situation, his peers are mortals. Has he been unfair in assessing the individual capacity of his batsmen to perform under pressure? The way they batted when set a target, one doubts they'd even be able to chase 100 runs in the fourth innings under straining circumstances.

The bowlers got great praise for their sustained aggression. However, they too failed to deliver the killer blow

twice at critical junctures in the series. Sean Curran and Adil Rashid made them pay with the bat. This pattern too is well established in Indian Test cricket history. During crunch moments, they have not produced yorkers they bring out in the shorter format. All this now makes Ishant Sharma a player who has been part of three consecutive Test tours to England where he has bowled very well and the series has been lost.

Ravi Shastri has now spoken of having proper tour games before the Test matches in Australia. It has taken two series to figure that basic fact an armchair cricket viewer will know. But even without their frontline batsmen like Steven Smith and David Warner, the Aussies have a bowling attack to rattle any batting line-up in home conditions. Except for Kohli, there is no assurance in India's batting.

Therefore, prepare for another series loss in advance. Like they'd have had in the past, India will have their chances. And like they have in the past, the best way to watch them lose will be to put them in a winning situation. For it now seems they fear success more than failure. The former is new and scary; the latter is old and established. India's Test cricketers are respectful of tradition.

(The writer teaches at the Jindal School of Liberal Arts & Humanities)

The best way to watch the Indian Test team lose is to put them in a winning situation overseas



RAHUL JAYARAM

# HOW INDIA WON AGAINST POLIO

Thomas Abraham's book discusses the history of how people across the world responded to the polio eradication campaign. It also shows in detail how India went from mistrusting the campaign to finally embracing it. An excerpt:

The polio eradication campaign's most anguished and difficult years in India were from 2005 to 2011. This was a period when polio exploded in large, periodic outbreaks in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, even though the WHO and its partners had thrown the equivalent of the kitchen sink at the virus, with some of the most intensive polio vaccination campaigns the world had seen. Children in parts of western Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were being fed polio drops once a month as opposed to the two times a year that was supposed to be the norm. A new monovalent OPV had been introduced in these States in the hope that at least one of the two polio virus serotypes could be stamped out. But it was not at all clear that any of this was working. In 2005, after an intensive vaccination campaign with the new monovalent Type 1 vaccine, the number of cases of polio in India had been brought down to a low of 54. This led to optimistic predictions that the disease could be wiped out the following year. But between 2006 and 2008, the numbers had shot up again to nearly 900 cases.

Vaccinators and their supervisors in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were being stretched to their limits by these repeated campaigns. Some went on strike demanding better pay. Parents were becoming increasingly irritated and suspicious about these repeated knocks on their doors by health workers forcing polio drops on their children.

Could polio actually be wiped out from India? Should the Government continue to spend money on eradicating polio, or should it use the money to focus on other diseases, officials asked. Was OPV as effective as the WHO claimed it was? All the questions and doubts that had been raised since the 1960s about the right strategy to eradicate polio surfaced again. Should the polio campaign use IPV instead of OPV? Should a combination of the two be tried? Should the polio campaign get involved in strengthening routine childhood immunisation instead of concentrating solely on delivering polio vaccine through house-to-house campaigns? Should improving sanitation and hygiene



be seen as part of the polio eradication mission?

It was not just the Government that was sceptical. A group of Indian doctors and epidemiologists also felt that the strategies the WHO was pursuing would lead nowhere. The Indian Academy of Paediatrics, an umbrella organisation for the country's paediatricians, felt that WHO's reliance on OPV alone was unwise, given that efficacy of the vaccine was low in the environmental and social conditions that existed in the heavily populated States of northern India. Some decades earlier in the 1990s, there had been a proposal to start manufacturing IPV in India, but that never got off the ground. However, there remained a strong body of professional opinion that favoured using IPV as well as OPV.

It was in India that the debates over the dangers of the Sabin vaccine and its propensity to provoke paralysis in some recipients, or VAPP, was brought back under the spotlight. The polio programme and the Indian Government never publicly talked about OPV's known propensity to cause paralysis, at the rate of roughly one child being paralysed per million doses of vaccine distributed. This rate of paralysis was small, but given the scale of India, where around 150 to 160 million doses were administered at each national immunisation day, as well as the additional doses that children were given during subnational immunisation rounds, several hundred children were developing polio from the vaccine.

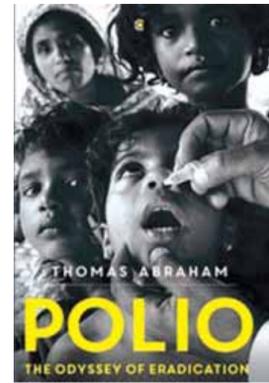
The WHO and the polio programme justified use of the

**THE ERADICATION OF THE POLIO VIRUS FROM INDIA WILL GO DOWN AS A MAGNIFICENT CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH. IT WAS ACHIEVED BY IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROGRAMME THAT REACHED CHILDREN IN CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENTS**

vaccine on the grounds that the risk of the virus reverting to a disease state needed to be balanced with the benefit of a polio-free world. The Indian Government had no interest in publicising these risks because it could lead to claims of compensation from children who were affected by the vaccine (as had happened in the United States). IPV did not have these side effects, and the Indian Academy of Paediatrics urged the Indian Government to introduce IPV in addition to the OPV in order to reduce risks.

It was also in India that a question that ticks like a bomb beneath every global health initiative surfaced again: Whom was polio eradication a priority for? Was it a priority for India where so many other diseases

demanding greater attention? Or was it a greater priority for the wealthy developing countries that had eliminated the disease, but did not want to face the threat of it being reimported from countries where it still circulated? This was a question that public health experts in the West critical of the concept of eradication had raised decades earlier. This argument had more or less disappeared from the discourse in the West, but it re-emerged with new vigour from Indian academics, who found the emphasis on polio questionable. A 'Memorandum on Pulse Polio' submitted to the WHO and UNICEF in New Delhi by a group of academics from Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi claimed that the polio eradication initiative had been



thrust on India by the WHO, UNICEF, the US Centers for Disease Control and Rotary International. It contended that a "disease of lower public health importance in the country has been justified on the grounds of some small saving for developed nations".

A group of Indian doctors and academics, dubbed the 'dissenters' by the historian William Muraskin, subjected the polio campaign to the kind of critical scrutiny that it was not accustomed to anywhere else in the world. The polio campaign blamed the health authorities in the problem States of UP and Bihar for not implementing immunisation campaigns with sufficient care and rigour. Yet Indian critics wrote "the failure of the eradication campaign is not because of a lack of proper implementation (as they so often claim) but because of a flawed strategy itself." Many of these objections were valid, and others less so. But it is to the credit of the polio programme that it persisted, and mobilised the political support it needed from the Central and State Governments to bulldoze ahead until polio disappeared from India. Despite often valid criticism of the campaign, the eradication of the polio virus from India will go down as a magnificent chapter in the history of public health. It was achieved by meticulous implementation of a vaccination programme that reached children in some of the most physically and epidemiologically challenging environments that the polio programme had ever encountered.

Excerpted with permission from Thomas Abraham's *Polio: The Odyssey of Eradication*, Westland, ₹699

# Can Mrs May unite Brussels and Brexiteers?

The British Government, Brussels and the Brexiteers agree that a free trade agreement coupled with customs technology can prevent a hard border in Ireland after Brexit — but can't agree how, in what legal framework, or where, on the island of Ireland or in the Irish Sea, those solutions can be employed. Theresa May's Chequers plan is unpopular with Brexiteers and Brussels alike but while the likes of Boris Johnson want to chuck the proposals, the EU (European Union) is intent on cherry-picking from them. The impasse can only be resolved by a fudge, U-turns and climbdowns or the collapse of negotiations.

**CHEQUERS**  
The Prime Minister insists the only choice is Chequers or no deal Brexit. May's plan calls for the creation of a free trade area in goods buttressed by a common rulebook on standards and by technology that smooths trade and reduces customs clearance time. There would be no border checks between mainland Britain and Northern Ireland or on the Irish border because the whole of the UK would be aligned with EU standards on goods through the common rulebook. Britain would reserve the right to move away from Brussels' rules on services, which has been criticised by the EU as cherry-picking access to the Single Market.

**KEY QUESTIONS**  
Did Northern Ireland want Britain to leave the EU? Northern Ireland voted 55.8 per

cent in favour of the UK remaining in the EU, while the overall UK vote was only 48.1 per cent 'remain'. The Northern Ireland vote was 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. Without careful negotiation this may once again put North-South relations under strain.

On some models Brexit might also have a disproportionate impact on Northern Ireland's economy, which is heavily reliant on exports to the EU. The food and agriculture sectors could be hit hard if the UK ends up paying EU tariffs.

*What about 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 bor-



der 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 the prospect of 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 UK?*

Almost certainly not. However, EU ministers have concluded that Northern Ireland would automatically rejoin the European Union if it reunified with Republic of Ireland.

**THE ERG PLAN**  
Chequers is anathema to Johnson and the ERG's Jacob Rees-Mogg, who have declared that would turn Britain into a rule-taking vassal state. They prefer a "Canada plus" trade

deal with the EU that would leave scope to diverge from Brussels regulation and gain a competitive advantage but also necessitate stricter checks. The ERG says trusted trader schemes and controls away from the Irish border would help solve the issue. Technology could be used to prevent the need for physical checks, the ERG has argued. It also wants Brussels to recognise UK agricultural rules as equivalent to EU rules.

**BRUSSELS**  
Brussels has warned that frictionless trade is impossible outside of the Single Market. Michel Barnier, the EU's chief negotiator, believes Chequers would compromise the integrity of the Single Market and argues that any alignment of standards can only apply to Northern Ireland and not the whole of the UK — putting a border in the Irish Sea. The ERG's technological border claims were long ago dismissed by EU officials as "magical thinking". Its agricultural rules proposal has also been ruled out by Brussels, which argues standards can only be met under the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice.

The EU has called for a "backstop" that would keep Northern Ireland in the EU's custom territory and aligned with its rules on goods, if the UK Government and the Brexiteers' preferred options of a free trade agreement and technological solutions fail. Without a backstop, there will be no Brexit deal at all, Brussels warns. However, writing for *The Telegraph*, Johnson branded that a plot to annex Northern Ireland because it would introduce customs checks between mainland Britain and Northern Ireland. The commission denies it wants to create a new border, insisting

the checks are simply controls.

**THE SOLUTION?**  
Barnier wants to "de-dramatise" the issue of the Irish border by combining a promised trade agreement with technological solutions but these solutions, reminiscent of Chequers' "maximum facilitation", would be employed in the Irish Sea or in British ports, rather than on the Irish border. At a recent meeting of EU-27 Ambassadors, the commission pointed to British data that showed that only half of goods destined for the island of Ireland go through Northern Ireland. If product standards were aligned, those goods could be checked by simply scanning barcodes on containers while they were in transit rather than checking each individual container. This could be done by UK officials, it has been suggested, and would take care of VAT, if the tax is levied at the end of the chain.

There are already controls on animal, plant and animal products from Britain to Northern Ireland, which has a separate island of Ireland veterinary regulatory oversight. After Brexit, the current system of spot checks will have to be replaced with checks on every animal or product, one EU diplomat said.

The commission told Ambassadors the process could be smoothed by striking facilitation agreements in the future UK-EU free trade agreement for goods, which the EU supports.

The Daily Telegraph



# KEEPING UP WITH PARENTING NEEDS

BRYONY and JANE GORDON say that parenting becomes trickier when a kid starts growing up and thinks he/she does not 'need you'



Life as a Year 1 parent is very different to life as the mother of a child in reception. Bryony Gordon, 38, married to a very patient husband Harry, and mother to Edie, five, says, "When Edie started school last year, I thought I was a proper grown-up (at last!) but that wasn't really the case given that: a) I had just started in rehab and had yet to learn how to be a functioning adult; and b) reception is basically extended nursery school.

Now, stuff has got serious. "Is it true that for the rest of school we are not allowed to play in our classroom?" asks Edie one evening, as I am putting her to bed. "That all day we have to do learning?" she looks horrified. "Well," I respond, attempting to choose my words carefully, "You can play in break time. And after school, I want to go back to being in reception," she says. "But then you wouldn't see your friends any more," I respond. And then she says, "They want to go back to reception too. We are all going to go back to reception together. I have a vision of 30 five- and six-year-olds storming down the corridors shouting, 'What do we want? Play-Doh! When do we want it? Now!' This amuses me, briefly, until I am berated by Edie for 'not paying attention'; apparently I am 'always away with the fairies' and need to 'con-trate' more. It strikes me that the only problem Edie has with her new class is that she isn't doing the teaching.

Is this how it goes, I wonder? Does childhood really whizz by, as everyone warned me? 'Savour it,' I was told again and again — but only during the seemingly never-ending newborn stage, when a day feels like a week and a week feels like a month and so on. Now Edie is using words like 'con-trate' and telling me off for 'interrupting' (yes, that is how she spells it), while I keep noticing crow's feet on my face and crinkles between my breasts. It is happening. I am getting older. We all are. And frankly, after the year we've had, it's a kind of relief."

Jane Gordon, age unknown, mother, grandmother and 24/7 childminder, shares, "Years ago — back when I was a madly busy mother of three and wife to one — I used to joke about the day when I'd finally be free of parenting and would move to a cottage in the country that I would name not Dunroamin but Dun-nurturing.

I fancifully imagined that after such a protracted period as a mum (bear in mind that my third child was born some 12 years after Bryony, meaning that my life as a parent has spanned four decades and two centuries) I would be grateful for the chance of lots and lots of 'me' time.

But nothing ever quite works out as you imagined, does it? And now that I have far, far too much time with myself, I realise that there is absolutely nothing I like doing more than a bit of nurturing. So, the idea of slipping back

into my term-time routine with Edie — whereby for at least one day (and night) a week I would be able to indulge my need to nurture — was really, really exciting.

And there I was, last Wednesday, at the school gates clutching her (I thought) favourite treat (a Kinder Surprise), full of anticipation for an enthusiastic greeting and a lovely Edie-and-me afternoon/evening. I would cook her (I thought) favourite tea and we would play with her (I thought) favourite Sylvanian Family toys and I would read her (I thought) favourite bedtime books.

But from the moment Edie emerged, I sensed something had changed. Was it my imagination or did she seem slightly less pleased to see me than she used to be this time last year? And did I really see her roll her eyes when I gave her the treat and tried to give her a huge hug?

Back home, I realised that while time had virtually stood still for me over the summer holidays, it had done the very opposite for my granddaughter. She had grown taller (I am shrinking), lost her first tooth and moved on from the little girl in reception class to the big girl in Year 1. 'ANNIE,' she said when she was trying to teach me to play her new favourite game, Guess Who? 'It's your turn! KEEP UP!'

My worry now is that, at just five and a half, Edie is Dun-with-Granny...  
The Daily Telegraph

I USED TO JOKE ABOUT THE DAY WHEN I'D FINALLY BE FREE OF PARENTING AND MOVE TO A COTTAGE IN THE COUNTRY THAT I WOULD NAME NOT DUNROAMIN BUT DUN-NURTURING. BUT NOW THAT I HAVE TOO MUCH TIME WITH MYSELF, I REALISE THAT THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING I LIKE DOING MORE THAN A BIT OF NURTURING

## CULTURE LANE

### BBC plays down Zoe Ball rumours

The BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) insists it has still not chosen a new host for *The Radio 2 Breakfast Show*, despite press speculation that Zoe Ball is set to take over the biggest programme in UK radio.

Chris Evans announced this month that he was leaving the programme for Virgin Radio. This prompted speculation over who would inherit the slot, which reaches more than nine million listeners a week.

Ball, a former host of the show who presents a weekend show on the station, has been linked to the job. On Monday, the *Sun* reported that she was in advanced negotiations to take over the programme but no contract had been signed. The newspaper said a key concern was how she would handle her family commitments in Brighton, where she lives and has two sons with her former husband Norman Cook.

"We are considering and talking to a number of people," a BBC spokesperson said. Sara Cox, a longtime friend of Ball's and a former host of the show, has also been linked to the job. She currently presents a late night show on Radio 2. The station is under pressure to



appoint a woman to the job, which has only ever been held by men.

Cook was coincidentally being interviewed on Monday morning's Radio 2 breakfast show by Evans, who said: "I'm going to ask you a question, then you're going to say: 'I'm sworn to secrecy', and then we're going to move on. So, what do you know of this front-page story in the *Sun* today about Zoe being offered this show come 2019?"

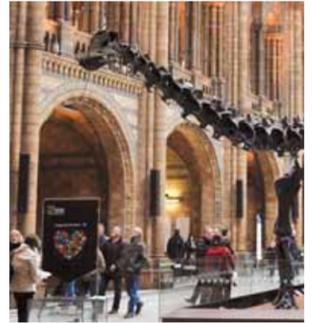
Cook replied: "I couldn't possibly comment on that, Christopher."

### Discount for over-60s unfair?

More than three-quarters of museums, galleries and other attractions in the UK are giving £65m of ticket-price concessions to the over-60s every year, while in many cases young people are charged full-price tickets, according to a study.

People over 60 are offered concessions regardless of their ability to pay and even when they are below the state pension age, according to the Intergenerational Foundation (IF), a charity that researched 35 of the UK's leading attractions' ticketing policies.

The giveaway to older people is expected to fuel concerns that Britain has failed to adjust to growing pensioner incomes and wealth. With millions of pensioners boasting incomes above the average wage, the IF said it was concerned that charging policies developed in previous decades were out of date. While they all offer the over-60s senior discounts apart from RHS organisations, only four — Chester zoo, Stonehenge, Canterbury Cathedral and Bristol zoo gardens — have raised the ticket-price concession threshold in line with the state pension age (SPA) of 65.



Only one out of the 35 organisations offers a young person discount — the Royal Shakespeare and Swan theatres in Stratford-upon-Avon — although 27 offer student discounts.

Among the worst offenders are Scottish attractions Edinburgh Castle, the National War Museum in Edinburgh, Stirling Castle and Urquhart Castle, all of which offer an over-60s concession but no student or young person's discount.

### Likely birthplace of Henry VII found



Archaeologists believe they have identified the exact site of Henry VII's birth in 1457 after excavations in the grounds of Pembroke Castle in Wales uncovered the remains of a massive medieval mansion worthy of one of the most famous kings of England. Just days into an initial dig, archaeologists have uncovered up to half a metre of the building's walls — and they are yet to reach the main floor levels. One wall is a metre thick.

They have also unearthed so many slates and tiles that they are concluding it had a slate roof. Green-glazed ridge

tiles have also been found, which suggest a particularly imposing building, while other finds include a curving stair from a spiral staircase. James Meek, who is heading the excavation for the Dyfed Archaeological Trust, said such finds suggest "a fairly showy building" inside of the outer walls of the castle. It is about the size of two tennis courts, while the scale of the walls suggests a structure of a considerable height.

Pembroke Castle dates back to the 11th century. Henry VII was believed to have been born in its 13th-century tower, which is named after him.

## ODDLY ENOUGH

### HOV LANE CHEAT TRIES TO TRICK POLICE WITH SKELETON

Police in Washington state shared three photos of creative carpool lane cheats — including one who used a Halloween skeleton as a passenger. The Washington State Patrol shared three photos this week showing the faux-passengers that HOV (high-occupancy vehicle) lane users used in unsuccessful attempts to ward off scrutiny from police.

One of the photos featured a Halloween skeleton dressed in a jacket and a baseball cap. "This driver NB 15 at 1405 in Sno County was dying to not get caught with this passenger, there's no bones about it! Another HOV violator stopped by WSP," Trooper H Axtman, the

Washington State Patrol's District 7 public information officer, tweeted.

Another example tweeted by Trooper Rick Johnson of District 2 shows a pillow dressed in a hoodie and holding a cup of coffee and a tablet.

Axtman also shared a photo of a "creepy" dummy that appears to be composed of a mannequin wearing a surgical mask, a hoodie and a pair of glasses. HOV lane violations are punished by a \$136 fine in Washington state.

### A DREAM COME TRUE, LITERALLY

An Australian man who won a lottery prize worth \$3.5 million said it wasn't entirely a surprise — he had dreamed the win just three weeks earlier.

The Sydney man told NSW Lotteries officials when he and his wife claimed the prize that the dream left him with a strong feeling that he was going to win the Set for Life drawing, which carries a top prize of \$14,374 every

month for 20 years.

"Three weeks ago I had a dream where I won Set for Life," the man said.

"Then when we were sitting on the beach relaxing, I looked at my wife, grabbed her hands and I said to her, 'We are about to win something, you just wait.'" The couple said they plan to use the money to retire early, do some traveling, fix up their home and give to charity.

### RESTAURANT OWNER FINED OVER NO DOG PEE SIGN

A sarcastic sign in the window of a Connecticut restaurant asking people not to let their dogs pee on the eatery's outside flower pot has earned the owner a \$250 fine.

Duc Nguyen, owner of Duc's Place in New Haven, said that he was disgusted with people allowing their dogs to urinate on his pot. He thought a humorous sign was a good way of discouraging dog walkers from letting pets relieve themselves there. It read: "Attn: dog owners. This is a pay-per-pee flower pot. (Pay inside or leave your address and we'll

kindly return the favor.)"

Honda Smith, the city's public space enforcement officer, said Nguyen broke two city ordinances for being a public nuisance and issued the fine. Nguyen says he plans to appeal.

### MAN FINED \$124 FOR KICKING SEAGULL THAT ATE BURGER

A man accused of kicking a seagull that tried to eat his cheeseburger at a New Hampshire beach has been fined \$124. Police investigated the report from a bystander at Hampton Beach earlier this summer.

Reports suggest that the man, Nate Rancloes, said he had just returned from getting a cheeseburger and fries and was sitting on the sand. He said seagulls got to the burger, and he spun around with his leg to shoo one away, but struck the bird. He said it was a simple mistake. A witness said it appeared the bird's leg was injured and that it struggled to fly away. New Hampshire Fish and Game Lt Adam Cheeny says seagulls are protected under federal law.

### SNAKE RESCUED FROM MOUSETRAP IN LONDON

Animal rescuers in London said a Acorn snake is recovering from minor injuries after being found stuck in a mousetrap. The RSPCA said an animal collection officer was dispatched earlier this month when a snake was spotted stuck in a mousetrap in London's Station Square.

"The poor snake could barely move and was well and truly stuck in the mousetrap. The snake had an abrasion where he was stuck but his injuries do not seem to be too severe," Animal Collection Officer Joe White said.

"Unfortunately, an owner could not be found so the reptile was transferred to the South Essex Wildlife Hospital for veterinary treatment. If we can not trace an owner then the snake will be rehomed," he said.

### PADDLE BALL WORLD RECORD PLANNED IN CLEVELAND

Ohio organisers are hoping to gather at least 500 people to break a Guinness World Record for most people doing paddle ball at the same time.

The record attempt, will be organised by LAND studio and the Gordon Square Arts District, a public art organisation in Cleveland, and hosted by the Superelectric Pinball parlour. It will involve a period of paddle ball practice before the official record attempt.

LAND studio said it is hoping to gather at least 500 people for the attempt, and each participant will be presented with their own paddle ball to keep after the event. The attempt is timed to coincide with the installation of a 14-foot paddle ball public art sculpture to be installed in the Gordon Square Arts District by Superelectric artists.





BRIEFLY speaking

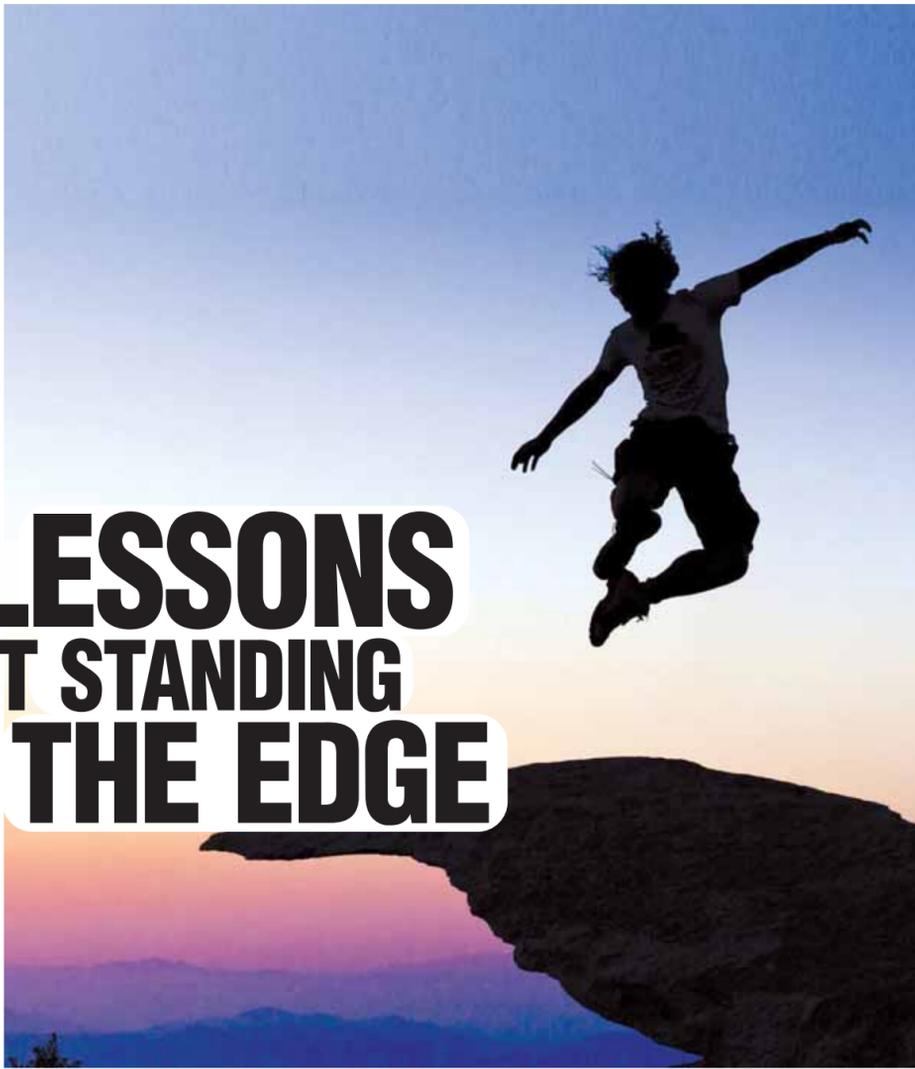


SOCIAL MEDIA & SLEEP DEPRIVATION IN TEENS

More than half of the parents of sleep-deprived teens are blaming social media for lack of sleep among their children, a new study has found. The University of Michigan study suggests that 56 per cent of parents of teenagers who have sleep trouble believe that the use of electronics is hurting their child's shut-eye. Forty-three per cent of parents report that their teens struggle to fall asleep or wake up and can't get back to sleep, according to the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health at the University of Michigan. A fourth of these parents say their child experiences occasional sleep problems (one to two nights per week) while 18 per cent believe their teen struggles with sleep three or more nights per week. Not being able to stay off electronics — including social media and cell phones — was the no.1 reason parents cited for sleep disturbance. Other reasons included irregular sleep schedules due to homework or activities, and concerns about social life.

The connection between sports and spirituality is often overlooked. It's through the adventurous process of challenging oneself, trusting the instincts, and going beyond the limitations that one gets to truly experience life, writes NIHARIKA NIGAM

# LIFE LESSONS LEARNT STANDING ON THE EDGE



That moment when your eyes close and yet it feels like you are all-seeing, the moment when you are surrounded by people, and yet your solitude is the most powerful presence around, the moment when your physical self ceases to exist and the essence of your life harmoniously resets to its raw, innate form; that is the moment when your consciousness peaks, and absolute mindfulness washes over, terrifying and liberating you at the same time.

It is truly fascinating to have an experience so intense. There are a number of ways in which people try to be a part of something so exhilarating. Adventure sports is one of the unconventional ways which opens the gates to the spiritual world for you. With an increasing pile of hassles all around you and an extremely busy schedule where one needs to take care of a gigantic workload, stress, depression, and anxiety are rampant today. Naturally, people feel the need to look for ways in which they can beat the stress and make life more enjoyable. This search often leads to adventure sports as it is seen as a tool for improving mental health. Surprisingly, the quality of experience that these sports offer is, in essence, quite similar to the experience of meditation. If you have ever gone for an adventure sport, you certainly know what kind of experience is being talked about. It is empowering to feel like a daredevil.

Indulging in something that seems so crazy helps one experience each moment completely and appreciate life. It directs one onto the path of self-awakening and makes them feel alive. It is while standing at the edge and indulging in an 'extreme experience' that one gets a taste of spirituality. One push, and a whole new realm opens up — spirituality leads man to the harbour of happiness, satisfaction, calmness, and serenity. India has been the spiritual leader of the world throughout the evolution of civilisations. Today, adventure sports have created a new path for the Indian youth and global sports enthusiasts to witness this new, 'cool' form of spirituality.

There are four life lessons that one

can learn while standing on the edge:

- Dare to open your eyes: Only you know that you have suffered. You know what it has cost you but instead of dealing with it, you have learnt the trick of blocking out the pain. But it can't serve you for long. All it will do is block out the gorgeous view that is right in front of you. A lot of people, while taking on adventure sports, try to shut their eyes and desperately try not to let the fear creep up on them or to take control of them. But it does not work that way. Strength is in acknowledging the presence of the darkness within, and choosing to move forward and onwards anyway. Open your eyes, take in the thunderous moment and you will find the strength to take one step at a time.
- You are all you've got: In the final moments before you take the leap of faith, when you're about to take on a challenge, you are amazed, terrified and excited, your heart pounding louder, adrenaline rushing through your body, and breath coming in short and fast. That's when you suddenly realise that what lies ahead of you is a journey that is yours alone. In those moments, as scared as you are, there is a moment of absolute clarity. Suddenly you find yourself conscious to every thought within you. You find yourself rooting for yourself, and you find yourself consciously drawing out your inner strength. Within that fraction of a second, lies a profound lesson — you're all you've got, and somehow, that is enough. You were always complete and whole, all by yourself. It's a rare moment that is deeply empowering.

IN THE FINAL MOMENTS BEFORE YOU TAKE THE LEAP OF FAITH, WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO TAKE ON A CHALLENGE, THAT'S WHEN YOU SUDDENLY REALISE THAT WHAT LIES AHEAD OF YOU IS A JOURNEY THAT IS YOURS ALONE. IN THOSE MOMENTS, AS SCARED AS YOU ARE, THERE IS A MOMENT OF ABSOLUTE CLARITY

- Let go: That moment when you've accomplished your adventure sport marks a lot of changes within you. It's the act of letting go of your apprehensions, inhibitions and all that has been holding you back. It's the time for soaring and diving into the unknown. It's re-instilling faith in the magic of taking risks. It's stumbling upon the realisation that even in your own solitude, you are whole and complete. Freedom, you realise with a jolt, is a state of mind that was always latent within you. You realise that the only thing actually keeping you caged was your own mind and your own thoughts. You are engulfed in the realisation that you just broke free from all the chains pulling you down, and you are now ready to fly.
- Re-centre you mind, body and soul: As you finish your dare, you find yourself amazingly alive in the present moment. It's deeply calming and brings the consciousness back into what is. This is neither the future nor the past; this is just 'now'. All the frustrations, chaos, the triviality of daily life, stress, and depression is just external 'noise' that we end up carrying as baggage. The calm within gets lost, and we forget the beauty of silence. One attempt at overpowering your fear, and overcoming an unsurmountable challenge and positivity gets restored within yourself and you find yourself throwing away the negativity into the depth below. Becoming aware of every little moment is a beautiful gift. Every now and then, you realise, you need to get out of our own head and just live. Live in the joy of being alive.

The writer is Director, Business Development at Jumpin Heights



HIDDEN SOULS PRAMOD PATHAK

## Stress and the individual



Be it popular discussion to extant literature, stress and its effect on human health is often talked about. It's not because stress is a new problem. It's because now there is more awareness about how stress can or is having an impact on human beings. Stress has been talked about right from the ancient days when human beings were cave dwellers and the fear of the unknown created anxiety leading to stress. But the question is why, even with so much advancement in science and technology coupled with some people's ability to predict the future, stress still manages to bog us down? Is it that ignorance was bliss and awareness has made us more fearful, more paranoid? It's a pressing question that needs to be answered. There is a lot of information on the ill-effects of stress on health. For researchers, new areas like Psychobiology and Psychoneuroimmunology have emerged in Behavioural and Medical sciences. Yet, the problem remains. The simple reason is that the thought process of human beings in the evolutionary cycle has still remained programmed for the same basic instinct of survival. Interestingly, it is not just the human beings, but the animals too that worry about survival. The basic emotion of fear still continues to haunt humanity. Stress, we must understand, is not a cause. It is an effect that arises out of an emotional state. Psychologists talk about two kinds of stress — eustress and distress. While eustress is good stress that doesn't lead to negative consequences, it is distress that is harmful. However, at times, even too much of eustress may lead to negative consequences resulting out of euphoria. Nevertheless, we have to understand that stress is a serious issue in the present day society, causing several psychological problems including some that lead to suicide. The important thing that must be borne in mind is that stress is a reaction of an individual, a deliberate act. Thus, controlling stress depends on an individual's coping skills. The same emotional state can have a wide range of outcomes depending on how it is tackled. We, therefore, must focus on the stress tolerance capacity of the individual. The important question is how to raise this stress resilience. The first step lies in identifying that state. Since stress is a non-specific response, many a time it may not be possible for an individual to even realise that he is stressed. It is an outcome of the thought process and the remedy lies in changing the thought process. Since thought processes are conditioned mental states, it may require a lot of mental training for that to be reoriented. But it is certainly possible. Just like for training the body there are physical exercises, for shaping the mind, too, there are mental exercises. The basic step is changing the thought pattern. Rather than being skeptical about the intention of God, it is important to have full faith. This is the essential first step. Every day, you need to spend some time with God, praying to him, thinking about his kindness. The second step is talking to yourself. That means, be on your own sometimes every day. Talk to yourself. What have you been doing, what do you need to do? The third step is talking to genuine well-wishers who give positive vibes. Though all three steps are important, the last one is perhaps the most significant as it's difficult to identify such persons.

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THE IMPACT OF WITNESSING BULLYING

Turns out, witnessing violence in high school is as bad as being bullied. Students who witness violence in school at the age of 13 are at later risk of psycho-social and academic impairment at age 15, according to a new longitudinal study by researchers at Université de Montreal with colleagues in Belgium and France. The researchers statistically tested the relationship between witnessing school violence in Grade 8 and subsequent antisocial behaviour (drug use, delinquency), emotional distress (social anxiety, depressive symptoms), and academic adjustment (school achievement, engagement) in Grade 10. They also compared the contribution of different forms of witnessing school violence and compared them to experiencing violence directly over the long term.

CAN RYGB HELP PEOPLE BEAT OBESITY?



Obesity is a growing epidemic worldwide and a leading cause of death alongside heart disease and smoking. Bariatric surgery, specifically Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (RYGB), is the most effective treatment for obesity. With RYGB, many patients exhibit a reduction in taste preference for sweet and fatty foods, although this effect may only be temporary, according to a new research from Binghamton University, State University of New York. Professor Patricia DiLorenzo said, "People who have this surgery are what we call morbidly obese, meaning that they are at least 100 pounds overweight, and in many cases are diabetic. It's life or death for them." RYGB makes the stomach much smaller into what is called a pouch. This pouch bypasses part of the small intestine, so when you eat, your food enters a smaller stomach and empties right into the small intestine. This means that people cannot eat large meals anymore, leading to weight loss.

# God's many responsibilities

Just like a parent is always a part of what his/her child does, God never runs away from the responsibility of guiding all his children across the globe in everything that they seek to do, says AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

We may in our ignorance either think that God doesn't exist or that He is living somewhere above us, not much involved in whatever is going on here. This is far from truth. He is the owner of the whole creation. (Gita 5.29) How can God not be concerned about His creation? Rather, God is very much involved and has many responsibilities. This must be so because we, souls, are rather small and quite helpless to say the least. We need God's help at almost every step if we wish to exist well. Yes, we have free will and can choose to ignore God, but then, we more or less condemn ourselves. We keep on struggling till we drop dead. There is neither peace nor happiness. Material achievements do not satisfy us. Therefore, God must help whoever chooses to turn to Him. Four kinds of persons do so. These are: Distressed, seekers of wealth, inquisitive, and wise. (7.16) God has to respond to all those who deserve, individually. Imagine what this means in terms of responsibility. How many of us are here on this planet? Even a small portion of us will be a very big number. But God handles it; He has to, because this is what He has chosen to do. Yes, God does delegate some of His responsibilities to His many forms. God also uses many of us as His mediums (11.33); God empowers us. Classical

examples of mediums of God are spiritual preachers and writers. Then, there are those involved in social welfare activities. Researchers, scientists engaged in finding what can help the mankind are similarly empowered by God. These are great uses of the human life. Still, God has to be very active. (3.22) Otherwise, godlessness will spread and there will be unwanted progeny. (3.24) God has to keep encouraging a belief in dharma and goodness. He incarnates; He sends His representatives like Adi Shankaracharya; and He keeps on doing miracles in various parts of the world. It is also God's responsibility to see that no one misuses his/her power to harm others; He punishes such persons as He punished Ravana. Let us remember that we, souls, have been given just enough power to exercise our free will. If we gather more either by gaining it through tapasya or collecting a lot of



people like Hitler did and then misuse it, God must intervene as He did in case of Hitler through His material nature. This is just one way God is active. There are several other ways. A famous example is of Nostradamus. This man

desired to know the future. It is said that He meditated for very long periods over a brass bowl filled with water. God responded and allowed Him to know about the future selectively about which Nostradamus wrote. Mother Teresa

wished to serve the humanity, and she needed money for this purpose. God provided her with that and in plenty. It enabled her to serve the poor, the dying, and the destitute. God is active vis-à-vis all those souls, who aspire to connect with Him and seek His help. God responds to our prayers in the way He deems fit. God alerts His devotees of likely dangers in what they are doing or are thinking of doing. God gives precious intuitions to those who are linked to Him. How does one make spiritual progress? God gives those aspiring to do so through realisations, which cement one's faith in God. Yes, we have limited power intrinsically as souls but we don't lack anything if we are connected with God, who is unlimited. He takes the responsibility of all those who do so and responds to them individually. Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com



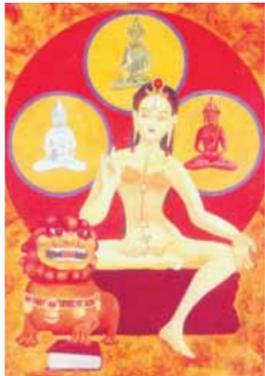
**YOUR WEEK AHEAD**

MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

This week your health is good. You will be emotionally balanced and in control. In case you face any health issues, stay calm and you will deal with them successfully. Treat your mind and body with care and compassion. At the work front, things are good for you. You should empathise with your colleagues and understand their point of view. This will bring positivity in your work environment. The role of senior woman is indicated. Taking her help or advice will be beneficial to your project. Those awaiting interview results, good news is on the cards. Your love life is in a very good phase. You and your partner are serious about the relationship. Ensure that you spend quality with your partner. If you are single, chances of 'new love' coming your way are bright.  
**Lucky number** 20  
**Lucky colour** Red  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

This week, you may face changes in your health. If you resist change, then it will have bad impact on your health. Try to keep your stress level under control. When in doubt, go back to the basics. Have adequate food, rest and proper exercise. This will help you stay healthy. You should meditate regularly and stay positive. At the work front, you may not have a great time. Chances are that you feel disengaged and demotivated. In such cases, you need to re-evaluate the situation and get a better understanding of the scenario. During this process, it is highly recommended to stay connected with the world else things can get worse. Be grateful for everything and act according to what you think is right. Love life seems to be in a good phase. Both you and your partner will be in touch with your inner voice.  
**Lucky number** 31  
**Lucky colour** Pink  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

This week your health is not in a good condition. And it is likely to deteriorate. You have the tendency to feel low when facing problems. So, if any health issue arises, it is suggested that you try to stay positive. Feeling powerless will not do you any good to you. Follow a health regime or if required, consult a healthcare professional. Meditation and yoga will help you connect with your inner strength. You will be excited about a new venture or a project that will come your way very soon. You will explore your creative side and this will make you take decisions and manifest your ideas. Don't let go of any opportunities. For those seeking higher positions, something positive is indicated. You will be aware of the issues in your relationship with your partner.  
**Lucky number** 21  
**Lucky colour** Blue  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

You will witness an upswing in your energy as well as vitality. Those who are facing any health issues need to relax. A new and improvised mode of healing or a healer will come into your life this week. Always keep a positive attitude and help will be available if you seek it. At work, if you are way too ambitious then control yourself as you may find yourself stuck in a conflicting situation. It is very important that you respect the feelings of your colleagues else you might struggle in your professional life. Be careful about whom you trust at this time because betrayal from a colleague or a business partner is indicated. Make sure that your behaviour is impeccable. When it comes to relationships, you will doubt your own capabilities and underestimate yourself.  
**Lucky number** 18  
**Lucky colour** Ruby  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**VRIGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

You might have to face a serious health problem or might have been dealing with it for a while. Adopting a positive approach is the only way to get through these health issues. Try to get rid of the old and bad habits which are having a bad impact on your health. This is the right time to make a transition. There are alternate ways to heal you. You could either go on a vacation or even talk to people you haven't spoken to in ages. At the work front, you are progressing towards your goals. With your ambitious outlook and determination, you will find success. Ensure that you do not show any disregard to your colleagues while pursuing your goal as that can go against you. Those seeking employment will get their desired job. You will keep a great sense of calm in your relationship.  
**Lucky number** 15  
**Lucky colour** Golden  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

This week you will realise that you should live a life that will serve your needs. This helps improve your health in the long term. Try to not repeat your past mistakes and take up a step towards a healthy lifestyle. This time, trust your inner voice. Your positive attitude will help you recover from any chronic illness. Keep a positive outlook. At work, you are being overburdened with responsibilities. Even though you have achieved your goals, now you are facing the great commitments and responsibilities that come with it. It is very important that you prioritise your goals and implement a time management technique to avoid extra burden. You will definitely have a good time with your loved ones this week. You will socialise with everyone and will enjoy being the centre of attraction.  
**Lucky number** 26  
**Lucky colour** Grey  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

This week, constant worry about your health will keep you stressed and anxious. Ensure that you treat yourself well. It is very important to have adequate sleep, proper food and ample amount of water intake. Apart from all these, maintain a positive attitude. Follow a meditation routine and do breathing exercises to keep your mind calm. Career-wise, the situation is not favourable. You are bound to face some challenges. Do not hesitate to ask for a help from your trusted ones. Miracles happen every day, and you must believe in it. Focus on your work and do your bit; the situations will improve. Those in a relationship will face conflicts with partner. Other's views on your love life may cause tension in your relationship. In such a case be open to what comes your way.  
**Lucky number** 7  
**Lucky colour** Orange  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

Your health will remain good this week. If you have been facing any health problems, then it is likely that your stress and anxiety associated with health vanish this week. Your health is improving. If required, reach out to a practitioner or follow a good health regime. Your work life is satisfactory this week. Some of you may score well in your career. Showing concern towards your colleagues will do wonders at the work front. You may sense a problem before it arises. So, make a good use for your intuition. Keeping a positive attitude will help you sail through. Some of you may face issues with your partner. You have been dealing with these issues for a long time. It is better that you and your partner make some changes. Give space to your partner and trust them. Utilise this time to work on your emotions.  
**Lucky number** 9  
**Lucky colour** Black  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

You will have a peaceful week in terms of health. Those awaiting test results, stay calm, the results will be to your liking. Some of you have the tendency of daydreaming. Do not let this affect you. Dreaming big and not working on it will only lead to downfall. Make the most of this good phase and enhance your good habits. In professional life, you will experience success. You will be able to accomplish your goals and your efforts will be appreciated. A sense of recognition from peer or a boss will motivate to keep up with your hard work. But with success comes arrogance. So, make sure you are down to earth and don't adopt a superior attitude. Those seeking jobs might get something better than they had hoped for. Some of you might get emotionally hurt in a relationship.  
**Lucky number** 12  
**Lucky colour** Pastel Blue  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

This week, get up and take responsibility of your health. All the health problems that you are facing are due to your negligence in the past. If you still continue your negligent behaviour and avoid the consequences, you will only make things worse. Your inner peace is not at its best and it is very important that you regain your inner harmony to maintain a balance between your mind and body. This week, your career is moving faster than before and you are excited about this progress. Chances of a new and inspiring venture are there. Some of you may have to travel for business-related purposes. Enjoy this renewed energy, but do not make hasty decisions. Those awaiting interview results can expect good news. The week looks promising with positive energy in your relationship and hence you will be happy.  
**Lucky number** 22  
**Lucky colour** Peach  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

It is very important that you take care of your body. If you are facing any health problem, this due to your negligent attitude. Be aware of your body issues and start taking steps to maintain your health and well-being. If you need help, reach out to a healthcare professional. It is crucial to maintain a balance in your physical and mental well-being. Career-wise, you are not doing justice to your work. If you think that you can get success by standing behind your colleagues and taking credit for what they have done, then please stop dreaming. This gain is temporary. Face the issues that arise and take responsibility to sort it out. Be very careful while doing a business dealing. Try to keep yourself aloof from work politics. Long term success depends on your approach towards work.  
**Lucky number** 11  
**Lucky colour** White  
**Lucky day** Monday



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

This week, you should find balance between your mind and body. If you have been down with some health issues then you should have a positive approach to recover from it. If you feel negative, things might go bad. In case you need help, reach out to those you trust or consult a healthcare professional. Your health is in your hands. Therefore, rise above all the miseries and stay positive. This week is very important for your career. You have been successful in achieving your goals. This will give you a sense of attainment. Some of you may get an opportunity to work overseas. Single Pisceans, this is a good time to go out and mingle. Beginning of a new relationship is indicated. Those in a committed relationship, your bond with your partner is likely to grow stronger and deeper.  
**Lucky number** 22  
**Lucky colour** Purple  
**Lucky day** Sunday

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# Astrology for healthy body and mind

Mind and matter are both rooted to a common pool of energies flowing through the cosmos, and are therefore, inter alia connected. So, no wonder, when mind is under stress for whatever reasons, it has related bearing on the person's health status. In the same vein, if physical health comes under strain, it disturbs one's mind-state. It simply implies that in the event of ailment, a holistic approach is needed to get over the problem. The other day, worried parents of a man suffering from ulcerative colitis came asking: "What lies in store of our son's destiny in so far as his health status is concerned?" "Well, it is unfair to chart out your son's health profile in finite terms," I suggested. For, it depends on so many factors. If he has health issues, it certainly needs medical help, and I am sure he must be undergoing treatment. Medicine will play its part. But simultaneously, he has to work upon his thought process. Otherwise, medicine may suppress his suffering for a while, but problem may keep arising again and again. Explaining further, I suggested that if your son is suffering from ulcerative colitis, it would mean that the fire ele-

ment is higher than the desired level. That leads to excessive bile secretion in the body, which has been corroding his intestine. If there is excess of fire element, it will find reflection in the person's usual conduct also. A look into the man's chart reveals that mind signifying Moon occupies a movable sign Aries marked with fire, which is ruled by Mars. That speaks of a hot headed person. He would be impulsive, aggressive, intolerant, impatient, and judgmental. He wishes to be at the head of things, not open to listening or counsel of others. In fact, it is difficult for him to digest any contrarian views. A person with high ambitions and desires may jump into action targeting his dream destination without applying proper forethought. Evidently, for lack of the required level of preparedness, he remains vulnerable to be caught unaware when confronted with challenging situations. It is only when put to difficult situations, that he applies his mind. But then such characters carry the potential to be the best crisis managers also. The Sun, the planet identified with his individuality, occupies another movable sign Capricorn. It speaks of a being



armed with leadership abilities, keen to move in an organised way, but on his own exclusive terms, as would his *lagna* sign Gemini imply. Gemini born carry the tendency to have only 'yes-persons' around. So long you agree with their viewpoints, you remain their best friend. The moment any contrarian view is offered, they can't take it kindly, and feel offended. If that was not enough, the *lagna*-lord Mercury occupies the *nakshatra* owned by erratic Rahu, which is conjunct fiery Mars in a watery sign Pisces. That leaves him boiling when confronted with an advisory that would be at variance with his perceptions. He may then lose his sense of order and direction, and misdirect his energies towards unproductive ends. The Sun is posited in the lunar constellation owned by Moon. It, therefore, carries the fiery streaks of Moon. Not simply that, the two are placed adverse to each other. That makes him vulnerable to a lot of stressful situations. What further compounds his problem is his volatile emotionality. For, emotions signifying Venus is placed adverse to both the luminaries. That makes him too touchy and sensitive, who may get over exercised even on trivial issues. He may keep unnecessarily mulling over them

for long. In a way, it can be said that from within, he remains a live boiling pot. Evidently with dissipation of so much fire within, his gross-body has to come under strain. Now, in terms of his specific ailment, the *lagna* lord Mercury occupies the *nakshatra* owned by Rahu, which is conjunct Mars, the sixth lord identified with ailment. So, his health profile is fragile. Placement of eighth lord Saturn in the sixth house implies long drawn ailment. The sixth cusp sub-lord Venus occupies the fiery sign Sagittarius, and is posited in the *nakshatra* owned by Ketu, which occupies Virgo sign identified with lower intestine. That makes him vulnerable to long drawn problem of bowel genesis. Now to get over his problem, it is important that the man works upon his thought process as much as he has to follow medical prescription. Remember, a healthy mind facilitates a healthy body chemistry. 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  
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