

**WORLD 6**  
TRUMP OPTIMISTIC ABOUT  
2ND SUMMIT WITH KIM

**MONEY 7**  
GOVT HIKES IMPORT DUTY  
ON PAK GOODS TO 200%

**SPORT 8**  
VIDARBHA WIN  
IRANI TROPHY TITLE

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**USUALSUSPECTS**  
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

## Modi yet to show his 'dream' hand

Last week Parliament felt like the final days of the school academic year. Everyone, but particularly the Lok Sabha members, was in both a reflective and celebratory mode. Celebratory because the assigned work was finally over – at least for the time being – and reflective because there was no knowing whether they would pass or fail the re-election test in the summer. The Rajya Sabha was unendingly disrupted and did no work because Opposition parties competed among themselves to demonstrate their anti-Government credentials and stall all pending legislation. But even here, there was a note of both concern and anticipation. No one was really sure of the future.

In 2014, when the old Lok Sabha finished its term, there was certainty on one count: that the incumbent Government wasn't coming back to power. Most people expected a fractured Parliament with the BJP having an edge but only the most optimistic expected it to muster a majority on its own.

This week the mood is both similar and different. Conventional wisdom – and the extra bounce in the steps of Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party MPs – suggest that it is going to be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the BJP to replicate its spectacular 2014 showing in Uttar Pradesh, when it won 73 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats. The SP-BSP members and their Trinamool Congress hangers-on believe that the BJP will be completely decimated in India's largest State. The Congress, on the other hand, seems a little more circumspect. It is confident it will do well and much better than 2014 but there is no certainty about numbers. The euphoria over Priyanka Gandhi performing an electoral miracle isn't reflected in the conversations in Central Hall.

It is the BJP mood that is more interesting. If the media is to be believed, the ruling party is on the backfoot and agonising over the imminent loss of power at the Centre. Certainly there are MPs who are worried but the concern is less over the election outcome than with the prospects of securing re-nomination by the party. In 2014, the BJP was a bit casual with giving tickets in seats it considered unwinnable. This was particularly so in Uttar Pradesh. However, thanks to the fierce Modi wave, nearly all of them won. Some have turned out to be good constituency MPs but others have underperformed. This time, to minimise the effects of local anti-incumbency, the party may select new candidates. Predictably, that worries many sitting MPs, although they try and put up a brave face and appear unconcerned.



However, there is one aspect of the Modi messaging that still seems deficient. It is still not entirely clear what hope he is holding out for the future. A successful campaign has to sell a big dream – sometimes even a catchphrase such as achche din. As of now the idea of New India isn't being backed up by anything more than a commitment to build on the foundations created over the past five years. Maybe this is something the PM is keeping till the time the formal electioneering begins but this is a gap in the campaign that has to be rapidly addressed

the leadership of the Congress. His assault on the entitlement culture of the dynastic parties is savage. In places such as West Bengal, he has struck a chord by targeting overbearing Chief Ministers such as Mamata Banerjee. Modi has also paid emphasis on his Government's achievements, particularly its record in creating the architecture of a welfare state. Women are being specially targeted by Modi using swachh Bharat and the cooking gas schemes as ammunition. Anti-corruption is also one of Modi's battering rams against leaders with a reputation for being casual over corrupt practices.

However, there is one aspect of the Modi messaging that still seems deficient. It is still not entirely clear what hope he is holding out for the future. A successful campaign has to sell a big dream – sometimes even a catchphrase such as achche din. As of now the idea of New India isn't being backed up by anything more than a commitment to build on the foundations created over the past five years. Maybe this is something the PM is keeping till the time the formal electioneering begins but this is a gap in the campaign that has to be rapidly addressed.

As of now, I see no reason to revise my belief that this is going to be a presidential election.

## Pak gives 26/11 brains free access to varsities

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

In what could further vitiate the security environment in the Indian subcontinent, the Imran Khan-led Pakistan Government has allowed open access to Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) Number 2 and 26/11 conspirator Abdul Rahman Makki in the universities and schools as a motivational speaker to deliver anti-India sermons and 'virtues' of jihad and radicalise the youngsters at a young age. The radicalisation and recruitment of highly educated youths will significantly enhance the strike capabilities of the Pakistani terror groups. Agencies here apprehend the move will lead to creation of a "network of terror facilitators" in the region for furthering the larger anti-India terror agenda.

In addition to the latest tactic of the Pakistan Government-Army combine, the duplicity of the US that hosts common servers for the Pakistan Army and its terror proxies like LeT and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) has further compounded the security situation in the country. The common server of the Pakistan army and its terror affiliates are a clear link between the two. The US has



A large number of people attend the funeral procession of CRPF jawan Ramesh Yadav, who lost his life in Thursday's Pulwama terror attack, at Masaurhi in Varanasi on Saturday

only done lip service towards the Pakistan-directed terror in India but has always been comforting Islamabad by reiterating that it is a permanent ally. The US has also failed in conducting drone strikes against the LeT and JeM masterminds who have a free run

in furthering terror in the region especially against India. Due to the terror hits by the Pakistani jihadi groups, India is one of the top 10 terrorism-hit countries in the world.

"The idea of allowing access to Makki to the technical institutes and other edu-

LeT no. 2 allowed to deliver anti-India sermons, 'virtues' of jihad at educational institutions

## JeM gains ground in South Kashmir

Security forces yet to nab five who sneaked in from Pakistan

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), the Pakistan-based terrorist group which owned responsibility for the attack on the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) convoy in Kashmir on Thursday, has grown in strength in the last few months and at least 40 of its operatives are now active in South and Central Kashmir.

Moreover, out of 11 foreign terrorists neutralised by the security forces in last two months, nine of them were from JeM.

Besides these alarming trends, the security forces are also worried as they have so far not been able to nab at least four to five suspected JeM who sneaked from Pakistan into Jammu region almost a fortnight back. Some blood trails were found in the fields in Samba region then and a manhunt was launched but so far no luck for the joint team of Border Security Force (BSF), Army and the local police.

Giving these details, offi-



cial in the security establishment said on Saturday this is very alarming as JeM terrorists are infiltrating into the Kashmir Valley through Jammu region considered to a "non-traditional" route in terms of infiltration. After sneaking in from the heavily guarded Jammu region, they travel through the 300-km long national highway till Jawahar tunnel in Banihal, the gateway to the Valley, undetected as the vehicles are rarely checked while going from Jammu to Srinagar.

Even as the security forces have managed to neutralise at least 11 foreign terrorists including nine of JeM, alarm bells have started ringing as three encounters near Srinagar in late last month, in which three JeM ultras were killed, took place after they managed to reach the outskirts of the capital by road from Jammu undetected.

## China condemns strike sans naming Pakistan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after it expressed shock over the Pulwama terror attack, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Saturday sent a condolence message to Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj denouncing "all forms of terrorism" which it claimed is "the common enemy of mankind". The message, however, did not make any reference either Pakistan or Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), the terror group which has claimed responsibility for the attack.

In a letter to Swaraj, Wang Yi on behalf of the Chinese Government, conveyed sympathy to the families of the 40 CRPF jawans who were killed after a suicide bomber vehicle rammed into their bus in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Thursday. The statement from Beijing came at a time when India has received condolences from several nations, including the United Nations.



The White House even asked Pakistan to immediately end "support" and "safe haven" to all terror groups.

Wang Yi said he was "shocked to learn that a suicide attack was carried out in Kashmir and heavy casualties were caused. A statement by the Chinese embassy read "Wang Yi stressed that terrorism is the common enemy of mankind. The Chinese side resolutely opposes and strongly condemns all forms of terrorism."

## US supports India's right to self-defence: NSA to Doval

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

US National Security Adviser John Bolton told his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval that America supports India's right to self-defence as both sides vowed to work together to ensure that Pakistan ceases to be a safe haven for Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and other terror groups. Doval and Bolton held a telephonic conversation on Friday evening during which they resolved to hold Pakistan to account for its obligations under the UN resolutions and remove all obstacles to designate Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Maulana Masood Azhar as a global terrorist, the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi on Saturday.

It said that Bolton supported India's right to self-defence against cross-border terrorism and offered all assistance to India to bring the perpetrators and backers of the attack promptly to justice.



The call was initiated by the US side to express condolence and outrage over the Pulwama attack by Pakistan-based terrorist group JeM.

"I told Ajit Doval today that we support India's right to self-defence. I have spoken to him twice, including this morning... And expressed the US' condolences over the terrorist attack," Bolton told PTI in Washington.

He said the US has been very clear to Pakistan on end-

ing support to terrorist safe havens. "We have been very clear on that score... And, we are continuing to be in discussions we are going to have with the Pakistanis," the US NSA said.

Earlier, the White House and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo asked Pakistan to end its support to terrorist safe havens inside the country. "We stand with India as it confronts terrorism. Pakistan must not provide safe haven for terrorists to threaten international security," Pompeo said on Twitter.

In a stern message to Pakistan, the White House asked Islamabad to "immediately end" its "support" to all terror groups and not to provide "safe haven" to them, as the US condemned the brutal Pulwama terror attack.

Jaish has claimed responsibility for the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on Thursday.

## Ban on Sidhu sought for disturbing sentiments

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) has called for ban on cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu over his controversial comments in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack.

Sidhu, who appears on "The Kapil Sharma Show", had condemned the incident but courted a controversy when he asked whether an entire nation can be blamed for a handful of people.

He was among the invitees for the swearing-in ceremony of Imran Khan as Pakistan prime minister last year.

The Punjab Cabinet Minister's comments sparked an uproar on social media, with many people asking for his removal from "The Kapil Sharma Show".

## CAPSULE

**27 MORE HOTELS TO SHUT IN NATIONAL CAPITAL**  
New Delhi: Intensifying its drive against errant hotels, the Delhi Government has cancelled fire safety certificates of 27 establishments for various violations in Karol Bagh area, where a massive fire at a hotel killed 17 people earlier this week.

**VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS RUNS INTO TROUBLE**  
New Delhi: A day after it was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's first semi-high speed train, Vande Bharat Express, ran into some trouble twice on Saturday while returning to Delhi from Varanasi.

**DELHI-NCR TO WITNESS RAIN THIS WEEKEND: IMD**  
New Delhi: New Delhi and adjoining areas may witness more rain in coming week as Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday forecast light, moderate rain for February (Feb) 19 to Feb 22. However, for Sunday, Met predicted hazy like weather due to moderate fog. It was a cloudy and foggy Saturday morning in the national Capital.

## Parties put up united face to fight terror

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

All political parties on Saturday spoke in one voice and backed the Government in its efforts to fight terrorism following Thursday's deadly attack at the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) convoy at Pulwama in Kashmir and expressed their solidarity with the security

forces. The resolution adopted at the all-party meeting here, however, did not name Pakistan but asserted that India has been facing the menace of the cross-border terrorism which of late, it added, is being actively encouraged by forces from the neighbouring country.



Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and CPI leader D Raja after attend an all-party meeting on the Pulwama terror attack, at Parliament Library building, in New Delhi on Saturday

## Curfew continues on Day 2

PNS ■ JAMMU

Tension prevailed in Jammu for the second consecutive day as district authorities decided against relaxing curfew restrictions following fresh unrest in parts of Jammu. Mobile internet services remained disrupted while normal life was hit hard in the entire region.

Army columns remained deployed in sensitive areas of the city even as small groups of protesters took out marches holding tricolor in their hands and shouted anti-Pakistan slogans.

Tension prevailed in Janipur area where large numbers of State Government employees were accommodated inside Government quarters.

According to reports, a small group of miscreants converged outside the Government apartments after pro-Pakistan slogans were raised by inhabitants living in the Government quarters. Senior district officers along with police officers visited the area to contain the law and order situation.



Army soldiers conduct a flag march during the second day of curfew in Jammu on Saturday

## Major martyred, was to get married on March 7

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

next month on March 7 in Dehradun.

An Indian army Major who attained martyrdom in an IED blast along the Line of Control (LoC) in Nowshera sector of Rajouri district on Saturday was to get married

reports, the army officer, hailing from Corps of Engineer, was reportedly defusing an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) when it went off.



SHOW TIME

# Iska time ayega



**GULLY BOY**  
\*ing: Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt  
Rated:5/10

So, if you don't have any angst in life; if you are a happy go lucky person without rage or resentment at anything, would you still relate to *Gully Boy*? If you are past the age for rap and the anger and aggression it spews, will you like *Gully Boy*? Most probably not and definitely not in the long form that Zoya Akhtar presents the story of her rapper.

Despite the realism around youth frustrations and existential problems of the not so rich Dharavi populations, the film stretches the limits of storytelling much too far than that required. Despite Ranveer Singh's stellar performance, the monotony of his journey gets to you in ways that it should not have.

The entire culture of rap, we understand, is largely underground (why I wonder) and encompasses all the negativities of growing in a modern unequal hills-ridden

society. As Murad, whose cubical and claustrophobic existence complements his push to the entire rap scene budding in the depressing alleyways of the slum, Ranveer delivers well. He is aptly irreverent, simmering with potent anger, portrays the frustrations in a menacing and contained manner.

And yet the film has gaps that stare at you with queries writ large on the efficacy of such a long film sparsely sequenced.

Coming to the lyrics and the film's anthem *Apna time ayega* showcases the rage hallowed with hope and reconciliation with the circumstances as are the other rap contests that brought out the applause from the youngsters in the hall.

Overall, the film could have been shorter, better sequenced and more happening, despite the crackling chemistry that Ranveer shares with his friends, his music and his girlfriend Alia Bhatt, who incidentally is the sunshine in this dark and unforgiving film.

Plan Your Sunday

## UTKALIKA- Garland of Dances

Venue: Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi  
Date: February 18, 2019  
Timings: 7pm

Dr Sonal Mansingh brings Utkalika — a Garland of dances from Odissa. Dr Sonal Mansingh has been an exemplary contributor to Indian performing arts and literature. She has trained several thousand talented artists over the course of four decades since the establishment of CIDC in 1977. Her lifelong contribution to Indian classical dance & culture continues to date. This presentation is sure to leave audiences spellbound celebrating the vibrant dance form that is Odissi. All art-lovers are welcome.



## Street food at Farzi Cafe

Venue: Farzi Cafe, DLF Cyber City, Gurugram  
Date: Till February, 2019  
Timings: 12 pm to 11:45 pm  
Cost: ₹1,500 plus taxes (for two)

It's the time to get Farzified as Farzi Cafe, The Pioneers of cutting edge and an innovative dining experience presents the Most innovative Local Street Menu.

Dishes like 'Dal Moth Matka Chat with fresh pomegranate, a 2.0 version of Bombay bhel, mini raj kachori with crispy okra salad and chutney foam, galouti kebabs with crispy ultra tawa parantha and more. For street food indulgence, dine at Farzi Café, Cyber Hub.



# Condemning terror attack

TV actors express their grief on the ghastly attack on February 14 that killed 43 CRPF jawans

Krishna Bharadwaj said he feels extremely angry about the loss. "I feel devastated and extremely angry about this loss. How long will we tolerate this bloodshed in the name of countries, terrorism, politics or religions? I guess it's time we need an army rule because I have lost all trust in any of the political parties. People who have been posted for our safety, they themselves are not safe anymore. It's a shame on humanity and I don't have a platform to take out my anger and grief. It's high time somebody does something about it rather than just blaming each other for this kind of loss," he says.

Rehaan Roy said: "I feel this is one of the most shameful acts that has ever happened in the history of the country. My heart cries out for the soldiers and their families and at the same time, I wish I could just bury all those cowards alive. I wish and pray for the families that have lost their sons, fathers, husbands, and brothers. They are the real heroes of our nation."

Kishori Shahane Vij added: "Yesterday, while the entire nation was celebrating Valentine's Day, our own Jawans were killed by the terrorists. It was so devastating. Most of the celebrations were called off and people really were heartbroken about this incident because this is one of the most severe attacks that India has faced in latest times. I, myself, am buried in sorrow. We all mourned the loss. Basically, all this is so politicized. The entire world knows that elections are approaching there has to be turmoil politically and that's how it is. But I feel that the nation should unite and should not play the blame game. The best politician has to win for the betterment of our nation."

Saurabh Pandey said: "Whenever a soldier is martyred, we cannot even imagine the pain that the soldiers' loved ones go through. My sincere prayers to

those brave soldiers who got martyred and my respect to the family for such a big sacrifice. We owe them a big thanks. Had it not been for our Indian soldiers protecting our line of control, we would have not been living a peaceful life."

Moon Banerjee said: "Somewhere and somehow, someone needs to be stopped. We need to make a micro effort to see the difference in the macrocosm."

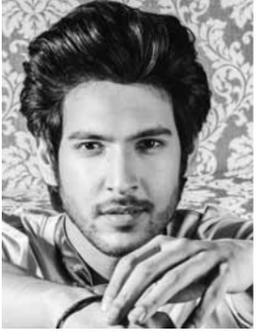
Ansh Bagri says this is very disturbing, during this time, we hold our loved ones even closer. Our prayers go out to the families and our men in Kashmir. Our anger and betrayal should be constructive, we must strengthen ourselves and strive to make change happen in the government so that these gruesome tragedies stop.

Himanshu Malhotra said: "It is definitely very upsetting and it does tend to anger you also. This is such a coward act. Almost 40 of our jawans have lost their lives. It is very unfortunate but the only thing which we can do is offer our blessings, wishes, prayers to the families who have lost their sons, fathers, husbands. That's the least we can do."

Shivni Narang said: "Definitely, it was a black day for everyone. Even when I got to know about it yesterday, I was in lot of anger. I have no words to express my anger and disappointment. I just hope these things never repeat, not only in India but anywhere in the world. As a human, it's unacceptable."

Jason Shah says we shouldn't do anything more in anger because the more people get angry, it's getting worse. Anger is not going to change anything. It's a very sad thing that something like this happened. It happens because of politics. I think the world needs to show a little more love.

Shweta Rohira said: "It's most unfortunate that terrorists are extinguishing humanity in totality.



soldiers who lost their lives. At the same time, I wish I could just bury all those cowards alive. I just hope these things never happen again. Peace and harmony are a basic human need."

Shashank Vyas said: "Given the situation, India has to take a stand too. How can anyone feel safe when one goes to Pakistan or even Kashmir where the tragedy happened. Innocent people are killed and this can't be justified. Life is too short already and everyone has the right to have peace."

Geetanjali Singh said: "It is such an unfortunate incident. Definitely, it was a black day for not only soldiers and their families but for the entire country. May all these martyrs' soul rest in peace and I pray for lots and lots of strength to their families. It was certainly a very sad day for all of us. I cannot even begin to imagine what the families of the deceased soldiers are going through. They risk their lives to protect the nation and we could not protect them. It is a sad day for all of us. I could not believe the news to even think that human beings can inflict such heinous crimes on other human beings. My heart goes out to the families. May God give them all the support and love that they need at this time."

May all these martyrs' souls rest in divine light and may God's grace be with their families to withstand this affliction."

Arjun Bijlani exclaimed: "It was definitely a black day for everyone. Even when I got to know about it yesterday, I was in a lot of anger with what all happened. We must strengthen ourselves and strive to make change happen. I am sure the Indian army will teach the terrorists a good lesson. A stand has to be taken. Human life is valuable and humans can't be destroyed like this for no fault of theirs."

Ssharad Malhotra said: "I am extremely angry as well as sad for this loss. My heart cries out for the

## TELLYTALE

### TOTAL DHAMAL ON THE KAPIL SHARMA SHOW

Comedian Kapil Sharma will be seen hosting Bollywood Diva Madhuri Dixit along with co-star Anil Kapoor on his show this weekend. The star cast of *Total Dhamal* will be joining in on *The Kapil Sharma Show* to elevate the laughter levels.

A conversation with Madhuri Dixit seems to be incomplete if a mention of the great MF Hussain is not made. During her chat with Kapil, Madhuri talks about the large heartedness of MF Hussain and how great a person he was who was away from all materialistic pleasures. She shares an interesting story when she was in Denver.

"I was in Denver and Aryan was just born. So, one day, Hussain Saab called me and expressed his desire that he wants to paint me in the role of a mother as he has seen me acting, in the role of a heroine and now he wants to see me in the role of a mother and how I take care of the house and the child. He came to Denver carrying a small roll-away bag, seeing which I asked him if I need to get his baggage collected. He mentioned that he isn't carrying any baggage and the roll-away bag is all he has got. He didn't waste any time and started planning on going out to get a canvas and start off with the painting to

which I asked him to relax and rest during his stay. To which Hussain *sahab* said *aap mujhe punishment de rahi hai, relax karne ko bol kar, jab main paint karta hoon to main relaxed rehta hoon*. I gave in and told him that we need to get canvas as well as paints, but he pointed towards his bag and said that paints are all here. I was a little surprised to see that the only bag he was carrying was full of paints, so I asked him about his clothes to which he said *ye shirt pehna hai aur pyjama*.



# 'TV is fast-paced'

MUSBA HASHMI chats up model-turned actor KARANVIR SHARMA, who shares his experiences, journey and a desire to work with Amitabh Bachchan

### Tell us about your character in Mangalam Danglam.

I am playing Nagararjuna Kutty, the son-in-law. He is a lawyer and belongs to a South Indian family. He speaks truth and respects women. He has the solution to every problem.

### How did acting happen with you?

I didn't want to be an actor. I wanted to become a director but then at that time Anupam Kher used to push me a lot saying that I should try my hand at acting. I used to tell him: *Dekhiye Sir, main koshish to kar leta hoon par koi guarantee nahi hai main to ek average sa insaan hoon*. This was in early 2000. That was the time when looks were equally important in the industry. I always thought in my college days *ki mujhe zindagi main aisa kaam karna hai jisse main bore nahi hoon*. Then I started working as an editor. I have also worked as an assistant director. That was when I realised that I have to work in the industry but acting was the last option for me. Then there was a time when I was called on camera as a substitute and it was then when I explored my acting skills.

### How has your journey been from Sadda Adda to Mangalam Danglam?

There were a lot of struggles and nothing came easily to me. I have struggled to earn ₹200 and have also worked on the salary of ₹2,000 per day. I have seen all those days. Those struggles have made me a better performer. I believe that if your foundation is strong you can achieve a lot of things in life. The good part of my journey is that I have played a lot of different characters. The reason that I am doing a comedy show now is that a lot of people were saying that I was only playing strong, powerful and intense characters. At that time, I got involved with those kinds of roles and now I am pushing myself to take up a very different character. So it is very challenging for me and at the same time, it is very exciting also.

### What all challenges did you face in your life?

There were a lot of challenges *aur mushkile toh roz aati rehti hain zindagi main*. And acting is not easy. Now the



people are very judgemental and the lifespan of an actor is less because your audience can change the channel anytime or can just switch to the online media or don't show up in the theatres for your movie. You have to impress your audience at the very first go and that makes the struggle even more. My struggle as a performer is that I should be convincing and real enough to portray it in the right way. Other than that the other challenges were rejections but it has given me enough experience to value my work which I wouldn't be doing otherwise..

### Which role came close to you and why?

All the roles that I have played are equally close to my heart. I don't play characters that don't touch my heart. I am not selective in my work but I play those characters where I can build a connection with them otherwise I don't do it.

### How is the experience working in different media?

The experience is different in both TV and films. Television is a medium where you have to do new things daily because it is of longer duration but in films, you do a particular thing for a scene and then it gets over. In television, you have to think of new ways to make your character interesting because it runs for years and you

have to keep experimenting with it. Every day is a challenge for a television actor and it is very fast paced.

### Any actor that you would like to work with in future?

I would like to work with Amitabh Bachchan because I have learnt voice modulation from seeing his work. I would like to work with Aamir Khan also because he does everything with perfection.

### What is there in the pipeline?

At present, I am concentrating on *Mangalam Danglam*. Then people will see me in a film — *Blank*. It will release this year. It has Sunny Deol in it. The director of *Azhar*, Tony D'Souza, is the producer of the film.

I don't play characters that don't touch my heart. I am not selective in my work but I play those characters where I can build a connection with them otherwise I don't take up the project

## उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड

(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उद्योग) कारपोरेशन ऑफ़ उत्तराखण्ड  
कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण खण्ड (दक्षिण)  
18-ई0सी0 रोड, देहरादून। दूरभाष: एवं फ़ैक्स: 0135-2851085

### निविदा सूचना

अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा विद्युत वितरण खण्ड (दक्षिण) के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु उत्तराखण्ड शासन द्वारा प्रदत्त विद्युत कार्यो के लिए लाईसेन्स धारक, अधिकृत, आरकर, जी0एस0टी0, ई0पी0एफ0, में पंजीकृत एन कार्ड धारक 'क' श्रेणी के लाईसेन्स धारक अथवा अनुभवी निविदाताओं से मुहुरबंद निविदाये दो भागों में प्रथम भाग निर्धारित धरोहर राशि तथा नियम एवं शर्तों जोकि किसी राष्ट्रीय कुत बैज / डाकघर की एफ0डी0आर0/सी0डी0आर0 के रूप में अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण खण्ड (दक्षिण), 18-ई0सी0 रोड, देहरादून के पक्ष में बंधक होनी हो एवं द्वितीय भाग में दर्जे जो कि छ: माह तक वैध हो, दिनांक 05.03.2019 को 14.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है जो कि उसी दिन 15.00 बजे उपस्थित निविदादाताओं अथवा उनके प्रतिनिधियों के समुच्च अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र इस कार्यालय से किसी भी कार्य दिवस में दिनांक 04.03.2019 तक अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय से निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य नकद (अप्रतिदेय) जमा कर कार्यालय से क्रय किये जा सकते है। बिना धरोहर राशि के निविदा भाग-दो नहीं खोली जायेगी। निविदा के प्रथम भाग में नवीनतम अनुभव प्रमाण-पत्र संलग्न किया जाना अनिवार्य है। अन्यथा कि स्थिति में भाग दो नहीं खोला जायेगा। निविदा खोलने के दिन किसी कारणवश कार्यालय बन्द रहता है तो अगले कार्य दिवस में निविदा खोली जायेगी। अधोहस्ताक्षरी को यह अधिकार होगा कि वह बिना कारण बताये समस्त अथवा किसी भी निविदा को निरस्त कर सकते हैं।

1. निविदा संख्या EDD(S)-28/18-19 : विद्युत वितरण उपखण्ड, वसन्त विहार, देहरादून के अन्तर्गत नये परिवर्तकों की स्थापना एवं तदसंबंधी कार्य धरोहर राशि ₹ 300000.00, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य ₹ 500.00+GST अतिरिक्त।
2. निविदा संख्या EDD(S)-29/18-19 : विद्युत वितरण उपखण्ड, निरंजनपुर / मण्डारी बाग, देहरादून के अन्तर्गत नये परिवर्तकों की स्थापना एवं तदसंबंधी कार्य धरोहर राशि ₹ 300000.00, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य ₹ 500.00+GST अतिरिक्त।
3. निविदा संख्या EDD(S)-30/18-19 : विद्युत वितरण उपखण्ड, टर्नर रोड, देहरादून के अन्तर्गत नये परिवर्तकों की स्थापना एवं तदसंबंधी कार्य धरोहर राशि ₹ 300000.00, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य ₹ 500.00+GST अतिरिक्त।
4. निविदा संख्या EDD(S)-31/18-19 : विद्युत वितरण उपखण्ड, वसन्त विहार, देहरादून के अन्तर्गत वितरण परिवर्तकों की क्षमता वृद्धि का कार्य धरोहर राशि ₹ 300000.00, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य ₹ 500.00+GST अतिरिक्त।
5. निविदा संख्या EDD(S)-32/18-19 : विद्युत वितरण उपखण्ड, टर्नर रोड, देहरादून के अन्तर्गत वितरण परिवर्तकों की क्षमता वृद्धि का कार्य धरोहर राशि ₹ 300000.00, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य ₹ 500.00+GST अतिरिक्त।
6. निविदा संख्या EDD(S)-33/18-19 : विद्युत वितरण उपखण्ड, निरंजनपुर, देहरादून के अन्तर्गत वितरण परिवर्तकों की क्षमता वृद्धि का कार्य धरोहर राशि ₹ 300000.00, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य ₹ 500.00+GST अतिरिक्त।
7. निविदा संख्या EDD(S)-34/18-19 : विद्युत वितरण खण्ड (दक्षिण), देहरादून के अन्तर्गत सड़-गले पोलों को बदलने का कार्य धरोहर राशि ₹ 300000.00, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य ₹ 500.00+GST अतिरिक्त।
8. निविदा संख्या EDD(S)-35/18-19 : विद्युत वितरण खण्ड (दक्षिण), देहरादून के अन्तर्गत क्षतिग्रस्त फेसिंग / वितस्थ के निर्माण एवं मरम्मत का कार्य धरोहर राशि ₹ 300000.00, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य ₹ 500.00+GST अतिरिक्त।
9. निविदा संख्या EDD(S)-36/18-19 : विद्युत वितरण खण्ड (दक्षिण), देहरादून के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न प्रकार की विकेन्द्रीकृत सामग्री की आपूर्ति का कार्य धरोहर राशि ₹ 200000.00, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य ₹ 250.00+GST अतिरिक्त।

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वि0वि0खण्ड(दक्षिण), देहरादून

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# Martyrs of Pulwama attack cremated

## Angry crowd cries retaliation

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The martyrs of the Pulwama terror attack-Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel-Mohan Lal Raturi and Virendra Singh Rana were cremated with full military honours in Haridwar and Khatima respectively on Saturday.

In Dehradun, the mortal remains of Mohan Lal Raturi arrived on early Saturday morning at the residence of the elder brother of the martyr at Vidhya Vihar near Kargi Chowk.

Crying inconsolably, the wife and the children of the slain soldier clung to the box in which the body of the martyr was kept wrapped in tricolour. Moved, the large crowd which had gathered at the residence of Raturi raised slogan like 'Shaheed Mohan Lal Amar Rahe', 'Bharat Mata Ki Ja' and 'Pakistan Murdabad'.

The Chief Minister, Trivendra Singh Rawat, led a large number of people in offering floral tributes to the mortal remains of the martyr. Expressing his deep sympathy, CM told the grieving family members that the people of the State are standing with them in this hour of sorrow. He assured that every possible help would be provided to the family members of the martyr.



Rawat further said that the Uttarakhand Government has already made a declaration to provide ₹25 lakh to the family of the jawans who had lost their lives in the Pulwama attack. Condemning the attack on the CRPF personnel, CM said that he is confident that a befitting reply would be given by the army. He added that the whole country is standing united behind its armed forces.

The Mussoorie MLA Ganesh Joshi, Dharampur MLA Vinod Chamoli, Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Pritam Singh, deputy inspector general (DIG) of CRPF, Dinesh Uniyal and Rapid Action Force (RAF)

Commandant Neelima also placed floral wreaths on the mortal remains of the martyr. Martyr Mohan Lal Raturi, a resident of Bankot village of Chinyalisaur of Uttarakashi district, was the assistant sub-inspector (ASI) in the 76th battalion of CRPF and was slated to retire in 2024. Mohan Lal was survived by his wife, three daughters and two sons. His family is living at present in Dehradun.

### MIX OF SORROW AND ANGER AT VIDHYA VIHAR COLONY

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Sorrow, anguish and anger-fused together-was felt hanging at Vidhya Vihar Colony where the mortal remains of the martyr, Mohan Lal, were brought from Kashmir. Holding back tears, Navin Nautiyal, a neighbour of the Raturi family, said that the sacrifice of the soldiers like Mohan Lal Raturi should not be allowed to go in vain.

He said that the time has come to teach the terrorists and their perpetrators based in Pakistan a lesson. "Our army is capable of teaching them a deterrent lesson. It should be given a free hand to enter Pakistan. This seems to be the only way out in the grim situation," he said.

## Martyr cremated with full State honours

### Speaker, Ministers present during last rites

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

The last rites of Mohan Lal Raturi, martyred in the suicide bomb attack at Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir, were performed with full State honours at Kharkhari cremation grounds on Saturday. The mortal remains of the martyr wrapped in the Indian flag were brought through a procession from his Dehradun residence to Haridwar on Saturday morning in a CRPF vehicle. The mourners who gathered in a large number at Kharkhari sloganeered against Pakistan and demanded deterrent action against the neighbouring country.

The State Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj paid homage to the martyr. Among those present were the Assembly Speaker Prem Chand Agarwal, Cabinet Minister Madan Kaushik and Haridwar MP Ramesh Pokhariyal 'Nishank'. The last rites were performed by his eldest son Shankar Raturi amidst the ceremonial rituals.

Notably, Mohan Lal Raturi was a resident of Bankot village of Chinyalisaur of Uttarakashi



district. He was the assistant sub-inspector (ASI) in the 76th battalion of CRPF. The family of Mohan Lal comprises his wife, three daughters and two sons who are at present living at Vidhya Vihar Colony, Kargi Chowk.

Earlier, the CRPF personnel gave Guard of Honour to the martyr.

DIG CRPF, Dinesh Uniyal, said that Pakistan must be stopped by any means from engineering such terror attacks.

"No one would be spared. The perpetrators of the dastardly attack which killed so many brave jawans would be acted against," he averred.

There was profound grief as well as palpable anger hanging in the atmosphere of the cremation ground. As the funeral pyre was lit, all eyes turned moist. Many of those present raised retaliatory cry and said that such an act must be avenged in an appropriate manner.

While condoling the death with the loved ones of the martyr, Satpal Maharaj said that the whole country was standing like a rock by the bereaved and also behind the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in this hour of deep grief and crisis. "The armed forces are weighing options to teach the perpetrators lessons as the PM has given them full freedom to act in accordance with the imperative of the developing situation," he said.

## Markets shut to show solidarity

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Traders in Dehradun and other areas of the State voluntarily kept their shops and establishments closed to express solidarity with the families of the martyrs of the Pulwama terror attack on Saturday. Hindu organisations, including Bajrang Dal, had given a call for Bandh on the day to condemn the ghastly attack on the CRPF convoy on Thursday in Pulwama in which 43 soldiers had lost their lives.

The supporters of the Bandh started roaming around the markets since the morning and requested the shopkeepers to close their shops. However, at most of the places, the shopkeepers voluntarily downed the shutters.

Essential services like hospitals and schools were kept out of the purview of the shutdown. Some members of Bajrang Dal and other Hindu organisations burned an effigy of Pakistan at Dhammawala market to vent anger against the neighbouring country for aiding and abetting the terrorists. On that sad



occasion, the Bajrang Dal leaders said that the time has come when the Government instead of engaging in mere verbosity should retaliate hard.

Meanwhile, different organisations and employee associations continue to come forward to offer financial help to the families of the martyred soldiers.

On Friday, the Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat had said that all the Ministers and the MLAs would donate one month's salary for the cause.

On Saturday, the top officers of Uttarakhand police held a meeting at police

headquarters during which the attack on CRPF personnel was condemned. The meeting, chaired by the director general (DG) police Anil K Raturi, decided to raise an amount for the martyr families by mutual contribution. It was decided that 50 percent of this amount would be sent to the CRPF headquarters while the remaining amount would be handed over to the family members of two martyrs from Uttarakhand.

Similarly, the staff of the Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) Hospital decided to contribute salary of one day for the families of the martyrs.

## Martyr Virendra Singh Rana cremated at Khatima

### 'Shaheed Virendra Amar Rahe' and 'Pakistan Murdabad' rent the air

PNS ■ KHATIMA

The last rites of the constable Virendra Singh Rana, the martyr of Pulwama terrorist attack, were performed with full State and military honours at his native village in Khatima on Saturday.

A large number of people from the village and nearby areas were present when the CRPF personnel brought the mortal remains of the braveheart in a truck. The Union Minister of State for textiles Ajay Tamta participated in the last journey of the Virendra Rana as representative of the Central Government while the Uttarakhand Minister, Yashpal Arya, represented the State Government.

The last rites of Rana were performed at the crematorium

in his native village. All eyes went moist when two and half year old son of the martyr lit his funeral pyre. Slogans like 'Shaheed Virendra Amar Rahe' and 'Pakistan Murdabad' rented the heavy air during the cremation of the martyr.

The deputy inspector general (DIG) of CRPF, Pradip Chand who was present on the occasion said that the sacrifice of the CRPF personnel would not go waste.

Union Minister, Ajay Tamta, said that the killings would be avenged soon. He further said that the nation would always remember those who have laid down their lives on the altar of the nation's cause. Yashpal Arya said that the State Government is standing like a rock with the family members of the martyrs in this hour of grief.

He further reminded that the State Government has declared to provide a sum of ₹25 lakh to the family of each of the martyrs. In addition, it

would provide job to one member of the families, he added.

Local MLA Pushkar Singh Dhami, Prem Singh Rana and district magistrate Udhham Singh Nagar were among those who paid tribute to the martyr on the occasion.

**Union Minister, Ajay Tamta, said that the killings would be avenged soon. He further said that the nation would always remember those who have laid down their lives on the altar of the nation's cause**

## Tourism dept cancels programme at George Everest post-Pulwama attack

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Department of tourism has cancelled the proposed foundation stone laying ceremony of George Everest Heritage Park in Mussoorie in view of the suicide bomb attack on CRPF personnel in Kashmir and martyrdom of over 40 CRPF men.

The Asian Bank Development (ADB)-funded tourism infrastructure development and investment project was slated to be inaugurated on Sunday.

The State Culture and Tourism Minister, Satpal Maharaj, said that the programme has been postponed as mark of respect for the martyrs of Pulwama attack. He said that the heinous act of terror on CRPF men is highly condemnable. "In such a situation, when the whole country is plunged in deep sorrow, it is not proper to hold the ceremony," he said.

## Dry spell forecast in U'khand for today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State Meteorological Centre in its forecast issued on Saturday said that the climate is likely to be dry on Sunday, though the sky would be partly cloudy.

It said that there is little likelihood of rain in the State on the day despite the cloudy condition. In Dehradun too, the climate would remain dry and the sky would remain partly overcast.

While the maximum temperature would see a slight rise, the minimum would drop by a couple of notches on Sunday as compared to Saturday. Friday had seen intermittent rain throughout the day. However, the wet spell might return for a few days as per the weather forecast.

Notably, the State Meteorological Centre has issued an advisory on Friday while sending an orange-coded alert of heavy snowfall especially in the areas situated at a height of 3000 metres and above.

As per the forecast, places in districts like Uttarakashi, Chamoli, Rudrapur, Bageshwar and Pithoragarh are likely to experience heavy snowfall on February 21. The advisory further issued a yellow-coloured warning of hail which is likely to lash isolated places in Dehradun, Tehri, Pauri, Haridwar, Nanital and Udhham Singh Nagar districts from the evening or night of February 18 and it would continue till February 20.

In Dehradun, the climate was dry though the sky was clouded for some parts of the day on Saturday.

As per the weather report, the maximum and the minimum temperatures are likely to settle at 23 degree Celsius and 9 degree Celsius respectively on Sunday.

The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded at various towns of the State on Saturday were 22 degree Celsius and 11 degree Celsius in Dehradun, 23.2 degree Celsius and 13.6 degree Celsius in Pantnagar, 5 degree Celsius and -0.7 degree Celsius in Mukteshwar and 11 degree Celsius and 2.6 degree Celsius in New Tehri.

**In Dehradun, the climate was dry though the sky was clouded for some parts of the day on Saturday**

## Illegal meat shops on rise in Dehradun

MONISHA BAHUGUNA ■ DEHRADUN

Around 200 small meat shops are running in the city despite the fact that most of them do not have the mandatory licence. The result is that the stuff being sold from these shops does not get a proper 'yes' from the authority concerned. Furthermore, animals are being butchered in the local meat shops, which is also illegal. What is more, the animals as well as the butchers are not checked by the officers concerned, something which creates an issue about the health of the people who buy and consume such meat.

Sources state that all the mutton shops should have a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the police department, municipal corporation and food and safety department as per the rules revised by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). "But a majority of the shops fail to clear even the first step. Being, thus, left with no other option, the shop owners collect a 'licence' from the common service centres to run their shops illegally," said an observer.

However, the common service centre has no right to give such NOCs to any of the shops. "However, they have

made a business out of it. They are not just making and supplying NOCs but they also are making those out to open meat shops to shell out extra money which is around ₹1,000 to ₹2,000 for making such NOCs," the observer added.

Quizzed over the matter which is posing health hazards to the people aside from trashing the rules, the designated officer, Food Safety, GC Kandwal said, "As we are aware of the issue, our inspectors regularly go out on inspection and cancel the invalid NOCs. There are around 10 cases which we have slapped on such meat shop owners in the city. Things are now under process."

Speaking of the matter, an officer of the food safety department said that such common service centres are illegally granting NOCs. "Operation of such centres can be stopped as per law," he said.

Queried, the MCD chief health officer Kailash Joshi said, "The role of MCD is to take action whenever a complaint is filed with us. We check the proper sanitation of the places besides responding to the complaints filed by the people. Our team checks all these things and the shops found on the wrong side of the law are appropriately punished.

## Govt gets tough as Pvt hospitals continue strike

### Starts sealing drive of hospitals not registered under Clinical Establishments Act

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The strike of the private hospitals and clinics for the demand of an amended 'Clinical Establishments Act' continued for second

consecutive day on Saturday. Meanwhile, acting tough, the health department on the orders of the State Government has started sealing the unregistered clinics and hospitals on Saturday.

When contacted, the chief medical officer (CMO) of Dehradun, Dr S K Gupta said that the action against the unregistered hospitals would continue. He further said that a team led by A.C.M.O, Dr K K Singh and additional tehsildar, B P Jagudi has been

constituted to check the hospitals. The team went to Doon Vedanta and Trauma Centre located on EC Road in the morning and found that the hospital was unregistered following which the hospital was sealed.

Meanwhile, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) which has given a call to lock down the hospitals and the demand of the amended Act remains adamant to continue its agitation.

The general secretary of

the association Dr D D Chaudhury said that following talks with the Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, the draft of the 'Uttarakhand Healthcare Establishment Act' had been formulated and submitted. "But the State Government has been sitting on it," he said.

The association of the private medical practitioners are demanding the modified clinical establishment Act be implemented in the State at the earliest.

It is also demanding that the clinical establishments should not be forced to adopt schemes like Ayushman Bharat Yojana and Atal Ayushman Yojana against their will. The IMA has suggested that Uttarakhand Government should follow the Haryana model of the Act where all clinical establishments having less than 50 beds are exempted from the purview of the stringent provisions of the Act.

## Regional convention of journalist federation held

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Regional convention of Uttarakhand Patrakar Mahasangh (UPM) was held here on Saturday. During the convention, the members demanded that the recommendations of the Manisana Wage Board should be implemented without delay. Addressing the journalists present, the president of UPM, Nishith Saklani said that the journalists working in different newspapers face many problems which are not being attended to.

He further said that Manisana Wage Board had made many recommendations for the salary and better working conditions for the journalists. "But they have remained dumped in the cold



storage so far," he said.

The state general secretary of the federation, Sanjay Rawat, said that the journalists in the State have been facing numerous problems and the federation is committed to

raise their issues.

The convention was addressed by the State vice-president of the outfit Vivek Sharma and its Dehradun district president Sushil Chamoli among others.

## Social activist demands ban on post-poll alliances, moves SC

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Strongly objecting to the post-poll alliances with the sole objective of grabbing power by any means, social activist Sanjay Kumar has filed a petition in the Supreme Court (SC). Addressing the media persons here on Saturday, he said that his objective is to draw the public attention to the very important issue.

He said that all the political parties should go for pre-poll alliances and make the arrangements under which they have forged the alliances clear to the people. Sanjay Kumar further said

that the election commission should cancel the recognition of the political party which breaks away from the pre-poll alliance.

He added that he in his petition has requested the SC to direct the political parties to refrain from making populist promises. "These parties should also mention how and from which resources they would fulfil the promises they roll out to the people."

Besides, the funds collected by the political parties should be brought under the purview of the Right to Information (RTI)," he added.



# Rajnath reviews country's security

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday reviewed the security situation in the country, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir, in the wake of Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF jawans killed when an explosive-laden SUV hit the paramilitary convoy two days back.

During the meeting, top security officials briefed the Home Minister about the prevailing situation in the country. The officials gave a detailed account of the security situation, including along the Indo-Pak border to Singh, Home Ministry officials said.

Amid inputs of Pakistani terror groups further exploiting the situation in the backdrop of Pulwama attack, the meeting took stock of the security measures in place to foil any design of the Pak-based terrorist groups to disturb peace in Jammu and Kashmir as well as in hinterland, an official said.

The Home Minister directed the officials to ensure that all possible steps are taken to hunt down terrorists, especially the high value ones currently operating in Kashmir valley,

## PULWAMA TERROR ATTACK



Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Narendra Singh Tomar during an all-party meeting on the Pulwama terror attack at Parliament House in New Delhi on Saturday

another official said.

Those who attended the meeting include National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba and Director of Intelligence Bureau Rajiv Jain among others.

Forty CRPF personnel were killed and five injured in one of the deadliest terror attacks in Jammu & Kashmir on Thursday, by a Jaish-e-Mohammed suicide bomber in South Kashmir's

Pulwama district.

Massive protests and candlelight marches were held on Friday in different parts of the country against the attack and curfew was imposed in Jammu city following violence during demonstrations there.

Meanwhile, security of Kashmiri separatists having suspected links with Pakistani intelligence agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) will be withdrawn after an assessment by the Jammu and

**'Some elements in Jammu & Kashmir have links with the ISI and the terrorist organisations. Their security should be reviewed'**

Kashmir administration, another official said.

The security review of all such individuals linked to the ISI will be carried out following a suggestion given by the Central government, he said. The Home Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir Government will conduct the review of the security of separatists and will take a decision on withdrawal of protection, an Intelligence official said.

The State Government will do the security review of the separatists as most of them have security being provided by the Jammu & Kashmir Police. The separatists have a major role in vitiating the security environment through their vitriolic speeches and providing shelter to the jihadis besides channelling terror funds, sources said, adding the NIA is probing terror funding cases

against them. Addressing a Press conference in Srinagar on Friday, Singh had said the security given to people getting funds from Pakistan and ISI should be reviewed.

"Some elements in Jammu & Kashmir have links with the ISI and the terrorist organisations. Their security should be reviewed," he had said.

Forty CRPF personnel were killed and five others injured on Thursday in an audacious terror strike in Jammu & Kashmir when a Jaish-e-Mohammed suicide bomber rammed a vehicle carrying explosives/inflammable gas into buses of a paramilitary convoy in Pulwama district. The ill-fated bus was part of a convoy of 78 vehicles carrying the CRPF personnel from Jammu to Srinagar.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on Friday said those responsible for the attack will pay "a very heavy price" and security forces will be given a free hand to deal with the terrorists.

In a hard-hitting speech, Modi said the "blood of the people is boiling and forces behind the act of terrorism will be definitely punished".

# High Court stays CIC order to HRD Ministry to revise Bal Shree scheme

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has put on hold the operation of a Central Information Commission order directing the HRD Ministry to re-formulate the Bal Shree scheme for selecting meritorious children from among students who are members of Bal Bhavans in the country.

Justice A K Bhambani stayed the CIC November 19, 2018, direction to the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry till the next date of hearing on May 27.

The court also issued notices to the RTI applicant on whose plea the commission had passed the order and the National Bal Bhavan, which is an autonomous body under the HRD Ministry.

The order came on the ministry's plea, filed through advocate Rahul Sharma, challenging the commission's decision on the ground that the direction was issued without hearing the Government.

The Ministry, also represented by advocate C K Bhatt, contended that the commission could not have issued any



**'Lack of clarity, transparency and decision making at the district, state and national level which requires a complete revamp and reformulation of the policy'**

direction to re-formulate the scheme when the government was not even a party before the Central Information Commission (CIC).

The commission had directed the ministry to revise the scheme and place it on its website within 60 days of receipt of the order.

The CIC was of the view that there was a "lack of clarity, transparency and decision

making at the district, state and national level which requires a complete revamp and reformulation of the policy".

The commission's directions had come while hearing a parent's plea seeking information regarding the Bal Shree awards scheme and the process of conducting district-level selections for the scheme by the Hyderabad district.

According to the HRD ministry's plea, Jawaharlal Nehru in 1956 "founded the Bal Bhavan and the activities started in a tin shed at Turkman Gate, Delhi giving a start to a nationwide mission for creative enhancement of children through playing and doing different activities in a child friendly environment".

# MHA asks all States to ensure safety of people from J&K

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of isolated reports from some part of the country that students and people from Jammu & Kashmir experiencing threats and intimidation after Pulwama terror attack, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Saturday asked all the States and Union Territories to take necessary steps to ensure their safety and security.

The advisory came hours after Home Minister Rajnath Singh assured an all party meeting of doing the needful for the protection of the Kashmiri students and people who were allegedly threatened after the terrorist attack in Pulwama in which 40 CRPF jawans were killed. The advisory directs all Chief Secretaries and Director General of Police (DGP) of states and Union Territories (UT) to maintain law and order situation.

A Home Ministry official said there have been some reports of students and other residents of Jammu and Kashmir experiencing threats and intimidation. "Therefore, the Home Ministry today issued an advisory to all states/UTs to take necessary measures to ensure their safety and security," the official said.

According to reports, some students from Kashmir putting up in rented accommodations or hostels in Dehradun and Haryana have asked by landlords and administrators respectively to vacate. They have alleged of being harassed after the Pulwama attack. After the reports, authorities from Jammu and Kashmir Police have spoken to the authorities concerned in Dehradun Police. A police spokesperson said in Dehradun, that they are in touch with student representatives from Jammu and Kashmir.

In another video that has surfaced on social media,



**'The villagers have been asked to vacate Kashmiri students from the rented accommodation... In case it is not done the person in whose residence such students are living will be considered as a traitor'**

Mulana village sarpanch Naresh Rana of Ambala district in Haryana could be heard asking villagers to evict Kashmiri tenants. The village head alleged that some Kashmiri students were involved in "suspicious activities". "The villagers have been asked to vacate Kashmiri students from the rented accommodation... In case it is not done the person in whose residence such students are living will be considered as a traitor," the sarpanch is heard saying.

According to reports, half a dozen Kashmiri students have been shifted to the hostel of the Maharishi Markandeshwar Mulana University after the purported video appeared. Vishal Garg, one of the trustees of the university, located in Mulana said a few Kashmiri students of the university had requested him to provide them accommodation in the hostel. They had been provided proper accommodation, he said.

Meanwhile, Superintendent of Police Astha

Modi said the matter was being investigated. Around 1,200 Kashmiri students have been studying in various educational institutions in Ambala district while around 120 of them studying in MM Mulana University.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police said anyone from the state who is living outside and needs assistance can contact them. People on social media also posted several helpline numbers (0194-2451515).

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also requested the centre to ensure security for people from the state who are living across the country. Abdullah also met Home Minister Rajnath Singh and apprised the reports of Kashmiri students being harassed and threatened and urged to appoint a nodal officer for the same. "Just met Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh Sb to personally pay my condolences for the tragic deaths in Pulwama on Thursday. I requested him to take all steps necessary to ensure Jammu remains calm (sic). Abdullah tweeted after his 30 minutes meeting with the Home Minister.

Another former chief minister, Mehbooba Mufti, asked the Home Minister to take steps to prevent intimidation and harassment of students from Jammu and Kashmir.

# IAF carries out mega exercise at Pokhran

PTI ■ POKHRAN (RAJASTHAN)

The Indian Air Force Saturday carried out a mega exercise here involving almost all variants of its fighter jets and attack helicopters, in a fire power demonstration near the border with Pakistan.

The exercise came two days after 40 CRPF personnel were killed in a suicide attack in Kashmir's Pulwama by Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said security forces have been given full freedom to retaliate against the attack.

In the Vayu Shakti exercise, the IAF showcased fire power capability of indigenously developed platforms like Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, Advanced Light Helicopter

(ALH) and efficacy of the Akash surface-to-air missile and Astra air-to-air missile.

Fighter jets and helicopters hit targets during day and night. It was for the first time, the ALH and the Akash were deployed in a military exercise.

The IAF also deployed the upgraded MiG-29 fighter jet in an air-to-ground role during the exercise. A total of 137 aircraft including Su-30s, Mirage 2000s, Jaguars, Mig-21 Bison, Mig-27, Mig-29, IL78, Hercules, AN-32 aircraft participated.

Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat, defence attaches of several countries and top officials of defence ministry also witnessed the exercise. Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar, who is an honorary group captain of the IAF, was also present.



Smoke rises from an explosion during an air exercise named 'Vayu Shakti-2019' at Pokhran in Rajasthan on Saturday

# Didi takes out candle march against Pulwama attack

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

India was united at its hour of grief, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday said at the end of a long candle-light march organized by the ruling Trinamool Congress denouncing the terrorist attack on CRPF personnel in Pulwama in J&K.

Banerjee who led hundreds of her followers from Hazra crossing in South Kolkata to the Mahatma Gandhi statue said terror had no religion and that "we are against any kind of terrorism in any country of the world".

About 44 CRPF jawans were martyred in suicide attack launched by a terrorist of Pakistan-sponsored Jaish-e-Muhammad.

Banerjee said "this is united India," iterating, "we stand united with the families of the CRPF jawans who lost their lives in the line of duty."

Two jawans from Bengal, one from Nadia and the other from East Midnapore martyred in the attack.

A Bevy of TMCF leaders including a large number of women joined Banerjee in the march wearing black badges and covering their faces with black stripes and chanting the slogan of "vande mataram".

Banerjee had also asked her party leaders from districts to organize silent marches in the districts and block levels apparently to show solidarity with the families of the martyred jawans.

# ED creates STF to probe drug money laundering cases

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A Special Task Force (STF) has been created in the ED. The central agency that enforces the PMLA and FEMA laws in the country, to speedily probe money laundering cases emerging from illegal narcotics trade.

Officials said ED Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra has ordered for the creation of the first-ever STF in the agency and it will be headed by a special director-rank officer based at its headquarters in Delhi.

The STF team will comprise of a joint director, deputy directors and others as part of the new setup.

The force will specifically look into past and probable cases of illegal narcotics trade, drug crime syndicates and hawala transactions that have national and international links and such instances will be dealt under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said.

The agency estimates that a number of terror financing cases have their roots in the illegal trade of narcotics transport, sale, purchase and smuggling and hence it was decided to work on these cases on priority and with dedicated focus. The agency over the last one year has also obtained conviction in at least two such PMLA cases which were registered by it after taking cognisance of the predicate offence filed by the Narcotics Control

Bureau (NCB) or the police under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The scheme of the anti-money laundering law mandates that the ED cannot independently file a criminal complaint under the PMLA but has to base its FIR on a predicate offence booked by any another law enforcement agency under the IPC or other laws.

All the past cases registered under this category (narcotics and drugs) and those to be taken up in the future will be dealt by the new STF which will have authority to conduct pan-India action, by taking assistance from

Enforcement Directorate's zonal and regional offices across the country.

They said the ED is working on over two dozen such cases at present.

The central agency, that functions under the Union Finance Ministry, is empowered to enforce the PMLA and the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) in the country.

# Western disturbances to impact North-West till month end

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted western disturbances will continue to impact the hills and plains of North-West India right until the end of the month. The continued passage of these disturbances will result in precipitation over hills of North-West India and adjoining plains on almost all days into the last week of the month (February 22-28).

Western disturbance activity has been known to peak in late winter (February). Studies have shown that the western disturbances are more likely to occur during the winter than other months.

February witnessed third western disturbance this year till date. One is expected on Sunday.

These rains will be harmful for the Rabi crop. Hailstorm activity may bring quite loss for

the farmers. "Intense" disturbance is expected to check into the Western Himalayan region from Sunday and extend associated severe weather over the plains during Tuesday next to Thursday.

The hills of Western Himalayas might experience widespread rain/snow with isolated heavy to very heavy falls during this period. Adjoining plains, Central and East India would also receive rains due to the passage of this system," it said.

According to Skymet, after giving widespread rain and thundershower activities over the eastern regions of India like East Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand, the focus has now shifted over to West Bengal and Odisha.

Duo untimely rainfall and hailstorm in the past two weeks this month Moderate and heavy rainfall together with hailstorm experienced in some

regions of North India this month left wheat and other crops partly damaged even as the rabi planting data released by the Agriculture Ministry indicated a shortfall of four per cent in area as compared to the corresponding week last year. As against 643.6 lakh hectares (lh) planted in the same week previous year, the area covered during the current rabi season stood at 617.8 lh.

According to Punjab Government, the State experienced widespread moderate to heavy rainfall along with storm and some districts such as Fatehgarh Sahib, Hoshiyarpur, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Patiala, Ropar and Ferozpur reported light hailstorm that damaged some area of wheat, sarson, vegetables and rabi fodder in these districts.

Nearly 10 per cent drop in gram cultivation, reported mainly from Maharashtra, which is hit by a major drought,

has affected the overall pulses cultivation, which came to 156.3 lh, nearly six per cent lower than 166 lh in the corresponding week last year.

Winter rice, on the other hand, was down by 14 per cent mainly because of the subdued planting in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

The area covered under winter rice till this week was

less than 34 lh as compared to 39.64 lh in the same week last year.

Currently, El Nino neutral conditions are prevailing over equatorial Pacific Ocean and the latest Monsoon Mission Climate Forecast System (MMCFs) output indicates that weak El Nino conditions are likely to develop in the coming months and continue for a short period.

**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (WEST)-II**  
**D-BLOCK MOTI NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110015**  
 SHORT PRESS NIT NO:64 /WEST-II(2018-19)

S. NO.	Name of Work	TENDER COST	Earnest Money	Tender fee	Date release of tender in e-procurement Solution	Last Date /Time of receipt of tender through e-procurement Solution
1.	Improvement of sewerage system by replacing of old main peripheral sewer line by 400 MM dia AND 500 MM DIA DWG SN8 pipe from F-Block to Munshi Ram Bagh Ranjeet Nagar in AC-24 Patel Nagar Under EE (West)II. Tender ID: 2019_DJB_168806_1	2757720.00	5600.000	500.00	15.02.2019	21.02.2019 upto 3.00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <http://delhi.government.com>  
 ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
 Advt.No.J.S.V..625/2018-19

Sd/-  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (WEST-II)

**Information Technology Development Agency (I.T.D.A.)**  
 (Department of IT, Government of Haryana)  
 IT Bhawan, Plot No. IT-07, IT Park, Sahasrabhara Road, Dehradun - 248001  
 Ph: 0135-2688330, email: dir@itde-uk@nic.in

Tender Notice No. 12/TDA-488/Housekeeping/2018-2019 Dated: 17/02/2019

**E-Tender for Housekeeping Services at IT Bhawan, Sahasrabhara Road, IT Park, Dehradun**

RFP (Request for Proposal) is being issued by ITDA, Department of IT, Uttarakhand to the firms meeting the qualification criteria, for providing Housekeeping services in IT Bhawan, IT Park, Sahasrabhara Road, Dehradun. The tender document can be downloaded from [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) from 17/02/2019. The last date for submission of bid is 06:03:19 upto 14:00 hrs. The tender document fee of Rs.5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) (non-refundable) through demand draft/Banker's Cheque favouring "Director, ITDA" payable at Dehradun should be submitted along with the Bid. The parties willing to participate in the bidding will have to apply through the Electronic Tendering Procedure (e-Tendering) as per the guidelines issued by Government of Uttarakhand available on the above mentioned web site, under the link "Bidders Manual KIT". The Director, ITDA reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason.

Ref: 1401/ITDA.488/19/2019 Date: 16/02/2019 DIRECTOR

**Notice Inviting e-Tender**

No.SSA/CW/RBS-MAJULI/2018-19/489/2018/6087 Dated -14/02/2019

Mission Director, Aom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission (Samagra Siksha), Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process for construction of Residential School Building for boys at Majuli block under Majuli District from registered Contractor under A.P.W.D. (building of Class - I (A, B & C)), Assam having experience of similar nature of works.

To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 5100/- (Rupees Five thousand one hundred) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Aom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

Sd/- Mission Director,  
SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

# Trump optimistic about 2nd summit with Kim

Washington: Exuding confidence ahead of his high-profile meeting with Kim Jong-un later this month, US President Donald Trump has said the second summit will be a "very successful one" as he has established a "very good" relationship with the North Korean leader.

President Trump and Chairman Kim are scheduled to meet in Hanoi, Vietnam on February 27 and 28.

The two leaders had met on June 12 last year in Singapore for the first summit. Trump described his first-ever historic meeting with Kim as "really fantastic" and said they had agreed to sign an unspecified document after their "very positive" summit, aimed at normalising ties and complete denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

"I hope we have the same good luck as we had in the first summit.

A lot was done in the first summit. No more rockets going up. No more missiles going up. No more testing of nuclear



(weapons). Got back our remains, the remains of our great heroes from the Korean War. We got back our hostages," Trump told reporters at the White House on Friday. "We hope we are going to be very much equally as successful. I'm in no rush for speed. We just don't want testing," he said.

Noting that the sanctions against North Koreans remain in place, Trump said both China and Russia were helping the US and he was also working closely with South Korea and Japan.

"But China, Russia, on the

border, have really been at least partially living up to what they're supposed to be doing," he said.

"So we will have a meeting on the 27th and 28th of February, and I think that will be a very successful one. I look forward to seeing Chairman Kim. We have also established a very good relationship, which has never happened between him or his family and the United States. They have really taken advantage of the United States. Billions of dollars has been paid to them. And we won't let that happen," said the US President. **PTI**

# UK and Russia hold first talks in over a year

London: Junior foreign ministers from Britain and Russia met in Germany on Saturday in the highest-level contact between the two countries since an alleged nerve agent attack in Britain last March froze diplomatic relations.

Britain's Minister for Europe Alan Duncan held talks with Russia's First Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Titov on the margins of the Munich Security Conference, according to the foreign office in London.

"Alan underlined that we have deep differences, and the Russian state would need to choose a different path and act as a responsible international partner before there can be a change in our current relationship with Russia," it said in a statement.

The meeting is the first between ministers from the two countries following the poisoning of a former Russian spy in the English city of

Salisbury on March 4 which Britain has blamed on Moscow.

The attempted assassination of Sergei Skripal, which Britain said was done using a Soviet era nerve agent Novichok, plunged relations to their lowest ebb in decades.

The attack killed a British woman who came into contact with the Novichok, as well as injuring several others including a policeman.

Among a raft of responses, London suspended all planned high-level bilateral contacts between the two countries, and cancelled ministers and members of the royal family attending last summer's World Cup in Russia.

"(The) minister reiterated the UK's and Allies' firm stance in response to the Russian state's reckless use of chemical weapons in Salisbury," the foreign office added in its statement. **AFP**

# Iran says Pakistan backs suicide bombers, ahead of victims' funeral

Isfahan (Iran): Iran's Revolutionary Guards accused "Pakistan's security forces" of supporting the perpetrators of a suicide bombing that killed 27 troops on Wednesday, in remarks state TV aired Saturday hours before their funeral was held.

"Pakistan's government, who has housed these anti-revolutionaries and threats to Islam, knows where they are and they are supported by Pakistan's security forces," said Revolutionary Commander Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari, referring to jihadist group Jaish al-Adl ("Army of Justice").

"If (the Pakistan government) does not punish them, we will retaliate against this anti-revolutionary force, and whatever Pakistan sees will be the consequence of its support for them," he warned.

His comments came ahead of a planned two-day visit to Pakistan — due to begin on Sunday — by Mohammed bin Salman, the crown prince of Iran's regional arch-rival Saudi Arabia.

The general made the remarks in Isfahan City on Friday evening during a farewell ceremony held for those killed.

Jaish al-Adl was formed in 2012 as a successor to the Sunni extremist group Jundallah (Soldiers of God), which waged a deadly insurgency for a decade before it was severely weakened by the capture and execution of its leader Abdolmalek Rigi by Tehran in 2010.

The Wednesday bombing

targeted a busload of Revolutionary Guards in the volatile southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan, which straddles the border with Pakistan.

The attack was one of the deadliest on Iranian security forces in recent years and came just days after Iran held more than a week of celebrations for the 40th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, which overthrew the US-backed shah.

Jafari also blasted "the support that the region's reactionary states Saudi Arabia and the Emiratis maintain for 'conspiracies' that he said were ordered by Israel and America. "We will certainly follow retaliatory measures," he added, without elaborating.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has linked the perpetrators of the attack to "the spying agencies of some regional and trans-regional countries".

Isfahan's major streets were covered with black flags attached to lamp-posts as the city prepared for the funeral and two days of mourning.

Vans fixed with loudspeakers cruised streets, inviting people to attend the ceremony.

"Honourable people of Isfahan, we invite you to attend the funeral of 27 of your brave sons, the martyrs of the homeland's security", the speakers blared, according to an AFP reporter.

The troops killed in the bombing belonged to the Guards' 14th Imam Hussein Division based in Isfahan

province, according to Tasnim news agency. Aged from 21 to 52, each will be buried in his hometown after the funeral in Isfahan city.

The assault came as the troops were returning from a border patrol mission on a personnel bus near Zahedan.

Of the 13 wounded in the attack two are in the intensive care unit of an Isfahan hospital. Sistan-Baluchistan has long been a flashpoint, where Pakistan-based Baluchi separatists and jihadists carry out cross-border raids.

A Revolutionary Guard was killed and five wounded in a February 2 attack claimed by Jaish al-Adl on a base of the Basij militia in the town of Nikshahr, some way from the border.

One of the wounded — Khodarahm Heidari, who was critically wounded in that attack — passed away on Saturday, semi-official news agency ISNA reported.

On January 29 three members of an Iranian bomb squad sent to the scene of an explosion in the provincial capital Zahedan were wounded when a second device blew up as they were trying to defuse it, police said at the time.

And in early December two people were killed and around 40 others wounded in the port city of Chabahar, also in Sistan-Baluchistan, in an attack which Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif blamed on "foreign-backed terrorists" — a reference to Sunni Muslim extremists. **AFP**

# US pullout from Syria risks boosting Russia, Iran influence: Merkel

Munich: German Chancellor Angela Merkel warned on Saturday that Washington's plan to swiftly pull its soldiers out of Syria risks allowing Russia and Iran to boost their role in the region.

Islamic State group fighters have been boxed in to a scrap of land in the battle for their last remaining territory in northeastern Syria and their final defeat is expected imminently.

Once they are defeated, US forces are set to soon withdraw after President Donald Trump in December announced the pullout of around 2,000 troops.

Washington says it will maintain a presence in the region, with Vice-President Mike Pence pledging to carry



on the fight. "The United States will continue to work with all our allies to hunt down the remnants of ISIS wherever and whenever they rear their ugly heads," Pence said, using another name for the jihadists. But Washington is struggling to convince allies to stay on in Syria after it leaves and Merkel warned of the risks of leaving a vacuum in the region.

"It is a good idea for the Americans to suddenly and quickly withdraw from Syria? Or will it once more strengthen the capacity of Iran and

Russia to exert their influence?" Merkel said at the Munich Security Conference.

Pentagon chief Patrick Shanahan on Friday pledged ongoing backing for the fight against IS — but kept allies guessing as to how that would be achieved once US forces pull out.

Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders said the US had told partners in the global anti-ISIS coalition that its soldiers would leave in "weeks rather than months".

The decision has stunned allies including France, which contributes artillery and about 1,200 troops in the region, including soldiers who train Iraqi forces.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian asked why

the US would create a vacuum in Syria that could benefit its enemy Iran, calling the approach a "mystery".

And the US has won no solid pledges of support for a proposed observer force to stay on in northeast Syria when the US pulls out to ensure the safety of Syrian Kurdish fighters.

A French government source criticised the Trump administration's approach to the withdrawal as "we're leaving, you're staying".

"They're trying to manage the consequences of a hasty decision and making us carry the responsibility," the source said, adding that coalition members were united in rejecting the idea of staying on in Syria when the US leaves. **AFP**

# Distrust of int'l organisations may be behind Brexit

London: The UK referendum vote to leave the European Union (EU) may have been driven by people's distrust of international organisations, alongside the fear of immigration, a study has found.

Researchers from the University of Kent in the UK found that Euroscepticism is not only shaped by attitudes towards immigration and feelings of national identity but also by opposition towards UK involvement in transnational organisations such as the EU.

Supranationalism is defined as the transfer of power from the national to the supranational level, leading to increased dependence on foreign political partners and increased social and cultural exchange.

The team considered study respondents' ideological predispositions, particularly preferences for cultural traditions and loyalty to national authority and a desire for group-based dominance and hierarchy in society to see whether these predicted negative attitudes towards international institu-



tions. They found that people with higher levels of both these characteristics in their ideological outlook were less supportive of supranationalism, and found it more important that the UK "takes back control".

This manifested itself in a preference for 'prioritising control' in any post-Brexit scenario among those with a negative attitude towards the concept of supranationalism.

This included 'bringing back control of our laws to Parliament' and 'bringing back control of decisions over immigration to the UK'.

Another indicator was age, with older respondents also more likely to have a negative attitude towards the concept of supranationalism. **PTI**

# Erdogan says won't go back on S-400 deal with Russia

Ankara: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey would not "turn back" on a deal with Moscow to buy Russian S-400 missile defence systems in comments published on Saturday.

Turkey's push to buy the systems has raised questions among NATO allies over their compatibility with alliance equipment as well as concerns over the burgeoning relationship between Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"We agreed a deal with Russia on the S-400, so for us to turn back from the deal is out of the question. This is a done deal," Erdogan said, quoted by CNN Turk broadcaster.

The United States in December approved the sale of \$3.5 billion in missiles to Turkey, which followed Washington anger over Turkey's intention to buy Russian systems.

Turkey was "open" to buying US Patriot missiles, Erdogan told Turkish journalists on board his plane from the southern Russian city of Sochi after a three-way summit on Syria with his Russian and Iranian counterparts. **AFP**

# Drug 'godfathers' surrender to B'desh police

Teknaf (Bangladesh): Some 102 Bangladeshi meth dealers have surrendered to authorities at a pre-scheduled ceremony in a coastal town, officials said on Saturday, as a Philippines-style anti-narcotics crackdown sows fear among kingpins.

Bangladesh last year launched a "war" on drugs following a proliferation of illegal substances in the South Asian nation of 165 million people, mostly of cheap methamphetamine pills known as "yaba".

Police said 24 yaba "godfathers", as well as lieutenants and peddlers, surrendered to the country's home minister in Teknaf town — the key gateway for smuggling yaba into the country from Myanmar, where the pills are manufactured by the millions.

The dealers also surrendered 350,000 vanilla-scented, small red yaba pills — whose name comes from a Thai word meaning "crazy medicine" — and 30 illegal firearms. The country's police chief

Mohammad Javed Patwary said authorities would advocate for lesser prison sentences for those who had surrendered, and would "assist" them in returning to normal life.

But he promised "harsh upcoming days" for those who had stayed away.

"Those who are in hiding, don't get carried away. You'll not be spared," he told the mass gathering of several thousand locals who came to witness the event.

Teknaf is situated in Cox's Bazar district — home to around a million Rohingya refugees — bordering Myanmar. Cox's Bazar is flooded with yaba, with many of the Rohingyas refugees used as "mules" for carrying the pills.

The pills have become an easy source of income for the Rohingyas, some 740,000 of whom have poured across the border since Myanmar launched a military crackdown in August 2017 that the UN has described as ethnic cleansing. **AFP**

# Germany seeks ban on gay conversion therapies

Berlin: German Health Minister Jens Spahn said on Friday he will seek to ban conversion therapies that claim to change sexual orientation.

"Homosexuality is not an illness, which is why it does not need to be treated," Spahn, who is gay himself, told the Berlin daily left-leaning daily Die Tageszeitung (taz).

He hoped that a German law banning such therapies could be adopted by the middle of the year.

Conversion therapies have spread in the United States and have been used by parents of homosexual or transgender adolescents against their will.

Some techniques involve injections of large doses of testosterone, while others apply electric shocks to people as they



view images of homosexual acts.

"I do not believe in these therapies, mainly owing to my own homosexuality," said Spahn, who represents the right wing of Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative CDU party.

The health minister is counting on support from his colleagues if and when a vote is taken.

"I cannot imagine there is a partisan of conversion therapies in my parliamentary group," he said.

Within the European

Union, only Malta and some Spanish regions have banned the practices outright.

In March 2018, a large majority of European Parliament deputies nonetheless adopted a non-binding text that called on member states to outlaw them. **AFP**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform the General Public that (1) Smt. Ritu Pawar, (2) Shri Deepak Pawar & (3) Shri Rajeev Pawar, are the only legal heir of Late Sh. Hoshiyar Singh Pawar S/o Sh. Mohan Ramji and Late Smt. Leelawati W/o Sh. Hoshiyar Singh Pawar (previously owned Flat No. 184, Bhagya Laxmi Apts., Sec-9, Rohini, Delhi-85) and it is notified any person have any claim whatsoever be lodged within 15 days to the appropriate authority, failing which, shall not be binding on our client. Sd/- R. K. Bansal (Advocate) Ph. 9811110501

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Information is given to general public at large that my client DCB Bank Limited, having address 3rd Floor, 756, Dush Bardiya Gupta Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 is inclined to grant Loan facility against the Property bearing No. X/2555, Plot No. 02, having area measuring 38.79 Sq. Mtrs. (44 Sq. Yds.) + 36.79 Sq. Mtrs. (44 Sq. Yds.) = 75.58 Sq. Yds. (i.e. 88 Sq. Yds.) alongwith all right to construction upto the last story, Out of Khassa No. 200, Gali No-8, situated in the area of Village Seelampur, in the abode of Raghupurana No. 2, Cashti Nagar, New Delhi-110031 and property to Sh. Ravinder Khater & Sh. Rajat Khater in the Firm M/s Chess Creation and M/s Ravi Fashion. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 15 days from the date of this notice on the number mentioned herein below, failing which my client i.e., DCB Bank Ltd., shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever. Navneen Kumar Verma (Advocate) 9958871432 & 01204231432 thelawport@gmail.com

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is notified for the information of General Public that my client Vimal Chandra Boro S/o Late R. C. Boro R/o J-14143, DDA Flats, Kalkaji, South Delhi, New Delhi-110019 aged 58 years, has deceased and his name namely Ajay Boro alias Kunshal Chandra age 37 years and his wife namely Komal Chandra, from all his movable and immovable assets and properties and have severed all his relations with them and they are disobedience and are working against and beyond the control of my client. In case, any person deals with them in any matter of taking or giving money shall have his/her sole responsibilities and own risk, my client shall not be held liable for any act civil or criminal of his son Ajay Boro alias Kunshal Chandra and his wife Komal Chandra. My client has severed them from his all properties immovable and movable henceforth. Vinay Kumar Bhargava (Advocate) Chamber no 445 Dwarika District Court New Delhi Mob: 9310428341

**Notice Inviting e-Tender**  
No.SSA/CW/KGBV-AUG/2018-19/490/2018/6088 Dated -14/02/2019 Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission (Samagra Siksha), Kahlilpara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process for augmentation of infrastructure (RCC G+1) 19 nos. of KGBV Building of Baksa, Barpeta, Charideo, Darrang, Dhemaaji, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Kamrup-Rural, Lakhimpur, Sonitpur, Tinsukia and Udalguri from registered Contractor under A.P.W.D. (building) of Class - I (A,B & C), Assam having experience of similar nature of works. To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal https://assamtenders.gov.in by themselves. The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website https://assamtenders.gov.in, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 3000/- (Rupees Three thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahlilpara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule. Sd/- Mission Director, SSA, Assam, Kahlilpara, Guwahati-19

**DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE No.22/CE(SZ)/DDA/2018-19 PART III  
On-line item/Percentage rates tenders are invited by Executive Engineers, SWD-4, ED-7/SZ, ELD-6 DDA, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070, SWD-5, DDA, Sarita Vihar New Delhi-110076 on behalf of DDA from the approved & eligible contractors. Date of uploading of tender along with Schedule of quantity is on or before 21.02.2019. Last date of downloading/submission of tenders is 28.02.2019 up to 3.00 PM.

- NIT No. 38/EE/SWD-4/DDA/2018-19. Name of Work: M/o completed scheme under Nazul A/c-II/South Zone. SH: Maintenance distemping, painting and repairing in staff qtr at Sector-D, Pkt.6, Vasant Kunj. Estimated Cost: ₹ 10,41,200/-, Earnest Money: ₹ 20,824/-, Time Allowed: 365 (Three Hundred and Sixty Five) Days.
- NIT No. 39/EE/SWD-4/DDA/2018-19. Name of Work: D/o Aravali Bio Diversity Park at Vasant Vihar. SH: Repair of nurseries with fencing, leveling and dressing of malba at Aravali Bio Diversity Park. Estimated Cost: ₹ 18,25,735/-, Earnest Money: ₹ 36,515/-, Time Allowed: 75 (Seventy Five) Days.
- NIT No. 40/EE/SWD-4/DDA/2018-19. Name of Work: M/o completed scheme under Nazul A/c-II/South Zone. SH: Repair and raising of boundary wall at Nagal Dewat. Estimated Cost: ₹ 16, 26, 708/-, Earnest Money: ₹ 32, 534/-, Time Allowed: 40 (Forty) Days.
- NIT No. 41/EE/SWD-4/DDA/2018-19. Name of Work: M/o completed scheme under Nazul A/c-II/South Zone. SH: P/F floor tiles and other misc. work at Community Hall C-8, Vasant Kunj. Estimated Cost: ₹ 9,47,085/-, Earnest Money: ₹ 18,942/-, Time Allowed: 30 (Thirty) Days.
- NIT No. 11/EE/ELD-6/DDA/NIT/2018-19. Name of Work: Up Gradation of Common Area of Community Centre, Basant Lok, Vasant Vihar under Nazul A/c-II. SH: S.I.T.C of pump sets for Firefighting System. Estimated Cost: ₹ 18,19,460/-, Earnest Money: ₹ 36, 389/-, Time Allowed: 60 (Sixty) Days. (Specialized Work)
- NIT No. 12/EE/ELD-6/DDA/NIT/2018-19. Name of Work: Up Gradation of Common Area of Community Centre, Basant Lok, Vasant Vihar under Nazul A/c-II. SH: Supply & Installation of P.A./Sound System in Basant Lok. Estimated Cost: ₹ 10,67,851/-, Earnest Money: ₹ 21,357/-, Time Allowed: 60 (Sixty) Days. (Specialized Work)
- NIT No. 13/EE/ELD-6/DDA/NIT/2018-19. Name of Work: Up Gradation of Common Area of Community Centre, Basant Lok, Vasant Vihar under Nazul A/c-II. SH: Supply & Installation of CCTV Camera (Surveillance) System in Basant Lok. Estimated Cost: ₹ 10,70,391/-, Earnest Money: ₹ 21,408/-, Time Allowed: 60 (Sixty) Days. (Specialized Work)
- NIT No. 10/EE/SWD-5/DDA/2018-19. Name of Work: D/o Biodiversity Park at Tilpath Valley. SH: Supply of S.T.P. treated water through tankers from STP Mehrauli for Plantation at Tilpath Valley Biodiversity Park. Estimated Cost: ₹ 21,26,597/-, Earnest Money: ₹ 42,532/-, Time Allowed: 180 (One Hundred and Eighty) Days. (Re-Invited)
- NIT No. 11/EE/SWD-5/DDA/2018-19. Name of Work: Acquisition/Protection of DDA Land. SH: To carry out T.S.S of various plots/lands under the jurisdiction of SWD-5/DDA. Estimated Cost: ₹ 15,16,100/-, Earnest Money: ₹ 30,322/-, Time Allowed: 180 (One Hundred and Eighty) Days. (Specialized work) (Re-Invited)
- NIT No. 26/EE/ED-7/SZ/DDA/2018-19. Name of Work: Development of Bio-diversity Park Tughlkabad. SH: Deployment of security guard for watch and ward in the premises of the Bio-diversity park at Tughlkabad for 35 hect. area. Estimated Cost: ₹ 14,67,738/-, Earnest Money: ₹ 29,355/-, Time Allowed: 365 (Three Hundred and Sixty Five) Days. (Specialized work) (Re-Invited) (Deposit Work)
- NIT No. 35/EE/ED-7/SZ/DDA/2018-19. Name of Work: Protection of DDA Land at South zone. SH: Total Station survey of Bio-diversity park at Tughlkabad & other locations as required. Estimated Cost: ₹ 13,55,900/-, Earnest Money: ₹ 27,118/-, Time Allowed: 30 (Thirty) Days. (Specialized Work)

For details, please visit the website https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app or www.dda.org.in. For technical assistance regarding portal during uploading of tender: ccpp-nic@nic.in or 24x7 helpline number 0120-4001002, 0120-4001005 and 0120-4200462.

Please give your feedback on DDA apps at   
Please Visit DDA's Website at www.dda.org.in or Dial : 1800110332

# Govt hikes import duty on Pak goods to 200%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Taking strong economic action against Pakistan following the Pulwama terror attack, India Saturday raised the customs duty to 200 per cent on all goods imported from the neighbouring country, including fresh fruits, cement, petroleum products and mineral ore.

The decision would significantly hit Pakistan's exports to India, which stood at USD 488.5 million (around Rs 3,482.3 crore) in 2017-18 as it would drastically increase the prices of its goods here.

"India has withdrawn MFN (most favoured nation) status to Pakistan after the Pulwama incident. Upon withdrawal, basic customs duty on all goods exported from Pakistan to India has been raised to 200 per cent with immediate effect," Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said in a tweet.

The two main items imported from Pakistan are fruits and cement, on which the current customs duty is 30-50 per cent and 7.5 per cent, respectively.

Slapping an import duty of 200 per cent effectively means almost banning the imports from Pakistan, official sources said. India on Friday revoked the MFN status to Pakistan in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack. The country invoked a security exception clause of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to withdraw this status. Both the countries are member of this organisation.

India can also restrict trade of certain goods and impose port-related restrictions on Pakistani goods.

Items which Pakistan exports to India include fresh fruits, cement, petroleum prod-



## SLAPPING AN IMPORT DUTY OF 200 PER CENT EFFECTIVELY MEANS ALMOST BANNING THE IMPORTS FROM PAKISTAN, OFFICIAL SOURCES SAID

ucts, bulk minerals and ores, finished leather, processed minerals, inorganic chemicals, cotton raw, spices, wool, rubber product, alcoholic beverages, medical instruments, marine goods, plastic, dyes and sport goods.

India granted the MFN status to Pakistan way back in 1996, but the neighbouring country had not reciprocated.

Under the MFN pact, a WTO member country is obliged to treat the other trading nation in a non-discriminatory manner, especially with regard to customs duty and

other levies.

In 2012, Pakistan had committed to giving the MFN status to India but retracted later due to domestic opposition. Instead of MFN, Pakistan said it was working on granting Non-Discriminatory Market Access (NDMA) status to India but that also was not announced.

Total India-Pakistan trade has increased marginally to USD 2.41 billion in 2017-18 as against USD 2.27 billion in 2016-17. India imported goods worth USD 488.5 million in 2017-18 and exported goods worth USD 1.92 billion.

During April-October 2018-19, India's exports to Pakistan stood at USD 1.18 billion, while imports were USD 338.66 billion.

India mainly exports raw cotton, cotton yarn, chemicals, plastics, manmade yarn and dyes to Pakistan.

At least 40 CRPF personnel were killed and five injured on Thursday in one of the deadliest terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir when a Jaish-e-Mohammad suicide bomber rammed a vehicle carrying over 100 kgs of explosives into their bus in Pulwama district.

# Brickwork Ratings lowers rating of Reliance Capital

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Capital Saturday said Brickwork Ratings has revised downward the rating to AA for the company's long-term debt programme, market-linked debentures and subordinated debt, primarily due to delay in monetising the non-core investments.

The company remains confident to be able to monetise some of these assets over the next two quarters and bring down the debt significantly, Reliance Capital said in a filing to stock exchanges.

The rating continues to factor RCap's experienced management, well-diversified and growing business profile of companies (subsidiaries and

Shares of Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group's three listed companies, including Reliance Capital, witnessed a sharp decline last week following sale of pledged shares by L&T Finance and Edelweiss Group

associates) in the financial services segment, it said.

Shares of Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group's three listed companies, including Reliance Capital, witnessed a sharp decline last week following sale of pledged shares by L&T Finance and Edelweiss Group. Lenders said that Reliance

Group failed to make timely payments leading to sale of pledged shares.

In a separate filing, Reliance Infrastructure Saturday said Brickwork Ratings has moved the rating of the company to 'Issuer not Cooperating; BWR C' category due to non-submission of required information for the review.

"BWR has moved the rating of Reliance Infrastructure Ltd to the 'Issuer not Cooperating; BWR C' category from 'BWR C' due to non-submission of required information for the review even after consistent follow up with the company," Reliance Infrastructure said in a BSE filing.

# Govt introduces electronic tracking system for Nepal-bound cargos

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

India has introduced a new trans-shipment procedure using an electronic tracking system to facilitate the transport of Nepal-bound transit cargos from Kolkata, a significant move that will simplify border formalities, reduce transit time, ensure safety of the consignments and boost bilateral trade.

The Electronic Cargo Tracking System (ECTS) was introduced by the Central Board of Indirect Tax and Customs on Friday, according to a statement issued by the Indian embassy in Kathmandu.

This is a significant step towards automating customs transit facilitation between the two countries and renews the commitment of government of India to improve the transit

facilities for Nepalese trade, it said.

This modality has been introduced on a pilot basis on rail routes from Kolkata/Haldia to Birgunj via Raxaul LCS and Biratnagar via Bathnaha Railway Station and Jogbani LCS, it added.

"Under the new mechanism, the need for Nepalese traders to seek permission and file transit declaration is done away with," the embassy said.

The ECTS offers the facility of sealing the containers using high security electronic seals, having tracking functionality embedded in them.

This new modality would immensely benefit Nepalese traders as it would ensure safe and secure transit, simplified border formalities, reduction in transit time and transaction cost and improved shipment visibility, the statement said.

# ICAI withdraws announcement on auditor rotation after Govt directive

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chartered accountants' apex body ICAI has withdrawn an announcement regarding applicability of rotation of auditors to companies, following a directive from the corporate affairs ministry.

In a rare instance, the ministry told the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) to "immediately withdraw" the announcement and also provide reasons for making such an announcement, according to a letter.

On January 29, the ICAI issued a clarification on applicability of rotation of auditors under the Companies Act, 2013.

Under the Act, implemented by the ministry, certain class of companies are required to rotate their auditors and there is also a cooling off period to be followed by the auditors.

In a communication on Friday, the ICAI said announcement regarding clarification on applicability of rotation of auditors issued on January 29 has been withdrawn.

"The Corporate Laws & Corporate Governance Committee had issued the announcement regarding clarification on the applicability of rotation principles on a company as per Section 139 of the Companies Act 2013 where the

## Business Corner

**EVENT ON TRENDS IN MATERIALS MANAGEMENT HELD**  
BMaterials Management is vital to an organisation's growth. Present and future requirements needed for achieving targets should be planned in advance and Materials should be managed to meet the final goals," Shri. AP Panda, CMD SECL said in the Central Regional Conference on the theme of 'Emerging Trends in Materials Management' held at Bilaspur on the 16th February, 2019. The single day conference was organised by Bilaspur Chapter of Indian Institute of Materials Management at the Courtyard Marriott, Bilaspur. Growing economy and rising customer expectations have mandated quality and speed in final delivery of the product. This largely depends on the materials needed for the process of production.



# PRCI confers excellence award 2019 at Jaipur

PNS ■ JAIPUR

The 13th Global Communication Conclave, organised by PRCI, at Manipal University Auditorium in Jaipur on Saturday, saw the presence of over 200 Media, Public Relations, Advertising, HR & Marketing professionals from India and abroad.

Amid such an august gathering, VK Kalra, a public relations and media specialist, who has contributed to the Indian Media Industry for over 30 years, was conferred with the PRCI Signature Award — The Chanakya Award — by the Public Relations Council Of India (PRCI). With a rich experience in the field of

Corporate Communication, including Public Relations, media and advertising, Mr Kalra had made valuable contributions in image building of leading Corporates like BHEL and NTPC -BHEL Power Projects Pvt Ltd (a joint venture of NTPC and BHEL).

Currently, he is voluntarily associated with the Public Relations activities of Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG), which is an Indian affiliate of Soka Gakkai International (SGI); a global association of grassroots organisations that seek to promote the values of peace and respect for all people. Mr Kalra draws his inspiration from his mentor, Dr Daisaku Ikeda, president of SGI.



Sunil Arora Chief Election Commissioner, presents the PRCI Excellence Award, 2019, to PR Professional VK Kalra at the PRCI Global Conclave at Manipal University in Jaipur. Pioneer photo

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Be it known to all that M/s Angelina Infratech Private Limited (CIN U70109DL2018PTC290086), having its registered address at Unit No 117 Plot No H-6, 1st Floor Center Wazirpur Neta Ji Subhash Place Pitampura Delhi 110034 entered in an Agreement to sell with us and paid us only the part payment of Rs. 1,71,70,000/- (Rupees One Crore Seventy One Lacs Seventy Thousand only) against the total sale consideration, despite our demand notice having sent to them through registered post. The said Company had undertaken and agreed in the agreement that the timely payment of the sale consideration and allied charges was the pre-condition and essence of the said agreement; and that in the event of breach thereof, we shall be entitled to cancel the sale and forfeit the entire amount paid by the said Company. Thus, the said Company committed the breach of terms of payment, which were the only material terms that were the very pre-condition and essence of the Agreement. Under the circumstances, we were constrained to cancel/terminate the said Agreement to Sell and forfeit the amount paid by the said Company. Consequently, the said Company is left with no right or interest in the subject property, and we are free to deal with the same in any manner. We have already communicated the said Company through our email dated 10.01.2018 sent on the email id (sagarsingh@gmail.com) available on the master data of the said Company on the website of http://www.mca.gov.in and also sent them registered letter dated 10.01.2018 in this regard. We have also posted a letter dated 12.02.2019 to this effect on the premises of the said Company's registered office address available on the website of http://www.mca.gov.in. We have also intimated the Registrar of Companies in this regard.  
Curo India Private Limited  
K-28, Green Park Extension, New Delhi-110016

**AXIS BANK**  
Retail Asset Centre, Delhi: Lower Ground Floor and Upper Ground Floor, Himalaya House, K.G. Marg, Delhi-110001. Also at Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, F-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee City Centre, Noida (U.P.)-201301, Retail Asset Centre, Ghaziabad: BF-1A,2,3, 1st Floor, Aditya City Centre, W/1 Khand-1, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad-201012.  
**POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002**  
Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates:  
The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd.  
The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.  

Name of Borrower / Co-borrower	Description of Property	Date of Demand Notice
1. Mr. Monish Paul S/O Kishan Chand Paul R/O Flat No 201 2nd Floor Tower T-15 Park Floors BPTP Sec 78 Faridabad Haryana 121003 Also At: Mr. Monish Paul S/O Kishan Chand Paul R/O 101 Pace City-1 Sector-37 Gurgaon Haryana-122001 Also At: Mr. Monish Paul S/O Kishan Chand Paul House No. 2460, G.F., Sector-16, Faridabad-121001, Haryana Also At: Mr. Monish Paul S/O Kishan Chand Paul 9465 Aggarwal Farm, Mansarovar, Jaspur-302001, Rajasthan	IMMOVABLE ASSET - Fully finished Flat No. 115-201 on Second Floor of Tower 15, having a super area of 1225 Sq. Ft. (113,805 Sq. Mtrs.) situated in Group Housing Project known as Park Floors, Sector-78, Faridabad Haryana, along with the proportionate, undivided, impartible share only in the land underneath the said building in which the said unit is located, together with the right to use and access all common areas, paths, passages, benefits, and advantages, appurtenant whatsoever to the said unit or any part thereof and to hold the same unto and to the use of the Vendee Situated within the revenue estate of Village Fajipur Majra, Ninkla, Sub Tehsil Tiagaon, Dist. Faridabad and bounded as under: East: As Per Title Deed West: As Per Title Deed, North: As Per Title Deed, South: As Per Title Deed	1. 5-Sep-18 2. 13-Feb-19 3. Rs. 3,795,424/- Interest, incidental expenses and cost
2. Mr. Rajender Kumar S/O Mr. Budh Ram R/O House No- 2619, Azad Nagar, Magesar, Sector-24, Faridabad-121004 Haryana		

The above-mentioned Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) are hereby given a 30 days' Notice to repay the amount, also the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.  
Date: 17-02-2019  
Place: Delhi  
Sd/-  
Authorized Officer,  
Axis Bank Ltd.,

# Apollo Hospital offers to treat free injured CRPF troopers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leading private hospital Apollo on Friday offered to treat free injured troopers of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) who survived the terror blast near Awantipora in Kashmir on Thursday.

"We offer to treat the CRPF troopers injured in the terror attack till recovery and rehabilitation at any of our hospitals across the country," said Apollo Hospitals Chairman Prathap Reddy in a statement here.

# HCSL begins construction of new yard

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Moving ahead with revival Hooghly Dock & Port Engineers Ltd, the Hooghly Cochin Shipyard Limited (HCSL) Saturday kicked-off the construction of a new yard at Nazirgunge dock.

"The ground-breaking ceremony of the construction of the new yard at HCSL was performed by Cochin Shipyard Ltd CMD Madhu S Nair at Nazirgunge dock in the presence of KoPT chairman, Vinit Kumar and deputy chairman of KoPT S Balaji Arunkumar," a statement said.

# Tech Mahindra board to meet on Feb 21

New Delhi: IT firm Tech Mahindra on Saturday said its board will meet on February 21 to consider a share buyback proposal. However, the company did not disclose any other details of the proposal.

"...The Board of Directors of the company at their meeting scheduled on Thursday, February 21, 2019 shall inter-alia consider a proposal to buy-back the fully paid-up equity shares of the company," Tech Mahindra said.

# PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF PERSON ACCUSED

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Gopal Krishan Narang @ Sonu Narang, R/o (1) 14/104, Geeta Colony, Delhi, (2) 07/176, Geeta Colony, Delhi, (3) D-15, Rani Garden, Geeta Colony, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the Offence FIR No. 287/18 dated 14.06.2018 u/s 420/468/471/120B/34 IPC at PS. Harsh Vihar, Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Gopal Krishan Narang @ Sonu Narang cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Gopal Krishan Narang @ Sonu Narang has absconded (or is concealing himself) to avoid the service of the said warrant. Proclamation u/s 82 Cr.Pc is hereby made that the said Gopal Krishan Narang @ Sonu Narang accused of FIR No. 287/18 dated 14.06.2018 u/s 420/468/471/120B/34 IPC is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 20.03.2019.  
By Order  
Sh. Prayank Nayak  
Metropolitan Magistrate-2  
Room No. 316, Shahdara, Karkardooma Court, Delhi

**UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.**  
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)  
Corporate Identity No. UA40109UP2001SGC025867/2358  
Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwal Road, Dehradun  
Tel. No.: 0135-2763672-75 Ext.: 170, 250 Fax: 0135-2761869  
**Notice Inviting e-Tender**  
(Tender Identification No: 07/IT/UPCL/2018-19 date: 15.02.2019)  
Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited, Dehradun invites tender from eligible bidders for "Support of UPCL legacy application (Payroll/FAS/MMS/GPF/EPF) originally developed by M/s Deloitte for a period of 4 months".  
The references for the tender are given below:-  

Tender Identification No.	07/IT/UPCL/2018-19 date: 15.02.2019
Cost of Tender Document (Tender Fee)	₹1,180,000 (1,00,000 + 180,000) inclusive of GST @ 18%
Earnest Money Deposit/ Bid Security	₹51,000.00 (Rupees Fifty One Thousand only)
Last Date & Time of online request for tender and submission of tender in online & offline mode	5th March, 2019 upto 11:00 hrs.
Due Date of Opening of Technical Bid	5th March, 2019 at 16:30 hrs.
Due Date of Opening of Financial Bid	To be notified later

Detailed document, eligibility criteria and prescribed format for submission of bids would be available on websites <https://uktender.gov.in> and [www.upcl.org](http://www.upcl.org) from 16th February, 2019 onwards. In case any of the above date, is a holiday, the due date shall be the next working day at the same time. Any amendment/corrigendum in the future against the above mentioned tender shall be uploaded at <https://uktender.gov.in> and [www.upcl.org](http://www.upcl.org) only.  
Superintending Engineer, (IT & SCADA)  
No. : 89 / EE(CM) / UPCL / A-2 Date : 15.02.2019  
"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" Use L.E.D. Bulb to save Electricity.  
(Toll Free No. 1912) Pay Electricity Bill Online 24 x 7 from [www.upcl.org](http://www.upcl.org) (For information on Electricity theft, informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 180 4185/Fax No. 0135-2760911)

# SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that this girl (depicted in the photo) namely: **Harshita @ Harshu, D/o Brijmohan, R/o D-82, JJ Colony Inder Puri, New Delhi**, has been missing/kidnapped since 16.12.2018. In this regard DD No. 14-A Dated 17.12.2018 has been lodged at PS Inderpuri, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far.  
Her physical description is as under:-  
**Sex: Female, Age: 20 years, Height: 5'3" ft., Complexion: Fair, Face: Oval, Built: Medium, Wearing: White Colour T-Shirt & Dark Mungiya Colour Pajama and Cream Colour Plastic Chappale in feet.**  
Any person is having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following:-  
**SHO Website: http://cbi.nic.in P.S. Inderpuri, Delhi E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in Ph. No.- 011-25832201 Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mob. No. - 8750871123 Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/8105/WD/19**

# PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Komal W/o Anuj Sinha R/o H. No. 475, Pkt.-1, Sec.-A/6, Narela, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under **FIR No. 404/17 u/s 420 IPC & 6 PNDT Act** has been registered at **P.S. Narela, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Komal** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Komal** has absconded (or is concealing herself) to avoid the service of the said warrant. Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Komal** of **FIR No. 404/17 u/s 420 IPC & 6 PNDT Act** has been registered at **P.S. Narela, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 17.03.2019.  
By order  
Sh. Vikarm MM, Room No.116, DP/2509/RD/19 1st Floor, Rohini Court, Delhi

# APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of **male Age: Appox 35 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'7", ID Mark: A "OM" tattoo on right hand, was wearing Grey Printed Shirt & Grey Pant, was found at Footpath, Tolstoy Marg, Near Imperial Hotel, Jantar Manter, Connaught Place, New Delhi at 07:55 Hrs.** In this regard a **DD No. 06-A, dated 13.02.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Connaught Place, New Delhi.** Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.  
**SHO P.S. Connaught Place, New Delhi Ph.: 011-23747100, 8750870525 DP/1934/NDD/19**

# MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one person, **Namely: Pintu, S/o: Sh. Shri Chand, R/o: Kh. No. 640, Gali No. 5, Anjali Vihar, Loni, Ghaziabad (U.P.)** has been missing since 31.12.2017 from the area of **P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi.** In this regard, a **report vides DD No. 12-PP, Dated 05.01.2018, has been lodged at P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi.** Investigations has been carried out but despite best efforts, the person could not be traced. The description of the missing person is as under:  
**Name: Pintu, S/o: Sh. Shri Chand, R/o: Kh. No. 640, Gali No. 5, Anjali Vihar, Loni, Ghaziabad (U.P.), Age: 25 years, Height: 5'5" Feet, Face: Oval, Built: Normal, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: White-Green Check Shirt, Blue Pant and Black Colour Slipper.** If anyone has any information about the missing person, then please inform **P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi.**  
email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641  
**S.H.O P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi Ph.: 011-23823161 DP/8268/N/18.**

# SAINA ROUTS SINDHU

Three-time former champion Nehwal uses powerful smashes to register 21-18, 21-15 win against Sindhu in the tournament decider; Sourabh completes hat-trick of titles



PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Saina Nehwal beat PV Sindhu in straight games in the marquee clash of the tournament to retain her women's singles crown at the 83rd Yonex Sunrise Senior Badminton Nationals on Saturday.

The three-time former champion Saina used her powerful smashes to telling effect, registering a 21-18, 21-15 win the summit clash against Sindhu, who herself is a two-time winner.

Earlier, Sourabh Verma completed a hat-trick of titles, claiming the men's singles crown by defeating young Lakshya Sen in straight games.

Saina and Sourabh went home richer by ₹3.25 lakh while Sindhu and Sen received a cheque of ₹1.70 lakh each.

"It was a good match and both of us played really well and it is a great feeling to win the nationals in such an

atmosphere," Saina, who has lost to Sindhu only once in international events at India Open 2017, told reporters.

"Sindhu is playing at the highest level for quite sometime and she is a very tough opponent. It was not a simple match, there were tough rallies and simple errors from her helped me to win."

In a repeat of last edition's final in Nagpur, 2012 Olympics bronze medalist Saina once again had the upper hand over Sindhu during the exciting clash which was witnessed by a capacity crowd at the TRP Indoor stadium here.

Saina had also defeated 2016 Rio Games silver medalist Sindhu at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games summit clash last year.

Sourabh, the 26-year-old from MP's Dhar showed great composure and used his experience to outdo 17-year-old Lakshya for the second time

at the senior national finals. He had beaten Lakshya, then 15, in February 2017.

"Winning the nationals for the first time (in 2011) is always special but this time also it was a great feeling. Lakshya is improving regularly and every time you have to be alert against him. It was my fourth final (lost in Patna Nationals) and third win," Sourabh said.

"At 6-6 in first game, I had done unforced errors so I thought if I reduce my mistakes I can make a comeback."

In men's doubles, second seeded makeshift pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Chirag Shetty clinched the title after beating top seeds Arjun MR and Shlok Ramchandran 21-13 22-20 in 33 minutes.

Chirag and Pranaav came together after the former's regular partner Satwik Rankireddy was sidelined ahead of the tournament due to an injury. Satwik and Chirag had finished runners-up

at the last edition.

For Pranaav, it is his third national title, having won the men's doubles crown along with Akshay Dewalkar in 2013 and 2015 and the mixed doubles title with Prajakta Sawant in 2010.

Manu Attri and Maneesha K later beat top seeds Rohan Kapoor and Kuhoo Garg 18-21 21-17 21-16 to claim the mixed doubles crown.

In the women's final, egged on by a vociferous crowd, Saina used her trademark smashes to either finish points or create openings.

Sindhu, on the other hand, lacked precision in her strokes, hit too many mid court returns, and also misjudged the shuttle at the back court.

Saina's unforced errors initially cost her three points but she smashed her way to make it 3-4. Sindhu opened up a 7-5 lead but Saina managed to keep her nose ahead with a 11-10 lead at the break when Sindhu went

wide.

Saina continued to dictate the pace, while Sindhu hit wide or at net to allow her opponent to lead 15-11. A superb cross court smash and a net dribble gave Sindhu two points before she again hit long.

With Saina leading 18-15, the match was stopped due to an issue pertaining to indoor lighting.

On resumption, Sindhu played a smash and drop to reduce the deficit but Saina earned three game points with power packed smashes and sealed it with another after Sindhu saved one.

At 3-3 in the second game, Saina found the net twice but she again clawed back at 5-5 with a smash.

The 28-year-old continued her great run and eventually grabbed a 11-9 advantage when Sindhu's smash went wide.

Errors continued to creep in her game as Saina sealed the contest without much ado. Earlier,

the men's singles final contest started on an even keel as both the players were locked at 12-12.

However, few unforced errors by Sourabh allowed Lakshya to move to 11-6 lead. The experienced Sourabh narrowed down the lead to 11-12 and then went to the lead at 16-15 when Lakshya smashed out.

Sourabh slowly extended his lead and grabbed the game point when Lakshya misjudged the length and his weak return was punished. The youngster saved a couple of game points before Sourabh sealed it.

In the second game, Sourabh zoomed to a 3-0 lead early and though Lakshya drew level at 4-4, the former champion managed to eke out a 11-7 lead at the interval.

The teenager couldn't stop his errors from cropping in his game as Sourabh grabbed 20-11 match point with a body smash. Lakshya saved two match points before conceding the title on the third.

## SINGLES

### RAHANE LEADS MUMBAI IN MUSHTAQ T20S

MUMBAI: India international Ajinkya Rahane will lead the Mumbai team in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, the domestic T20 tournament, which will be played in Indore from February 21 to 28. The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) announced the 15-member squad on its website after the senior selection committee, led by former India pacer Ajit Agarkar, met on Saturday to pick the team for the T20 tournament. The squad also comprises young opening batsman Prithvi Shaw, who will be returning to competitive cricket after sustaining an ankle injury during a practice game in Australia in November prior to the Test series. Other batting regulars like Shreyas Iyer, Siddhesh Lad, Surya Kumar Yadav and experienced wicketkeeper-batsman Aditya Tare, have made it to the squad. The bowling attack will be led by former India pacer Dhawal Kulkarni.

### LAHIRI SET TO MISS CUT AFTER POOR SHOW

CALIFORNIA: Anirban Lahiri is all set to miss the cut with disastrous seven-over after playing 33 holes on a rain-curtained second day at the Genesis Open on Friday. Lahiri had a long day as he played 18 holes for the first round along with 15 for the second round. He was lying 133rd after the first round with four-over 76 and slipped further to tied 142nd after Friday. Apart from the wet weather and the cold, Lahiri's putter also went cold as he missed a whole lot, at least five inside ten feet. The story continued in the second round. Meanwhile, Justin Thomas was leading the pack having completed 12 holes in his second round and remained five under.

### U MUMBA VOLLEY BEAT SPARTANS IN PVL

CHENNAI: U Mumba Volley defeated Chennai Spartans 3-2 (15-14, 15-8, 15-10, 10-15, 10-15) in the opening match of the Chennai leg of the Pro Volleyball League on Saturday to keep its hopes of a semifinal spot alive. Skipper Dipesh Sinha was the top scorer for U Mumba with 11 points (5 spikes, 2 blocks and 4 serves) and helped the team post its first win. For the Spartans, Rudy Verhooff equalled his individual points record of 20 in a match (14 spikes and 6 serves) but ended up on the losing side.

AGENCIES

## Vidarbha's Double delight

PTI ■ NAGPUR

A clinical Ranji champions Vidarbha reasserted their supremacy in domestic arena, beating a star-studded Rest of India to retain the Irani Cup, making it back-to-back seasons of double delight.

Vidarbha has now become the third team after Mumbai and Karnataka to clinch two Irani Cup titles in a row.

Set a tricky target of 280, Vidarbha were well and truly on course at 269 for five, needing only 11 runs for an outright victory. However the two teams decided to shake hands and settle for a draw.

The victory was a testimony to Vidarbha's teamwork as they defeated a Rest of India side comprising Ajinkya Rahane, Hanuma Vihari, Shreyas Iyer and Mayank Agarwal without their season's top scorer Wasim Jaffer and pacer Umesh Yadav.

It was another senior Ganesh Satish (87 off 168 balls) and young U-19 international Atharva Taide (72 off 185 balls), who ensured that the Cup will remain in the Vidarbha Criccket Association's Trophy cabinet.

Also others like opener Sanjay Ramaswamy (42) and Mohit Kale (37) chipped in with handy knocks, while wicket-keeper Akshay Wadkar remained unbeaten on 10.

And their skipper Faiz Fazal would certainly be pleased with the fact that his boys nearly pulled off an outright win chasing a near 300-score on a fifth day track.

Resuming their innings on 37/1, Ramaswamy and one down Taide added 116 runs for the second wicket.

While Ramaswamy stuck four boundaries and a six, Taide was tad more aggressive striking eight fours and a six, as the duo kept Rest bowlers at bay.

After Ramaswamy fell,



Ganesh Satish celebrates his fifty PTI

### IRANI TROPHY WINNERS

Team	Titles	First title
Rest of India	28	1965-66
Mumbai	15	1959-60
Karnataka	6	1974-75
Delhi	2	1980-81
Railways	2	2002-03
Vidarbha	2	2017-18
Hyderabad	1	1987-88
Tamil Nadu	1	1988-89
Haryana	1	1991-92

Rest of India and Mumbai shared the trophy in 1965-66.

Faisal Features

Satish joined hands with Taide. The two managed to added 30 runs for the third wicket.

But Taide's departure did not deter Satish, who played the sheet-anchor's role to perfection.

During his 168-ball stay at the crease, he hammered the ROI bowlers, nine boundaries and a six. He got able support from Mohit Kale, who hit four fours in his brief but crucial innings.

After Satish, the curtains came down on the hard-fought game, in which Vidarbha emerged triumphant.

"We as a team have decided to donate the prize money to the family of the martyrs who lost their lives in Pulwama. This is a small gesture from our team and VCA."

— Faiz Fazal (Vidarbha skipper)



# SURVIVING AN EARTHQUAKE

Take following steps

### Before

- Consult a structural engineer to make your house earthquake resistant;
- Repair deep plaster cracks on walls and ceilings;
- Fasten shelves securely to walls; place heavy / large objects on lower shelves;
- Have an emergency kit ready;
- Develop an emergency communication plan for family;
- Learn the technique of 'Drop — Cover — Hold'.

### During

- Stay Calm and Do Not Panic;
- DROP under a table; COVER your head with one hand and HOLD the table till the tremors last;
- Run outside as soon as the tremors stop — DO NOT use lift;
- When outside move away from buildings, trees, walls and poles;
- When inside a vehicle — pull over in an open place and remain inside; avoid bridges.

### After

- Avoid entering damaged buildings;
- If trapped in rubble:
  - Do not light a matchstick;
  - Cover your mouth with a cloth;
  - Tap on a pipe or wall;
  - Sound a whistle;
  - Shout only as a last resort.
- Use stairs and NOT lifts or elevators.



Scan & Learn



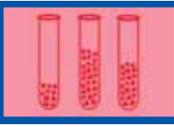
Be smart Be prepared

No matter what race or religion or nationality or sexual orientation or gender you are, music has the power to unite us — Lady Gaga



3

**Just one birthday wish**  
Murakami's *Birthday Girl* revolves around a concept that tends to develop an extra layer of complexity with each passing year — birthdays



6

**The science of love**  
If more people understand the science of love, they will realise how many aspects of it are in our control, and thus lead happier life



7

**The higher plane**  
Through meditation, personal transformation, and universal love, human beings can connect with their own soul



Not long ago, Bollywood aligned itself with the cultural ideology of the ruling party, which favoured a nationalistic revival. This new cinema demanded a sense of national pride in its stories, and the biopic genre fulfils this condition without ruffling many feathers, writes HIMANSHI SHARMA

## BOLLYWOOD'S BIOPIC BOOM

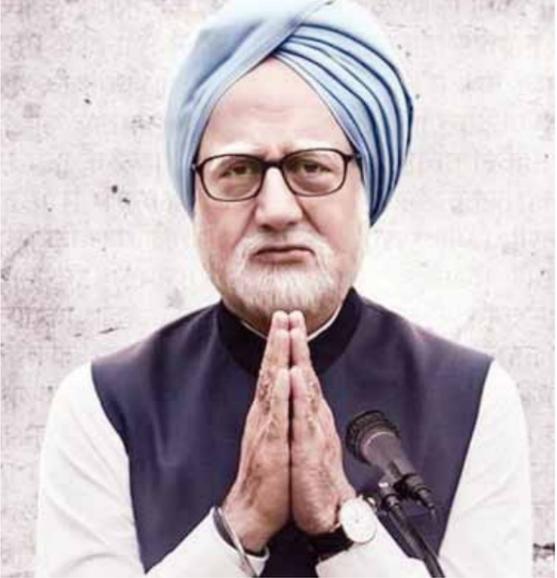
On February 9, Rupesh Paul dropped a teaser for his upcoming movie based on the life of Rahul Gandhi titled *My Name is RaGa*. The film is due to be released in April, just in time for the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections. Just two days prior to this, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis had released the official film poster of an upcoming Narendra Modi biopic to be directed by Omung Kumar of *Mary Kom* fame. This year has already seen the release of *Thackeray*, a biopic based on the life of Shiv Sena firebrand, the late Balasaheb Thackeray; *The Accidental Prime Minister* directed by Vijay Ratnakar Gutte, which tracks the tenure of Dr Manmohan Singh as the Prime Minister of India between 2004 and 2014; and Kangana Ranaut starrer *Manikarnika* based on the life of Rani Lakshmbai. The phenomenon is not limited to this year either. The year 2018 saw the release of several biopics, including *Pad Man*, *Sanju*, *Soorma*, and *Manto*, and the genre has been gaining steady rise for over half a decade now. How do we account for this seemingly sudden surge in the popularity of the genre? Why are Bollywood producers and audiences alike smitten with biopics of late?

Biopics were not a particularly attractive genre for Bollywood producers and directors even less than a decade ago when *Paan Singh Tomar* was released in 2012. They were scattered in Bollywood's neglected "serious" cinema by-lanes: Films that usually steered clear of portraying contemporary political actors, and often chose to portray fictional interpretations of historical figures. Think of *The Legend of Bhagat Singh* (2002), or *Mangal Pandey: The Rising* (2005). Contrast this to Hollywood cinema of the time when the Academy Award for best female actor went to Reese Witherspoon in 2006 for her portrayal of June Carter in *Walk the Line*, and in 2007, to Helen Mirren for her performance as Queen Elizabeth II in *The Queen*. Hollywood's romance with biopics as potential Oscar-bait is an open secret; it allows actors to display their acting prowess in terms of both physical impersonation as well as through nuanced interpretations of the motivations of their real-life counterparts.

In Bollywood, on the other hand, even in the event that the film was based on the real life of a contemporary figure, the film was produced as a drama rather than a biopic. Mani Ratnam's *Guru* (2007), for instance, though rumoured to be based on the life of business tycoon Dhirubhai Ambani, was never promoted as such. And yet, just a decade later, there is a slew of movies based on the real-life stories of sportspersons, film actors, and contemporary politicians, including those who are yet to professionally retire.

One reason for this massive change in the way films are produced and marketed is the

THIS NEW CINEMA SITUATED ITSELF IN SMALL TOWNS REPLETE WITH STORIES OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPIRATIONS, AND ITS UNIQUE SET OF MORAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL CHALLENGES. THE NATIONALISTIC PROJECT REQUIRES NEAT HEROES AND VILLAINS, IT REQUIRES INSPIRING STORIES OF SURVIVAL, IT INVOLVES MYTHMAKING, BUT ABOVE ALL, IT DEMANDS A SENSE OF NATIONAL PRIDE IN THESE STORIES



shift in public discourse. Popular Bollywood cinema in the recent decades has recalibrated itself; moving away from its position in newly-independent India as an instrumental opinion-shaper, it has adopted for itself a more subdued reflective role. It's no wonder then that earlier films shied away from explicit politics. The spike in NRI movies during this period is not coincidental, as multiple academics have consistently noted. Cinema became a reflection of desires; so when the new middle class, itself a product of globalisation, desired to see the ultimate dream of *desi* mobility against Western backdrops on the silver screen, Bollywood delivered. There was limited scope for meaningful engagement with contemporary politics in such narratives. Indian biopics rarely allow for fancy foreign locales, and so it's no wonder that the Hindi film industry sidelined the genre. The global recession of 2008, while it didn't have much impact on the Indian economy, changed the configuration of Indian politics. With global economy in decline, the momentum of growth and development from the first UPA term dipped. We know the story, of course: A weak Congress embroiled in multiple corruption allegations lost to a much stronger NDA. However, this wasn't merely a change in political Governments. Bollywood aligned itself with the cultural ideology of the ruling party, which strongly favoured an involved nationalistic revival. This new cinema situated itself in small towns replete with stories of social and economic aspirations, and its unique set of moral and infrastructural challenges. The nationalistic project requires neat heroes and villains, it requires inspiring stories of survival, it involves mythmaking, but above all, it demands a sense of national pride in these stories. The biopic genre fulfils these



conditions without ruffling many feathers. Think of it this way: *Lipstick Under My Burkha* and *Dangal* both came out in 2016, and both movies tried to capture the many kinds of oppressions that continue to beleague women, especially in a small town context. They were both reasonably well made films and both were declared blockbusters, yet while one of them was heavily censored by the Certification Board for being "lady oriented", the other was declared tax-exempt in certain States. The story of the Indian biopic boom is incomplete without a discussion of profits. 'Critical' cinema in the Indian film industries usually refers to films that do well at the festivals and scoop National Awards, but perform poorly at the box office. They're usually produced at shoestring budgets, and if a film is lucky, it may sometimes do better than just recovering the cost of production. *Shahid* (2013) was made on a budget of ₹65 lakh, its total collection was about ₹3.6 crore; *Paan Singh Tomar* (2012) made on a budget of ₹4.5 crore collected ₹20 crore. These were peanuts, of course, compared to the profits of big-budget movies; *Dabangg* (2010) had an opening day collection of ₹14.5 crore. And yet, in scale with their budgets, these films seemed to be doing quite well. *Manjhi* (2015) earned double its budget of ₹8.5 crore, though Hansal Mehta's widely acclaimed *Aligarh* (2015) — which was released in India in February 2016 — failed to even recover its cost. But 2013 also saw *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag*, which grossed over ₹100 crore. Priyanka Chopra star-

rer *Mary Kom* (2014) garnered both critical and commercial success, earning over ₹56 crore. The commercial success of sports biopics resulted in a flurry of similar films vying to cash in on the opportunity. *Dangal*, *M.S. Dhoni*, and *Sachin: A Billion Dreams* were made on budgets that were huge compared to *Paan Singh Tomar*, and they all made upwards of ₹50 crore. It's an easy logic to follow — these sport stars are celebrities with huge followings. They ensure quick publicity, assured audience, and therefore, huge profit margins. But big bucks don't just make big profits, they also sanitise. These newer movies may have all been sports biopics, but they were a long way away from the Tigmanshu Dhulia film. *Paan Singh Tomar* was a sportsman who turned bandit due to the institutional indifference of Government machinery towards people in his position. It's a masterful and empathetic insight into the character of a much reviled and feared *baaghi*, an "anti-national" if one was to use the political language of our time. *M.S. Dhoni* and *Sachin: A Billion Dreams* are stories of one-in-million cricket players, who were able to make it in a system that is otherwise stacked against them. You wouldn't know it after watching these films, though. They follow the recognisable format of building a story of rags to riches, or obscurity to fame. They are stories of struggle, personal failures, and efforts that overcome them.

# GANDHI AND HIS INDIA

Aparna Basu's *Gandhi's Vision: Freedom and Beyond* takes a leaf out of Mahatma Gandhi's life and gives readers a sense of the thoughts and actions that led India to Independence and built a base for social development. An excerpt:

The Swadeshi Movement was a result of the Partition of Bengal by Lord Curzon in 1905. Conceived as an administrative readjustment of boundaries, it was overshadowed by political considerations. The movement formally began on August 7 at the historic Town Hall meeting in Calcutta, presided over by Maharaja Mahindra Chandra Nandi and addressed by Surendranath Banerjee. The protest took the form of boycott of foreign goods and the patronage of indigenous products popularly known as swadeshi. All classes of people — zamindars, professional groups such as lawyers, teachers, journalists, doctors, students and women joined the movement.

Rabindranath Tagore announced his plan in September 1905 to observe Rakshabandhan on October 16, the Partition day, and women took part in it. Another rite observed on this day was *arandhan*, suggested by Ramendrasundar Trivedi, asking women not to cook. Women organised swadeshi *bhandars* and Sarala Devi Chaudhurani, niece of the Rabindranath Tagore, opened Lakshmi Bhandar which sold only *swadeshi* products. Women gave up using imported cloth and smashed their bangles (*churis*). Bipin Chandra Pal addressed women's meetings during his tour of East Bengal in 1907 and the women of Tangail gave a big reception to Surendranath Banerjee when he visited Mymensingh later that year. A women's meeting was organised in the house of the eminent physician Dr Nilratan Sircar to honour the revolutionary Bhupendranath Dutt's mother. A number of women in Barisal gave their savings to the Swadeshi Bhandar Samiti.

Secret societies had started earlier in Maharashtra, and in Bengal, revolutionary organisations began to develop, mainly owing to the efforts of Aurobindo Ghose. The most important of these was the Anusilan Samiti founded in 1897. It received active help and encouragement from Sister Nivedita. Among others connected with the growth of revolutionary societies were Barindra Ghose (brother of Aurobindo) and Sarala Devi Chaudhurani. Women circulated revolutionary leaflets and helped in maintaining liaison between different revolutionary leaders.

As the movement spread over Bengal, mass meetings were organised where the creed of swadeshi was preached. Bonfires of foreign goods were held and students boycotted Government schools and colleges. 'Bande Mataram', the sacred mantra of Bankim Chandra, became the rallying cry and inspired people with a new sense of patriotism and national consciousness. The president of the Indian National Congress, at its 1906 session held in Calcutta, expressed the demand for *swaraj*. Aurobindo Ghose declared the attainment of complete freedom as the goal of the national movement. The demand for national education was also a part of the Swadeshi movement. National schools were started and a technical college was opened in Jadavpur. With the annulment of the Partition in 1911, the Swadeshi movement, which had been largely centred in Bengal, petered out.

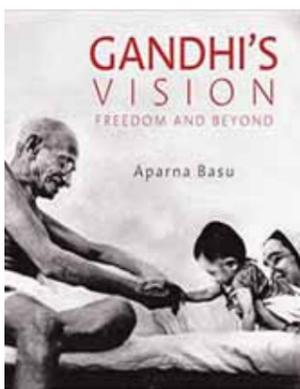
## THE HOME RULE LEAGUE, TILAK AND ANNIE BESANT

Before Gandhi, Bal Gangadhar Tilak was the most widely known Indian political leader. Unlike his contemporary Maharashtrian Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Tilak was a radical nationalist but conservative in his views on social reform. In 1897, plague broke out in Poona and the Government had to undertake segregation and house search. Tilak organised his own relief measures, but criticised the Government for its harsh measures. As a



result, he was arrested under Section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code on the charge of sedition. He was once again arrested in 1908 on the charge of writing polemical articles intensifying racial animosity between Indians and the British. In June 1914, he was released after spending six years in prison, most of which he had spent in Mandalay in Burma.

On his return, he found the political situation in India very different. Aurobindo Ghose had given up politics for a spiritual life in Pondicherry. Lala Lajpat Rai was away in USA. To conciliate the moderates and avoid any political confrontation, Tilak started the Home Rule League asking, like the Irish Home Rulers, for administrative reforms and not for overthrow of the Government. Annie Besant, an Irish ex-suffragette, an advocate of Free Thought, Fabianism and Theosophy came to India in 1893 to work for the Theosophical Society. She entered Indian politics in 1914 and founded the Home Rule League. She realised that for her movement to succeed, she had to get the support of the Indian National Congress, of both the Moderates and the Extremists. She launched a campaign through her two papers, *New India* and *Commonweal* and organised public meetings



**SATYAGRAHA WAS NOT PASSIVE RESISTANCE, BUT ACTIVE OPPOSITION TO ANY FORM OF INJUSTICE. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR READ INTENSIVELY INTO THE GANDHIAN PHILOSOPHY AS A NEW AND POWERFUL WEAPON AGAINST INJUSTICE. BUT THE OPPOSITION HAD TO BE NON-VIOLENT**

and conferences demanding that India be granted self-government on the lines of Britain's White colonies after the War. In 1917, the Government of Madras placed Mrs Besant and her associates BP Wadia and George Arundale under arrest. There was nation-wide protest and many 'Moderate'

leaders like Madan Mohan Malaviya, Surendranath Banerjee and MA Jinnah joined the Home Rule League to show their support to Annie Besant. Tilak advocated the use of passive resistance if the Government did not release her. At Gandhi's instance about a thousand signatures were collected

of men who were prepared to defy the internment order and march to the place where Besant was interned. The new Secretary of State, Lord Montagu was much more sympathetic and conciliatory and Besant was released. She was elected President of the Indian National Congress in 1917.

The announcement of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms divided the ranks of the supporters of Home Rule and the movement gradually lost its strength. In any case, its popularity had been mainly among the urban, English educated intelligentsia. However, it had generated a widespread nationalist atmosphere and created a group of individuals who played an important role in the national movement of the succeeding years, when under the leadership of Gandhi, it became a mass movement.

## SEEDS OF SATYAGRAHA AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

It was in South Africa where Gandhi spent twenty years, and evolved a method of political protest which he called satyagraha, which literally means 'truth force' or 'the struggle for truth'. Gandhi described it as 'a force which is born of truth and love or non-violence'. For him, it was the end of a quest for a moral equivalent of war.

Satyagraha was not passive resistance, but active opposition to any form of injustice. Martin Luther King Jr read intensively into the Gandhian philosophy as a new and powerful weapon against injustice. But the opposition had to be non-violent.

In his own words, 'Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction'. King recognised Gandhi's legacy of non-violence for the effectiveness of his own campaigns for racial integration. He became Gandhi's greatest disciple by embracing satyagraha as a method of struggle for the emancipation of blacks in America. The Transvaal Government introduced the Asiatic Law Amendment Ordinance which required every Asian man, woman or child above the age of eight to register his or her name with the Registrar of Asiatics. Failure to do so was a criminal offence. In response to the Black Act, a public meeting was held in the Empire Theatre in Johannesburg in September 1906, attended by about 3000 Indians who took a vow to defy the law in a non-violent manner.

Excerpted with permission from Aparna Basu's *Gandhi's Vision: Freedom and Beyond*, Niyogi Books, ₹1,500

## FROM PAGE 1

The audience is invited to see themselves in the hero, to imagine that they can achieve the middle-class dream too if only they put in a little more effort, if only they overcome the barriers that hold them back. At the core of these inspirational stories is always the individual; the system is meant to be 'won' rather than questioned or dismantled. The limited budget biopics mentioned earlier do precisely this. Take *Shahid*, for instance, based on the life of the late Shahid Azmi, an Indian lawyer best known for defending cases of persons accused of terrorism. It is a film that uses the biopic genre to bring communalism, Islamophobia, Government overreach, and the dangerous consequences of cruel and draconian laws on the public life, into sharp focus. *Shahid* doesn't just pay homage to Shahid Azmi, it honours his legacy by putting the bravery and perseverance of the individual in perspective by juxtaposing it against an apathetic system.

Both *Shahid* and *Sanju* have scenes from prisons, which bear witness to police violence of suspects, TADA's fall-out, and the grim reality of the country's prison system. *Sanju*, however, evokes it to generate sympathy from its audience; the scenes overtly dramatise the pain of

## Bollywood's biopic boom

one man as if to convey that this treatment was reserved for him (think of the overflowing toilet in his jail cell); it might have even justified the same treatment had it been doled out to an 'actual' terrorist rather than Sanjay Dutt, who was mistaken to be one. *Sanju* doesn't take the opportunity provided to it by the protagonist's life to reflect on the injustice practised in disproportionately withholding bails of the underprivileged; the film's only contention is that its protagonist was denied one. *Shahid* practices restraint but it is able to unpack layers upon layers of violence. In a scene in a police station with Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub, who plays Shahid's brother Asif, he requests the police inspector to grant him permission to meet his brother. The conversation gets heated when the inspector denies the requests and abuses Asif; it's a memorable scene that compels you to linger on it. The inspector's ire is not limited to Shahid's TADA charge; he is incensed when Asif speaks to him in English to make a point; it is a moment



that only Hansal Mehta could have visualised. We don't know the social background of the police inspector's character, but we can guess it because he embodies the insecurities of the majority; that a Muslim man would speak to him in English is unacceptable to him.

*Shahid* portrays the best of Azmi's life, but it succeeds because it is able to expand itself by linking the story to those of millions of other stories, in and outside the country.

One of the other important losers in big-budget biopics is inclusion. Of the biopics released in 2017-18, only *Pad Man* based on the life of Arunachalam Muruganantham could have claimed to represent an overlooked community in cinematic adaptation. However, as Aswathy Gopalakrishnan notes for *Silverscreen.in*, even that remained unrealised: "All non-glitz elements have been removed from the story, and that includes Muruganantham himself. His identity as a school dropout from an impoverished family of handloom weavers in rural South India gets modified on screen as an upper-caste man named Laxmikant Chauhan (Akshay Kumar) in a town in Madhya Pradesh. It isn't a minor alteration which can be easily passed in a terribly skewed world where a large section of people are

underrepresented or misrepresented in our popular culture."

Dilip Mandal has pointed out how *Manikarnika* doled out the same treatment to the character of Jhalkari Bai, Dalit warrior and Lakshmi Bai's confidante who was instrumental in facilitating the latter's escape from the palace in Jhansi before her final battle. Though *Manikarnika* failed to recover its humongous ₹100 crore budget, the formula has generally worked. I'll use Mike Sholars' words, in context of his critique of *The Imitation Game*, to put it another way: "If the positive outcome of sharing true stories is inspiration, then the negative outcome is the erasure of the struggles and existence of marginalised group and the conflation of entire swaths of the human experience with 'messy details' that can be expunged from a narrative with little consequence. It's one thing to simplify a narrative and quite another to sanitise or sensationalise it."

And what of the increasing number of biopics based on the lives of active politicians? The abysmal trailer for *My Name is RaGa*, and the failure of *The Accidental Prime Minister* to draw audience might suggest that these stories will only have a short run. But let it be noted that the failure has more to do

with the lack of compelling storytelling rather than their political bent. It is yet to be seen how Omung Kumar puts the formula to use in his Narendra Modi film. The truth is that while Bollywood may have climbed the bogey of social change and patriotic fervour, these films are more about the actors who star in them rather than the issues they claim to be addressing.

Much like *Chak De! India* and *Pink*, *Pad Man* and *Dangal* exist to put woke credentials in the kitties of established male actors. Fresh stories are rewritten in service of these actors relegating the principle subjects and their stories to the background. With female actors asserting their own power in the industry, the same thing has started happening on the other end of the permissible gender binary. *Mary Kom* had proven that women-centric biopics also make money, and Ranaut's limited success notwithstanding, several similar biopics based on Anandibai Joshi, Laxmi Agarwal, Gunjan Saxena, Jayalalithaa, Saina Nehwal, Tejan Bai are either in works or slated for release this year. The bottom line? Biopics are hot because Bollywood has finally cracked how to sell them.

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The print and the visual multi-media as distinct disciplines have traditionally been unwilling partners, in other words, they make strange bedfellows. Both stake claims as the carriers of the absolute truth in its untarnished, complete glory, harbouring a remarkable degree of suspicion for each other. In terms of literature, fiction as a literary text and fiction depicted on screen as cinema, are seldom understood to be quite the same thing: While the written word would claim an enormity which cannot possibly be depicted on screen, verbatim, unless one were to take great liberties with the run-time. Similarly, the on-screen version would plead for a treat for all senses, a more wholesome, multi-layered experience over the unidimensional written word. It is easy to spot two literature and film enthusiasts respectively, bitterly arguing over say, the Harry Potter or the Lord of the Rings series. Cinematic adaptations are mere starting points of animated discussions and discourse in proper, winding through the respective strengths of literature and cinema. These are some of the issues that academic, critic and translator Vivek Sachdeva deftly handles in his *Fiction to Film: Ruth Praver Jhabvala's The Householder and Heat and Dust*.

In his detailed introduction, Sachdeva lays a definitive background for building a case for fiction and film as distinctive texts: He defines the aim of his project as one to study adaptations of novels into films and to note the transformations a narrative undergoes in cinematic form. Talking at length about adaptation, its growth and famous cinematic adaptations in both the Western and the Indian corpus, Sachdeva goes on to discuss "Film as Art". He makes a significant observation in terms of a distinctive feature of canonical literature like that of Shakespeare which had 'something for everyone' — philosophy, wit, melodrama, rhetoric and also spectacle. Cinema which may have its origin in entertainment has over the years through the contribution of filmmakers par excellence, grown into an evolved art form because of the 'timeless works of art in portraying human life in all its bewildering complexity and nuance with rare insight and sensitivity' notes Sachdeva. Drawing upon several crucial interventions by the likes of Raymond Williams, Adorno, Arnheim and Eisenstein's theory of montage, Sachdeva explicates the relation between films and reality: While literary images reach the readers through 'conceptual perception', cinematic images reach directly through perception. Under the interestingly titled section "Pride (in literature) and Prejudice (against adaptation)",

Vivek Sachdeva's book *Fiction to Film* will be of great use to both research scholars of film and literary studies as well as enthusiasts and connoisseurs of adapted classics, writes KALYANEE RAJAN

## THE FILMS AND FICTIONS OF RUTH JHABVALA

Sachdeva cites several directorial exemplars while inferring that "creative filmmakers have used film's mode of communication so innovatively and effectively that what a novel takes pages to describe, a filmmaker has said more in a short scene or two". The nature and scope of adaptation is also discussed in depth, the respective artistic conventions of a novel and a film are analysed. Sachdeva also dwells upon the connotations associated with criticism of cinematic adaptations, which are usually pejorative and highly polarising viz 'deformation', 'bastardisation' to name a few, and the whole debate around fidelity criticism, with the label 'infidelity' drawing from Victorian prudishness and ethical perfidy in particular. He makes a case against the prejudice of parasitism of cinema as an art form which has led to a supposition that films in some way drain or damage the narrative text, by restating how adaptation is "fundamentally a creative process". A dedicated section on "Challenges of Adaptation" looks at two primary vertices: That of the origin of the two respective art forms films

and novels, and their respective employment of linguistic tools. Through an exhaustive survey of theories, Sachdeva finds Klein and Parker's model of seeing "adaptation as an interpretation of the original text" stronger in terms of essentially veering away from the fidelity aspect. He proposes looking at the relation between the original and the new text through the lenses of "inter-textuality, translation and inter-mediality", looking at the adaptation as a derivation that is not derivative. The final section titled "Narration in Cinema" is particularly illuminating as it dwells upon the "complex system of relations" to be perceived by the viewer, including the framing of shots, arrangement of material on the basis of space and time, the point of view and narration through modes of long shots, close ups, the treatment of time and so on. Sachdeva seeks to explicate all his observations through a close analysis of celebrated novelist Ruth Praver Jhabvala's novels *The Householder* and *Heat and Dust* which the author herself helped to depict on screen by donning the hat of a screenplay writer, for

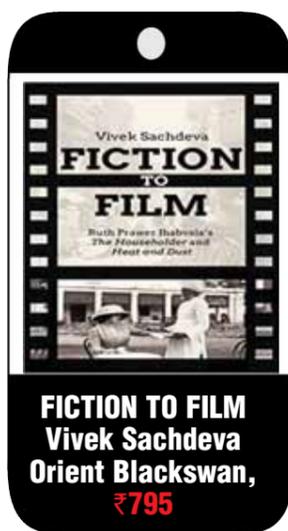
the films produced by Ismail Merchant and directed by James Ivory.

In the succeeding four chapters, Sachdeva presents a comprehensive study and scrutiny of the phenomenal journey of fiction transforming into films. In the first chapter, he methodically deals with the technicalities of story, time (analepsis and prolepsis), focalisation, levels of narration, narrator and kinds of narrators with their respective functions, concluding with characters and characterisation, and space, all written in crisp, jargon-free style of explanation. The next chapter looks at Jhabvala the individual and the writer, her brief biography, also including brief synopses as well as insightful thematic discussion of her primary works such as *To Whom She Will*, *The Nature of Passion*, *Esmond in India*. The sub-section titled "The Screenwriter" engages with short overviews of the several films Jhabvala wrote during her fruitful association with Merchant Ivory Productions. The third and the fourth chapters juxtapose the novels and their respective cinematic adaptations, in the

manner of an expert, microscopic scrutiny. The conclusion ties up the entire analysis towards proposing a new take on narrative discourse in fiction and film, especially in the Indian context. The exhaustive annexures on the two films and the detailed bibliography testify to the range of research and referencing that has gone into making of this pioneering volume.

The merit of Vivek Sachdeva's *Fiction to Film* lies in its clinical handling of a subject so mired in contrary points of view, and the insights he draws can be effectively applied to the study of other cinematic adaptations, translations and theatre in general. It must be mentioned that in these times, cinematic adaptations in Bollywood have caught popular imagination with creative adaptations of Shakespeare for instance, by the likes of veteran directors such as Vishal Bhardwaj (*Maqbool*, *Omkara*, *Haider*), and Sanjay Leela Bhansali (*Goliyon Ki Raas Leela Raam Leela*) among others as cases in point.

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### NEW ARRIVALS

**HOW TO WIN AN INDIAN ELECTION**  
Shivam Shankar Singh  
Penguin, ₹250

What role do political consultants play in election campaigns? How are political parties using technological tools such as data analytics, surveys and alternative media to construct effective, micro-targeted campaigns? How does the use of money impact election results? What aids in the en masse dissemination of divisive propaganda and fake news? What does it take to win an election in India today? What is the future of politics in the country?

**THE GREAT MARCH OF DEMOCRACY**  
SY Quraishi  
Penguin Viking, ₹599

As India gears for its seventeenth Lok Sabha elections in 2019, the Election Commission of India, guardian of the world's grandest electoral experiment, marks the beginning of its seventieth year. This book celebrates seven decades of India's vibrant democracy and the Election Commission's excellence and rigour, with a remarkable collection of essays written by those who have studied India's unique experiment in electoral democracy.

**TWICE UPON A TIME**  
Payal Kapadia  
Puffin, ₹199

'All princess stories are the same!' But not this one. This is a story about two girls. Keya just happens to be a princess. Nyla just happens to be a tomboy. Both just want to be themselves. When Princess Keya quits and Nyla shows up to replace her, two worlds collide. Together the girls ruffle dresses and feathers; break vases and traditions; fight dragons and boredom; grow roses and revolutions. So what if there are a few puny princes and snivelling snobs in the mix? Leave it to the girls to rescue everyone-and each other. Boisterous, over the top and wicked funny, this book is for girls who have outgrown princesses.

# Just one birthday wish

Murakami's recently re-released *Birthday Girl* is just the gift that a grown-up would need on his/her next birthday. In its philosophy as well as writing style, it is a rare literary treat, writes UMANG AGGARWAL

There's almost nothing new about a story that revolves around the idea of the protagonist being granted a fixed number of wishes. Almost inevitably, the story ends with a philosophical lesson that he/she learns in the process of making the wish. Only an author with (Franz) Kafka-like rare skill and thought to add novelty to this. And that's exactly what the book being reviewed offers.

Haruki Murakami, a contemporary Japanese author whose works have been widely translated and celebrated, has often been compared with Franz Kafka. Like Kafka's, Murakami's characters and stories are set in the world that lies somewhere in the middle of that which seems magical and that which seems eerie. Unlike Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Salman Rushdie who create beautiful and strangely believable worlds in the genre of magical realism, Kafka and Murakami retain a sense of enigma in their writings. Their works do not go all the way in making supernatural elements seem 'normal'. Instead, they thrive on an element of incredulity in the stories that they weave. While Marquez and Rushdie would have you believe that their beautiful worlds exist somewhere, Murakami would almost never give the reader the satisfaction of that kind of finality. A nagging but enchanting loose end would follow the reader and make him/her come back to the novel in search of any clues that he/she might have missed earlier.

Thriller, romance, fantasy — Murakami's works defy the usual genres that literature is classified into. Instead, they criss-cross through so many genres adapting and refashioning elements from each of them



that at best one can say that they have a genre of their own. *Birthday Girl*, the Japanese author's celebrated short story was re-packaged into a novella and released by Penguin less than a month ago. And, it would be safe to say that it is one of the most rewarding Murakami treats.

The short story turned into a novella revolves around a concept that tends to develop an extra layer of complexity with each passing year — birthdays. Grown-ups can pretend that they are over the childish excitement and anxiety that birthdays bring along with them. But to put it plainly, almost no one ever is. The idea of a fresh start each year is as inviting as the idea of looking back at the previous year is



**MURAKAMI WOULD ALMOST NEVER GIVE THE READER THE SATISFACTION OF FINALITY. A NAGGING BUT ENCHANTING LOOSE END WOULD FOLLOW AND MAKE HIM/HER RE-READ**

daunting. The girl protagonist in the book who resigns to waiting table even on the eve of her 20th birthday as she was "not going to do anything special anyway". Just like her, grown-ups often tell themselves

to keep their birthdays "ordinary" and eventless. But just like in the book, fate can choose to interfere at almost any point. In the book, the protagonist has an unusual encounter that seems to be destined to happen. People around her fall unexpectedly ill and practically start making way for her to have an experience which cannot help but think back on even years later. The 20th birthday, which the author chooses, carries extra weight in the sense that it officially marks the end of the teen years in a growing adult's life. It's a milestone that one can cross only "once" in a lifetime. And the author has some rather insightful take on what one should wish for at that juncture — he/she should 'make' their wish.

"Just one. You can't change your mind afterwards and take it back." The beauty of Haruki Murakami's writing can be discovered and rediscovered by reading this one sentence over and over again. It's one of the most loaded, deeply meaningful, and deceptively simple sentences that English literature has seen. In the book, on the face of it, the limitation of "just one" is imposed on the number of wishes granted to the unnamed narrator. If one looks at keeping the context of birthdays and birthday wishes in mind, it can even refer to each successive year that an individual is "granted" on his/her birthday as he/she gets old. The underlying message here is that with each year coming as an opportunity to "make" our wishes come true, do individuals really need to close their eyes, blow on the birthday candles, and ask for more? That, of course, is just one interpretation. In a larger sense, "just one" can even refer to the number of lives an individual is granted. In that case, the open-handedness of the narrator's conversation with her unnamed friend becomes all the more poignant. "That's because you have already made your wish," the speaker says to the listener when he/she is unable to come up with one wish that would have been appropriate for his/her twentieth birthday. In saying that and invoking the idea of "time" playing "an important role," the story opens itself up to an interpretation where "only one" wish refers to what an individual does with the "only" life that he/she gets. If you have nothing 'special' to do on your next birthday, I would suggest reading or even rereading Murakami's *Birthday Girl*. It beckons the reader into a space that is anything but ordinary.

# Eurasian security at stake

The NATO-Russia Council Summit demonstrates the 'misunderstanding' about each other still exists and is accentuating a hostile strategic climate in and around Eurasia



NALIN KUMAR MOHAPATRA

The deadlock between Russia and NATO in the NATO-Russia Council Summit in Brussels has once again exposed the perpetual fissures and this may jeopardise both Eurasian security and global peace.

The Cold War-era global conflict which veered around NATO-Warsaw antipathy to each other is once again resurfacing even after the collapse of the Soviet Union 28 years back. This is happening despite the fact that there is no more a Warsaw bloc. The mutual hostility between NATO and Russia (as a lead member of the former Warsaw pact in the form of inheritor of the former Soviet Union) was fully reflected in the latest NATO-Russia Council meeting which took place in Brussels on January 25, 2019.

The mutual antipathy towards each other has also reflected in the tone and tenor of the Brussels Summit. As reported in the Russian press, lack of unanimity in the Council meeting came to fore when the Russian delegates stated that the United States is keen to accelerate its infamous "Star War programme".

The Russian delegates urged that it will "accelerate arms race" at a global scale putting the security of "Global Commons" at nadir. Another contentious issue which got

much attention in the NATO-Russia Summit meeting was on the issue of Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces also known as (INF). The Brussels meeting as expected from many quarters failed to evolve a consensus on the future of nuclear arsenals. The failure of the coordination council of both the adversaries is also generating a lot of hypothetical questions relevant to international security. These are:

a) Is NATO going to tame an assertive Russia in near future?

b) Whether NATO will continue its policy of "encirclement" of Russia?

The antagonism between NATO-Russia which has its roots in the Cold War period took a new turn in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union and emergence of the Russian Federation as its successor. To an utter surprise, the new leadership under Boris Yeltsin guided by the pro-Atlanticists forces tried to mend fences with the erstwhile foe and got engaged with the NATO bloc.

In fact the admission of Russia into the NATO's outreach Programme of Partnership for Peace (PPF) along with some other former Soviet Union (FSU) States like Azerbaijan, Moldova and Uzbekistan showed inclination of

FSU States to mend fences with their Cold War adversary.

Soon the "honeymoon" between these two fell to a low level and Moscow tried to give a new impetus to its external policy in the form of distancing itself from the Western bandwagon. The stand-off between these two reached to a new low when the latter reignited the "soft tinderbox" of Eastern Europe.

The subsequent NATO onslaught on Kosovo alarmed the strategic thinkers of Russia that the United States may use NATO to orchestrate a Cold War type crisis to checkmate Russia. Subsequent change of leadership in Russia which saw emergence of Vladimir Putin as the new President has had a profound impact on policy towards the West. Unlike his predecessor's inconsistent policy as some analysts put it towards the West (especially in the Yeltsin's first term), Putin, in his foreign policy orientation gave a new teaching.

The 9/11 incident, however, brought the two into a common platform to fight against radicalist and terrorist forces in Afghanistan. This resulted in the creation of this institutional forum NATO-Russia Council in 2002. The Council was created as stated in the NATO website for "building bridges with

Russia".

The short-lived "bonhomie" between these two soon faded into oblivion (Russia-NATO) when West started showing its real intention in the FSU States. Directly or indirectly it propped up the so-called "Colour Revolution" in some of the FSU States like Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan. By propping up its own regimes in three above-mentioned strategically important States reflected the true intention of the United States to bring this space into its orbit. In this venture it used NATO's military might to frighten Russia. Along with this move their real intention was also to get a firm foothold in the natural resources like energy.

Nervousness on the part of Russian leadership to the question of NATO's expansion in the Russian periphery strongly reflected in the Foreign Policy Concept of the Russian Federation 2008. The Concept paper published in the Russian Foreign Ministry website mid.ru highlights that "bringing the NATO military infrastructure closer to the Russian borders on the whole... violates the principle of equal security".

Giving a strong rebuttal to the NATO's expansionist policy in its sphere of influence, as reflected in

the Foreign Policy Concept paper, Russia took firm measures which resulted in Russia-Georgia war in 2008 and this contributed to South Ossetia's declaration of independence. This gave a severe jolt to NATO's expansionist policy. Another major flashpoint which contributed to the further deterioration of relations between NATO and Russia was over NATO initiated project, Northern Distribution Network (NDN), to deliver humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

By bringing some of the Russian allies like Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, in the NDN fold along with beefing up of the NATO-Ukrainian council, NATO tried to get an upper hand in the Eurasian geopolitics.

However in the post-2014 era the hide and seek game between these two strategic competitors took an ugly turn when Russia annexed Crimea. Calling it as an act of "aggression" by Moscow, NATO tried to frighten the former by stationing its troops across its bases in Eastern Europe, Central Europe and Baltic states. The deployment of missiles by NATO in the periphery of Russia propelled analysts to predict the return of "Cold War syndrome" in the global geopolitics. NATO's apprehension of Russia's action was clearly manifested in the

Warsaw Summit of NATO which took place in 2016. The Summit meeting as quoted in the NATO website stated, "Russia's aggressive actions are a source of regional instability".

Using "regional instability" (discussed above) as a precursor, NATO is strategising its policy towards the post-Soviet space. NATO member States despite their own internal rift are quite vociferous in demanding stricter action against Russia as evident from recent speech of President of Ukraine. In spite of internal rift (by the European member states and the United States in NATO over generating fund) which threatened the very existence of this military bloc, this Western body — as reported in the London-based newspaper *Telegraph* dated January 27, 2019 — is "mulling to spend around \$100 billion" for member states' security. This demonstrates NATO's preparedness to indulge in perpetual hostility with Russia. NATO's intention of taking on Russia militarily can be evident from the fact that it is conducting a series of military exercises in the periphery of Russia to demonstrate its war preparedness.

Another contentious issue which got attention in the NATO-Russia Council Summit was the

reduction of INF. It may be recalled here that the Council for Foreign Relations (CFR) study titled "The Ailing INF Treaty: What to Know" published on January 28, 2019 states that Russia is enjoying an "tactical advantage" over the United States in the possession of INF warheads.

The data of CFR study said, "Moscow has around 6,850 warheads and Washington has only 6,550" of the same. The failure of Brussels Summit resulted in both the United States (being part of NATO) and Russia deciding to withdraw from the INF treaty as stated by policy makers from both the countries. However this may trigger a new kind of "security dilemma" in global politics.

The NATO-Russia Council Summit demonstrated that the "misperception" of both the sides is still there and accentuating a hostile strategic climate in and around Eurasia as evident from recent moves in Ukraine. Similarly for a "sustainable peace" both NATO and Russia should take steps that might reduce mutual hostility.

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## PERSPECTIVE

# 40 years of Islamic Revolution in Iran

Since the 1979 revolution, international relations and geopolitical equations have drastically changed. Besides stirring up a debate on Islam vs West, it continues to have repercussions on the Islamic Republic's relations with the rest of the world



YASIR ALI MIRZA

In the political history of West Asian and North African (WANA) region, the decades of the 1970s and 1980s are marked as the years of turbulence. These years witnessed major upheavals in the political arena of Iran as well. The Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979 under the leadership of Ayatollah Sayyid Ruhollah Moosavi Khomeini was one of the monumental events. It was a major development of the 20th century as it comprehensively changed the course of history and politics.

### Cultural Shock

At their wits' end, the Western world was fumbling for words to react to this "orientalist" phenomenon as it did not conform to their notion of a "revolution". Cut to present, the revolution has stirred up an intense debate on Islam vs West because the whole idea of modernity has been challenged by the contours of the Iranian revolution. It continues to be a source of bewilderment in the Western world and is often called "rightist", "reactionary", "fanatic", "irrational" and "regressive".

However, in an important book *Shi'ism and Social Protest*, US academician Richard W Cottam has tried to dissect the anatomy of the Iranian Revolution by comparing it with French and Bolshevik revolutions. He is of the view that both the revolutions did not have the populist features as compared to the Iranian Revolution as one-fourth of Iran's population took to the streets against a regime still capable of brutal repression.

### The Gathering Storm

Before every political revolution there is an intellectual revolution. To name a few, it was mystic philosopher Ali Shariati, Ayatollah Morteza Motahhari, Jalal Aal-e Ahmad and Ayatollah Beheshti who exhorted people with their intellectual engagements. In Iran the Islamic Revolution has its roots in the trials and tribulations of history. The late 19th century Tobacco Movement and early 20th century Constitutional Movement has been a very important event in awakening the collective consciousness of people. Further the democratically elected popular Prime Minister

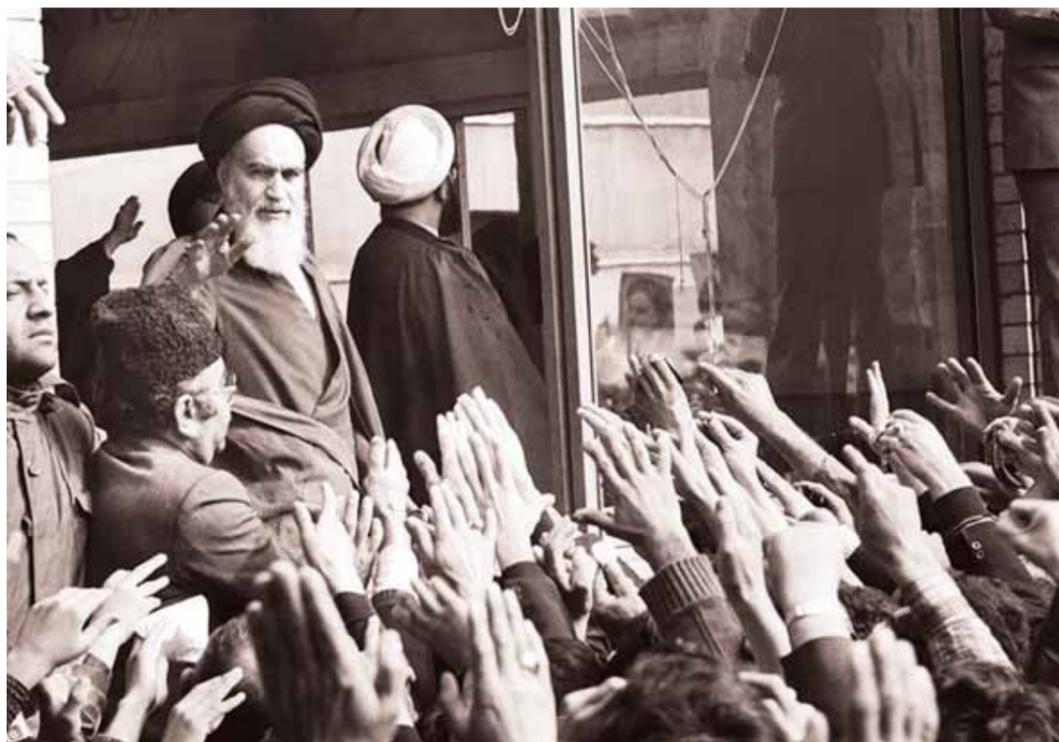
Mohammad Mosaddegh Government supported by a Shia clergy Ayatollah Sayyid Abol Qasim Kashani was overthrown in a US-backed coup (also called Operation Ajax) had deep impact on psyche of ordinary Iranians. Actually, the sense of anti-Americanism had also roots in that "great betrayal". Upon restoring the monarchy with the help of Britishers and Americans, Shah started more repressive policies by eliminating the dissenting voices. The notorious secret service SAVAK had played major role as henchmen in perpetuating the intimidation and torture of political activists. The bloody events of 15 Khordad in 1963, after which Ayatollah Khomeini was sent into exile, had begun to radicalise the Iranian masses against the despotic monarchy. Western countries had more clout over the oil businesses. Despite booming oil remittances the wedge between rich and poor began to make situation worst.

### A Road to Revolution

In the last leg of the nationwide mass protests in December 1978, the momentum began to gather each passing day. The religious fervour was very high as it coincided with the commemoration of Martyrs of Karbala in the month of Muharram, which has a central place in Shia religio-philosophical construct. The Iranian ulama have successfully tried Shia symbols to mobilise the masses and created the binary of Imam Hussain vs Yazeed. The streets swelled with frenzied people raising the emotional slogans in crescendo "Kullo Yaumin Ashura, Kullo Arzin Karbala" (Everyday is Karbala, Everyday land is Ashura). It was quite evident that any time soon US-backed Shah would no longer ruler of this country. Even the renowned French intellectual Michel Foucault, who went to Iran as an Italian newspaper *Corriere della sera's* correspondent, sensed the popular upsurge that is going to inevitable in Iran.

### Post-Revolutionary Islamic Republic

Na Shah Mee Khwaham, Na Shahpour Mee Khwaham (I want neither Shah, nor Shahpour). This was a proclamation of Ayatollah Khomeini in a massive public recep-



In this Feb 1, 1979 file photo, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, centre, waves to followers as he appears on the balcony of his headquarters in Tehran. Forty years ago, Iran's ruling Shah left his nation for the last time and the Islamic Revolution overthrew the vestiges of his caretaker Government. The effects of the 1979 revolution, including the takeover of the US Embassy in Tehran and ensuing hostage crisis, reverberate through decades of tense relations between Iran and America

tion at Behist-e Zehra cemetery when he landed on Mehrabad Airport on 1st February in 1979 after fourteen years of exile in Turkey, Iraq and France. Iranian newspapers covered this historic event as "Imam Aamad" (Coming of Leader). Iranians welcomed him as a redeemer of their suffering who will lead to their collective salvation. Defying vestiges of Shah's regime on February 11, Imam Khomeini took the reins in his own hand formed Islamic Revolutionary Committees were formed across the country to run the affairs.

After one month, Khomeini constituted a referendum and declared Iran as Islamic Republic and introduced the political system of *Velayat-e Faqih* (Governance of

the Jurisprudent). Mehdi Bazargan, who later parted his ways, became first President. In order to consolidate the regime and his grip on power he also formed an elite force called *Pasdaran-e Enghelab-e Islami* or Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), which later cut their teeth in Iran-Iraq War and also played an important role in purging the remnants of Shah. It remains a formidable force in Iranian defence system. After the victory of revolution, the relations between Iran and US administration got worse. President Jimmy Carter showed no goodwill towards the new regime but hostility and threats. The US embassy hostage crisis further added fuel to the fire. In its neighbourhood, Iraqi dictator Saddam

Hussein, being bankrolled by Gulf regimes and armed by Western countries, imposed an eight-year devastating war on Iran. The left guerrilla group Mujahideen-e Khalq Organisation (MKO) would also try to trigger a counter revolution. But despite all these stumbling blocks, it came out triumphantly. The commendable fact of these developments is that electioneering process of Presidents and Majles had never been halted despite these entire crises.

### International and Regional Geopolitical Implications

The revolution not only profoundly changed Iran and its Government, but also changed how Iran was dealt with by the rest of the

world. Beyond the borders it also had the regional and international dimensions. One of the pillars (other was Saudi Arabia) of United States' "Twin-Pillar Strategy" in the region fell down. Western nations and especially the US, whom Iran termed it as *Shaitan-e Bozorg* (Great Satan), were not prepared for the revolution and it was a great surprise to the international community.

The revolution was seen as a great threat to the status quo in the authoritarian and monarchical regimes in the WANA region. Asserting Islam as a major political force and to dislodge the East-West binary being contours of international relations, Iranian revolutionaries had given a call "Na Sharq,

*Na Gharb, Faqat Jomhuri Islami*" (Neither East, Nor West, only Islamic Republic). They also exhorted "Mustazifeen" (Oppressed) to take the "Mustakbireen" (Oppressors) out from the power. As Vali Nasr also contends that Iran made Islamism a political force that would change Muslim politics from Morocco to Malaysia.

It inspired the people struggling for self determination and their legitimate rights. Particularly it had a major impact on the Palestinian liberation struggle against the Zionist occupation. The birth of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad movements made possible after the Iranian support. The Iraqi Shia political activists who were bearing the brunt of ruthless repression of Saddam Hussein's regime were also very receptive of Imam Khomeini's clarion call. The underclass Shia of south Lebanon also got inspired by the Islamist fervour and organised a powerful Hezbollah movement against the Israeli occupation. It was that time when the farcical Arab Nationalism had taken hold across the region.

### Iran After 40

After 40 years of revolution, Iran has achieved progress almost in every walk of life and made country self reliant. Ayatollah Khomeini's forthright leadership and his undeterred character led the revolution to its accomplishment despite all hardships and adverse circumstances. Similarly after the death of Imam Khomeini in 1989, the incumbent Supreme Leader Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hosseini Khamenei successfully carried on his legacy with new vigour and wisdom. He successfully led Iran to a rightful place in comity of nations.

The legacy of the revolution continues to have reverberations even today, and has profoundly shaped politics in the West Asia. Still the Iranian leadership is standing against the war-monger countries like rock solid who are bullying in the names of covert or overt war and harsh economic sanctions.

(The writer is a Doctoral Candidate at Centre for West Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)



ON THE LAST DAY OF THE BUDGET SESSION, MULAYAM SINGH YADAV WISHED NARENDRA MODI A SECOND TERM AS THE PM

# Rahul to have the last word on party's LS ticket formula

**sunday gupshup**

HARI SHANKAR VYAS



**O**n February 7, Rahul Gandhi met the State in-charges and General Secretaries of the party. Two days later, he called a meeting of State Presidents, leaders of MLAs in States, and Chief Ministers. In the two meetings, Rahul discussed the preparations and strategies for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections. Among other things, the formula for ticket distribution was also decided in the meetings.

It is being said that during the course of discussions, it was decided that the Rajya Sabha MPs would not be given tickets for the Lok Sabha polls. MLAs, too, would not get a chance to fight the Lok Sabha Elections, say sources. The leaders who had fought the Assembly Elections would also be kept out of the race, as will the kin of leaders. Interestingly, there is a catch in this: The final decision rests with Rahul. This effectively means that if Rahul deems right, he may tweak this formula in select cases.

Now the question is how much of this formula will be implemented? Leaders present in the meetings, who did not oppose the formula at the time, are now calling it impractical. Will this strategy send all known faces into oblivion? Will the Congress be able to counter the challenges posed by Narendra Modi and Amit Shah with novices? Sources in the party say many Rajya Sabha MPs are trying to get LS tickets either for their wives or children. The kin of many CMs, former CMs, and State Presidents are gearing up for the upcoming polls. Relatives of many big leaders, such as Kamal Nath, Siddaramaiah, Ashok Gehlot, and Sheila Dikshit, might stake a claim for tickets. Barring some, this is almost certain that almost all relatives of big leaders would get tickets, as will some MLAs.

**JYOTIRADITYA'S BIG PLANS**

**W**hat will be next plan of action of the in-charge of western UP, Jyotiraditya Scindia? People are saying that his wife, Priyadarshini Rajee, is gearing up to fight the Lok Sabha Elections from Gwalior. Scindia is an MP from Guna, but Gwalior has been his family's stronghold for the longest time now. His wife has started appearing in public functions and people are desperate to know whether both the husband and wife will contest the elections. However, that would seem highly unlikely since Jyotiraditya will be busy working alongside Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in UP.

Meanwhile, there is buzz right from Madhya Pradesh to Delhi that Jyotiraditya has his eyes set on the CM's



chair and that is why he doesn't want to fight the LS polls. It is being said that soon after the elections, his role in State politics will gain prominence. Quite possibly, he will fight the Assembly Elections after ensuring the resignation of a loyal MLA. However, some are of the opinion that he might be sent to the Rajya Sabha or be given the party command in the State. Perhaps, Kamal Nath is apprehensive of a possible upheaval, which is why he has conveyed to the party high command his decision to not leave the Chhindwara seat. Kamal Nath might rope in his son, Nakul Nath, to fight from here. Kamal's wife, Alka Nath, has also been an MP from this seat.

**SACHIN PILOT'S STRATEGY**

**T**he Congress State President of Rajasthan and Deputy CM, Sachin Pilot, has announced that nobody from his family will fight the Lok Sabha

Elections. The current MLA from Tonk was defeated in the 2014 Lok Sabha Elections from Ajmer. Later, when byelections were held in Ajmer, he didn't contest. This seat is vacant. Raghu Sharma, who had won the byelections, has become an MLA and is now a Minister in the Gehlot Cabinet.

However, Pilot has clarified that nobody from his family will fight from this seat. He is said to be eyeing the CM post, which explains his strategy. His mother, Rama Pilot, has been an MP from Dausa. This time also, people were saying that she might contest from Ajmer. Pilot's wife, Sara, is also from a political family; she is Farooq Abdullah's daughter and Omar's sister. It won't come as a surprise if she too jumps on the political bandwagon. If only Sachin hadn't tried to stand out among other party leaders and announced that no one from his family would contest. It's likely that he will start

pressure politics soon after the elections.

**BIG DILEMMA IN CONGRESS**

**I**t seems that Rahul Gandhi has appointed State in-charges and General Secretaries without any deliberations or a thought about the future. Many General Secretaries are likely to contest elections, prompting several questions. General Secretaries and State in-charges are worried for their seats and the big question looms large: Who will lead the elections in States which have been assigned to them? There is no cause for worry in areas where Rajya Sabha MPs have been given charge, but what will happen in States whose in-charges are themselves in the Lok Sabha poll race?

RPN Singh is in-charge for Jharkhand and has to fight the Lok Sabha Elections. State President of Jharkhand, Ajay Kumar, and chairman of the campaign committee, Subodh

Kant Sahay, are also set to contest. Who will guide the party there? Umang Singhar — co-in-charge of the party in Madhya Pradesh and a Minister in the Kamal Nath Cabinet — might be told to look after election preparations in Jharkhand. In the same manner, Rajiv Satav, an MP from Hingoli in Maharashtra, has been given the responsibility of Gujarat. He also has to take care of his own seat along with Gujarat.

The biggest issue is of KC Venugopal, the MP from Alappuzha seat in Kerala. Earlier, he was in-charge for Karnataka and is now the General Secretary of the organisation. He will fight the Lok Sabha Elections along with the double responsibilities. In-charge of Assam, Harish Rawat, and in-charge of Maharashtra, Mallikarjun Kharge, also have to contest. In contrast, the BJP has appointed such leaders as State in-charges who don't have to fight the Lok Sabha Elections.

# A cold chain prayer to prevent vaccine wastage

**D**eepak Pal stole a glance at the battered, metal clock. It was just past 9 am. His morning tea would have to wait. He walked up to the ice-lined refrigerator (ILR) and leaned over to read the words imprinted on the glossy flex right above it, on the wall. "O Mere Bhagwan Roj Teri Daya, Isiprakar Permanent Hame De," he whispered in Hindi, almost in a trance, the words in Hindi mean "Seeking the kind blessings of the Almighty every day and forever". A ray of light from a half-open window filled the room in a golden hue as he ended the cold chain prayer.

Minutes later, as he settled down to enjoy his cup of tea, Deepak, a Cold Chain Handler (CCH) at Rajpur CHC, of Barwani, a district in Madhya Pradesh, marveled at the power of the cold chain prayer. This was no ordinary chant to appease the Gods, but a powerful mnemonic to help CCHs like Deepak remember the stacking order of vaccines — starting with 'O' as in OPV at the bottom and 'De' for diluent at the top. It has become a part of Deepak's daily routine; to review the guidelines for stacking the vaccines in the top-opening ILRs, in increasing order of temperature, from minus 20 degrees celsius to 8 degrees celsius. The prayer helped him remember this order and the right temperature, protecting the vaccines from damage. What seemed easy today was indeed a struggle a few years ago.

Vaccines are sensitive and fragile and hence need to be stored in proper conditions; temperatures and sequence of storage are critical elements for ensuring

Vaccines are sensitive and fragile, and hence need to be stored in proper conditions; temperatures and sequence of storage are critical elements for ensuring the potency



(Left) Flex imprinted with the cold chain prayer displayed over the ILR of one of the cold chain points in Barwani; Deepak Pal explaining how the prayer helps him memorise the guideline of stacking the vaccines in the tray of a top-open ILR



vaccines potency. Hence, vaccine storage and management has always been a critical factor for an immunisation programme's success. Before 2014, this was proving to be a challenge, as CCHs like Deepak struggled to remember the vaccine storage guidelines. Despite several trainings to the

handlers, errors continued and large volumes of vaccines were being wasted due to incorrect stacking and storing, resulting in financial loss, loss of vaccine potency, and poor immune response. In 2014, when expensive vaccines like Pentavalent, PCV, RVV, IPV were introduced in

Madhya Pradesh, there was a call for urgent intervention to set things right. The solution came from Dr Santosh Shukla, the State Immunisation Officer (SEPIO), a veteran in the field of immunisation. Dr Shukla, Joint Director-cum-SEPIO, Madhya Pradesh, an officer who had worked extensive-

ly in rural and remote areas of the State, had immense knowledge and understanding of the ground realities, knew they had to quickly find a solution and think outside the box to help CCHs, supervisors, and MPW/LHVs remember the vaccine storage guidelines. Was there a way to help these tar-

get audience remember these guidelines? He found the answer in mnemonics, a learning strategy often used in classrooms from his days as a student in medical college. He codified the guidelines using mnemonics in the form of a simple prayer. For the vaccine handlers, this was a ditty they

could chant every day, much like the many prayers that were a part of their lives. There was no looking back! Dr Shukla's deep understanding of the handlers, a group of religious-minded people, had saved the day.

The results were evident from the start — the rate of vaccine wastage started dropping across the State. In a study conducted in the cold chain points of the State in 2015, it was revealed that the cold chain prayer and a mobile application for tracking vaccine storage had together saved ₹9.72 crore worth of vaccine from wastage. This innovative practice was even appreciated by the visiting teams of the Common Review Mission from the Government of India, UNICEF, WHO and dignitaries from other Indian States. Over the years, this practice has been adopted by some other States as well.

Today, cold chain handlers like Deepak working in 1,200 cold chain points of the State start their day by chanting the cold chain prayer. It's a part of their morning ritual. By leveraging the power of religious belief, a simple mnemonic-based prayer has become the soul of cold-chain points of the State. They say a prayer has the power to save lives. This simple chant is a living testimony to that — it may well have saved over a million lives of children in the State from vaccine-preventable diseases. By following a simple step, the providers have been able to ensure that beneficiaries get the full benefit of life-saving vaccines and protection against diseases.



THE SYSTEMATIC ASSIMILATION POLICY OF CHINA TOWARDS UIGHUR TURKS IS A GREAT EMBARRASSMENT FOR HUMANITY, SAID TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN HAMI AKSOY

CULTURE LANE

The crisis of 'presidential harassment'

Two days after calling for bipartisanship in his State of the Union address, Donald Trump returned to Twitter to cry foul about Democrats in Congress. The House ways and means committee announced it was preparing to investigate Trump's tax returns, a move Trump decried as "presidential harassment". "You laugh but it's true, folks," Trevor Noah said on the *Daily Show*. "Presidential harassment is a serious crisis that affects one out of every 320 million people in this country."



But credit where credit is due: "One thing that makes Trump so successful is that he knows how to make himself seem like the victim when other people are just doing their jobs." If the press reports on him, it's "fake news". If Congress investigates conflicts of interest, it's "presidential harassment".

"I bet if the cops were chasing Trump he'd be the kinda guy who would try to call 911 on them," Noah said.

But of all the swirling scandals, Trump seems to be the most worried about his tax returns — an anxiety reflected in recent comments by billionaires, whose staggering wealth elicits increasingly less sympathy from the American public. Though pundits have classified plans to tax the super-rich — those earning over \$10m a year — as fringe socialist ideas, Noah cited a Politico poll from MSNBC in which 76 per cent of Americans supported it.

BBC fights to retain Attenborough

The BBC has commissioned three major series on the natural world, as it fights to stop staff who make its popular natural history shows — including David Attenborough — being poached by deep-pocketed rival Netflix. *Perfect Planet*, *Frozen Planet II* and *Planet Earth III* will be shown on the BBC over the coming years, building on the success of 2017's enormously popular *Blue Planet II*, which helped push the issue of plastic recycling to the top of the political agenda.



The announcement comes after senior staff left the BBC's Natural History Unit, lured to the commercial sector by the prospect of working for rapidly-growing streaming services, which can offer bigger budgets. Attenborough, who is synonymous with the BBC's natural history output, has already agreed to provide the voiceover for a forthcoming Netflix series named *Our Planet*, which is due to be released in April and has

involved 600 crew members filming for four years around the world. Despite its name, the programme is not part of the official BBC Planet series and the similarity is thought to have angered the corporation's bosses.

In an interview with the *Financial Times* published recently, Attenborough said he would still work with the BBC but was enthused by Netflix's global reach, with its programmes made available around the world at the same time.

Louvre Abu Dhabi's exquisite exhibits



The Louvre Abu Dhabi, the first museum to carry the name outside France, has announced that it will display works by the Dutch masters Rembrandt and Vermeer this month. Works by the two artists are part of the gallery's first exhibition of 2019 — Rembrandt, Vermeer and the Dutch Golden Age: Masterpieces from the Leiden collection and the Musée du Louvre. The exhibition in the United Arab Emirates capital is dedicated to the renowned Fijnschilders (fine painters) of the Netherlands. "Rembrandt is a master of the Golden Age," said the museum's head, Manuel Rabate. "He's a universal genius, he's connected to the world." The exhibition's 95 works include

Vermeer's *Young Woman Seated at a Virginal* and Rembrandt's *Portrait of a Man*. Study of the Head and Clasped Hands of a Young Man as Christ in Prayer by Rembrandt will also feature, and has been acquired by the museum for its permanent collection.

The Louvre Abu Dhabi was opened in November 2017 — nearly five years behind schedule — by the French president, Emmanuel Macron, and Abu Dhabi's crown prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

Marketed as a "universal museum" celebrating cultural exchange and tolerance, the Louvre Abu Dhabi has reportedly cost the UAE about \$1bn, including about \$500m to use the Louvre brand. Officials have not confirmed the price tag.



What are the essential questions we must ask to ensure a good relationship? BOUDICCA FOX-LEONARD finds out

WHAT SHOULD I LOOK FOR IN A PARTNER?

Research suggests we don't really know what we want in a partner — for example, speed-dating studies have found that what we say we want is different to what we actually go for. So don't be overly picky. Shared values are more important, in my opinion, than shared interests. Finding someone who also likes chess, or wearing purple clothing, isn't going to be enough. Commitment is far more important than connection; someone who's prepared to put in the hard graft to make a relationship work. Attachment theory comes into it if you are insecure — basically, being with someone secure will make your relationship more likely to succeed. Be conscious that who you choose will change you over time.

IS MONOGAMY NATURAL?

No. Of the 160 countries in a 2009 study, 44 per cent accepted polygamy, at least to some extent. Add to that the high rates of infidelity in many "monogamous" cultures, as well as the number of people who try non-monogamy (21 per cent in a large US study) and monogamy seems to be less "natural" or "universal" than many might believe. It's not the norm in animals either. Out of 4,000 mammal species, only a few dozen are monogamous, and of the world's 300-400 primates, only nine are — our closest living relative, the bonobo, definitely isn't (they seem to have sex at every available opportunity).

WHY DO PEOPLE CHEAT?

So many reasons. Sometimes because their relationship isn't working — but research suggests people cheat even when they're very happy in their relationship. In one study, a hefty 56 per cent of men and 34 per cent of women who had cheated rated their marriage as either "happy" or "very happy". If they were happy, why did they cheat? When asked this question by researchers, people provided a variety of answers, including: fun, career advancement, escapism, a need for conquest and power, exploring sexual identity, a desire for variety, or to combat feeling inadequate. But people also cheat for reasons they're not aware of, for example introducing insecurity into their relationship because they crave

independence, or exploring a part of themselves they have denied or buried.

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN IT'S TIME TO WALK AWAY?

First of all, it's important to recognise that love and commitment are, or should be, conditional. And you need to decide what the conditions are. They shouldn't be too stringent but they shouldn't be too lax either. I interviewed philosopher Richard Kraut about this, and he said: "You should be willing to put up with a lot of discomfort and hard work, and a certain amount of self-sacrifice out of loyalty to a friend. But I would add there is a limit to that, especially if there eventually comes a point where you simply cannot do any more good for a friend and putting effort into this is harming yourself. At that point, loyalty no longer is a virtue." Of course, that may be easier said than done. For those in abusive relationships, for example, not only can walking away be traumatic, difficult or dangerous, but it may also be impossible without support.

DOES LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT EXIST?

No. I think the sort of love that makes relationships last requires time — and with "love at first sight" time isn't there, by definition. I think it has the potential to turn into love, but I think love requires persistence, vulnerability, intimacy. For every person I interviewed who fell in love at first sight and was right, I interviewed more who got it wrong (for example, Sophie, a model I sat next to on a plane, whose boyfriend ended up stalking her and installing spyware on her phone).

CAN YOU REIGNITE THE SPARK IN A LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP?

Yes. Evidence suggests that doing new

and exciting activities with your partner, being responsive, making them feel desired and valued and spending time with other couples where you have positive, supportive and intimate conversations, can all rekindle sexual desire. So too can trying to meet your partner's sexual needs without expecting an immediate return, and believing that you can be sexually satisfied in your relationship through hard work and effort.

IS IT POSSIBLE FOR LUST TO LAST?

Evidence suggests that lust does dwindle. When researchers interviewed 6,785 people who were married and living with their spouse, 80-98 per cent under 24 had had sex in the past month, compared with 20-50 per cent of people over 75. And by looking at the partners of the people who chose not to say anything about their sex lives, researchers discovered that when people didn't answer, it was usually because they didn't have much sex — suggesting a cultural expectation. Research suggests that the more you encounter something, such as a spouse, the less exciting you find it, or them.

CAN YOU CHANGE SOMEONE'S ATTACHMENT STYLE?

If you're secure, you might be able to slowly make your insecure partner secure. But sometimes you won't be able to (for example, if the avoidant breaks up with you before you get the chance). Attachment style is stable, but can also be influenced by the relationships we're in.

CAN YOU CHANGE YOUR OWN ATTACHMENT TYPE?

Reflection can have a huge impact on attachment. Research looking at women who had experienced a very deprived upbringing found that each one who was highly reflective went on to have a secure child, whereas of those on the other end of the scale, only six per cent did. In other words, mothers who were very reflective were able to prevent insecure attachment from passing to their child.

Attachment styles are robust, but they're not unchangeable. Learning to reflect (both on your own mental states and those of others), to excavate and process any trauma you have suffered, and to regulate

your emotions can trump your personal history — even when that history is horrendous. In doing so, you can potentially transform the way you relate to others — and yourself.

DO OPPOSITES ATTRACT?

In attachment theory terms, yes. Because anxious and avoidant often go for each other as they conform to what each person would expect from a relationship. However, when two secure people get together, they manifest as the smug, "we're so happy" couple. If I ruled the world I'd break them up and distribute them among all the anxious people.

IS THERE A THING AS 'THE ONE'?

No. It doesn't make mathematical sense. And I think it's a really dangerous way of looking at love — it makes it all about finding the "right" object, instead of thinking about whether you could work harder at the skill of loving.

CAN YOU BE IN LOVE WITH MORE THAN ONE PERSON?

I think being "in love" really means being "in lust" or "in romantic love". The sort of love that makes relationships last is very different. It's much calmer. Yes, you can last after more than one person, although my general impression of lust is that it's quite dominating, deliberately so because without it we wouldn't survive as a species. Lust engages the brain's reward system, the same part of the brain engaged when we take cocaine or amphetamines.

Can you have companionate love for more than one person? I think so, yes. At least, polyamorists seem to be able to. I don't think love is a limited resource. But that doesn't mean loving more than one person is easy or solves the problem of the paradox of humans, i.e. that they want novelty and safety all at the same time.

CAN YOU BE HAPPY WITH SOMEONE YOU MET THROUGH AN AFFAIR?

Yes, although the illicit nature of the relationship will make them all the more alluring. And they're unlikely to be quite so appealing when the danger dissipates.

It also depends on the stakes — if you leave children and families behind, it can put a huge amount of pressure on your relationship to last.

The Daily Telegraph



ODDLY ENOUGH

TEXAS STUDENTS DON WIGS IN TRIBUTE TO PAINTER BOB ROSS

There were lots of happy little trees at one Texas middle school this week. Art students at Madison Middle School in Abilene donned their curliest wigs and painted little trees onto canvases to pay homage to the late painter Bob Ross. Teacher Brady Sloane tells the Abilene Reporter News that the idea came about because she wanted to reward Advanced Placement students who had been stressed out over recent projects and grades. The result was a flash mob Thursday of about four dozen students who wore wigs, blue button-down shirts and held palettes of paint. An episode of Ross' television show, "The Joy of Painting," was projected onto a large screen. Ross gained a following for his soothing tone and soft-spoken voice. He died in 1995.



(AP)

INDONESIA POLICE APOLOGISE FOR USING SNAKE IN INTERROGATION

Indonesian police have apologised and pledged disciplinary action after officers draped a live snake around the neck of a suspect to persuade him to confess during an interrogation session in the easternmost area of Papua. A video circulated online shows a man being questioned about stolen mobile phones seated with his hands tethered behind his back yelling in distress as a snake is pushed towards his face by an officer. The man, who can be seen writhing on the ground for much of the time is asked by an officer, "How many times have you stolen mobile phones?" The suspect later responds by saying, "Only two times." During the video, a voice can be heard ordering the man to open his eyes and at one stage threatens to put the snake into his mouth and under his trousers.

In a statement, Jayawijaya police chief Tonny Ananda Swadaya issued an apology, saying, "The investigator was not professional in doing his job". Swadaya added that the officers had been acting on their own initiative to try get a confession, saying the snake was non-venomous and tame. "We have taken stern action against the personnel," he said, adding the officers themselves had not physically attacked the man. Papua police spokesman Ahmad Musthofa Kamal said the case was being investigated by the internal affairs unit and if violations of the law or code of conduct were proven action would be taken. Reports of human rights abuses by security forces often emerge from Papua, where a separatist movement has simmered for decades. The former Dutch colony, the resource-rich western part New Guinea island, was incorporated into Indonesia after a widely criticised UN-backed referendum in 1969. Veronica Koman, a human rights lawyer focused on Papua, said by text message that using a snake in this way represented torture and was

not a one-off incident in the area. Koman said a snake had also been used in an interrogation of one of her clients, whom she said was a pro-independence activist. Papua police spokesman Kamal said he was not aware of another case.

(Reuters)

A DYING DISK: WARM WEATHER DETERIORATES RIVER'S WHEEL OF ICE

Maine's giant spinning ice disk may soon meet its end because of unseasonably warm weather. The *Portland Press Herald* reports the disk in the Presumpscot River has lost most of the shape and appearance that made it look like a blue moon. Westbrook spokeswoman Tina Radel says that the disk was on the move Wednesday and that its "time may be limited." The ice disk formed in early January, drawing crowds to the river's edge and attracting attention online. It formed naturally where there is a circular current that creates a whirlpool effect. Radel says a webcam set up by scientists from Brown University that provides time-lapse photography of the disk will remain in operation through the spring.

(AP)

ART EXHIBIT SHOWS IVANKA LOOKALIKE VACUUMING

A new art exhibit at a Washington museum shows an Ivanka Trump lookalike pushing a vacuum cleaner and invites spectators to toss crumbs for her to clean up. The art piece by Jennifer Rubell, titled 'Ivanka Vacuuming', opened February 1 and continues through February 17 at the Flashpoint Gallery. The public is encouraged to "throw crumbs onto the carpet, watching as Ivanka elegantly vacuums up the mess, her smile never wavering." A large text description of the work hanging on the gallery wall describes Ivanka Trump as "a figure whose public persona incorporates an almost comically wide range of feminine identities — daughter, wife, mother, sister, model, working woman, blonde." It calls the act of throwing bread crumbs onto the carpet for her to vacuum "surprisingly pleasurable." But Ivanka Trump and her



brothers Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump criticised the exhibit on Tuesday as a sexist attempt to humiliate her. "Women can choose to knock each other down or build each other up. I choose the latter," Ivanka Trump, a senior White House adviser, tweeted alongside a link to a story on the exhibit.

Trump Jr tweeted, "Sad, but not surprising to watch self professed 'feminists' launching sexist attacks against @IvankaTrump. In their crazed world, sexism is OK if it hurts their political enemies."

Eric Trump, on Fox News, called his sister a "powerful woman who has done more for women than probably anybody in Washington DC."

The exhibit is presented by the CulturalDC arts organisation, and Executive Director Kristi Maiselman said her group is always happy to present "timely boundary-pushing installations" like this.

(AP)



Briefly Speaking



GIRLS MORE PRONE TO ADDICTION?

Women's hormonal cycles may not only make them more prone to drug addiction but also more affected by triggers that lead to relapse, a study has found. The research is significant since there are virtually no addiction studies in women that account for these cycles, according to researchers from Vanderbilt University in the US. They point out that women represent a particularly vulnerable population, with higher rates of addiction following exposure to drugs, but addiction studies have primarily focused on the mechanisms underlying these effects in men. The study showed that when fertility-related hormone levels are high, females learn faster, make stronger associations to cues in their environment and are more prone to seek rewards. "Women becoming addicted to drugs may be a fundamentally different process than men," said Erin Calipari, an assistant professor at Vanderbilt University. "It's important to understand this, because it's the first step in developing treatments that are actually effective," she added.

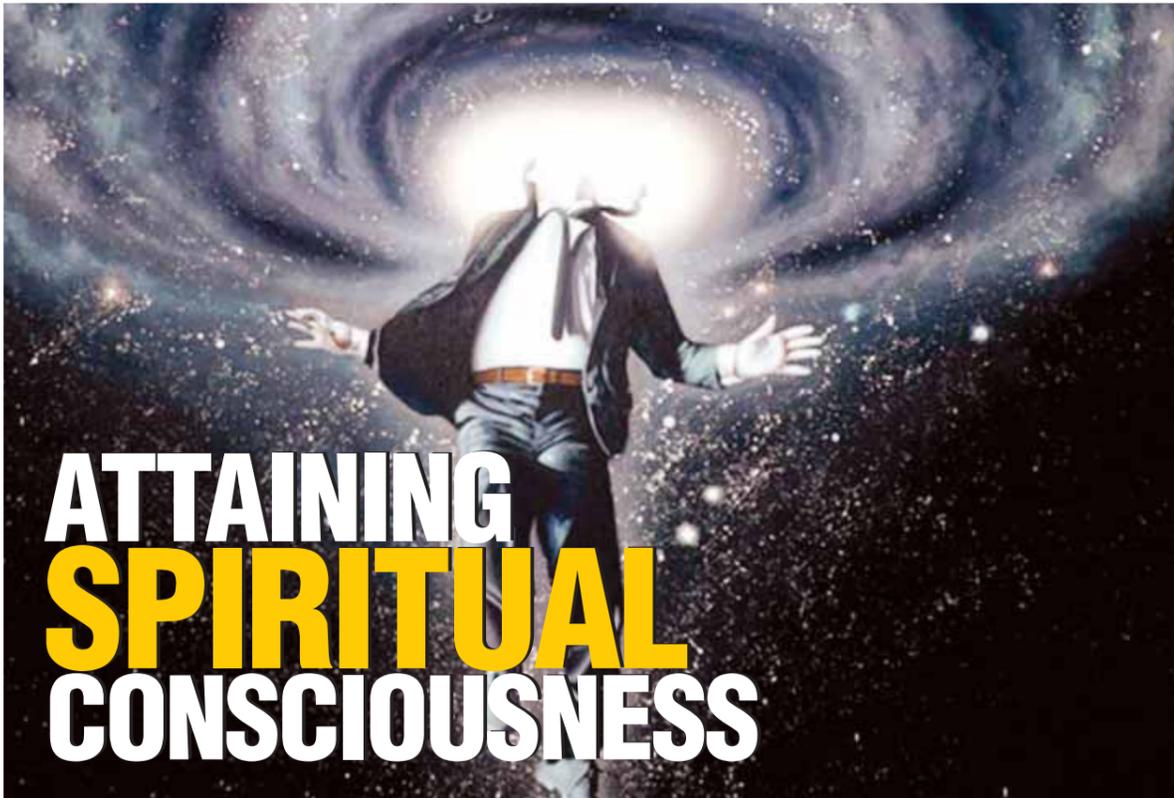
DOES FASTING AID YOUR METABOLISM?

Apart from losing weight, occasional fasting may also help to boost metabolic activities, generate antioxidants, and help reverse ageing, says a study. Scientists have identified 30 previously unrecorded metabolites whose quantity increases during fasting. We have been researching ageing and metabolism for many years and decided to search for unknown health effects in human feelings, said Takayuki Teruya, lead author. Fasting induces metabolic activation rather actively. Scientists analysed human blood, plasma and red blood cells drawn from four fasting individuals. Results revealed 30 previously-recognised metabolites and 44 new metabolites that had been increasing universally among the subjects between 1.5 to 60-fold within just 58 hours of fasting.

PILL TRUMPS INSULIN INJECTIONS?



Researchers have developed a drug capsule that could be used to deliver oral doses of insulin, potentially replacing injections for patients with Type-2 diabetes, says a new study. About the size of a blueberry, the capsule contains a single and small needle made of compressed insulin, which is injected after the capsule reaches the stomach. The study showed that the capsule could deliver enough insulin to lower blood sugar to levels comparable to those produced by injections given through skin. They also demonstrated that the device can be adapted to deliver other protein drugs. "We are really hopeful that this new type of capsule could someday help diabetic patients and perhaps anyone who requires therapies that can now only be given by injection or infusion," said Robert Langer. The tip of the needle is made of nearly 100 per cent compressed, freeze-dried insulin. When the capsule is swallowed, water in the stomach dissolves the sugar disk, releasing the spring and injecting the needle into the stomach wall.



ATTAINING SPIRITUAL CONSCIOUSNESS

Through meditation, personal transformation, and universal love, human beings can connect with their own soul, writes SANT RAJINDER SINGH

The world we see before us is vastly altered from the world of yesterday. Far more dramatic than the changes brought about by technology are the changes in our perception of the world. Science has broadened our vision to extend from the minutest subatomic particles to the brilliant light radiating from distant quasars. The universe is no longer perceived as solid matter, but dancing packets of ever-whirling energy. Our worldview has shifted from believing in only what one can perceive with the five senses to recognising that there is more than what we see with our physical eyes.

Besides exploring outer space, scientists have begun researching the realm of inner space. We find medical doctors reporting cases of people who had near-death experiences in which they underwent clinical death yet were revived. Dr Raymond Moody's book, *Life After Life*, documents cases in which people who underwent the near-death experience reported similar experiences. In the interim period while they were declared dead many reported leaving the body and finding themselves floating in the room, looking down at their physical body. They could float through the hospital, often-times seeing their relatives in the other room and listening to their conversations. A remarkable number of people experienced soaring through a tunnel to a region of Light where they met a benign, radiant being. They experienced transcendent peace and happiness which they found difficult to leave. Even children whose lives were restored following clinical death described this same experience. The number of people who underwent these near-death experiences is so large and the descriptions so strikingly similar that doctors and scientists find it difficult to ignore the possibility that there is more to who we are than our physical body. All who have undergone such an experience came to the same conclusion: There is life beyond our present life.

These findings are corroborated with the experiences of mystics throughout the ages. What seems new to the Western mind has been widely accepted knowledge for centuries in the East. In each religion we find accounts of similar experiences in which one's consciousness can be separated from the physical body. We find extraordinary descriptions of higher states of consciousness in different religions. In Hinduism, we find the ancient story of Savitri, whose husband was taken from her by death. Savitri is said to have left the body, apprehending the angel of death and imploring him to return her husband to life. Such was the power of her love that her husband was revived. In Buddhism, we have the *Tibetan Book of the Dead* that describes in detail the journey of the soul as it departs from this world. Islam describes in detail regions of heaven, hell, and ahraf (purgatory) to which a soul passes after this physical existence is over. In Christianity we have the *Book of Revelations*, rich in description of realms beyond this world. In the Kabbalah of Judaism, a cosmogony of higher planes is described. A deeper study into the heart of each religion reveals a wealth of mystical experiences described by the saints and spiritual adepts. Each in its own time has taught disciples how to transcend physical consciousness and explore spiritual realms.

Spiritual consciousness is our birthright. It is the highest attainment we can achieve in our lifetime. We may have thought that these states were the monopoly of saints, but the experimentation of modern scientists and mystics confirms that the average person may also enjoy spiritual consciousness. There are simple steps to spiritual consciousness. Unbounded joy, happiness, and inner peace await us when we discover the freedom, the exhilaration, and the wonder of enlightenment that comes from attaining spiritual consciousness.

What is spiritual consciousness? It is becoming conscious of the soul

and God within us. Most of us are aware of our body, of the thoughts passing through our mind, and of the world around us. This is called body or physical consciousness. But we are more than our body and mind.

We are actually a soul, a conscious entity which inhabits the body. The soul is a part of the Oversoul, whether we call it God, the Creator, Allah, Wah-i-Guru, or Parmatma. It is of the same essence as God. The soul is what enlivens the body. When the soul leaves the body at the time of death, the body dies. But the soul does not die. It is immortal. Just as people who clinically died experienced a continued existence outside their body, so will each of us continue to exist even after the demise of our mortal frame. This consciousness at the level of soul, independent of our body and mind, is what is termed spiritual consciousness.

We do not have to wait until our physical end to know what it is like perceiving life at the level of soul. It is an experience many have enjoyed during their lifetimes and is available to every human being. We have read in the scriptures of various religions about people who had experienced spiritual consciousness. Buddha attained enlightenment under the bodhi tree. St Paul said, "I live; not now I, but Christ lives in me." Bahá'u'lláh, the mystic saint of Persia, said, "O Son of dust, hearken unto the mystic voice calling from the realm of the Invisible ... up from thy prison, ascend unto the glorious meadows above and from thy mortal cage wing thy flight unto the paradise of the Placeless."

These inner experiences are not limited to peoples of antiquity. The first step to spiritual consciousness is learning the art of meditation. The next step is to achieve personal transformation. Finally, inner peace and personal transformation lead to outer peace in the world. By attaining inner peace, we can make a positive contribution to human unity, universal love, and the improvement of all life on this planet.

“THE SOUL IS WHAT ENLIVENS THE BODY. WHEN THE SOUL LEAVES THE BODY AT THE TIME OF DEATH, THE BODY DIES. BUT THE SOUL DOES NOT DIE. IT IS IMMORTAL. CONSCIOUSNESS AT THE LEVEL OF SOUL, INDEPENDENT OF OUR BODY AND MIND, IS WHAT IS TERMED AS SPIRITUAL CONSCIOUSNESS”



HIDDEN SOULS PRAMOD PATHAK

Understanding Rajdharm



Rajdharm or the duty of the king has been a much talked about subject in ancient historical and scriptural texts of India. However, it has often been found missing in the character of many kings from the ancient times to the present ones. Usually, there is much of sermonising about the duty of the *praja* or the subjects who are supposed to observe the laws laid down by the kings. From ancient Indian kingdoms to the modern state, the story has not changed much and the rulers tend to lose track of what their duty is. In the Indian philosophical thought, the kings were supposed to be representatives of God in this world and had a very obligatory role to play in the well-being of their subjects. Legendary kings from history like Vikramaditya or Bhoj have proved what a king was supposed to do for his subjects. Our ancient Indian accounts of the polity of those times were rich treatise on basic principles of statecraft that aimed at good governance.

The clichéd jargon Minimum Government, Maximum governance was actually the avowed principle those days which the kings practised. In *Manusmriti*, there is elaborate discussion on relationship between *dharma* or righteousness and ruler of the State. The execution of right duties was the king's basic responsibility and his duties were defined under the concept of Rajdharm. According to Manu, the law giver, God created the king to protect the subjects from anarchy and exploitation of the powerful people. Thus, it was the king's duty to protect the weak from the strong who broke the law. If the verdict of a king is unjust it would be a great sin. A king should be very careful while executing the laws which were supposed to be based on *dharma*. It was to be correlated with morals and ethics. Ideally, the king was seen as a person who would always speak the truth, be a realist, and be well versed in duty and work. If a king is abusing and violating the law, he is punishable. He is supposed to be transparent, duty bound and must follow the code of the *Shastras*, the book of *dharma*.

Humility was supposed to be a desired skill. Manu held that the king should behave like a father towards all citizens and keep them happy. He was repulsive to the idea of king imposing his will on the subjects unscrupulously and ruthlessly. In the *Ramayana*, the essentials of Rajdharm are also imparted to Bharat, the younger brother of Rama when the former goes to meet him during the early period of exile. The discussions between the brothers in the "Ayodhya Kanda" is an enriched discourse on how the king should rule. It details all aspects of a king's duty towards the subjects as well as the State. But the best example of Rajdharm is the story of king Rantideva as narrated in the *Mahabharata*. He was so responsive that anybody with any problem would run to him for help and the king would happily serve him. His belief was that by serving his subjects, he was serving Shri Vishnu, the Lord. Legend goes that he became a favourite with God because of the service he rendered to his subjects. In ancient India, Rajdharm was the welfare of the people or moral duty. Its spirit was to ensure peace, justice and prosperity to the people. The modern day rulers need to take a leaf or two out of the chapter on Rajdharm.

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We have been sufficiently equipped

As long as human beings keep faith in God and follow the path He shows, they will never find themselves helpless, says AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

I do not need to remind anyone how challenging this material world is. Beginning with one's stay in the mother's womb, things are tough and one needs to apply oneself to stay afloat. We have to be realistic and act very sensibly. Where do we begin? We must realise that we all are small entities. No matter how rich or powerful one may become, everyone is helpless in the ultimate sense. When one is born, it is natural that parents look for beautiful features in the child. Do we have any say in that? Same is true of the level of intelligence. Parents, whose children are intelligent, consider themselves very fortunate. Education over, one looks for professional opportunities. How many are able to gain the desired objective? Getting married presents a big challenge. Are you getting the right partner? The richest man has just divorced his wife of twenty five years. Our challenges do not end with bad

marriages; we get helplessly sick, sometimes terminally sick. Same is true of death. One of the richest men died recently despite the best medical facilities available to him. People lose their near and dear ones and can do nothing about it. I have not mentioned lack of resources due to which the majority of the people suffer. All in all, one is well and truly helpless.

But one does not have to be. Is it true? Can all the problems indicated so far be dealt with satisfactorily? Yes, read on and you will agree. The first problem mentioned can be avoided by qualifying for liberation. God has instructed in great detail how this can be achieved. Yes, it may take several births to qualify for this privilege but we can definitely gain it. As far as looks go, one can hope for good features in the next birth if one has been doing mostly pious deeds and has a desire for good looks. As far the present life is



concerned, one can radiate charm by being a good person. People are attracted to such personalities.

Good intelligence presents a bigger challenge for the present life. Like good looks, sharp intelligence is how good persons are rewarded by God. This is great for the next birth but all is not lost even for the present life. Many persons manage to gain sufficient expertise in some field even though they are not very intelligent in the conventional sense. In God's creation, there are always ways to overcome any deficiency. As regards professional opportunities, God takes a direct role if approached; He guides. And God, being omniscient knows exactly what will suit a particular person. Bad marriage does present a problem for the present life but God is not helpless; He helps in getting rid of a difficult partner through divorce if he or she cannot be reformed.

Diseases are not foreign to a material body but by eating proper foods, exercising adequately, sleeping sufficiently and having healthy entertainment, one can reduce one's suffering (*Gita*). Those connected with God not only reduce their chances of getting stricken with painful diseases but they also get tolerance power from God, ensuring that one does not get too disturbed by the onset of a disease. The timing of death does present a challenge but devotees of God are not unduly perturbed because they are assured of excellent next births. And as stated by Sanjay in *Gita*, devotees of God are never short on resources.

It may appear difficult, but God has equipped us adequately to deal with all eventualities. He assures those connected with Him of an excellent future; we are never helpless really.

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



FOR A LONG TIME, I HAVE BEEN MAKING MANY PREDICTIONS... I ACKNOWLEDGE ALL TO HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH DIVINE POWER AND INSPIRATION — NOSTRADAMUS



**YOUR WEEK AHEAD**

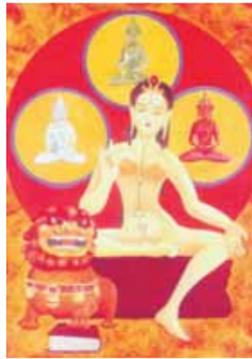


MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

This week, you are likely to face digestive or intestine-related problems. And health-related challenges will not stop at that as a hectic schedule, travelling and day-to-day challenges are likely to take a toll on your health. Don't avoid these problems or take them lightly. Take some time out and start a fitness plan. On the work front, anxiety and tension could reduce your efficiency level. Decisions regarding the sale of real estate property will need to be taken. New job offers are on the cards. Keep your financial documents updated. Relationship wise, you need to analyse your existing relations and spend some quality time with your partner. Those waiting for approval of relation by elders may face opposition.  
**Lucky number 15**  
**Lucky colour White**  
**Lucky day Friday**



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

This week, you are likely to feel good about living a healthy and balanced lifestyle. You should pamper yourself with beauty treatments and spa sessions this week. You should try to bring some changes in your workout routine to revive your mood and focus. Career-wise, this week will be good as many big projects will come your way that will prove to be profitable. Self-owned ventures will be successful and people will accept your views. Travelling to a foreign land is on the cards. Those in import and export business may get into productive networking and make a huge profit around this time. Your love life is very interesting and romantic this week. For singles opportunities for new romance is on the horizon. Make good use of it.  
**Lucky number 13**  
**Lucky colour White**  
**Lucky day Saturday**



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 19

The week is all about taking good care of your health. You will not have to compromise on health issues. Take some time out of your busy schedule to figure out what more you can do to improve your health status. Avoid impulsive and aggressive nature. Professionally, you are moving to a new position. This will make you feel optimistic and hopeful about the future. Financially, the week is good and you will plan for good investment. In your relationship, your heart will push for what you want. Making new friends and friendship turning into love is on the cards. Talk openly to your partner to improve your relationship and build a solid base. Singles may meet their someone special this week.  
**Lucky number 8**  
**Lucky colour Red**  
**Lucky day Monday**



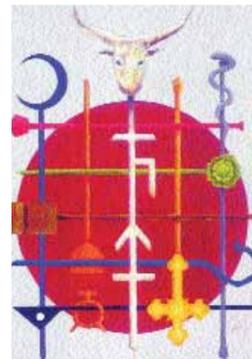
**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

You will enjoy determination and will power that will help you to face the health challenges coming your way this week. This will be a good time for you to quit unhealthy food habits like consumption of alcohol, junk and spicy foods. Daily exercise and planned diet will work wonders for you. But at work, you feel stagnated. This could be a wake-up call for you. Changes in form of a job, working environment, working attitude are on the cards. One of the advantages is that this change will be beneficial for you. Changes are foreseen in your relationship as well. There is some change in your partner's behaviour pattern. Take some time out to sort out these changes. A quick decision is very important.  
**Lucky number 24**  
**Lucky colour Green**  
**Lucky day Saturday**



**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

The week starts on a good note as you may be able to give up some of your bad habits and start leading a healthier lifestyle. Take good care of yourself and your loved ones. Focus on your physical well-being. You are likely to find some spiritual facts that hold more promise and are beneficial for you. On the career front, take a break and also change your perspective. Things will not be as per your expectation; take it easy. This could be a time when you can consider a job change. Financially, you need to understand the unfavourable situation and face it without losing your calm. Relationships will be stable around this time. Some of you may get attracted to an older person. This attraction may not be mutual. So, be prepared and don't lose heart.  
**Lucky number 23**  
**Lucky colour Pastel colours**  
**Lucky day Wednesday**



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

This week, you will need to bring in some speedy changes in your health schedule for a better condition. Females who are expecting are advised to do go for a medical check-up this week so that they are not stressed over petty things in the coming months. Some of you are likely to enjoy a high energy level. This will assist you in leading a healthy life. At the professional front, worrying about your job will not help matters. You need to focus on things which are under your control. Those seeking jobs will need to have an optimistic outlook. Don't hesitate to ask for help. Relationship wise, you will feel blessed and happy as you get full support of your loved ones. Take a stand for your own beliefs.  
**Lucky number 17**  
**Lucky colour Copper**  
**Lucky day Tuesday**



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

You will have good health, emotionally and physically. Ensure a positive approach to things. Those awaiting test results regarding health can relax as the news will be good. As the week progresses, you may feel charged up. You may enter new realms in your spiritual exploration. On the career front, you may be rewarded for your work. Those in partnership ventures have fair chances of working for the selfless motives. This week your views and opinions will be heard and respected. Those in a job may experience the pride of accomplishment. Love life looks good as you may plan a vacation to an exotic location. This week you will receive love and affection from others.  
**Lucky number 19**  
**Lucky colour Magenta**  
**Lucky day Thursday**



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

The week looks cheerful and positive in terms of your health. You are likely to devote some quality time towards the attainment of your physical and mental well-being. From good nutrition to exercise and relaxation, you will follow everything required to restore your health. Professionally, you have the spirit of cooperation that will help you share cordial relations with everyone. Trust your instincts and connect with your innermost desires. This is a good time for new ventures. Relationship wise, the week is good. Things will speed up in the relationship. Quick decisions taken in haste mode could give you repentance at a later stage. So, listen to your heart but work with the mind to avoid being in that situation.  
**Lucky number 10**  
**Lucky colour Turquoise**  
**Lucky day Friday**



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

This week, pay attention to your diet and exercise routine. Ensure you take time to rest. Those having physical health issues should stay optimistic and remember that things don't stay like this always. If required, do consult a professional health consultant for a better state of health and an anxiety-free life. On the career front, you are likely to make a new connection that could be beneficial for you. Your efforts will be appreciated. Those seeking jobs may expect a call from a distant city. Salary hike is indicated. You will find a new sense of freshness and happiness in your relationships. Love is in the air and the stars are in your favour. So, this will be the right time for you to look for a lifelong partner.  
**Lucky number 14**  
**Lucky colour Pink**  
**Lucky day Thursday**



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

This week, you should give yourself some time to relax. Do not hesitate as this is the time for you to enjoy good health. The five elements of life will help you attain the balance that will make your life worth living. You may become an inspiration for some. On the career front, expect a hike in your income or reputation. Changing of a job, promotion or transfer are on the cards. Stay positive as this change will work in your favour. Students aspiring for higher education or studying abroad will get a piece of positive news. In your love life, conflicts or arguments are indicated. Your or your partner's aggression may take a toll on your mental health. But, it will be advisable that you relax as this is a temporary phase.  
**Lucky number 30**  
**Lucky colour Pastel green**  
**Lucky day Monday**



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

You are likely to follow a new belief system and hence walk on the path of self improvement. Attending religious services is on the cards. You may follow a new diet or workout routine that will again lead you to self-improvement. Professionally, you are shining bright with new ideas. You will work towards improving your social life. That shall be refreshing and will give new hope about the future. Some of you can expect promotion or the beginning of a new and fruitful project. Your productivity level will be very high. Relationship wise, this week is good for you. Tension and worry in this area of life over will come to an end as love and passion are back on track very soon. The week is full of fun, love and laughter. So, enjoy it!  
**Lucky number 22**  
**Lucky colour Coral**  
**Lucky day Sunday**



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

Health will be good. This week, everything will come together and you are in the right place, doing the right thing. You are likely to achieve what you have wished for. The week holds new beginnings that naturally emerge out of the accomplished cycle. To balance your energies, avoid rich food and do not oversleep. This week, career may not be so satisfactory. You will feel uncomfortable in your working environment. Your superior may feel that you are not putting your 100 per cent effort into a project or task. Your honest nature may fetch you some kind of displeasure. Avoid any kind of investment or a new deal in business/property. On the love front, you may be possessive. Those in love may face conflict and a difficult phase. However, a balanced approach will work in your favour.  
**Lucky number 14**  
**Lucky colour Mauve**  
**Lucky day Wednesday**

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**ASTROTURF**  
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

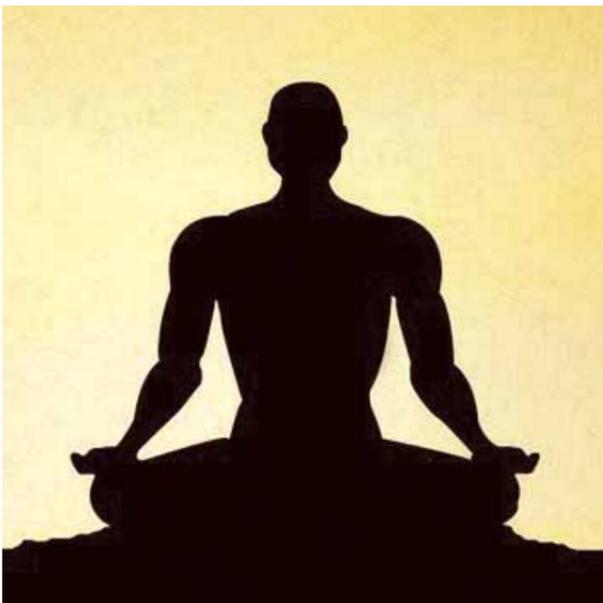
# Be the master of your own self

Taking off from the previous issue, it comes out that in so far as the question of fate and freewill is concerned, human mind holds the key. All that happens in life begins in the mind which visualises, excites desires, sets the functional mandate of a being, and accordingly gets going. The feel of the fruit of actions, good or bad, or for that matter the experiences had during the run of life too, feed the mind and add up to make its stock memory. That, in turn, influences the future course of life. Going through such successive phases of life, each mind gets preconditioned over a period of time, one way or the other, and that defines the unique character of a being. No wonder, different individuals are found reflecting varying levels of mind-state, according as one is inherently made out.

Ground study suggests that each individual is found reflecting one or the other out of the five different types of mind-state — darkening/ignorant, scattered, gathering up, one pointedness, and concentrated. Those ignorant about living realities of life fall into darkening category. Usually, they move unmindfully to the usual promptings

of the in-store memory imprints and resign to fate. Those having a monkey like mind continuously engaged in random thoughts evidently have a scattered mind. Their restive mind doesn't allow the scope to apply proper fore-thought before taking any call, not to say anything about due diligence. It's difficult for them to fully absorb any fresh educative inputs either. Evidently, they carry equal probability of failure and success in life. A large majority fall under these two categories.

The ones who realise that they were not able to fulfill their aspirational urges because of their own monkey-like mind-traits, put in conscious efforts to reign in their mental flirtations and improve their focus. They first try to bring their mind to a restful state following the method suggested in the previous issue. So, they are able to apply reasons as and when they are able to focus on the issue in hand. But they are not able to remain focused for long. Soon, they get distracted. They then try to regain their focus. This tug of war keeps going on. Such subjects fall under the category of gathering up type. Evidently, on relative scale, such characters are able to perform better



than the earlier two types.

To move beyond this stage, one would need to get into the meditation process. The process calls for withdrawing attention from the outer world and turn it inwards. A process of self-reflection begins when you come across your true nature with all its good and bad. Becoming aware thus, you could conscientiously purify your mind of all the negative and inconsequential imprints that are otherwise responsible for disorderliness of mind. It's time now to seek the help of a Guru. Guru will offer you a *mantra* for recitations and an iconic figure to focus upon, depending on the callings of your inner frame of mind. Pursuing the process in all sincerity, over a period of time, your mind gets trained to maintain pointed focus on the iconic figure for a specified period of time. Your mind still gets distracted every now and then. But the relatively you are able to remain focused longer than during the gathering up process, and so is termed as one-pointedness. In the process, the thought process too gets reformed with the help of educative import of the iconic figure. Pursuing the meditation process on a regular process, a stage comes over a period of

time when the mantra as well as the iconic figure, both go out of one's reckoning. The seeker's mind then gets fully tuned to the cosmic intelligence, which then spontaneously drives you through. Having arrived at this stage, you become the master of your own mind rather than being its slave. And you are in full control of your own self and at your best. Hereafter, wherever you pay attention, you may intuitively get to the underlying truth, and therefore, shall be able to perceive things in the right perspective. Also, shall be able to put in your qualitative best in all your endeavour.

To sum up, you are empowered to be the architect of your own destiny. So said Swami Vivekananda: "The history of the world is the history of few men who had faith in themselves. Faith calls out the Divinity within you; you can do everything. You fail only when you do not strive sufficiently to manifest the infinite power within."

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