

OPINION 8
SAME LEGACY,
DIFFERENT FACE

WORLD 12
DON'T ALLOW MOSQUES TO
PROMOTE HATRED: LANKA GOVT

SPORT 15
ARSENAL, CHELSEA SET
EUROPA LEAGUE FINAL DATE

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Pitroda eats crow for '84 riots brag

'Hua to hua' portrays the anti-Sikh mindset of Cong: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
After giving the BJP a handle to beat the Congress, Sam Pitroda, the close associate of party president Rahul Gandhi, on Friday apologised for his controversial "hua to hua" (so what) comment on 1984 anti-Sikh pogrom even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi latched on to the comments saying these words reflect the "character, mentality and intentions of the Congress".
"What I meant was move on. We have other issues to discuss as to what the BJP Government did and what it delivered. I feel sorry that my remark was misrepresented, I apologise. This has been blown out of proportion," said Pitroda after his remarks on Thursday prompted attacks on him by BJP leaders led by the Prime Minister himself.
While apologising for his remark, Pitroda accused the BJP of "distorting the truth" and said things of the past are not relevant in this election and the saffron party has nothing positive to offer and is attacking the Congress with lies.
Referring to Pitroda's remarks, Modi told a rally in Haryana, "Congress, which ruled for a maximum period, has been insensitive and that is reflected by the three words spoken yesterday...These words

have not been spoken just like that, these words are character and mentality and intentions of the Congress. And which were these words, these were 'hua to hua'.
Pitroda, Modi said, was "very good friend" of Rajiv Gandhi, and is very close to Gandhi family and is "Guru of Congress 'naamdar' (dynast) president" Rahul Gandhi.
The BJP deployed its Union Ministers and spokespersons saying the party has no remorse on the genocide of patriotic community and sought to know whether Rahul would dismiss his "Guru" who is "rubbing salts on the wounds" of Sikhs.
The Congress on its part has distanced itself from Pitroda's "so what" remarks on the anti-Sikh riots and asked the leaders of the party to be careful and sensitive in future.
Congress's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the party abhorred violence of any kind against any person or group of people on the basis of caste, creed, colour, region or religion, adding that riots and violence had no place in the Indian society.
"Violence and riots are unacceptable and unpardonable in our society... Any opinion or remark made by any individual to the contrary, including Sam Pitroda, is not



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a rally on the last day of the campaigning for the sixth phase of the Lok Sabha polls, in Rohtak on Friday. PTI

the opinion of the Congress party. We advise all leaders to be careful and sensitive," Surjewala said in a statement.
Stating that the Congress had strived to ensure justice for the 1984 riot victims, Surjewala said the party continued to support the quest for justice and stern punishment for those found guilty in the anti-Sikh riots, as also the subsequent acts of violence, including the 2002 riots in Gujarat.
The Congress spokesperson added that unlike the ruling BJP, which had fielded a candidate charged with terror crimes and who was being lauded as the saffron party's face by Modi himself, the Congress had shown the moral and political courage to punish

Atishi moves DCW, Gambhir vows to hang self if charges proved

Cricketer sues Atishi, Kejriwal and Sisodia, ex-teammates VVS Laxman, Harbhajan 'vouch for his character'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after controversy involving distribution of "obscene and derogatory" pamphlets against her, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) East Delhi candidate Atishi on Friday approached chairperson of Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) Swati Maliwal and lodged a formal complaint against BJP candidate from the seat Gautam Gambhir.
Stepping up his counter-offensive, Gambhir on Friday said he will "hang" himself in public if the AAP can prove that he has any link to the derogatory pamphlets.
Gambhir tweeted, "Challenger Number 3 to @ArvindKejriwal and @aap. If he can prove that I have anything to do with this pamphlet filth, then I will hang myself in public. Otherwise @ArvindKejriwal should quit politics. Accepted?"
Gambhir had sent defamation notices to Kejriwal, his deputy Manish Sisodia and Atishi on Thursday night asking them to withdraw their charges against him and tender

unconditional apology or face legal action. Meanwhile, Gambhir's former teammates VVS Laxman and Harbhajan Singh defended Gambhir and said they can "vouch for his integrity, character and the respect he has for women".
The BJP also approached East Delhi parliamentary seat returning officer K Mahesh seeking a police probe into the accusations.
The complaint was lodged by BJP's Krishna Nagar councillor Sandeep Kapoor, said Delhi BJP spokesperson Harish Khurana.
The returning officer has already asked the Delhi Police to register a complaint in this case.



Atishi hands over her complaint to Delhi Commission for Women Chairperson Swati Maliwal in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

Indrani Mukerjea to turn approver against Karti in INX media case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

Indrani Mukerjea, an accused in the INX Media case, is all set to turn an approver against Karti Chidambaram, the son of former Union Finance Minister P Chidambaram, after the CBI on Friday said it has no objection to her plea. The agency told the Bombay High Court that it would produce Mukerjea at Patiala House Court in Delhi on May 23.
Indrani has already deposited before the CBI and the ED that she was forced to give ₹5-crore bribe to Karti on recommendation of P Chidambaram to tackle Income Tax probe in a ₹300-crore money laundering case.

Continued on Page 4

CAPSULE

WOMEN DETAINED FOR PROTESTING AGAINST CJI

New Delhi: A large number of women activists and lawyers were on Friday detained and taken to the Mandir Marg police station for protesting against the clean chit given to Court Chief of India Justice Ranjan Gogoi in a sexual harassment probe.

300 SEATS FOR BJP IN POLLS, SAYS GADKARI

New Delhi: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday differed with the opinion of his party colleague Ram Madhav that the BJP could fall short of numbers in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls and asserted that it will get more than 300 seats.

After UN terror tag on Masood, JeM renamed as Jaish-e-Muttaqi

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

With the United Nations (UN) declaring Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Maulana Masood Azhar a designated global terrorist, the outfit has changed its name to Jaish-e-Muttaqi (army of the pious) at the behest of Pakistan Army-ISI in order to hoodwink the international community into believing that Islamabad is acting against terror groups.
The tactical shift comes days after the UN designated Azhar as a global terrorist under the 1267 Sanctions List.

Continued on Page 4



Chief Justice Jharkhand High Court Justice Anirudha Bose greets the newly appointed justice of Jharkhand High Court Justice Prashant Kumar after the oath ceremony at White Hall in Ranchi on Friday. Ratan Lal

Mahagathbandhan an alliance of fear: CM

Ranchi: Chief Minister Raghubar Das today said that the 'Mahagathbandhan' (Grand Alliance) of Opposition parties led by Congress is an alliance of fear as Mahagathbandhan partners are afraid that an honest BJP Government at the Centre would bring them to book for their misdeeds in the past.
Talking to media persons at party headquarters here on Friday the CM said, "The Grand Alliance has dumped major issues in this election. No opposition party is talking about development, national security and other contemporary issues. Their one point agenda in 'Modi Hatao' (remove Modi). They are so afraid of the PM that they fear to land in jail if the PM comes back to rule the country. The 'Mahagathbandhan' is an alliance of fear," he said.
The CM said that the people have understood that 'Mahagathbandhan' is led by Congress party that is neck deep in corruption and helped by selfish parties. "There is no leader of the grand alliance, there is no unity, there is no clarity, and there is no policy. Given the facts the people of the State have much faith in Modi ji," he said.



Chief Minister Raghubar Das addresses a press conference at BJP State headquarters in Ranchi on Friday. Party State spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo is also seen in the picture. Ratan Lal

Talking about NDA's performance in the State the CM said, "Our win is certain in all the seats of the State. According to the people and party workers' inputs in last two phases and the upcoming two phases it is clear that the people will give all 14 seats to the NDA in Jharkhand. People of the country are now hungry for development. Development and good governance have become centre of politics in the country," he said.
"For 67 years the plans were not executed properly by the government, but in last 4 and half years of good governance and transparency fruits of

government schemes are reaching people. There are many welfare schemes including Ujjwala Yojna, PMAY, Ayushman Bharat, SBM, scholarship and pensions through DBT, which have made the people of the State happy and content with the NDA government," said the CM.
"The people of the State are very intelligence. In 2014 people rose above caste, community and gave a clear mandate to Modi Ji, negating the coalition politics of over 30 years. There is a lot of positivity among the people now. The Country and the State are treading the path of development," added Das.
The CM said that the Congress could not convince international community to declare Masood Azhar as an international terrorist, but under the leadership of Modi this also became possible as China withdrew its veto and the UNSC declared him an international terrorist.
"Due to poor governance of Congress in last 55-60 years poverty remained rampant in the country. Congress came to power in 1971 with the slogan 'Garibi Hatao' (Remove Poverty), but if we look at

Congress' 55-60 year regime poverty increase manifolds. Still, Congress' slogan is 'Garib ke saath Nyay'. Now, people of the country want to know, which capitalists did they nurture in last 60 years? People also want to know why they did not do justice with the poor people of the country," he said.
Attacking JMM executive president Hemant Soren and his family Das said that the biggest exploiters of Jharkhand are Congress and JMM. "It's an alliance of selfishness to loot the State and country. History has witnessed how the two parties have looted Rs 4,000 crore of public money," he said.
On being asked on Debashis Gupta committee report on violation of CNT/SPT Act, the CM said that the panel was not formed for any individual, but all the cases of the Act violations.
"The JMM family has grossly violated the land laws. They have made a world record by doing several land registries on the same day. Ask them whether they have violated the Act or not," said the CM adding that the law will take its own course to punish the guilty. PNS

विश्व में सामर्थ्य दिखाने के लिए, देश का मान बढ़ाने के लिए...

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मोदी सरकार

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भाजपा को जिताएं

Battle lines drawn in four constituencies

Police, central forces conduct flag march in Bokaro



Champai Soren



Kriti Jha Azad



PN Singh



Vidyut Varun Mahto

PNS ■ RANCHI

The electoral battle line for four Lok Sabha constituencies going to poll on May 12 has been drawn. Jamshepur, Chaibasa, Dhanbad and Giridih constituencies are going to poll on sixth phase (State's third phase). The campaigning in these Lok Sabha segments concluded on Friday. On the last day of campaigning, political parties sweated in heat to garner votes in support of their candidates.

tance as there is a fight between Guru and Chela (teacher and disciple). Both Mahto and Soren started their political carrier from JMM, Soren has represented Seraikela for more than two decades, while Mahto who was JMM MLA from Baharagora. However, before 2014 Mahato switched side and joined Saffron party. Sources said that former chief minister and BJP tribal face Arjun Munda was instrumental behind Mahto joining the party. In 2014 general election, Mahto registered his debut in Parliament by defeating Ajoy Kumar of then JVM by a margin of 99874 votes.

Dhanbad: In Dhanbad, the main fight is between BJP sitting MP PN Singh and BJP turn Congress candidate Kriti Jha Azad. Singh has been representing the Dhanbad as earlier MLAs and then MPs for more than three decades. Singh has been MLA from Dhanbad thrice and was also minister in state government. Singh the former state BJP president is party MP since 2009.

The Congress this time has given ticket to the BJP sitting MP from Darbhanga. Azad who joined Congress a month back was claimant for Darbhanga seat from Congress. But Darbhanga as per seat sharing formula went to RJD kitty. The RJD has put its senior leader Abdul Bari Siddique from Darbhanga seat.

As Azad is claimed to be outsider, Congress leadership have worked hard for victory of their candidate, with Congress national president Rahul Gandhi holding road show in support Azad. Independent candidate Siddharth Gautam from Singh Mansion is making the contest triangular. However, Gautam's sister-in-law has pledged her support for BJP candidate.

Giridih: The Giridih seat is witnessing direct fight between two regional parties, JMM and AJSU party. Giridih has remained as BJP bastion for decades with BJP sitting MP Ravindra Pandey representing the seat for five times. However, this time the BJP dropped Pandey and gave the seat to its regional partner AJSU party.

The AJSU from Giridih has put Chandra Prakash Choudhary, a senior leader and drinking water and sanitation minister in Raghubar Das cabinet as its candidate. Pitting against Choudhary is JMM lawmaker from Dumri, Jagarnath Mahto. Leaders from both the NDA and Grand Alliance camp have campaigned for their candidates. Though Giridih is BJP bastion, JMM is emotionally attached with the seat as party patriarch and founder member Shibhu Soren started his political campaign from Tundi one of assembly constituency which is part of JMM agitation.

Singhbhum: In Singhbhum the main fight is between State BJP president Laxman Gilua and Congress MLA Geeta Koda. Geeta Koda, wife of former chief minister Madhu Koda. Geeta, the MLA from Jagarnathpur assembly segment had contested the last general election but secured second position. The Singhbhum seat is tribal dominated seat with six of its assembly segments under three districts.

SURESH NIKHAR ■ BERMO

On Friday evening, Bokaro thermal police and the troops of central paramilitary forces conducted flag march in various parts of city including market area, Jharkhand Chowk, Bazartard, Govindpur, Railway station as part of preparation for the upcoming Lok Sabha election scheduled on May 12.

The flag march has been held under the guidance of Bokaro thermal police station, Inspector cum officer-in charge Umesh Kumar Thakur.

Inspector Umesh Kumar Thakur said, "The flag march has been conducted on the orders of the Bokaro superintendent of police (SP) P.Murugan and the exercise will continue till elections. The police flag march passed through sensitive and hyper sensitive areas falling under Thermal police station in Bokaro, so as to maintain law and order."

The police have deployed additional security forces in all booths in the areas, where there is a possibility for violence during poll. The thermal police have issued prohibitory orders against around 150 persons of various political parties and few others in the locality.

Candidates sweat out to woo voters in last minute campaigning

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Soaring temperature across the district failed to deter the spirit of candidates vying for entry in Parliament. Almost all 24 candidates in fray for election from Jamshepur Parliamentary constituency were seen sweating out to attract the voters.

On last day of campaigning for the third phase of polling in the State, the candidates focussed their campaigning canvassing across the constituencies. This time parties' leaders spent more time in the rural belts like Ghatshila, Potka, Behragora and Jugsalai assembly seats that are crucial and considered to deciding factors in elections.

As the day began, candidates made their last-minute push to woo voters. While BJP candidate and sitting MP Bidyut Baran Mahto took out a motorcycle rally in Jamshepur, grand alliance candidate Champai Soren focused on door-to-door campaign. State's HRD Minister Neera Yadav also took out padh yatra in favour of Mahto.



"We did our best to reach out to the voters. This is an important election for us and since villages play pivotal role so it is important to

BJP candidate Bidyut Baran Mahto during a bike rally on the last day of the campaigning

spread party's message in the rural belt. Moreover, Mahto is quite popular in the villages so it is obvious that our focus was rural areas," said Anil Modi, spokesperson, district BJP.

On the last day of campaigning the most of the candidates restricted to door-to-door campaign, "Padh Yatra is the best mode of interaction with the voters but given the size of the constituency it gets little complex to touch voters individually however, we are aiming to cover as many people as we could in the remaining hours," said a JMM leader requesting anonymity.

Jamshepur Lok Sabha constituency comprises six Vidhan Sabha (legislative assembly) segments Baharagora Ghatshila, Potka, Jugsalai, Jamshepur East and Jamshepur West.

The Jamshepur parliamentary constituency has 15,51,297 voters. In 2014, Bidyut Baran Mahto registered his debut in Parliament

Top security arrangements for polling day, chopper to keep eye on Maoist affected areas

Jamshepur: The administration has made elaborate arrangements for the smooth and incident free polling to Lok Sabha elections on May 12 in Jamshepur. Apart from the high profile security arrangements the district administration has taken up slew of measures to ensure electorate are not lured by the political parties to sell their votes.

East Singhbhum deputy commissioner-cum-returning officer for Jamshepur parliamentary constituency, Amit Kumar said that sensitive and super sensitive booths have been identified in the Assembly areas and security personnel would be deployed accordingly.

"We are confident that the elections will be free and fair and we have finalised every details for the poll," he noted. SSP Anoop Birtharay, who

by defeating Ajoy Kumar by a margin of 99874 votes.

convened meeting with top officials, said that chopper to keep eye on Maoist affected areas. He said that the security forces are all geared up for the polling day. Meanwhile, 800 police force of the district will be assisted by jawans of CRPF, Jharkhand Armed Police, homeguards, Rapid Action Police (RAP) and Rapid Action Force for maintaining security at the 1626 polling booths in the constituency. In addition to this, micro observers have been deputed at polling stations to keep an eye on every movement of the polling agents and on the suspicious characters, if any, at the Left Wing Extremist (LWE) affected booths and also at urban area booths which are vulnerable from the law and order point of view. PNS

Public Notice from Securities and Exchange Board of India regarding orders under Sections 11 and 11B of the SEBI Act, 1992.

Ramesh Prasad Yadav Teachers' Training College, Koderma (Jharkhand) 825410

Employment Notice from Ramesh Prasad Yadav Teachers' Training College regarding a walk-in-interview for an Asst. Professor.

Bokaro DC asks outsiders to leave constituencies

PNS ■ BOKARO

District Electoral Officer-cum-Bokaro Deputy Commissioner (DC), K N Jha on Friday directed outsiders (who rushed here for a political campaign) to leave the constituencies immediately and said they could only return after the polling is over on Sunday.

On the directive of Election Commission all political leaders, functionaries or party workers who are not registered voters have to vacate the constituency by 4 pm on 10 May till the election is completed, said Jha adding "It is a prohibition protocol and necessary guidelines have been issued to the police."

It is estimated there are about 1 to 1.5 lakhs voters who are deprived of voting due to not sanctioning of 'paid leave' by their respective organizations, said Jha. According to Section 135 B of Representation of the People Act 1918, every person employed in any business, trade, industrial undertaking or any other establishment and entitled to vote in general election and assembly election on polling day should be granted holiday.



District Electoral Office cum Bokaro Deputy Commissioner K N Jha PNS

No deduction or abatement of the wages of any such person shall be made on account of a holiday having been granted for the poll and if such person is employed on the basis that he would not ordinarily receive wages for such a day, he shall nonetheless be paid for such day the wages he would have drawn had not a holiday been granted to him on that day, informed Jha.

He said, if an employer contravenes the provisions then such an employer shall be punishable with fine which may extend to Rs 500 though this section shall not apply to any elector whose absence may cause danger or substantial loss in respect of the employment in which he is engaged. He also pointed out that if the above rules are strictly followed then voting percentage must be increased by 5 percent in the constituency. Recently we have discussed with the representatives all PSUs managements including Bokaro Steel Plant, ONGC, ElectroSteel-Vedanta, BPSCL and others, he said.

'Yogananda's efforts unforgettable'

PNS ■ RANCHI

A programme was organised on May 10 for the construction of new buildings at the YSS Educational campus, Jagannathpur where Harivansh, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha was the chief guest and main speaker. The project is part of the 125th birth anniversary of its founder, Paramahansa Yogananda and was initiated in the year 2018.

Harivansh, who was happy to be a part of the programme said, "The way Paramahansa Yogananda has made his influence from Bengal to Ranchi to entire country through his ideals stands true to the statement once made by a thinker who said that the way the west has ruined itself through its materialistic an consumerist tendencies, in the coming years it will receive a scholar from the east that will prove to be a light of hope for the west and will teach lessons of humanity to the entire humankind. His book 'where there is life' is a work of brilliance as nothing like this has been written before and imparts valuable knowledge regarding facing the problems life throws at us. "Yogananda understood the



Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Harivansh during the foundation stone laying ceremony of new building of YSS Educational campus at Yogananda college, Jagannathpur on Friday

challenge of motivation and depression and hence preached and stressed on the importance of life management. He is happy that the people studying in the new building will receive education about how to lead a happy life and will become guiding lights for the entire country. Yogananda's efforts in showing the correct path with regard to life management are unforgettable," he added. The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, instituted a National Implementation committee (NIC) to undertake various programmes to honor and commemorate this event.

One of these initiatives was to upgrade the infrastructure and facilities of the YSS educational institutions at Ranchi. Eight buildings and a complex 24 classrooms, with a total built-up area of 84,000 square feet will be constructed. The classrooms will have a design that promotes the way encouraged by Yogananda. Other people of importance who were present for the occasion were Swami Vishwananda Giri, a senior sannyasi and a Board Member of YSS, Swami Ishwarananda Giri, General Secretary of YSS, and other YSS sannyasis. Swami Ishwarananda Giri said, "Yogananda's initiative has come a long way as what started with 1 has grown to around 20 YSS Educational Institutions across India". He also expressed gratitude to the Government for their benevolent support to the school.

DELHI BOUTS

CHANDAN PRAKASH/SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

As Delhi goes to vote on May 12, campaigning in the national Capital came to end on Friday evening. The contenders have left no stone unturned to reach out to the last of the voters. Local issues seem to be on forefront in deciding the fate of the candidates who are in the fray. Water supply, sealing, developing basic amenities, infrastructure are some of the key issues that is going to be a decisive factor in electing parliamentarians. All the candidates of three major parties — the Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party and the BJP, in the national Capital pulled up their socks raising local issues to turn voters in their favour. In a separate constituency based manifesto issued by the respective candidates also suggested way to address these issues affected the residents directly.



CANDIDATES IN FRAY

CHANDNI CHOWK	EAST DELHI	NORTH EAST	NORTH WEST	NEW DELHI	SOUTH DELHI	WEST DELHI
JP Agarwal, Congress	Arvinder Singh Lovely, Congress	Sheila Dikshit, Congress	Rajesh Lillothia, Congress	Ajay Maken, Congress	Vijender Singh, Congress	Mahabal Mishra, Congress
Pankaj Gupta, AAP	Atishi, AAP	Dilip K Pandey, AAP	Gugan Singh, AAP	Brijesh Goyal, AAP	Raghav Chadha, AAP	Balbir Singh Jakhar, AAP
Dr Harsh Vardhan, BJP	Gautam Gambhir, BJP	Manoj Tiwari, BJP	Hans Raj Hans, BJP	Meenakshi Lekhi, BJP	Ramesh Bidhuri, BJP	Parvesh Singh Verma, BJP

KNOW YOUR CONSTITUENCY



CHANDNI CHOWK
In this constituency issues that dominating the poll discourse include the Goods and Services Tax (GST), demonetisation, bad infrastructure, irregular water supply and the sealing drive. A large section of people in this constituency are affected of these issues and claiming to elect the candidate who has potential to address these issue on priority basis. Law and order is also one of the issues in the constituency. Residents said that chain snatching and harassment of women are common and it must be addressed on priority basis. With 15,62,268 voters, Chandni Chowk is the smallest parliamentary constituency in Delhi in terms of electorate. The constituency comprising 10 Assembly segments — Adarsh Nagar, Shalimar Bagh, Shakur Basti, Tri Nagar, Wazirpur, Model Town, Sadar Bazar, Chandni Chowk, Matia Mahal and Ballimaran. Traders and Muslim votes will hold the key. In 2008, when a delimitation exercise was undertaken, several North Delhi neighbourhoods such as Model Town, Tri Nagar, Wazirpur, Shalimar Bagh and Shakur Basti were made part of this constituency, which accounted for about 15 per cent Muslim voters that was 30 per cent before delimitation. The percentage of voters of the SC and OBCs has gone up to about 25 and 20 respectively post delimitation while the Vaish community accounts for 10 per cent voters. The constituency is witnessing a three-corner fight between the BJP, the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party. Incumbent BJP MP Harsh Vardhan is pitted against Congress' old-timer JP Agarwal, who represented the seat in 1984, 1989 and 1996.



EAST DELHI
High-octane political battle is expected in East Delhi constituency among the AAP's 'education reformer' Atishi, cricketer-turned-politician Gautam Gambhir and turncoat Arvinder Singh Lovely of the Congress. Gambhir, the new entrant in the political pitch attacked the rivals AAP and Congress. Gambhir was severe in his attack on AAP's national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for his persistent demand full statehood Delhi. After the delimitation of parliamentary constituencies in 2008, East Delhi parliamentary constituency was divided into ten Vidhan Sabha segments namely Jangpura, Okhla, Trilokpur, Kondli, Patparganj, Laxmi Nagar, Vishwas Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Gandhi Nagar and Shahdara. In 2014 Lok Sabha election, Bharatiya Janata Party's Maheish Girri had won the East Delhi Lok Sabha constituency with a margin of 1,90,463 votes. The East Delhi seat has seen some of the biggest names of Delhi politics fight elections. These include former Delhi CM Sheila Dikshit and her son Sandeep Dikshit. The seat was formed in 1966 and witnessed its first election in 1967.



SOUTH DELHI
In South Delhi constituency, caste and community are playing an important role. Keeping the caste arithmetic, the Congress has fielded champion boxer Vijender Singh — who is a Jat and also won bronze medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. He will take on BJP's sitting MP Ramesh Bidhuri also a Gujjar and Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Raghav Chadha who belongs to a Punjabi community. The Gujjars and Jat voters dominate a number of Assembly segments in the seat. The seat is witnessing a triangular contest among AAP's Raghav Chadha, sitting BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri and Congress' Vijender Singh. The AAP, which is seeking to wrest the seat from the BJP, has been raising local issues before the people. The constituency has a total of 42 villages out of which 18 are dominated by Jats and 12 by the Gujjar community. Gujjars are predominantly present in Chhatarpur, Badarpur and Tughlakabad areas while Jats also have a sizeable presence in the villages bordering West Delhi constituency. Problems faced Water supply remains one of the biggest concerns for the residents of South Delhi. Some places in Mehrauli, Chhatarpur and Sangam Vihar still experience water scarcity. While the people admit that the supply has improved a lot over the last two years, yet, they say, a lot remains to be done. While political parties are raising



NORTH EAST
The issues of nationalism, unemployment and full statehood status for Delhi, the residents of the high-profile constituency insist that they need someone who takes care of their day-to-day problems first. While people admit that the supply has improved a lot over the last two years, yet, they say, a lot remains to be done. The civic issue of parking and traffic congestion in the heavily-populated constituency also weigh on people's mind. Many complain about the unending jams that they have to negotiate, especially during rush hour, and say these matters haven't been paid heed to. It has 10 Assembly segments — Chattarpur, Palam, Bijwasan, Kalkaji, Mehrauli, Deoli, Ambedkar Nagar, Sangam Vihar, Tughlaqabad and Badarpur. The constituency currently has 20,65,755 voters. A split in the vote bank between Congress and AAP and a new face of Congress Vijender Singh gives BJP an edge in the constituency. While AAP's vote share has registered a decline in elections held since 2015, Congress' has been growing slowly. AAP and Congress largely depend on similar vote bases — Muslims, Dalits and those living in unauthorised colonies and JJ clusters among others. It is the same vote bank which propelled AAP to power with an unprecedented mandate in the 2015 Delhi Assembly elections.



NORTH WEST
North-East constituency, a stronghold of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and erstwhile Jan Sangh since its formation in 1966, is headed for an interesting but tough battle among the sitting MP Manoj Tiwari of the BJP and former Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit. AAP's Dilip Pandey is also in the fray. The constituency boasts of a sizeable number of Hindu and Muslim votes. The Purvanchalis also have a formidable presence with 40 per cent voters. Tiwari, the Bhojपुरi film star, commands a strong following among Purvanchali voters and had won comfortably in 2014. However, with the arrival of Sheila Dikshit, the contest has queued the pitch for the Delhi State BJP president. The constituency comprises 10 Assembly segments — Burari, Timarpur, Seemapuri, Rohtas Nagar, Seelampur, Ghonda, Babarpur, Gokalpur, Mustafabad and Karawal Nagar and has 19,57,707 number of voters in which 40 per cent voters are Poorvanchalis. Interestingly, out of the ten Assembly seats, nine has AAP MLAs. The Pioneer visited these areas to read the mood of the voters and found that Poorvanchalis are sure of to whom they want to win the seat but others were waiting till the last to clear the air over the selection of the candidate to cast their vote. In some of the Assembly constituencies such as Seelampur, Babarpur and Mustafabad, Hindu voters appear to be inclined towards the BJP but Muslim voters are divided as to whom they should support. However, these voters in Timarpur,



NEW DELHI
The main issue in this constituency is sealing drive which was conducted by the Municipal Corporations on the direction of Supreme Court Monitoring Committee. It largely affected traders and all the party's candidate have promised in its manifestoes to address sealing issue after voted as an MP. Besides, water supply and dysfunctional street lights and traffic chaos are other issues that the residents are suffering from. The constituency which houses the residences and workplaces of all the key departments of the country has a number of local issues to deal with prominently. New Delhi constituency was formed in 1951, is the oldest of the seven constituencies of Delhi with 16,17,470 voters. It comprises 10 assembly seats Karol Bagh (SC), Patel Nagar (SC), Moti Nagar, Delhi Cantt, Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi, Kasturba Nagar, Malviya Nagar, R.K. Puram, Greater Kailash. Congress Ajay Maken, BJP's Meenakshi Lekhi and AAP's Brijesh Goyal are in fray from the seat.



WEST DELHI
Pockets such as Rajouri Garden, Tilak Nagar, Janakpuri and Hari Nagar have a large Sikh population, while Jharoda, Dichaun Kalan, and Dhansa are Jat strongholds. Varma, the son of former Delhi CM Sahib Singh Varma, belongs to the Jat community and the party believes it would help him win a second term but Jakhar, who also belongs to Jat community, is a native of Mitraon village in Najafgarh area in the constituency. Though Both Varma and Jakhar does not give much weight to the caste but the reality is that the constituency which has also a strong hold of Jats in several areas may see vote division. Whereas, Congress candidate Mishra, a migrant is banking on Purvanchali voters to repeat his 2009 performance. According to political pundits, the Purvanchali votes also divided here between Congress and BJP. Though, the economic and cultural make of the area is varied but the demands of people are largely the same which we can see in other six Lok Sabha constituency in National Capital. The residents of Dwarka rued lack of water and connectivity in the area. Mundka, Kirari, Sultan Pur Majra, Nangloi Jat, Mangol Puri and Rohini. In 2014, BJP's candidate Udit Raj bested AAP's Rakhi Birla by over one lakh votes. Former Union minister and Congress leader Krishna Tirath, ran in third, while BSP's Basant Panwar got 21,485 votes. The result this year could parallel the last election. While the candidates are promising to resolve all issues in the constituency but the residents says otherwise. The rural population rued about the lack of sanitation facilities which also mean that there is a threat to women when they step out to attend nature's call, which is either early in the morning or late in the evening. The constituency has a sizeable SC population, with the roughly 19.1 percent. According to CEO data, NW Delhi constituency has 23,77,604 electors in the constituency — 13,04,555 (men); 10,72,891 (women) and 158 (third gender). The number of electors in some of the other constituencies are — West Delhi (23,67,509); North East Delhi (22,89,493); South Delhi (20,65,755).

Political parties in the national Capital have blamed each other for playing caste and community cards during elections but the reality is that caste affiliations of voters as well as candidates seem to play a crucial role in the Delhi politics despite the political party's campaigns hinging upon issues such as infrastructure development, price rise, water crisis and corruption. Going by caste arithmetic in the West Delhi constituency, communities such as Jat, Gujjar, Punjabi, Sikh and Vaish continue to dominate area's electoral fortunes. There are two Jat candidates — Parvesh Varma from BJP and Balbir Singh Jhakar from AAP. Congress has fielded Purvanchali candidate Mahabal Mishra who had won this seat in 2009. Purvanchali, Jat, Sikh and Punjabi voters will ultimately decide the outcome. It is believed that the Jat votes may split. "Purvanchalis who form a formidable vote block, too, can split, mainly between Congress and BJP. Earlier, the constituency was considered to be very important for the Jats, when Sajjan Kumar, a former Congress leader, was in power.

Later, Purvanchali voters became a vital part of the West Delhi seat," said a political analyst. After the delimitation of parliamentary constituencies in 2008, West Delhi was constituted with 10 Assembly segments — Madipur, Rajouri Garden, Hari Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Janakpuri, Vikaspuri, Uttam Nagar, Dwarka, Matiala and Najafgarh. West Delhi has a population of 25.43 lakh and a population density of 19,563 inhabitants per square kilometer. While neighbourhoods such as Dwarka, Janakpuri and Rajouri Garden are considered affluent and middle class, areas such as Madipur, Hari Nagar and Matiala are considered home to migrants and working-class families who live in unauthorised colonies whereas Najafgarh is considered as a place where one can see a glimpse of rural areas.

for the candidates belonging to the Scheduled castes. NW Lok Sabha constituency comprises of ten Vidhan Sabha segments such as Narela, Badli, Rithala, Bawana, Mundka, Kirari, Sultan Pur Majra, Nangloi Jat, Mangol Puri and Rohini. Congress has fielded Rajesh Lalothia, Aam Aadmi Party has fielded Gugan Singh whereas Bharatiya Janta Party's (BJP) Hans Raj Hans is also in the fray. Other than Rohini and limited areas in North West where there is Delhi Metro connectivity, civic issues plague most portions of this constituency. Haphazard, unplanned development has created its own problems too, especially in rural and unauthorised areas. There is, therefore, a sense of unhappiness across the 10 assembly segments that make up the seat: Narela, Badli, Rithala, Bawana,

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CHANDNI CHOWK
Total electors: 15,62,268

NORTH EAST
Total electors: 2,290,492

EAST DELHI
Total electors: 2,039,220

NEW DELHI
Total electors: 1,617,470

NORTH WEST DELHI
Total electors: 23,78,984

WEST DELHI
Total electors: 23,71,561

SOUTH DELHI
Total electors: 20,67,463

Table with 2 columns: STATES/UT and SEATS. Lists states like Bihar (8 seats), Delhi (7 seats), Haryana (10 seats) and their respective constituencies.

QUOTE-UNQUOTE



He (Modi) says a lot of things about me, my father and my family in general. But I don't mind. In fact, I would say Narendra Modiji, the more you hate me, the more I will love you, because I belong to Mother India and it's only love that is in my heart...



Hua to hua — this is a reflection of the mentality of the Congress... Our Government is doing the job of dispensing justice for the sin committed by the Congress 'naamdars' in 1984...

Infographic for Lok Sabha Polls 2019: Phase-VI. Includes maps of India showing polling areas, bar charts for total voters (10.16 crore), total candidates (979), and seats by party (BJP 54, BSP 49, Cong 46, etc.).

NANDIGRAM remains where it was years ago

Nandigram continues to remain where it was 12 years ago when a police firing in March 2007 claimed the lives of 14 who were protesting against illegal land acquisition...



ence between the people in power then and those in power now, he says "this is done by order" from above. Asked to name on whose 'order' things are done he falls silent. At Sonachura village Suina Banerjee a job aspirant says "I paid Rs 3 lakh for a school teacher's job but nothing has happened. A court case has done us in. The CPI(M) people were haughty, arrogant but not thieves."

Campaign ends for penultimate phase

PTI ■ NEW DELHI A vitriol-filled campaign ended on Friday for the sixth and penultimate phase of Lok Sabha polls to be held in 59 constituencies in six States and Delhi with barbs flying thick and fast as leaders made every effort to sway voters in their favour.

Lovely targets BJP, AAP 'parachuted' candidates

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Terming his rivals from the AAP and the BJP as political tourists, Congress candidate from East Delhi Lok Sabha constituency Arvinder Singh Lovely said that these "parachuted" candidates visit the constituency only at the time of the election and never turned back among the public after winning election to listen and solve residents' plights.

about the issues of the constituency. Lovely also accused the Delhi Government for failing to curb pollution. "Anand Vihar is the most polluted point in Delhi because of failure of public transport system in last five year. The government has reduced the buses and failed to implement Mono Rail project Shastri Park to Mayur Vihar that was sanctioned by the Congress in Delhi.



interest in the metro work," he said. When asked about the problem of unauthorized regularise, he said in 2013, we regularise 1200 colonies but the present Government has not given any attention in providing facilities in the unauthorized colonies.

He said that pollution was a big issue in East Delhi, and Anand Vihar and the Gazipur landfill areas were the worst affected, and people are struggling to breathe. "Almost 80 per cent of the air pollution was on account of vehicular traffic and the rest due to the construction dust and garbage accumulation, and in the last five years, pollution in East Delhi has reached dangerous levels," he said.

Infographic for Lok Sabha Polls 2019 Phase-VI Profile of Candidates. Shows age group distribution (25-30 years: 85), educational background (Illiterate: 10, Literate: 35), and other statistics.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE. Details about the Deputy Chief Engineer/Const/ Northern Railway Shivaji Bridge, New Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Single-Packet system for the following work:-

GURU GOBIND SINGH INDRAPRASTHA UNIVERSITY TENDER No. 01/USEM/GGSIU/2019-20 E-TENDER (NIT). Registrar, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University invites e-tender from reputed and eligible contractors/firms in two bid system (Technical & Financial) for the Supply and Installation of lab equipment/instrument under DST-FIST programme for USEM, at Sector 16C, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078.



Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra wave at crowd during an election campaign rally for the Lok Sabha polls, in Bhadoli, on Friday

Mamata accuses BJP of purchasing votes

Mamata Banerjee on Friday came down heavily on the BJP for smuggling cash to purchase votes after the police recovered Rs 1.13 lakh from the vehicle of Bharati Ghosh the BJP candidate from Ghatal Lok Sabha seat. While Ghosh claimed that she had been framed by the State police another case involving a second candidate burst in the saffron party's face with the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights booking BJP contestant from Diamond Harbour on charges of child abuse.

at Ashok Nagar that the "BJP is bringing boxes loaded with cash to purchase votes," adding the "central forces were not checking the boxes being carried in the convoys of Prime Minister Narendra Modi or other BJP leaders while the vehicles of other opposition leaders, including the Chief Ministers, were being checked without following the minimum decorum." Referring to cash seized from Ghosh's vehicle she said "this is one case that has come to light," adding "howsoever money they spend to buy votes the result on May 23 will show that the TMC has won 42 out of 42 seats from the State." Earlier the police said that Ghosh's vehicle was chased for several kilometers on Thursday night and she was intercepted. Ghosh a former IPS officer and the SP of the same district however said she had been framed as she was carrying cash withdrawn from bank and that the remaining cash in excess of the prescribed Rs 50,000 belonged to her fellow passengers. At Diamond Harbour another BJP candidate Nilanjan Ray was reported against by the WBCPCR for abusing a girl child. The panels chairperson Ananya Chakrabarty said "the incident took place on April 26 but it came to our notice yesterday and we have directed the police to lodge an FIR against him." She said the victim in the case was 17-year-old girl. Incidentally Ray was contesting against Trinamool Congress outgoing MP Abhishek Banerjee who was also the nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

FIRST COLUMN

The hidden pain of giving birth

Pregnancy must be an amalgamation of modern-day facilities and traditional cultures for better parenting



DIKSHA S CHADHA

A new revolution is brewing in the millennial world. Just as the new generation re-defined love and relationships, it is now ready to present to us a modern version of pregnancy. Gone are the days when a baby bump was kept hidden to ward off the evil eye. Pregnancy today is celebrated with expensive announcements and showers. It comes as a moment that gets etched into permanence with maternity photo-shoots becoming the new norm. From having hospitals dedicated for pregnant couples to radiologists going an extra mile to gift intra-uterine 3D photos of the unborn baby to the parents, and gynaecologists agreeing to conduct elective Caesarean births on the date as per the parent's choice — the medical fraternity, too, has upgraded itself to match with the modern times.

While all of this has empowered the urban woman — who works hard to prepare herself for conception with the internet and self-help books by her side — even she cannot expect the unexpected. A woman is prepared for some sleepless nights post-pregnancy but why don't the methods of sleep-training for the baby written in those books ever work? She knows the thousand benefits of breast-feeding but why do her nipples hurt when she feeds the newborn? When life with baby does not turn out as flowery as the posters in the maternity ward suggested, who should be held accountable? Her doctors will make her understand that all these are normal and every mother has to face it. Much to the trauma of this independent fierce warrior wonder woman, her dreams of being a perfect movie 'mom' are shattered. As if this isn't enough, her ears become the burial ground for countless unsolicited motherhood solutions from the neighborhood.

The truth of the matter is that no matter how much we modernise and empower the Indian woman and hospitals, one thing that our activists and leaders have failed to modernise is Indian society. Don't get me wrong, the deep-rooted traditions in society were set by learned men (and women, hopefully), who intended to simplify scientific knowledge. Take for example, the tradition of following a 40-day isolation period after the birth of the baby. This is logical as post-partum, infections are most common in the puerperium. However, over a period of time, people have turned this into an orthodox rule and women in some rural households are even made to sleep on the floor in a dark room for 40 days. On the contrary, urban babies, born in modern hospitals, are greeted with a swarm of kisses and teddy bears, all to the distress of a helpless new mother, who was told that there is a custom which forbids others from visiting the baby till 40 days are up. Only in India can we see such hypocrisy where a tradition, which was meant to protect both the new baby and the mother from infections, would turn into a cause for psychological trauma.

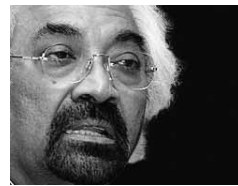
Another instance of a tradition going wrong is when the baby undergoes a massage therapy. Originally, these massages were meant to increase blood circulation and promote mother-baby bonding. This time-trusted tradition has now been taken over by the highly sought after *japas*, who are 'experienced' women and are often hired to bathe, massage and groom the new-born. Much to the scare of my pediatric colleagues, the kind of passion these ladies put into straightening the God intended limbs and back of the baby are enough to turn an alien into a human. Meanwhile, the shrill cry of the baby is considered as a sign of her doing a good job. So much in the name of modernisation. The victim in this complicated web of interaction is the modern Indian woman, living in the traditional Indian eco-system, who by virtue of her education and access to numerous social media platforms is well aware of the 'right' thing to do but at the same time cannot overrule her elders. So what should she do? In most situations, it's actually about what can she do? The battle between tradition and education has no real winners.

The need of the hour is to find a middle path — a place where modern-day facilities and information meet Indian culture and customs. What we need is for our ante-natal programmes to shift from merely existing as a value-add to the delivery packages in hospitals to a stronger, focussed and practical approach towards parenting. Internet can give worried new parents all answers to questions they ask but how about giving them the answers to questions they don't even know need to be asked? Every pregnancy deserves the advantage of our cultural heritage. And for that to happen, the medical fraternity will have to build a bridge between the traditional system of childbirth and child rearing, each system being in need of refreshing its approach and adapting to the current age.

(The writer is a practising doctor)

WHAT IS WITH 1984? YOU (BJP) SPEAK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED IN FIVE YEARS. IT HAPPENED IN 1984, SO WHAT? (1984 HUA TO HUA). —CONGRESS LEADER SAM PITRODA

POINT COUNTERPOINT



WILL THE CONGRESS PRESIDENT OUST HIS GURU, WHO RUBBISHES THE GENOCIDE OF INDIA'S MOST PATRIOTIC COMMUNITY IN 1984? —UNION MINISTER ARUN JAITLEY

Swachh needs a mother's touch

If India is to achieve the impossible goal of being open defecation free, it must rope in mothers as primary care-givers to inculcate the habit of using toilets among the future generation



PRIYANKA TANWAR

Mamta hurries towards the bushes, glancing over her shoulder frequently. She avoids eye contact with a passer-by, holds her *chunni* close, her hand clasped tightly with that of her daughter's. Her head down, her posture almost apologetic, she makes her way through the bushes to relieve herself. After some respite, she watches her daughter imitate her. She can't help but wonder if her daughter's future will be the same. If she will also have to go through her days, uncomfortable, bloated, weak and in pain. After a few moments, she cleans herself and her daughter, gathers her clothes quickly, grabs her bucket, her daughter and begins her journey towards home. She only hopes that she will make it for the next 12 hours without any major discomfort. In many rural areas of the country, women like Mamta have watched their mothers, grandmothers and even great-grandmothers practise open defecation with complete resignation. Taught from a very young age that toilets are not meant to be part of the household infrastructure, they dutifully walk several kilometres every day to relieve themselves. Many find it difficult and de-humanising, some even feel threatened and uncomfortable. However, now almost all such women have embraced it.

According to a 2017 report by WaterAid, titled, *Out Of Order: The State of the World's Toilets*, India had the highest number of people (732 million) without access to toilets, out of which, 355 million were women and girls. As a matter of fact, women and girls often face serious threats to their life and safety. When they go to the fields to relieve themselves, they are often followed, stalked and ogled at. In a few horrific cases, women have been beaten and raped while conducting private business.

Therefore, to protect their dignity, they avoid going to the toilet repeatedly during the day by minimising their intake of food and water. This often causes several health problems like anaemia and stunted growth among others. Additionally, the sheer humiliation women face when they have to defecate openly leads to irreparable psychological damages, too. Other than poor health, the lack of toilets has caused women and girls to drop out of school and get limited education or face harassment. In rural areas, most girls drop out of schools at an early age because of the lack of toilets.

India is a country of over a 1.3 billion people, out of which over 320 million defecate in the open. What's more startling is that the country accounts for 60 per cent of the world's population that lives without sanitation. While no other country has taken a decisive stance on sanitation, the Government has been addressing this infra-structural challenge on a mission mode. But much more needs to be done.

Given the complex nature of India's sanitation problem, initiatives geared towards toilet construction and behaviour change need to be strengthened, in addition to other infra-structural and skilling issues. The Government cannot be held solely responsible for this. In order to make these more effective and increase collective ownership, public-private partnership becomes an obvious solution, especially in terms of financing and providing technology

“ FURTHER, CAMPAIGNS MUST BE DESIGNED TO CHALLENGE SOCIETAL NORMS AND CULTURAL ATTITUDES BY BRINGING MEN AND WOMEN TOGETHER TO UNDERSTAND THE REQUIREMENT OF A TOILET. ONCE A CAUSE-AND-EFFECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ACCESS TO TOILETS AND BETTER HEALTH AND FINANCIAL OUTCOMES IS ESTABLISHED, PEOPLE WILL BECOME MORE ACCUSTOMED TO USING THEM ”



interventions. The underlying idea is to identify localised systems and translate related knowledge and research into effective and widespread action.

The conceptualisation and implementation of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) portal suggests that 27 out of India's 36 States and Union Territories are now open defecation free (ODF) with 98.6 per cent of Indian households having access to toilets. While the Government must be congratulated for this remarkable feat, it must also realise that for India to achieve 100 per cent open defecation free status, a comprehensive behavioural change strategy is a must. The focus of future communication strategies must be on changing the mindset of the people, who still hold on to puritan religious beliefs and refrain from installing a toilet within their premises as they view them as impure.

People in rural areas even mock the toilet culture itself. Under coercion, many have built toilets in their homes, consoling themselves by using it as a storage space. Many do not even understand why toilets have to be used when vast forest areas are at their disposal. How does one explain to those, who have grown accustomed to defecating openly since their childhood, that a toilet experience is much more than just building and using them? It

is inclusive of diverse aspects such as human waste management, smart technology for sanitation, data collection and maternal health management.

Campaigns need to be designed to challenge societal norms and cultural attitudes by bringing men and women together to understand the requirement of a toilet. Once these campaigns establish a cause-and-effect relationship between access to toilets and better health and financial outcomes, people may become more accustomed to using toilets.

What must not be forgotten is that many campaigns have actually been designed for base of the pyramid consumers. Affordability is always an issue. Toilets in any rural household, whether rich or poor, are considered low on priority. At times, women are not even consulted even if what is at stake is their comfort. This is mainly because of prevailing mindsets, mostly in rural India. This is why men need to be part of the process and made aware of how toilets can provide and protect dignity of their women. Progress can only be deep and enduring when the community itself is involved in the planning, decision-making and implementation process. Wherever the devolution of power has happened at the level of community women, the Swachh Bharat has been an empowering tool of not only change but women's health.

While behaviour change is the Achilles heel of a successful campaign,

women can become the cornerstones or foundation of success for such drives. If the woman, as a primary caregiver, is aware of safe sanitation and the toilet culture, she will be able to inculcate the same in her children.

Take the case of Mamta. She has a daughter, who needs to be toilet-trained. Should Mamta resort to teaching her in the bushes, or explain to her why she needs to use a toilet? What if Mamta herself is unaware of how to use a toilet? Or why exactly she needs a toilet? What if there is no toilet in the village? How will Mamta help her daughter toilet-train in a healthy manner?

Between the ages of one and six, a child's perception of right and wrong, his/her ability to adapt and respond to situations, primary responses and reflex actions are determined. A mother's ability to position a toilet as a safe space, where her child can go and relieve herself without being stared at, without feeling humiliated, without being violated, is what makes her so indispensable to the sanitation movement.

In essence, India will move forward one mother at a time, one child at a time. This is critical not just for the nation's social and economic prosperity but also for the progress of the next generation. It is important for campaigns and policies to pay heed to the fact that as primary caregivers, mothers are indeed the fore-runners of the sanitation movement in India.

(The writer is Asia Pacific head of public affairs of a Japanese firm)

Time to shed guilt and set boundaries

Maintaining work-life balance seems like an end goal for many women. But in reality, it's impossible to achieve. Instead of striving for it, mompreneurs must embrace the integration of both on terms workable to her



DIVYA JAIN

At least once in her career, every working mother is asked: "How do you maintain work-life balance?" With a progressive Indian society forcing mothers to "have it all" — career, love, family and me-time — achieving work-life balance is easier said than done even though the concept of "working mothers" has come into existence since decades.

However, there are many women who have perfected the art of doing both at once, that, too, successfully and conveniently. Thanks to digitisation, the boundaries between work and personal time have blurred. Yet, there are some women, who take breaks from work

to fulfill the responsibility of being a full-time mother. After all, the struggle of striking a balance is real.

The term "work-life balance" indicates the distinct nature of work and life. It also suggests that one needs to delegate equal time for both. From juggling between the house and office work, surpassing in managing offices, running an organisation and managing children at home, ensuring that nothing is ignored — all of it can just be chaotic. In the melee, there comes multiple moments when meeting all the obligations seems impossible. But not giving up on the integration of both career and family is the key to deal with struggle. Mompreneurs, as women in leadership roles are called today, will definitely swear by this mantra.

Being open to making bold choices: Entrepreneurial duties are challenging and in a competitive industry, everyone wants to move ahead that, too, at a fast pace. Technology has created choices that demand quicker decision-making. It

may just be about skipping a corporate socialising event to attending a school function for the kids or missing out a family brunch to fly for an important investment meet. There will be plenty of moments when life will give some harsh options to choose from. But one has to do the best with what is available. There's no need to go on a guilt trip after making bold choices. Being a woman entrepreneur and a mother at the same time, it's okay to be strong enough to lead in times of modifications. After all, sacrifices have always been a fact of life. For ages, men have been making such sacrifices on the personal front for work commitments but when it comes to women entrepreneurs, they often end up feeling guilty. Gladly, times have changed and so should mindsets.

Being mindful about the schedule: There is always enough time for work, being with family and friends, exercising and binge-watching Netflix. It all depends on being mindful while planning the week ahead, focussing on all set

commitments. Maintaining a time log for a week or two can reveal the hours being spent involuntarily, considering humans have the tendency to overestimate the time spent on working and underestimate the number of hours spent for fun or leisure. The important part is to keep the family members in the loop about the schedule so that even if someone has to hit the gym in the evening, she can arrange childcare in advance and avoid unnecessary stress.

Remain focussed: Whether it is about taking charge of the entrepreneurial responsibilities at work or being an ideal mother to the kids at home — every role demands hundred per cent focus. While it may sound impossible for many mompreneurs, it is the key to making life easier eventually. Keeping the laptop aside and focussing on children and other family members at home, talking about things that matter to them even if it is for a short period, can work wonders. What does not spend hours with them with half a mind. It's far from having

quality time and does no good on both ends — be it professionally or personally.

Being smart in setting boundaries: This is something no one else can do for a person. As the boss lady, one is required to be smart in making commitments. Rather than pleasing everyone around by agreeing to all requests, she must stay selective and keep "no" as an option, too. While at work, instead of blindly following deadlines, identify their importance; offer to send updates through emails if possible instead of attending long meeting hours where you are not a key stakeholder. Saying "no" to certain things isn't always a negative deal. It can often lead to opportunities for others to pitch in, learn and let you say "yes" to other crucial things in life.

Learning to embrace the chaos: Life of a mompreneur can be extremely erratic and unpredictable. Despite meticulous planning, things might seldom fall out of place. One can fail to meet even daily goals, regardless of them being real. Being a CEO or a co-founder of a start-up

may sound glamorous but one has to build the resistance power of bearing the blows life throws.

One has to keep calm even after missing a few deadlines sometimes or when a fever-ridden kid is screaming his heart out while you are attending a conference call. The sooner you accept this reality, the easier it will be to eliminate a lot of stress. Not only will it make your life easier but also of those you are surrounded by.

It goes without saying that mompreneurs are superheroes for commendably handling household chores and professional leadership duties with aplomb but while work-life balance may seem like an end goal, in reality, it is probably impossible.

So, instead of striving to make it happen, mompreneurs must embrace the integration of both to achieve tremendous success in the boardroom while being able to raise and enjoy a healthy generation.

(The writer is CEO and co-founder of a leading training, skilling and consulting organisation)



FOREIGN EYE



CONSTITUTIONAL COLLISION COURSE

With each new act of defiance, Democrats have struggled to find ways to compel the Trump administration's cooperation — and to stop the President's assault on the American Government's system of checks and balances. At this point, it will probably fall to the courts to resolve many skirmishes. And, though Democrats are seen as having the legal edge, many fear the battle will get bogged down in litigation until after the 2020 election. (The New York Times)

Benchmark indices buckle under selling pressure

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices buckled under selling pressure for the eighth straight session on Friday — marking their longest losing streak since February — as investors remained on the sidelines amid grim global cues and lacklustre corporate earnings.

Tech, Yes Bank, IndusInd Bank, TCS, ONGC, Bajaj Finance, PowerGrid, Vedanta, Asian Paints, NTPC and Hero MotoCorp, which shed up to 4.07%.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) net sold shares worth ₹655.36 crore on Thursday, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) purchased equities to the tune of ₹677.91 crore, provisional data available with stock exchanges showed.

NIFTY 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

BSE 500

Table with columns: Script, Open, High, Low, LTP, CHANGE. Lists 500 stocks and their price movements.

NIFTY NEXT 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists 50 stocks and their price movements.

TOP GAINERS TOP LOSERS

Table with columns: Stock Name, Change. Lists top gainers and losers.

TOP GAINERS TOP LOSERS

Table with columns: Stock Name, Change. Lists top gainers and losers.

INDIAN STEEL GIANT GOES GLOBAL

India's single largest iron ore producer—NMDC, which is also the key supplier of raw material to the steel industry in the country, has added another feather in its cap by garnering international recognition at the Iron Ore Week in Singapore

India is going to be the bright spot in the steel world, said N Bajindra Kumar, chairman-cum-managing director of the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC). He was speaking at the Iron Ore Week (IOW) at Singapore which was organised by SCX India.



N Bajindra Kumar, CMD, NMDC

Kumar explained that steel production and demand is pegged to grow at a healthy rate of over 6-7 percent, whereas the production and consumption in major countries/regions like China, Japan and the European Union (EU), is likely to stagnate in the near future.

world and more than adequate reserves to cater to India's enhanced needs. NMDC operations are comparable to the best in the world and on several indices like the cost of production, employee cost and others its performance is comparable with international giants like Vale, Rio Tinto, FMG and so on.

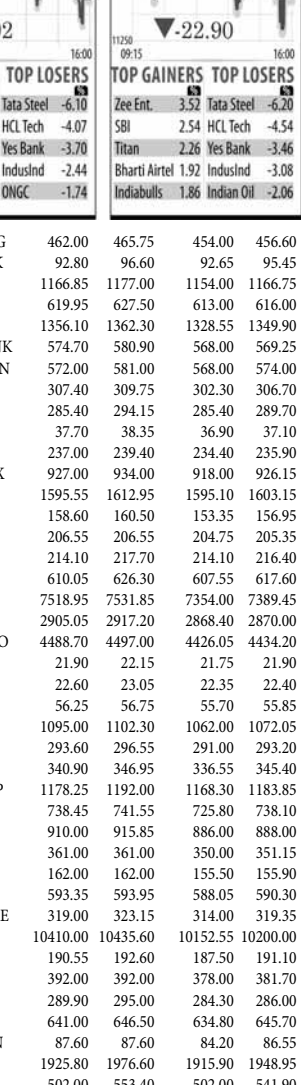


N Bajindra Kumar, CMD, NMDC

Keen interest was shown by many participants of the IOW in this regard and several trade inquiries were made. It was the first time that a chief operating officer of an Indian public sector enterprise participated in panel discussions in such a prestigious international event.

On the sidelines of the event, during the round table conference of CEOs, Kumar mentioned that his experience of having worked as a senior bureaucrat in Chhattisgarh Government, which is difficult terrain to mine and where the company's big mines were situated, had helped him immensely to act as the CMD of NMDC.

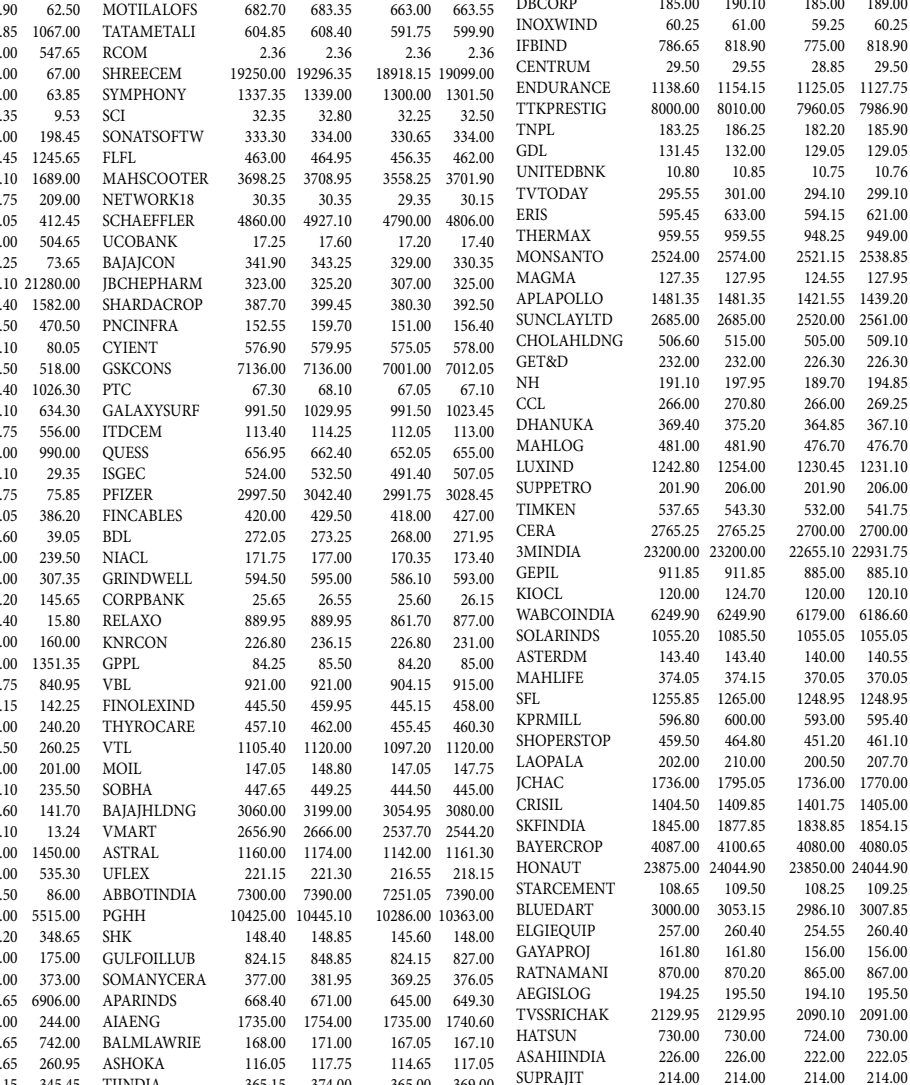
BSE Sensex



NSE Nifty



BULLION | Last 7 Days



SHORT CIRCUITS



KANGANA RANAUT

After a debut with Grey Goose last year at Cannes Film Festival, I am looking forward to represent Indian cinema here. I made many memories. It was all about having fun and celebrating Indian cinema while living the Grey Goose lifestyle. You are worthy of only the best and this association is in perfect sync to my ideas.



KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN

This Mother's Day, I want to pledge to keep all the children alive. Every child, wherever, and in whatever condition they are born, they should stay alive and that is where the UNICEF #EveryChildAlive campaign comes in. It is important to make people understand the importance of children's health and immunisation.



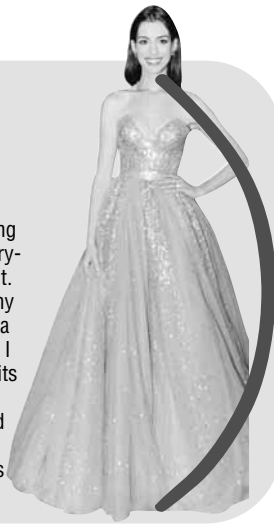
VAAINI KAPOOR

Aerial pilates really helps in improving one's flexibility and postures to near perfection. I wanted to take this on to challenge my fitness level. It is an extremely fun way of working out and I'm thoroughly enjoying my sessions. It's pushing my body to places that I have never taken it before and I'm loving the adrenaline rush.



KATRINA KAIF

I stuck to yoga and some stretching exercises to stay fit. She (her character in *Bharat*) works in a hot, sweaty employment exchange in Delhi. I had to display the mindset of a single woman battling it out in a man's world back then. For 20 days of the schedule, I behaved like Kumud. Even after pack-up, I lived in this bubble; sticking to the way Kumud talks and stays.



ANNE HATHAWAY

Improv is not my strong suit, especially when trying to stay in an accent. I went from thinking my coming film would be a fun comedy job where I got to wear many outfits and say clever things about being mistreated by men to (doing) hard work in two areas that don't come easily.

VERVE 60 MINUTES

Vito's kitchen

Italian Michelin chef BEPPE DE VITO whizzed in and out of India but left behind a trail of a smooth whisky finish with his six-course dinner. Yes, there was Italian food too. RINKU GHOSH was at the table to witness a cuisine innovation that's changing our familiar experiences for the future

Clearly, we weren't prepared for this — a combination of lobster, pumpkin and fermented truffle had with a 15-year-old single malt. Clearly it defied all logic, grammar and imagination till a tentative nibble here and a shy sip there resulted in an unknown explosion of flavours. It all came together, the luscious prawns embedded in translucent tortelli, with a relish of Delica pumpkins, all caramelised and buttery, lifted like a magic carpet with the heather honey and vanilla fudge feel of the Glenfiddich 15 year-old. The lingering trail of sweetness left by each is the reason that the juicy lobster bursts forth in a gush of sealed-in flavours.

We never imagined the humble eggplant as an accompaniment of an 18-year-old single malt. Yet who would have thought that its warming and fruity aromatics and finish would invest the vegetable with such character and lend it enough courage to wipe off the smoked yolk sitting coyly around it? Such is the artistry by chef restaurateur Beppe De Vito, the Michelin-starred chef of his signature kitchen Braci, which has become somewhat of a Singaporean benchmark.

Beppe De Vito's passion for food first began to take form while he was still a child, living in Italy and working at his neighbourhood cafe. All he remembers from those days is how we would source fresh, the fruit from a tree, the fish from a river, meat freshly cut by the butcher...something that dominates his produce-based kitchen even now. From then it was an around the world trip where he imbibed the spirit of a global traveller, collecting rich experiences and distilling them into his food. And it is because he values every distinct encounter that his commitment to his craft shines through, be it in the menu, to the design, service, the plating and beyond. So it is that on his India trip, he got the yeast which had been cultured for over 2,000 years in Italy to make a crispy, crunchy bread. And he loves not only serving food but reading your reaction to it. Over the years, he has had the opportunity to personally cook for local distinguished guests, which includes the late founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, President Tony Tan, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, as well as foreign VIPs, such as former President Bush, Sting and many more. He has also collaborated on multiple four-hands dinners with respected Michelin star chefs from all over the world, from Chef Massimo Bottura (3 Michelin star), Chef Andrea Berton (2 Michelin star), Chef Tom Sellers (1 Michelin star), and world-renowned Chef Tetsuya Wakuda. But clearly he is not looking at VIPs. "They come to our restaurants always. Honestly, I am looking for someone who is just coming for fine dining for the first time ever and I can impress the person and that person will remember it forever," says the maestro, who has made science look artful as never before.

Normally Italian food and flavours are always complemented with wine. People have that expectation... how difficult was it to work on a combination with whisky? What was the logic in your pairing as it seemed to work on similarities rather than contrasts? I am always looking for new ways to exper-

iment with unconventional ingredients. I have experimented with whisky pairings in the past and I find the flavours very versatile, which is why I enjoy using it so much. People have set expectations when it comes to Italian food especially, and to me, this is where I like to have fun and challenge people's perceptions. When trying out new components, I always ask myself "how can this elevate my dishes" and "how does this take my cuisine to the next level?"

You've always blended your home country traditions into your food with hints and accents. Do you think progressive cuisine can actually save cooking traditions more effectively?

Traditions work well to set the foundations and essence of any strong cuisine but that does not mean they alone should define or limit a chef. Rather, they should be used as an inspirational tool for elevation. To me, modern Italian cuisine is one that honours classic traditions by exemplifying them through a contemporary lens in a way that brings out a dish's full potential. This has always been the approach I have taken with my cuisine and one of the driving forces that conceptualised Braci as our culinary playground — creating a space where we could really dive into our craft and push the boundaries of the perceptions of Italian gastronomy. I focus on the essence of our very own version of Italian cuisine, which we are constantly dissecting and reinventing, through a contemporary lens. This keeps the spark of curiosity alive with diners, without compromising our identity and to me, is key to successful progressive cuisine — keeping traditions alive but constantly evolving.

What shaped your food logic while growing up? What are your inspirations? Any anecdotes to share?

My experiences at home, learning and observing the way people react to each dish. I find myself inspired by the places I've lived, the places I've travelled to and the different cultures I had the opportunity to learn about.

Nobody would usually think of a lobster with pumpkin relish... how much time and research goes into working these combinations in your menu?

My eyes and mind are always open for new ways to be inspired. I get many customers coming to me and telling me how intrigued they are with some of the combinations of my dishes. Inspiration is not much of an issue for me, but the execution does take a little more thought and experimentation. With my cuisine at Braci, I really do look for ways to keep things as simple as possible when it comes to presentation and the number of components of my dishes, but it is important to me that each element of my dishes makes a powerful impact, which is why I like to experiment with unusual combinations. The process can be lengthy at times but it is always rewarding once you've created something that makes customers light up.

How do you adapt your dishes to local ingredients while travelling? Any Indian spices or dish that may have caught your fancy?

I am always inspired by my travels. New sights, smells, sounds, conversations and emotions. I am inspired by everything; tra-

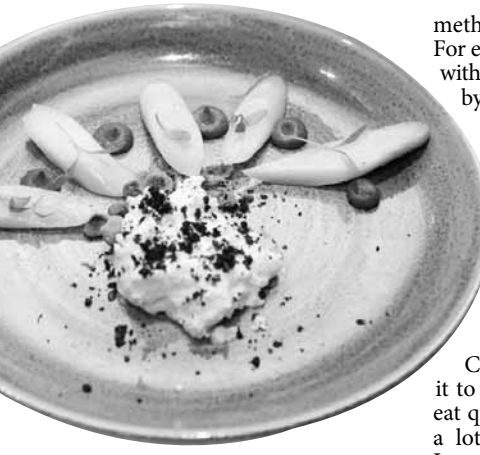


'WE DIDN'T USE ANY INDIAN SPICE IN OUR MENU BUT LEARNT ABOUT SOME FANTASTIC ONES IN THE COUNTRY. BEFORE RETURNING TO SINGAPORE, WE WENT TO A SPICE BAZAAR AND BOUGHT QUITE A BUNCH, INCLUDING BLACK AND GREEN CARDAMOM, WHICH IS HARD TO FIND THERE. WE ALSO TOOK SAFFRON AND STAR ANISE'

ditions, flavours, sourcing of ingredients and, of course, how cultures respect their produce. Japan, in particular, is a place that I always find myself going back to — I love the respect the people have for seasonal and quality ingredients and is something I very much ascribe to in my own cuisine and Italian traditions. The Japanese minimalist philosophy is also something I find myself reinforcing. Sometimes a dish can appear simple, elegant and beautiful, but there is so much technique behind it, and it is definitely quality over quantity when it comes to this school of thought. Japan is one of my favourite locations to travel. I will go there six-seven times a year and always come back with new ideas and ingredients I want to implement in my dishes, which is why our menu is continually evolving.

I like to adapt elements from travels within my cuisine in a way that makes a dish their own as opposed to fusion cuisine. To me, inspiration is about taking in the best from all around you and making things your own. We didn't use any Indian spice in our menu but we had the opportunity to learn about some fantastic spices in India and will incorporate this knowledge for future recipes. Before returning to Singapore, we went to a *spice bazaar* and bought quite a bunch, including green and black cardamom. Green cardamom is very hard to find in Singapore. We also took back saffron and star anise, which is much sweeter and aromatic than ingredients used in Italian cuisine.

Which cuisine in the world would you say comes closest to the perfect sensory and



nutritional balance? Italian and Japanese. Especially the cuisine from southern Italy, which is always seasonal, uses only fresh ingredients, is light and well-balanced.

With a Lancet study predicting a shortage of livestock and animal protein by 2050 and advising rationing, how will the way we eat food change? As a chef, where do you see the global food movement heading to? We are living in a fascinating time for food; faced with challenges and innovations that we've never seen before. People these days are now open to more options than ever when it comes to cuisines, diets and even sustainability, all of which have a role to play in the global food movement. Sustainability, in particular, is something I foresee becoming very popular in the culinary world and is something that we are already implementing at Braci — finding ways to use sustainable cooking

methods in ways that elevate our dishes. For example, our popular Roasted Pigeon with Green Asparagus and Sumac is made by utilising the whole bird. With meatless movements becoming so prominent, I have also made it a point to provide vegetarian and vegan options across all of my menus, without compromising on quality and to me, that is an opportunity to get creative.

What is your guilty pleasure and what is your at-home meal?

Caviar. On very special occasions I feed it to my children as well. Otherwise, we eat quite simply, but always organic with a lot of different vegetables and good Japanese brown rice.

How do you make the most humble vegetable exotic?

You must know your produce inside out and never turn your nose up on ingredients. The simplest things in life turn out to be the most incredible, and the same goes with food. You have to find ways to make ingredients bring out the best out of each other, and even the most humble vegetable can have one element within it that can be transformed and reinvented. It can also do the same for the most prestigious of ingredients. It is important to keep your mind open to everything when it comes to produce and elevating cuisine — the most humble vegetable could be a hidden gem.

A good trick is to create several textures from the same ingredient. For instance, we may cut the best part and blanch it or grill it while making a creamy sauce with the trimmings, and pickle other parts to make a tart pesto.

ARTISTRY 45 MINUTES

NOT JUST A ROOM

Designers and architects tell us that garage, even if it has one or more cars in it, can pull double-duty as a gym, a crafting space and even a place to socialise

What if your home had a spare room you'd never noticed before? Your garage, even if it has one or more cars in it, can pull double-duty as a gym, a crafting room and even a place to socialise. Designers and architects tell us that gaining more living space without putting an addition on your house can make the effort worthwhile, even if it means investing in things like upgraded lighting, flooring and heating. We shouldn't be "treating the garage as a big box," says Bethesda, Maryland-based architect Jim Rill. "Make it another room. It's a lost opportunity if you don't."

Marina Case, founder of the Warwick, New York-based design firm The Red Shutters, agrees. "A garage," she says, "can be anything you need it to be." We've asked Rill, Case and interior designer Anna Maria Mannarino of New Jersey-based Mannarino Designs for advice on creating a well-organised garage that can also function as a flexible spare room.

FLOORS AND WALLS
Upgrading the look and feel of your garage can start at the bottom: Paint

the floor, says Case. Painting a cement floor a dark taupe or gray can have a big impact, she says, or choose an even bolder colour. "You'll feel like you're in this fresh, fun space," she says.

But do test the colour by painting a piece of foam core that's at least a few square feet, she says, and leaving it on the garage floor for a few days to make sure you like it.

Another option: Showroom flooring is available for as little as \$5 per foot, says Rill. And if you won't be parking cars in the garage and are instead using it as a "man cave or a she-shed," Mannarino says, consider upgrading the flooring with something you'd normally use inside the house. Walls come next. "Why is the garage always just a drywall box?" Rill asks.

If your garage walls aren't sheet-rocked, Mannarino says you can add that and give it a coat of paint. Or put up paneling, Rill says, making it easier to hang items like rakes or hoses. You can add a flat hanging system that includes space for hanging baskets and brackets for shelves. Many closet-design brands offer flat systems that will hold heavy outdoor items.

If you prefer freestanding storage along the walls, add several tall,



sturdy shelving units. You can line them with large, clear bins neatly labelled or fancier storage bins, Case says. Or go an extra step and have built-in cabinetry installed. And if your garage ceiling is high and has ample space away from

where the garage door opens, consider adding storage on the ceiling, Mannarino says.

"It gives you that much more real estate," she says. But don't cut corners: Have ceiling shelving or storage racks mounted properly by

a professional.

HEATING AND LIGHTING
If your garage gets cold in the winter, you can add a separate heating system that's inexpensive to run. These "mini-split" heating systems

can be turned on only when you're spending time in the garage. Adding insulation also helps control the climate, making the garage feel more like an indoor room. And don't settle for a bare bulb in the ceiling. Replacing it with a larger, more attractive fixture can dramatically change the way a garage feels.

ENTERTAINING OPTIONS
Although it's common to have a workshop in a garage, and many people use the space for messy crafting projects or as a home gym, a garage can also become an entertainment space. If you're a car enthusiast who works on a vintage car or hotrod, Rill says, why not use part of your garage as a place to hang out with friends talking about cars? Case suggests adding a bar area with comfortable seating, even if it's small, to make the garage an inviting place to hang out with guests. You can also hang up a flat-screen TV and add a refrigerator.

Rill has a vintage cooler, reclaimed from a supermarket, in his garage for soft drinks, water and beer. It's used all summer when the family is outdoors. Along with year-round entertaining inside a garage, these designers point out

that an open garage can be a great place to set up a buffet table during an outdoor summer party.

Case suggests adding ceiling-mounted tracks for curtains in an indoor/outdoor material like Sunbrella, so you can draw them behind a serving table in your open garage. Barn doors or other types of upgraded garage door can make the space more attractive and accessible during parties. And upgrading your garage door does more than just add beauty to the exterior of your home, Mannarino says. It also gives you the option of adding more windows, bringing natural light into your garage.

IS THERE AN ATTIC?
Many detached garages have a tiny second-floor attic or loft space, Rill says. Even if its ceiling is low, that space can become a furnished clubhouse for younger kids, a place to practice musical instruments or even a cozy guest suite.

On one garage project, Rill replaced the solid wooden ceiling in a large detached garage with a perforated metal floor. That gave added natural light to the attic space above, which was then transformed into a kids' clubhouse.

—AP

CELEB TALK 15 MINUTES

'Won't play a role unless I'm convinced'

Actress **PATRALEKHA**'s role in *Badnaam Gali* was physically exhausting due to shooting in the city's scorching heat

Actress Patralekha, who features in the forthcoming film *Badnaam Gali* alongside Divyendu Sharma, says the dull phase in her career has taught her not to live on someone's mercy and only sign up for films she is convinced with.

Patralekha of *Citylights* fame said, "One of the most important lessons that I have learnt from the tough phase of my career is that if I am not convinced, I won't play the character. I think for a performer, for an actor, conviction is one of the most important elements and if I am not fully convinced, it shows in my performance."

"So from now on, everything I will do, I will do it with conviction. Also I have stopped taking nonsense from people because we actors are here by choice and we cannot be on anybody's mercy... No one should make us feel insecure or vulnerable just because an artiste has a sensitive mind."

Releasing on the OTT platform ZEE5 on Friday, the film *Badnaam Gali* tells the story of a young surrogate mother named Noyonika Ganguly, played by the actress. The film was shot in Delhi. "We shot in summer. The temperature was around



'MY CHARACTER SHOULD HAVE A STRONG OPINION, BUT SHE COULD BE VULNERABLE TOO. I THINK THAT IS THE INTRIGUING POINT FOR ME THAT I LOOK FOR IN EVERY GOOD SCRIPT'

42 degrees and I was wearing that prosthetic belly as you know I have played a pregnant girl. It was physically exhausting under that heat. I was sweating all over and I was getting tired, but everything was worth it when we saw the end result," she said.

Asked about how the story of a surrogate mother has become acceptable for the audience, she said: "The good thing is that time is changing. An unmarried pregnant girl is always a taboo in the society and that is why earlier when actresses like Preity Zinta did that film *Kya Kehna*, it was an example."

"Now it is great to see that the audience is receptive towards these kind of stories. That is how actors like us are getting chances to work on good stories. I always choose

my films as an audience because I am the first audience of my film. Though it is a story told in a lighter manner, it raises some important questions. She is a surrogate mother, an independent girl with a very unapologetic attitude and how society treats her... Digital platforms really have given us the opportunity to some of these progressive stories."

After *Badnaam Gali*, Patralekha has another film in her kitty. It is directed by Pradeep Sarkar, and the actress says it is quite dark and different. "We have room for versatility too," she said.

Starting her career in Bollywood with the film *Citylights*, Patralekha has also appeared in the web series *Bose: Dead/Alive*.

She has been through five years of struggle to get good film offers, though critics always praised her performance. While she has an inclination towards playing a strong woman on-screen, she knows that as an actor, she shouldn't say that "I only want to play such character."

"Yes, my character should have a strong opinion, but she could be vulnerable too. I think that is the intriguing point for me that I look for in every good script," added Patralekha. —IANS

SPROUTS NOW IN DUBAI



Artist Vibhor Sogani has unveiled *Joy*, a 30-feet tall installation at Dubai Creek Harbour, UAE. Depicted as a bouquet of balloons, the installation is envisioned as an ode to celebrating everything in life that is beautiful, joy-giving and unadulterated. It reflects the ever-changing environment as the passers-by could catch a glimpse of themselves in it. The project is an initiative by Art EMAAR.



STUDIO CHAT 30 MINUTES

Where did the inspiration for the film begin from?

The very first inspiration was when we made *Fantastic Mr Fox*, another animated movie which we shot at Bromley-By-Bow in East London. On the way, there was a sign at the road for the turnoff to the Isle of Dogs, which is kind of an industrial island on the Thames. It always seemed very mysterious to me. I love dogs and I looked it up and it was supposedly the place where the king kept his hunting dogs in the 16th century (or something related) and that was the beginning of this movie, so I just hoped there's something in that for us, which was this. Then I went to Jason and Roman, my two good old friends and said I have this idea of five dogs — Chief, King, Duke, Boss and Rach on a garbage dump islands — and that was all I had. I had that information and we had also been hoping to make a film together in Japan. So, we sort of mixed them together and suddenly we started to get some ideas.

Can you talk about the voice casting of this film because the voices are just beautiful. How did you take the final call for the voice cast?

Yes, well I think for some parts, the casting of every role is a

Who let the dogs out?

Filmmaker **WES ANDERSON**'s first inspiration came from Japanese cinema for directing the *Isle of Dogs*. By **TEAM VIVA**

bit different, for some parts are the people I have known or have been following for years. We were auditioning people and seeing people like Akira. I didn't really know Akira has been in one other film and Koyu hasn't been in any other films and I just like their voices and performances; really casting them the way you cast an actor.

Could you talk about the research put into the Japanese culture in this movie?

Well, I think our first inspiration was Japanese cinema, that's why we wanted to do a film and that was why we were thinking of Japan in the first place and for us it was Kurosawa and Miyazaki. Those were the two very different kind of filmmakers but those are the ones who were really inspiring us and making us want to make this story in the first place. The other two masters I would say are



the woodblock print makers — Hiroshige and Hokusai — those became our kind of guides as well. But all four of those artists, I can't really put my finger

on what we were looking for and what we were taking from them. It was more sort of steeping ourselves in their work, putting the pictures on the walls, sharing it and

seeing how it came into our own story.

As a filmmaker, who makes animated films, why do you think we are so weary of animation as a medium that we can take seriously to tell adult stories?

Well, that's a very good question. My answer is just going to be exactly the same thing as yours. But here, I didn't put children into consideration, but only the families. Not the way we really steer a thing for an audience and for an age group. My earlier animated film was based on a book that was written with a particular age group in mind, not ours.

The film was not necessarily written that way but the book was. So we were working with something that I already had built. We didn't write this one with anybody in mind and as we went along every now and then, we asked ourselves, can we do this? Is it going to be alright and will people accept this? Since it's not really a children's film at all and for some children it might be disturbing. You know it has a PG-13 rating which animated films don't usually get and when it got that way it made sense to me because the dog hanged himself by his own leash.

Correct me if I am wrong... were there three different sizes for every puppet?

You can't really break it down quite that way. What you have is based on what you need for some puppets. There is one scale and that's going to be sufficient for what this puppet needs to do but for other ones there are different sizes. If we are taking a very wide shot, we have some small puppets but I was always trying to push us in the direction of smaller scale. I liked the idea of using smaller puppets and having a larger scope to the set because that would include everything. Everybody said that we are going too small and I kept pushing it. However, I was wrong, we should have had bigger puppets because often it became very challenging to animate at that scale. We also reached a certain point where the puppet would not hold up at a long distance. In the frame, the puppet was not right and it turned out to be my fault. I had kept puppets smaller but then we had to at times produce larger scale puppets, change the schedule and so on... not that everybody is dying to hear the details of our scheduling process but it was quite complicated in the stop motion film.

(The show premieres on Star Movies Select HD on May 25.)

Football does not know about Brexit

Arsenal, Chelsea wins in Europa League semis to set all England final in both European elite competitions



FIGURATIVELY

- 4** This is the first time that all four places in the Champions League/Europa Cup and Europa League/UEFA Cup finals will be filled by one country.
- 3** Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang is the first player to score a hat-trick in Europe for Arsenal since Lucas Perez away to Basel in the Champions League in December 2016.
- 10** Luka Jovic has scored 10 goals in the Europa League this season; no player has netted more (level with Olivier Giroud).
- 50** Since his Arsenal debut in August 2017, Alexandre Lacazette has been directly involved in 50 goals for the club in all competitions, more than any other player (35 goals, 15 assists).
- 24** Eden Hazard has had a hand in 24 goals in 26 appearances at Stamford Bridge in 2018-19 (13 goals, 11 assists).
- 9** Ruben Loftus-Cheek has been directly involved in nine goals in his last 14 appearances for Chelsea (4 goals, 5 assists); as many as in his previous 45 games for the Blues.

Kepa shines in shoot-out drama

AFP ■ LONDON



Kepa Arrizabalaga was Chelsea's hero as the Spanish goalkeeper sent his side to the Europa League final with two penalty saves in a dramatic 4-3 shoot-out win against Eintracht Frankfurt on Thursday.

Chelsea took the lead in the semi-final second leg thanks to Ruben Loftus-Cheek's first half strike at Stamford Bridge.

But Luka Jovic equalised soon after the interval as a tense clash finished 1-1 after extra time and 2-2 on aggregate.

Cesar Azpilicueta's penalty was saved by Kevin Trapp in the shoot-out, but Kepa kept out Martin Hinteregger's effort and then turned away Goncalo Paciencia before Eden Hazard slotted home the decisive kick to spark wild celebrations.

Kept Arrizabalaga saves the penalty shot during shoot out
UEFA/Twitter

mind I don't know yet." Premier League last weekend, Chelsea can bring an uplifting end to Sarri's troubled first season in charge by lifting the Europa League.

Arsenal rise on Auba's hat-trick

AFP ■ VALENCIA

Arsenal will play Chelsea in the Europa League final after a Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang hat-trick ended Valencia's hopes of another dramatic European comeback on Thursday.

Trailing 3-1 from the first leg, Valencia made the perfect start at Mestalla when Kevin Gameiro finished at the back post but goals from Aubameyang and Alexandre Lacazette left the home side needing four in 40 minutes.

Gameiro scored again, sparking hopes of a revival to trump even the efforts of Liverpool and Tottenham this week, before Aubameyang hit his second and then completed a brilliant hat-trick to seal a 4-2 win, 7-3 on aggregate.

There will be a London derby for the final in Baku on May 29 and, for the first time in history, four English teams com-

"Our objective is clearly to go to the Champions League but also this is a trophy. It will not be easy."

—Unai Emery

"I am only thinking to win something for this club. If it is my last game I will try to do everything. In my mind I don't know yet."

—Eden Hazard

"We played a very good first half. Then in the first part of the second half, we went in trouble. We were passive in the defensive phase, so we conceded the goal."

—Maurizio Sarri

peting in both the Champions League and Europa League finals, with Liverpool and Spurs meeting in Madrid three days later.

It also keeps alive Arsenal's chance of securing a place in the Champions League next season and, realistically, their last chance, given they need to overturn three points and an eight-goal swing on Tottenham in the Premier League this weekend.

Valencia had been relying on the Europa League for Champions League qualification too, given they sit three points behind Getafe, who face a demoralised Barcelona on Sunday, with two games left in La Liga.

But over the two legs, Marcelino's side could have few complaints. They were second best at Emirates Stadium

and defensively frantic here. Arsenal, usually so fragile away from home, picked them off with ease as Aubameyang and Lacazette, boasting 48 goals between them this season, proved themselves to be a first-class attack in a second-tier competition.

"Auba was unbelievable tonight," Lacazette told BT Sport.

"Congratulations to Arsenal," said Marcelino. "They had a bigger punch."

There will also be no Spanish team in either European final for the first time since 2013, and only the second time in 10 years.



Neymar banned for 3 matches

AFP ■ PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain striker Neymar was banned for three matches on Friday with a further two-match ban suspended for lashing out at a fan following the club's shock defeat in the French Cup final.

Announcing the ban, the French football federation said the sanction would go into effect from May 13 allowing the Brazilian superstar to appear for the French champions against Angers in Ligue 1 on Saturday.

But he will miss the last two games of the domestic season and the French Champions Trophy pitting PSG against their cup final conquerors winners Rennes in Shenzhen, China in August.



Neymar swung at an abusive opposing fan while climbing the steps to receive his French Cup final losers medal

following the shock defeat to Rennes on penalties last month.

Meanwhile, Neymar has appealed against another ban, this time a three-match Champions League ban imposed by European football's governing body UEFA.

He was punished for an angry outburst at match officials of PSG's last-16 tie against Manchester United in March.

PSG lost following a last-minute penalty award to the Premier League side after a VAR review of a disputed handball appeal.

Neymar did not play in the match through injury but took to social media to call the penalty award a "scandal" and accuse the VAR referees of incompetence.

KLOPP HOPEFUL ON SALAH FOR PL FINALE

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp hopes to have Mohamed Salah, Andy Robertson and Jordan Henderson fit for Sunday's Premier League finale against Wolves as the Reds aim to end a 29-year wait to win the title.

Klopp's men trail Manchester City by one point at the top of the table and need the champions' 13-game winning run to come to an end at Brighton if they are to win the league.

Liverpool are in high spirits after a stunning 4-0 win over Barcelona on Tuesday booked their place in a second consecutive Champions League final.

Klopp confirmed Roberto Firmino remains out with a groin tear as Wolves visit Anfield. Klopp said he hopes the Brazilian will be ready for the Champions League final against Tottenham on June 1.

Salah missed the



Barcelona game after suffering concussion in a 3-2 win at Newcastle last weekend. "Mo looked good around the celebrations after the game, to be honest," said Klopp.

Klopp.

"The day before yesterday and yesterday he was running outside and will be part of training today."

Robertson had to be replaced at half-time against Barca and Henderson required a pain-killing injection at the break after taking a kick on the knee late in the first half.

"The famous three words of this week in the dressing room: 'It's only pain,'" added Klopp.

"Very important for all the young lads to learn, I've said that already to the boys. Hendo said, 'It's only pain', Robbo said, 'It's only pain' - but it was real pain, wow!"

"Unfortunately, Robbo could deal with the pain but only the rest of his body couldn't because he couldn't really activate the muscle anymore, some nerve hit or whatever."

"They should be fine (for Sunday)."

Suarez to miss CDR final, doubt for Copa America

AFP ■ MADRID

Luis Suarez will be out for four to six weeks after undergoing surgery on a knee injury, Barcelona announced on Friday.

Suarez will miss the Copa del Rey final against Valencia on May 25 and also faces a fight to be fit for the Copa America in Brazil next month.

Uruguay's first game is against Ecuador on June 16, just over five weeks after Suarez had the operation on Thursday.

"Suarez was subjected last night to an arthroscopy on the right knee due to an internal meniscal injury," read a club statement released on Friday.

"His approximate time out will be between four and six weeks."

Suarez has a better chance of playing in Uruguay's second and third group games, against Japan on June 20, and defending champions Chile on June 24.

But his absence from the cup final in Seville is a major blow to Barcelona, who can



secure their second domestic double in as many years by beating Valencia. Suarez will also miss Barca's final two La Liga games at home to Getafe on Sunday and away to Elche the following weekend.

Yaya Toure calls time at 35

AGENCIES ■ LONDON

Manchester City legend Yaya Toure is heading into retirement at the age of 35, his agent Dimitri Seluk has revealed.

The former Ivory Coast international, who also represented the likes of Barcelona and Monaco at the peak of his career, is set to explore a move into coaching and management.

The final outings of his distinguished career came during a second spell at Greek giants Olympiakos.

It is, however, for his time at Camp Nou and the Etihad Stadium that he is best known.

Toure spent three years with Barca, winning the Liga title and Champions League.

He moved to City in 2010 and helped them to three Premier League crowns, two League Cup successes and an FA Cup win - with his goal in the 2011 final getting the club back on the trophy trail.

Toure left England at the end of the 2017-18 campaign, but a man who earned 101 caps for his country is now walking away from competitive football for good.

Seluk told Sport24: "I say this for the first time: Yaya decided to end his career as a champion."

"The farewell match, when he won the Premier League title with Manchester City was, in principle, the real end of his playing career. Not only in this team, but in general."

Seluk added: "Yaya is one of the best players in Africa and he had one of the brightest



careers in the history of African football.

"Therefore, he should also leave football beautifully, at the peak. We talked for a long time on this topic."

"Of course, every football player wants to play for as long as possible. In terms of his physical condition, Yaya could do this at a sufficiently high level for another five years."

"But we came to the conclusion that he, the football player who played for Barcelona and Manchester City, could not lower the bar."

"We see many players who continue their careers at a mature age, and this is commendable. But Yaya and I chose a different path - to leave as a champion and start a new stage in life with a career as a coach."

"In this, I am sure, Yaya will reach even greater heights than those he achieved as a football player. There are no African coaches in the English Premier League."

Halep beats Bencic to reach final, Djoker gets free pass

AFP ■ MADRID

Simona Halep closed in on a return to the top of the world rankings after beating Belinda Bencic 6-2, 6-7 (2/7), 6-0 on Friday to advance to the Madrid Open final while men's top seed Novak Djokovic made the semi-finals without hitting a ball.

Halep, currently number three in the world, will reclaim the number one ranking should she win her third title at the Caja Magica.

Bencic had defeated Halep in their last two matches, but the reigning French Open champion, who lifted the trophy in Madrid in 2016 and 2017, came through in just under two hours.

World number one and two-time Madrid champion Djokovic, meanwhile, walked into



the semi-finals when ninth seed Marin Cilic withdrew before their match with stomach problems.

"I am sorry to announce that I must withdraw from today's match. I have had a terrible night dealing with a case of food poisoning," wrote Cilic in a statement.

"I am extremely disappointed to have my time in Madrid end in this way. Thank you for the support."

In the semi-final on Saturday, Djokovic will face either Roger Federer or 2018 finalist Dominic Thiem.

Halep awaits either Dutch seventh seed Kiki Bertens, a finalist in Madrid last year, or 2017 US Open champion Sloane Stephens.

"It's such a nice feeling to be back in the final here. I really enjoy playing in Madrid, it motivates me," Halep said.

The third seed comfortably claimed the opening set but let her game lapse slightly in the second.

Bencic, who opened the door for Halep to possibly return to the top of the world ranking with her quarter-final defeat of current number one Naomi Osaka, took a tight second set in a tiebreaker.

But Halep pulled herself together to blitz Bencic in the third as she raced to a victory that increases her chances of returning to the top of the pile.

"I was rushing too much in the second-set tiebreaker," Halep said. "I was missing too many easy balls - I lost control of that tiebreak."

"In the third I just started over again, I played smarter, opening up the court and being more aggressive."

