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2018	99 (Expected)	154	
2017	105.34	154	
2016	116	152	
2015	107.34	168	
2014	205 (incl. CSAT Marks)	162 (GS) + 140 (CSAT)	
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NEARBY



MiG-27 crashes, pilot ejects to safety

NEW DELHI
A MiG-27 UPG fighter aircraft of the Air Force crashed in Jodhpur on Sunday morning. The pilot has ejected safely. The pilot had reported engine problems before ejecting. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the cause of the accident.

NATION ▶ PAGE 7

Decision on tie-up today, says Dikshit

NEW DELHI
Delhi Congress president Sheila Dikshit said on Sunday that an official announcement about whether the party will have an alliance with the Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi would be announced on Monday.

DELHI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

Major Gogoi to face seniority loss

NEW DELHI
Major Leetul Gogoi, who is facing an inquiry after being seen with a local woman in a Srinagar hotel, has been recommended reduction in seniority after a court martial. Army sources said on Sunday. His driver Sameer Malla, who was charged for unauthorised absence from the unit, is likely to be given a "severe reprimand".

NATION ▶ PAGE 7

EDGE ▶ 4 PAGES

DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

Lynching accused seen at BJP rally

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

The accused in the Dadri lynching case were seen sitting in the front row of a BJP rally addressed by Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath at Bishahra in the Dadri area on Sunday. The CM was campaigning for Union Minister and BJP candidate Mahesh Sharma for the Gautam Budh Nagar seat.

On September 28, 2015, Mohammad Akhlaq was lynched at Bishahra for allegedly eating beef and storing it for later consumption.

DETAILS ▶ DELHI METRO PAGE 1

Left unhappy as Congress says Rahul will contest Wayanad too

Announcement of second seat for Congress chief draws flak from BJP, Left

SOBHANA K NAIR
SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

The Left parties questioned the Congress's commitment to fight the BJP after Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Sunday chose Kerala's Wayanad as his second seat, where the CPI is in the fray as part of the Left Democratic Front (LDF).

The BJP mocked the Congress. Its president Amit Shah said Mr. Gandhi had fled from Amethi to escape accountability. "Rahul Gandhi has fled to Kerala as he fears the Amethi voters will seek an account [of work] from him," he said at a rally in Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh.

The Congress named Mr. Gandhi on its first list as its candidate for Amethi in Uttar Pradesh. And then came the demand from the party units in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu that he contest from these States too.

"We conveyed to Rahulji that it would not be correct to ignore the sentiments of Congress workers from the southern States," said senior leader A.K. Antony, who announced the decision. Wayanad was chosen, he said, because it is on the junction of the three States.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the choice of Wayanad was

We had conveyed to Rahulji that it would not have been correct to ignore the sentiments of the Congress workers from the southern States
A.K. ANTONY
Congress leader

This goes against their stated commitment to fight BJP because in Kerala, the LDF is the main force against BJP and now they are contesting against the Left
PRAKASH KARAT
CPI(M) leader

Rahul Gandhi has fled to Kerala as he fears that Amethi voters will seek an account [of work] from him
AMIT SHAH
BJP president

Who is the Congress's main enemy? Mr. Gandhi claims he is fighting 'Chowkidaar' and BJP but they chose to contest against CPI
D. RAJA
CPI leader

not of political convenience. "Why did Narendra Modi leave Gujarat to contest from Varanasi? Was he in a weak position in Gujarat? These are immature comments," he said.

The Left parties were cut to the quick and asked the Congress to spell out whether its primary target in this election was the BJP or the Left. "The decision to field Mr. Gandhi from Wayanad was chosen, he said, because it is on the junction of the three States.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the choice of Wayanad was

to fight the BJP because in Kerala the LDF is the main force against the BJP, and now they [the Congress] are contesting against the Left. The Congress has lost the plot somewhere," the former CPI(M) general secretary, Prakash Karat, said. The Left would firmly fight Mr. Gandhi and the Congress-led UDF in the State, he said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10
AN IDEA AGAINST DIVISIVENESS,
SAYS CONGRESS ▶ PAGE 10

Myopic move, says Vijayan

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Sunday that the Congress's decision to field Rahul Gandhi in Wayanad smacked of political myopia. He said the candidature made it seem suddenly that the Left was the main opponent of the Congress, and not the BJP. The Congress had lost sight of its stated enemy, the Sangh Parivar. Mr. Vijayan said minority votes would not go to Mr. Gandhi. ▶ PAGE 5

Cong. workers celebrate

Congress workers in Kerala went into celebration mode after the party named Rahul Gandhi for the Wayanad seat. Indian Union Muslim League leader P.K. Kunhalikutty said the Congress-led United Democratic Front was privileged to have the "future Prime Minister of India" in its bastion. The IUML has a dominant presence in the seat, which has a large Muslim population. ▶ PAGE 5

Marriage with message



Voting for rights: Brides and grooms show placards with messages to create voting awareness at a mass marriage for Muslims organised in Ahmedabad on Sunday. ▶ VIJAY SONEJI

Release list of convicted officials, CIC orders Customs Department

Says names of such officers are not personal information

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

The Central Information Commission (CIC) has directed the Customs Department to make public a list of officers caught red-handed smuggling gold and heroin, and for other illegal activities.

RTI question
The direction came in response to a Right To Information request to the Chief Commissioner of Customs in Amritsar, asking for information on officers caught, convicted or jailed for smuggling.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Such data cannot be considered personal information, as held by the Customs Department, and should be made available in the public interest, the CIC said.

In response to questioning in the appeal case, the CPO also said no such list of convicted officers was maintained by the Department.

IG relieved from poll duty for opening fire in air

Probe on to find out if Haryana cadre officer was drunk at the time of incident



Hemant Kalson, who was deputed as Police Observer. ▶
in the possession of Armed Reserve constable Manibalan. The constable, who was posted for security, obliged Mr. Kalson. The officer suddenly opened nine rounds in the air. After a while, Mr. Kalson handed over the "INSAS rifle" to Mr. Manibalan and returned to his suite. The officer was said to have been under the influence of alcohol.

On being informed by Mr. Manibalan, M. Vijayalakshmi, District Election Officer, who is also the Returning Officer of Chidambaram constituency, and V.R. Srinivasan, Superintendent of Police, con-

ducted an inquiry. While being questioned, Mr. Kalson claimed that he opened fire to check if the gun was in a working condition.

Leaves town

The DEO then sent a preliminary report to Chief Electoral Officer Satyabrata Sahoo. Within hours, the Election Commission issued an order relieving Mr. Kalson from poll duty with immediate effect. Based on a complaint by Manibalan, the Ariyalur police booked a case against Mr. Kalson under Section 336 of the Indian Penal Code.

Jet Airways pilots defer strike plan

ADITI ANAND
MUMBAI

Jet Airways pilots on Sunday deferred their April 1 strike plan by two weeks, hoping that their salary dues would be cleared by then.

At separate open houses in Mumbai and Delhi conducted by their union, the National Aviators Guild (NAG), members decided against going on strike.

Their decision came hours after the airline credited 87.5% of pending dues of their December salaries.

"Pilots have decided that time be given to the new interim management till April 14 to clear salary dues," a communication sent to the 1,100-odd NAG members said.

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An initiative by



TANVI DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

South Mumbai residents deployed a novel idea on Sunday to register their protest against the city's ambitious Coastal Road project. A recent peaceful march was stopped by the police for lack of permission.

In an approach merging Sunderlal Bahuguna's Chipko movement and Munnabhai MBBS' Gandhian semantics, around 200 residents tied pieces of cloth as *rakhis* to over 100 trees in the Tata Garden on Bhulabhai Desai Road. Close to half of the green lung will be lost to the project.

The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, or BMC, has begun work on the 9.98 km coastal



Green effort: A woman ties a piece of cloth as a 'rakhi' at Tata Garden in Mumbai on Sunday. ▶ EMANUEL YOGINI

road that will run from Marine Drive at the city's southern end to Worli, where it could connect to the sea link road that runs up to Bandra. The project is facing resistance from several quarters, including

fishermen and residents of Breach Candy, Peddar Road and Malabar Hill, where the new road will alter localities as well as the coastline. Fishermen have already moved the Bombay High Court seeking a stay on the reclamation work.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

DELHI Timings		
MONDAY, APRIL 01		
RISE 06:12 SET 18:39		
TUESDAY, APRIL 02		
RISE 06:11 SET 18:39		
RISE 04:30 SET 16:04		
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 03		
RISE 06:10 SET 18:40		
RISE 05:14 SET 16:57		

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	34	21
Safdarjung	34	21
Palam	36	22

Delhi Palam Today
36°C A windy and very warm day with sunny sky will persist. Night will be pleasant.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
37°C A pleasant morning is likely. Dry and very warm day with clear sky may occur. Pollution will be moderate.

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Six die as vehicle falls into gorge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU
Six persons, including four members of a family, were killed and a woman critically injured on Sunday when a vehicle plunged into a deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, police said.

The accident occurred at Ujhian-Dhandkote in Darhal area around 12.30 a.m. when the driver of the vehicle, which was on its way to Sabzi village, lost control while negotiating a curve, a police officer said.

He said locals launched a rescue operation immediately and were joined by police parties and a team of doctors and paramedics. Four persons were found dead, while three others were rescued in a critical condition, the officer said, adding that two of the injured succumbed later.

RLD goes all out to regain its Baghpat bastion

The contest is polarised between two Jats: Union Minister Satyapal Singh and Ajit Singh's son Jayant Chaudhary

OMAR RASHID BAGHPAT

The residents of Tukali, a Dalit hamlet, finally heaved a sigh of relief when the linesman arrived and climbed the electric pole. They had spent almost a day without electricity. As the linesman stood precariously on the row of horizontal wires and worked, the Dalits waited below impatiently, recounting their daily struggles. They complained it was usual for the administration to disregard their grievances, pointing to the poor condition of the roads and joblessness created by the shutting down of local factories post-demonetisation.

"We want Modi to lose. He is bent against us. We are not given any facilities," said Pradeep Jatav, summarising the mood of the Dalits.

In 2014, BJP's Satyapal Singh, former Mumbai top cop, trounced SP's Ghulam Mohammad by over two lakh votes, while Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) chief Ajit Singh was relegated to the third position

in his bastion.

This time, the contest is polarised between two Jats: Union Minister Satyapal Singh and Ajit Singh's son Jayant Chaudhary. To make up the deficit – the RLD trailed the BJP by 2.23 lakh votes – Jayant is relying on the SP and the BSP, with the latter providing the solid votebank of Jatavs, like those in Tukali.

"Even if she [Mayawati] nominates a pup, our vote will go with it. We will vote for Jayant Chaudhary," said a Jatav resident.

Communal divide

While communal polarisation following the Muzaffarnagar riots and the breakdown of the Jat-Muslim relationship pushed the BJP to a big win here in 2014, the combined vote of the SP, the BSP and the RLD – 5.54 lakh – was still 1.30 lakh more than the BJP.

Jats and Muslims are the two largest groups in the constituency, once held by



RLD's Jayant Chaudhary campaigning in Baghpat constituency.
• FILE PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

Chaudhary Charan Singh. While Muslims are strongly backing the RLD, the mood among the Jats is mixed. Those supporting him cited non-payment of cane dues, increase in power tariffs and joblessness under the BJP government. Those in favour of Satyapal Singh praised him for building roads while also expressing support towards Mr. Modi and viewed the alliance with disdain.

By a local BSP leader's own admission, "around 40%" of the Jats are still with the RLD, as Satyapal Singh is a local jat. "Even if this increases further, it will be compensated by the support of our base votes – Jatavs, Yadavs and Muslims -- which have been consolidated," he said.

For the BJP, victory depends on not just the Jats, but also the consolidation of Gurjars, OBCs like Kashyaps and Sainis and the BJP's bedrock, the upper castes.

Appealing to farmers, he said his father Ajit Singh had "fought for them" even while

A few kilometres from Tukali, Sumit Kumar, a Gurjar, runs an eatery outside a police check-post. He is firmly behind the BJP and hails PM Modi for giving the forces a free hand [Balakot airstrike].

"The road outside was built by the BJP. It used to have potholes earlier," adds Sumit.

In the 2017 Assembly polls, the only seat the RLD won was Chhaprauli in Baghpat.

However, soon after, its lone MLA Sahendra Ramala, a Jat, was expelled for cross-voting during the Rajya Sabha polls and joined the BJP.

To connect with the Jats and farmers, the RLD is relying on the legacy of Jayant's grandfather, Chaudhary Charan Singh. "It's true our relationship is old, but here I'm standing like a blank paper. People need to make a new start," said Jayant, addressing a nukkad sabha in Shabanpur village.

Appealing to farmers, he said his father Ajit Singh had "fought for them" even while

not in power.

BJP president Amit Shah, who addressed a rally in support of Satyapal Singh in Baghpat on Sunday, used Charan Singh to target dynastic politics.

"By not making his son his [political] heir, Chaudhary Sahab sent a very big message to U.P....Whoever works for the farmers and development of the area, he will be the heir of Chaudhary Charan Singh," said Mr. Shah.

'Bhavna v/s Bhavishya'

Satyapal Singh himself believes that the youth won't fall for "bhavna" (emotions) but will vote for "bhavishya" (future).

Starting off his campaign from his native village Basauli last week, he dismissed the arithmetic of the anti-BJP alliance, saying "only chemistry" will work in Baghpat. "People will set aside their caste, community and religion and vote for development, governance and security," he told reporters.

Suspended constable dies in custody

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI
A Manipur Police constable, suspended in connection with the escape of an extremist leader, has allegedly died in custody during questioning.

Constable S.M. Manjur Ahmed was one of 10 police and medical personnel suspended after Thokchom Nando Singh of the outlawed Kangleipak Communist Party escaped while undergoing treatment at the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences in Imphal on March 25.

Singh was arrested more than a decade ago for the kidnapping and murder of Lungnila Elizabeth, the eight-year-old daughter of former Minister Francis Ngajokpa in November 2003.

"The constable was found dead in custody," a police officer said, adding that they were trying to ascertain the reason for his death.

Stamp of solidarity



Girls leave their hand impressions on a wall during a campaign to unite people at Bikaner in Rajasthan on Sunday. •PTI

Stars set to land in Berhampur

The Lok Sabha constituency is going to polls on April 11

STAFF REPORTER BERHAMPUR

Berhampur parliamentary constituency in Odisha that is going to the polls on April 11 is set to witness campaigning by political heavyweights of different parties over the next few days.

Assembly elections in the State will be held concurrently with the Lok Sabha poll.

Union Minister and BJP leader Dharmendra Pradhan held a road show in Berhampur city on Sunday along with party candidate Bhrugu Baxipatra for the Lok Sabha seat.

BJP candidates for Berhampur and Gopalpur Assembly seats, Kanhu Pati and Bibhuti Jena, also took part in the road show.

Mr. Pradhan then visited the Digapahandi Assembly segment under Berhampur to campaign for actor-turned-BJP candidate Pinky



Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan campaigning at Berhampur city in Odisha on Sunday. •LINGARAJ PANDA

Pradhan. Ms. Pradhan is pitted against BJD Minister Surya Narayan Patra in the Assembly polls.

Amit Shah rally

On Monday, BJP national president Amit Shah will address a public meeting at Kashinagar under the Paralakhemundi Assembly seat.

AICC chief Rahul Gandhi will

address a rally in support of party candidates at Digapahandi on April 4.

BJD chief and Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik is expected to campaign in Berhampur on April 3.

According to BJP sources, some top party leaders like Rajnath Singh and Yogi Adityanath are expected to campaign in Berhampur.

Will fight for Punjab's autonomy within the Union: PDA

An alternative to the conventional parties monopolising Punjab's power and resources'

VIKAS VASUDEVA CHANDIGARH

With a focus on Punjab-centric issues, the Punjab Democratic Alliance (PDA) is all set to take on mainstream parties as it aims to fight for a "genuine federal system" with more powers and autonomy to the States.

PDA – the coalition of Bahujan Samaj Party, Punjabi Ekta Party, Lok Insaaf Party, Nawan Punjab Party, Communist Party of India (CPI), Revolutionary Marxist Party of India (RMP) and Marxist Communist Party of India (U) have announced a common minimum programme (CMP) for the 2019 Parliamentary polls as the alliance prepares to contest all the 13 Lok Sabha seats, which go for polls on May 19.

"The alliance has been forged to liberate Punjab from the clutches of traditional parties such as the Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP), etc., that have ruined the State in turns for the past many decades. We aspire for federal and democratic India as an alternative to the conventional political parties monopolising the power and resources of Punjab," Dharamvira Gandhi, the suspended Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Member of Parliament from Patiala, who has recently floated Nawan Punjab Party, told *The Hindu*.

"We want autonomy to States within the Indian Union. The entire resources and wealth generation is within the States. Yet they are beggars and the Centre is in a stronger position. This needs to be changed," said



Dharamvira Gandhi

Mr. Gandhi.

Unkept promises

Hitting out at the successive governments in Punjab, Mr. Gandhi said in Punjab – farmers, labourers, dalits or small business persons – are suffering due to the indifferent attitude and wrong policies of the State as well as the Centre.

"The youth is shattered by unemployment and is run-

ning abroad or taking recourse to drugs. Promises by the ruling Congress of waiving of farmers' loans, jobs for each family and the oath of eliminating drugs in four weeks have all evaporated," said Mr. Gandhi.

We will also fight for complete waiving of farmers'/agricultural workers' loans and getting the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission implemented," said Mr. Gandhi.

Addicts as patients

He added to tackle the drugs menace, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act needs to be tweaked. "Thousands of drug addicts are in jails while the big-fish, who control the drug trade are wandering free because they enjoy political patronage."

The alliance demands to treat addicts as patients and extend them free treatment, territorial disputes, rightful claim to the capital city of Chandigarh - and a true federal system with more powers and autonomy to the states.

Pointing out that PDA stands committed on issue-based, clean and accountable politics, Mr. Gandhi said through its CMP, the PDA would fight for the long-pending demands of Punjab – be it the river waters issue, territorial disputes, rightful claim to the capital city of

Cong. a true national party: Shatrughan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Actor-politician Shatrughan Sinha, who has announced that he is quitting the BJP, on Sunday said he decided to go with the Congress as it was a national party in the true sense and family friend Lalu Prasad also advised him to do so.

He added leaders such as Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee, Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh Yadav and Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal, among others, wanted him to join their respective parties, but he had made it clear that whatever be the situation, the constituency he would be contesting in the Lok Sabha poll would be Patna Sahib.

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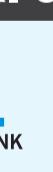
2 RANK

3 RANK

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Classroom

Rohan Purohit
Distance

Himanshu Sharma
Classroom



1 RANK



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Candidates' image may play a big role in high-profile Nagpur

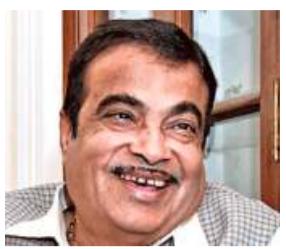
Congress's aggressive Nana Patole set to give a tough challenge to Gadkari

ALOK DESHPANDE
NAGPUR

Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, during his campaign, tells voters that he never lets social or political equations come in the way of Nagpur's development and stresses against voting based on caste, religion, or community. Apart from being idealistic, the speech exposes reasons to worry for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Nagpur and the changed social equations.

In 2014, amid the Modi wave and call for change, Nagpur – the headquarters of the BJP's parent organisation, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) – voted out Congress's Vilas Muttemwar after 20 years by a margin of around 2.85 lakh votes. Mr. Gadkari won the election with a promise to bring development and employment to the city. His clean slate won him votes even in Muslim and Dalit pockets. Not only was the Congress candidate old, and ran a lacklustre campaign, but also the in-fighting within the party made him a sitting duck.

This time, the Congress has picked former BJP MP of



Nitin Gadkari



Nana Patole

Bhandara-Gondiya, Nana Patole, who resigned from his post in 2017. Mr. Patole portrays himself as an individual, who even took on Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the sake of his ideals and his past shows he could be the giant-killer in the Lok Sabha elections.

Kunbi candidate

Mr. Patole belongs to the Kunbi community, the largest in terms of numbers in the constituency. Kunbi, Halba, Dalit and Muslims form the majority of voters in the constituency. A Kunbi mega conference was held in Nagpur two months ago in a bid to unite all castes and sub-castes within Kunbis. "The Congress for the first time in two decades has fielded a Kunbi candidate. Mr. Patole's clean image, aggres-

sion is being appreciated, and Kunbis are voluntarily holding rallies for him," Kamlesh Wankhede, senior journalist with Marathi newspaper *Lokmat*, said.

ST status to Halbas

Halbas are angry with the BJP for not fulfilling the promise of extending Scheduled Tribe status to the community. Halbas and Kunbis were with the BJP in the 2014 general polls. Around 32 Dalit organisations recently held a closed-door meet and decided to vote for the Congress to defeat the BJP. "Muslims too will vote one way to the Congress," Mr. Wankhede said. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has given ticket to Mohammad Jamal, restricting its chances to cut in to Dalit vote bank.

For the BJP, despite changing social equations,

Mr. Gadkari's image remains the biggest asset. The party while campaigning on the development plank, is organising small, close-door community meetings. With six MLAs in the city and all owing allegiance to Mr. Gadkari, the party is fielding State ministers and leaders from neighbouring constituencies to ensure victory at any cost.

Concern for BJP

Issue of unemployment and discontent within traders remain the major reason to worry for the BJP. As per Mr. Gadkari's claim, he initiated works worth ₹70,000 crore in Nagpur city alone, but the number of youths given jobs stand at 25,000 when the promise was of 50,000.

According to political observer Jaideep Hardikar, the anti-BJP forces are silently working on ground. "One can witness that forces which are ideologically against the BJP are helping the Congress this time. Communities, traders too are silently working. There is no Congress leader to lead but these forces are doing their work," he said.

A case of murder has been registered at Mondha police station.

Corporator killed over water dispute

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Shiv Sena corporator Amardeep Rode was hacked to death on Sunday morning allegedly by two of his friends following a scuffle over water in Parbhani district, the police said. "Rode, a corporator with the Parbhani Municipal Corporation, had intervened after some women complained about getting less water from a public tap in the area," an official said.

"A pit had been dug near the water tap to draw out excess quantities and Rode objected to this. His friend Ravi Gaikwad is reported to have dug the pit and Rode went to ask him about it. An altercation ensued during which Rode tried to attack Gaikwad with an axe," the official said.

Rode's friend Kiran Dake tried to stop him from escalating the argument but the former attacked him as well, he said. "Mr. Gaikwad overpowered Rode and hit him with the axe. Mr. Gaikwad and Mr. Dake then assaulted Rode with stones and sticks, killing him instantly. The two have surrendered to the police," he said.

A case of murder has been registered at Mondha police station.

Pune LS seat: the Pawar factor in Pravin Gaikwad's induction

Cong. leaders unhappy; Maratha leader ahead in ticket race

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

The 'invisible hand' of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar in Maratha community leader Pravin Gaikwad's induction into the Congress has triggered resentment among the Pune Congress leadership, which itself is plagued with factionalism.

Mr. Gaikwad's entry on Saturday has put him in the forefront of the ticket race of the Pune Lok Sabha constituency. Mr. Gaikwad's adhesion with the Congress, along with that of another community leader Shantaram Kunjir, is expected to help shore up support for the party from Marathas.

Mr. Gaikwad, the district head of the social arm of the pro-Maratha Sambhaji Brigade and the secretary of the 'Shetkari Kamgar Sanghatana', had met Mr. Pawar a number of times in the past month.

However, in a bid to downplay the NCP supremo's influence in the decision-making of a seat, which is traditionally a Congress bastion, the Pune NCP leadership refuted speculation that Mr. Pawar had 'recommended' Mr. Gaikwad's name to the Congress.

"While the Pune seat has traditionally remained with the Congress, the NCP, too, has a formidable vote share in the city," Mr. Gaikwad had recently said. He further said that in order to defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), it is important that the Congress, the NCP, and Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena as well as other like-minded outfits come together.

"Even if Mr. Pawar has had talks with the Congress

to suggest a suitable candidate for the Pune seat, I do not see anything wrong in this. The Congress has never fielded a strong Maratha candidate since 1992. It needs the right candidate to help it garner votes beyond its three lakh vote share in the city," Mr. Gaikwad said.

Earlier this week, Mr. Gaikwad announced his 'withdrawal' from the nomination race, claiming that the Congress had slighted dedicated activists like him while rolling out the red carpet to Bollywood actor Urmila Matondkar and giving her a ticket.

This led the party to promptly induct Mr. Gaikwad, Mr. Kunjir, and their supporters at a formal ceremony in Mumbai in the presence of a visibly upset Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee chief Ashok Chavan.

According to a party insider, Mr. Chavan is not too happy with Mr. Gaikwad's induction, as he views him as Mr. Pawar's 'candidate' forced upon the Congress owing to a lack of local alternatives.

"Mr. Chavan had held a



Front runner: Maratha community leader Pravin Gaikwad, who recently joined the Congress, interacts with people in Pune on Sunday. ■ MANDAR TANNU

meeting of Pune Congress leaders in Diwali last year, who were aspirants for the Pune LS seat, exhorting them to sort their differences and unite lest Mr. Pawar began recommending his candidates. However, it proved inconclusive as the city's Congress leaders have not succeeded in overcoming their differences," he said.

According to a political observer, yet another meeting to quell factionalism within the Pune Congress unit, presided over by Prithviraj Chavan and Harshwardhan Jadhav, yielded no result well.

"While the NCP may vehemently deny it, but Mr. Pawar's weight in Mr. Gaikwad induction into the Congress and hopes for securing a ticket is evident. It remains to be seen whether the Congress grants him a ticket or sticks with its loyalists in Pune," the observer said.

Meanwhile, with no announcement of the Congress' candidate for the Pune LS seat, the city Congress unit officially commenced its poll campaign on Sunday from Kasba Ganpati Temple.

Honour killing: 17-yr-old girl strangled by father, 3 held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

AHMEDNAGAR

A 17-year-old girl in Ahmednagar district was allegedly killed by her father, who was against her friendship with a boy studying with her in a college, the police said on Sunday.

Jamkhed police station inspector Pandurang Pawar said they suspected it to be a case of 'honour killing'.

The incident occurred in Chondi village, the home town of State minister Ram Shinde, who demanded stringent punishment

against the accused. The deceased's father and two maternal uncles were arrested, Mr. Pawar said. The girl used to frequently chat with the boy over phone and go to college with him on his two-wheeler.

Her father Pandurang

Shreerang Saygunde (51) asked her several times to discontinue her friendship with the boy but the girl did not heed his advice. On March 23, Mr. Saygunde, in a fit of anger, allegedly throttled his daughter to death at their home, Mr. Pawar said.

He also allegedly tried to burn the body with the help of the girl's two uncles, and on March 24, lodged a missing complaint about her at Jamkhed police station. The half-burnt body was spotted by the deceased's sister on March 25 near a water body.

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NEARBY



Maoist posters appear in Thrissur city

THRISSUR
The police have tightened security as Maoist posters appeared in many places in Thrissur. The posters, which were found on Sunday, seek the arrest of those responsible for the death of C.P. Jaleel, killed recently in an alleged encounter with the police in Wayanad. The posters also demand that the Thunderbolt, the commando force created to counter possible terror strikes, be disbanded.

Call given for bandh in Andhra Pradesh on April 5

VISAKHAPATNAM
The banned CPI (Maoist) have called for a bandh on April 5 in the Agency areas of Visakhapatnam in protest against the alleged killing of two tribal farmers on March 15 by the anti-Naxal force, the Greyhounds. According to Maoists, the two were innocent farmers and not members of the banned organisation, as claimed by the security forces. The bandh call was given in a letter released on Saturday.

EVMs to be used in Nizamabad constituency

HYDERABAD
The Election Commission has announced its decision to use EVMs for the forthcoming Lok Sabha election in Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency. The EC, which examined the reports submitted by Chief Electoral Officer Rajat Kumar, announced on Sunday that the election would be held through EVMs. With 185 candidates remaining in contest, the State officials sought the guidance of the ECI on the mode that should be adopted for the poll.

Kerala Cong. jubilant, LDF sees 'wrong message' in Wayanad

BJP alleges minority appeasement, hints at fielding a strong contender

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Congress workers in Kerala danced, burst firecrackers, and distributed sweets on Sunday to celebrate the news that their national president Rahul Gandhi would contest the Lok Sabha election from the Wayanad constituency.

Mr. Gandhi's candidature made the Left Democratic Front (LDF) see red with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan stating that it sends a wrong message to secular forces aligned against the BJP.

CPI(M) State secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan echoed a similar sentiment.

Mr. Gandhi's arrival appeared to have upended the political calculations of the BJP in Kerala. It has wrested back the Wayanad seat from the Bharath Dharma Jana Sena, a coalition partner, whose candidate Paily Vathiatu, had started campaigning last week.

BJP State president P.S. Sreedharan Pillai said Mr. Gandhi appeared to be contesting the Lok Sabha on a minority appeasement plank.

He hinted that the BJP would field a strong contender, amidst speculation that it could be Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman or actor Suresh Gopi.

IUML response

Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) leader P.K. Kunhalikutty said the UDF was privileged to have the "future Prime Minister of India" in its bastion. The IUML is a dominant presence in the constituency, which has a sizeable Muslim population, an estimated 48%. Christians also



Time to rejoice: Congress workers celebrating in Thiruvananthapuram after hearing about the candidature of Rahul Gandhi from the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency on Sunday. ■ S. MAHINSHA

A myopic move: Pinarayi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

If Mr. Gandhi wanted to take the BJP head-on, he should have stuck to Amethi.

"Even a child knows that in Kerala the fight is between the LDF and the UDF. The BJP is a lightweight in Kerala's electoral politics. It has no presence in Wayanad," he said. Hence, Mr. Gandhi's electoral battle would be against the LDF primarily. Mr. Vijayan said Mr. Gandhi's arrival had added no new dimension to the electoral campaign in the State.

There would be no minority consolidation in

favour of the Congress.

The Congress and the BJP were on the same page when it came to banning cow slaughter. The people also know that it was under the watch of the Congress that the Sangh Parivar demolished the Babri Masjid. Both parties have pursued the same economic policies that impoverished the poor and enriched the rich. He welcomed the Nair Service Society's stated position that it would keep an equidistance from all political parties in the Lok Sabha election. Mr. Vijayan said Sabarimala was not a poll issue.

Gandhi's presence in Kerala would imbue the polls in Kerala with the fast-paced spirit of 20/20 cricket. "We will win all the 20 seats in Kerala," he said.

Announcement could be a game changer

GIRISH MENON
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The entry of Congress president Rahul Gandhi into the fray in Wayanad could be a game changer for the Congress and the United Democratic Front (UDF). Even though the decision took its own time in coming, it has energised the rank and file of the party and neutralised factional tussles that naturally come into play, dashing the hopes of candidates who had an outside chance of winning a seat.

In a minority dominated polity, Mr. Gandhi's contest is expected to lead to a consolidation of minority votes for the UDF.

One of the main problems that the Congress and the UDF have been wrangling for the last several years is the erosion of its Muslim and Christian vote banks. This was evident in the 2014 Lok Sabha election and 2016 Assembly election when the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) made inroads into several bastions of the UDF allies.

The general perception that the Congress did not have a national leadership

to take on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had contributed a lot to this shift in voting preferences in the State. But over the years, Mr. Gandhi has emerged as a strong opponent of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP, and a strident critic of the NDA government. UDF leaders firmly believe that Mr. Gandhi's current profile will have its impact in all the 20 Lok Sabha seats, bringing back its traditional voters.



Show of strength: A view of the crowd during the Congress-JD(S) rally in Bengaluru on Sunday. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

Rahul, Gowda rally seeks to unite cadre

Bury differences, say Cong, JD(S) leaders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Top leaders of Karnataka's ruling coalition – Congress president Rahul Gandhi, Janata Dal (S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda and Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy – on Sunday appealed to workers of both the parties to work together and ensure victory of their candidates in two or three constituencies [Hassan, Mandya, and Tumakuru].

The appeal comes in the backdrop of bickering among leaders and workers of both parties who have expressed dissatisfaction over the seat-sharing arrangements.

The leaders, who held a first-ever joint rally to send out a message of unity to the cadre, sought to remind them that their main purpose of coming together was to defeat Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP.

The leaders attacked the BJP-led NDA at the Centre over its alleged failure to protect the interests of the poor in the last five years.

Mr. Gandhi, in his nearly 15-minute speech to thousands of Congress and JD(S) workers at the 'Parivartha Samavesha', asked workers of both the parties to work for each other's benefit.

"Why have both parties come together? They are together to defeat the BJP," he said. During his speech Mr. Gandhi appealed twice to workers of both parties.

Echoing the sentiment while acknowledging differences between leaders and workers, Mr. Kumaraswamy said, "There are differences in two or three constituencies [Hassan, Mandya, and Tumakuru]. But please do not make it big. I appeal to leaders and workers of both the parties."

Mr. Gowda said that as a regional party, the JD(S) would stand by the Congress in its fight against the BJP, and that they would go to every constituency to explain the reason why the parties came together. "This joint rally is to send the message again," he said.

'Leave the past behind'
A key leader in the coalition and chairman of the coordination committee Siddaramaiah asked the workers and leaders to forget the past.

"It is the country and the State that is important now. We have forgotten all our differences to keep the communal BJP out," he said.

Remove Modi, save nation, says Mamata

Give Naidu another chance because of development, Bengal CM says in Vizag

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM

Reciting the famous song written by Bismil Azimabadi and immortalised by freedom fighters Ram Prasad Bismil and Bhagat Singh 'Sarfarosh Ki Tamanna Ab Hamare Dil Mein Hai, Dekhna Hai Zor Kitna Baajuen Qaatil Mein', West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee challenged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to an open debate.

At an election rally here on Sunday organised by the TDP, she gave the war cry 'Modi Hatao-Desh ko Bachao' (remove Modi-save country).

Ms. Banerjee termed the election as an important one as people had to exercise their franchise judiciously to oust the Modi-Amit Shah combine.

Getting into the arithmetic of seats in the Lok Sabha, she said that in 2014, the BJP could get 282 of the 543 seats



United show: N. Chandrababu Naidu, Mamata Banerjee and Arvind Kejriwal in Visakhapatnam on Sunday. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

and if they could garner 120 plus seats now it would be quite an achievement.

"Combining the four southern States, Odisha and West Bengal there are about 191 seats and in 2014 the BJP could get 21, including 17 from Karnataka. Now they have lost the Assembly elections in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and

Chhattisgarh. So how do they expect to get that many number? In 2014, they garnered 71 of the 80 seats from U.P. but this time, the BSP-SP combine will oust them out. So my calculation of 120 seats stands good," she said.

Earlier, speaking in Telugu, paying tributes to local freedom fighters such as Aluri Seetharamaraju and

Tenneti Viswanadham and offering prayers to all local deities, she said Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu should be given one more term.

'Constitution under threat'
Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the Modi-Shah combine had weakened the foundation of democracy and if not voted out, the Constitution would be under threat.

Comparing Mr. Modi's rule with that of Hitler, he said, "Hitler changed the Constitution and disbanded elections and BJP's Sakshi Maharaj, in an interview about a week ago, said if Modi and BJP come to power in 2019, there shall be no election till 2050."

Mr. Kejriwal said the five-year BJP rule had divided the country in a number of ways and the very essence of living together in harmony was lost.

Earlier, speaking in Telugu,

paying tributes to local freedom fighters such as Aluri Seetharamaraju and

Hard to find



Daily routine: The Kolam Adivasis of Gattapalli Kolamguda fetching muddied water from an open well in Telangana's Adilabad district. ■ S. HARPAL SINGH

Andhra Pradesh MPs have highest average annual income: report

Affidavits by 479 MPs prior to 2014 LS election were analysed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The 19 sitting Lok Sabha MPs from Andhra Pradesh have the highest average annual self-income of about ₹1.06 crore, as against an overall mean of ₹30.29 lakh for 479 parliamentarians, according to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms and the National Election Watch.

Andhra Pradesh is followed by Odisha, from where 15 MPs have an average income of ₹68.8 lakh. The report covers an analysis of self-declared affidavits by 479 out of 521 MPs, submitted prior to the 2014 Lok Sabha poll. The other 42 MPs have not declared their income and therefore have not been included. Only 58 of the MPs

are women. While a male MP's annual self-income is an average of ₹30.54 lakh, their women colleagues have an average annual self-income of ₹28.46 lakh.

According to the report, 106 MPs have declared their educational qualification as a graduate. The average annual income of these MPs is ₹41.28 lakh.

There are six MPs who have declared their educational qualification as Class V Pass and their annual income is ₹41.41 crore. In all, 150 MPs are between 46-55 years of age and they have an average annual income of ₹40.54 lakh. The 54 MPs who are between 66-75 years of age have declared an average of ₹16.72 lakh as their average annual income.

Two MPs from Goa have

declared the lowest average annual income of ₹5.2 lakh, followed by 33 MPs from Tamil Nadu with an average of ₹7.2 lakh.

According to the report, 106 MPs have declared their educational qualification as a graduate. The average annual income of these MPs is ₹41.28 lakh.

There are six MPs who have declared their educational qualification as Class V Pass and their annual income is ₹41.41 crore. In all, 150 MPs are between 46-55 years of age and they have an average annual income of ₹40.54 lakh. The 54 MPs who are between 66-75 years of age have declared an average of ₹16.72 lakh as their average annual income.

Farmers' prospects in erstwhile Karimnagar dwindle

Crops wither away owing to heat wave conditions and depleting groundwater

K.M. DAYASHANKAR
KARIMNAGAR

The dried-up paddy crop at a village in Karimnagar district. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Other irrigation sources such as wells and bore-wells were insufficient

for their entire crop area.

Sources said that, as of now, each farmer has lost approximately ₹25,000 per acre for cultivating paddy.

Rythu Ikyada district president M. Venkat Reddy, who cultivated paddy in eight acres of land at Challur village in Veenavanka mandal, said the crop in his two-and-a-half acres has withered away due to non-availability of water from SRSP canals.

He alleged that during the Assembly elections, the State government had released water from the SRSP for irrigation without any need for it.

"Had the government re-

leased water judiciously during the last kharif, there would not have been any crisis now and the standing crops could have been protected," he said.

Demanding that the officials from the Agriculture Department visit their fields to enumerate the losses and submit a report to the State government for compensation, he urged the government to provide a compensation of ₹25,000 per acre to each farmer.

Meanwhile, Communist Party of India (CPI) district secretary K. Ramgopal Reddy inspected the crops in Chigurumadi mandal and interacted with farmers along with a delegation. He urged the government to take measures to enumerate losses and compensate farmers immediately.

In the present situation, no party would be in a position to form the next government on its own, he said, adding: "We (YSRCP and TRS) will insist on granting SCS to A.P. in return for support to a party or parties forming the new government."

YSRCP leader predicts hung Parliament

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
ONGOLE/NELLORE

Predicting a hung Parliament, YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Sunday saw a pivotal role for his party and the TRS in the formation of the next government at the Centre.

He was confident that "the two parties will sweep the polls in the two Telugu-speaking States with the YSRCP bagging 25 and the TRS 17 seats each."

In the present situation, no party would be in a position to form the next government on its own, he said, adding: "We (YSRCP and TRS) will insist on granting SCS to A.P. in return for support to a party or parties forming the new government."

IN BRIEF



JKPM biggest platform for youth: Shah Faesal

JAMMU
Former IAS officer and founder of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples' Movement Shah Faesal on Sunday said his outfit would be the biggest platform for the youth, but will keep its doors open for politicians having "unblemished record". PTI

25 kg of gold seized in Punjab

FATEHGANJ SAHIB
Ahead of polls, the police have seized 25 kg of gold worth ₹8.50 crore from a car during checking near GT Road here, the police said on Sunday. The gold was recovered from a van which was coming from Delhi on Saturday night, they said. The gold was to be delivered to a shop in Ludhiana. PTI

Three killed as car hits truck in Rajasthan

JAIPUR
Three people, including a couple, were killed and one injured when a speeding car rammed a stationary truck near Kotputli town on Sunday, the police said. The incident occurred on Jaipur-Delhi expressway. The car was enroute Jaipur from Delhi when it rammed the truck parked by the roadside near Bagawas bridge, Paragpara police station in-charge Hitesh Sharma said. PTI

One killed as bus rams truck in Bundi

KOTA
A 17-year-old boy was killed and one person injured as a private bus rammed a stationary truck on NH 52 in Bundi district on Sunday morning, the police said. The incident took place under the Hindoli police station limits around 5.30 a.m., they said, adding that the victims were passengers of the bus. PTI

Inside Bhopal



Women belonging to the Rajput community from Gujarat flaunt their swords during the 'Kshatriya Swabhiman' felicitation ceremony in Bhopal on Sunday. PTI

Culling begins after bird flu outbreak in Cuttack

Huge quantities of chicken, eggs have also been destroyed

CORRESPONDENT
CUTTACK

Mass culling of birds was undertaken after samples collected from a State-run duck breeding centre at Khapuria on the outskirts of the city tested positive for the deadly strain of avian influenza

Chief Veterinary Officer (CDVO) Loknath Behera confirmed that there has been an outbreak of bird flu in the city.

District officials, after receiving the test reports on Saturday, have also undertaken

a drive to destroy eggs within a one-km radius of the breeding centre. Sources said blood samples of people living within a radius of 10 km of the locality, who had consumed eggs and bird meat over the week, will also be collected.

Reports said that the centre witnessed deaths of at least 10 to 15 birds every day over the past 10 days following which samples were sent to several laboratories within the State and outside.

Reports reaching here

from a laboratory in Bhopal indicated that the samples tested positive for the deadly strain of H5N1 virus which spreads from bird to bird.

Sources said that the veterinary teams have culled over 400 ducks within the centre by Sunday evening. Similarly, huge quantities of chicken and eggs from nearby vending zones have also been destroyed during the day.

The mass culling drive will continue for some more days, district officials said.

'Will allow campaign only after written promise'

Anti-liquor women activists tell parties

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

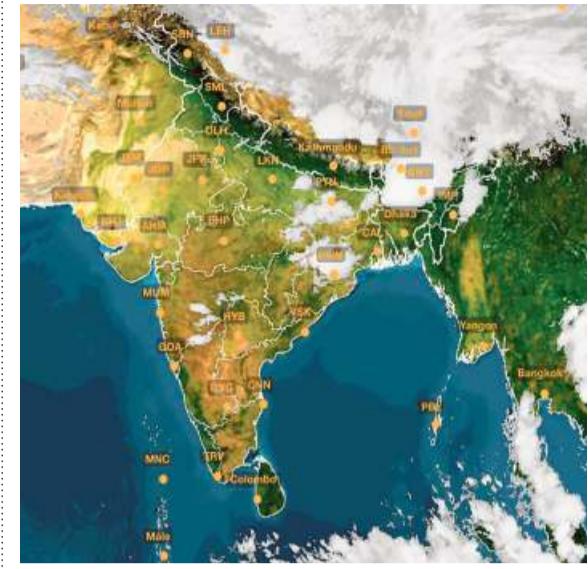
Anti-liquor women activists of Daringbadi block in the Kandhamal parliamentary constituency have decided to allow political parties to campaign only after they give a written promise to refrain from use of liquor during the poll process. United under the 'Nari Mahasangh', the women have been fighting against the liquor menace for more than three decades with a demand for its complete ban.

Over 100 activists of the 'Nari Mahasangh' from 85 villages under 12 panchayats

of Daringbadi block attended the meeting on Saturday, which was chaired by its president Nabati Mantri. State level anti-liquor activists of the 'Odisha Nishamukti Andolan', Pramila Swain and Lalita Misal, were also present. According to Ms Mantri, any political leader entering their village will have to first provide a written promise on stamp paper which will include not using liquor in any way during the election process, support the demand for its complete ban, help landless people get land rights under the Forest Rights Act.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy rain likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. Thunderstorm with gusty winds and lightning likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, Telangana, interior Karnataka and Kerala.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	33.1...	23.8		Kozhikode	36.3...	26.4	
Ahmedabad	41.5...	24.0		Kurnool	42.2...	27.2	
Aizawl	30.4...	17.6		Lucknow	37.8...	22.7	
Altahabad	41.4...	22.0		Madurai	40.0...	24.0	
Bengaluru	35.6...	22.7		Mangaluru	34.7...	25.7	
Bhopal	39.8...	23.9		Mumbai	32.1...	24.6	
Bhubaneswar	38.3...	26.5		Mysuru	36.5...	19.8	
Chandigarh	32.0...	17.9		New Delhi	34.3...	21.0	
Chennai	34.3...	27.5		Patna	39.0...	24.0	
Coimbatore	38.0...	24.8		Port Blair	32.7...	23.6	
Dehradun	33.4...	16.1		Puducherry	34.2...	26.4	
Gangtok	28...	16.1...	9.9	Pune	38.8...	22.3	
Goa	33.4...	25.5		Rajpur	4.8...	26.2	
Guwahati	10.6...	25.6...	20.4	Ranchi	37.0...	19.3	
Hubballi	36.0...	22.0		Shillong	24.2...	14.2	
Hyderabad	40.9...	24.9		Shimla	23.3...	11.7	
Imphal	29.6...	14.7		Srinagar	19.7...	7.0	
Jaipur	39.8...	25.8		Trivandrum	36.0...	26.7	
Kochi	35.0...	25.6		Tiruchi	39.6...	24.0	
Kohima	21.2...	11.3		Vijayawada	38.4...	25.2	
Kolkata	33.9...	26.2		Visakhapatnam	32.3...	27.2	

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	13	.73	23	.166		
Bengaluru	.4	.34	40	.153		
Chennai	12	.25	57	.167		
Delhi	25	.38	20	.181	.301	
Hyderabad	.5	.25	25	.89	.124	
Kolkata	.2	.53	21	.127	.121	
Lucknow	14	.224	56	.276		
Mumbai	.35	.8	69	.30	.82	
Pune	.29	.14	31	.89	.114	
Visakhapatnam	24	.53	48	.72	.119	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 285. In contrast, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, recorded a healthy AQI score of 54

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_x: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease



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IN BRIEF



PAN-Aadhaar linking deadline is Sept. 30

NEW DELHI

The government on Sunday announced that the deadline for the linking of Aadhaar with PAN has been extended to September 30. Those looking to file income tax returns on or after April 1 will still have to quote their PAN while doing so. This is the sixth time that the government has extended the linking deadline.

'Bid to dislodge AIADMK from T.N. won't succeed'

VELLORE

Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam has challenged DMK leader M.K. Stalin during a campaign meeting of the Vellore Lok Sabha candidate A.C. Shanmugam, who is contesting under the 'two leaves' symbol. "Even your father could not succeed in decimating the AIADMK, can you do it?" Mr. Panneerselvam said to Mr. Stalin.

Plea to bar DMK from linking CM with Kodanad

CHENNAI

All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) spokesperson R.M. Babu Murugavel has approached the Madras High Court seeking a direction to the Election Commission to restrain Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) as well as other parties from making speeches associating Chief Minister 'Edappadi' K. Palaniswami with the 2017 Kodanad heist-cum-murder.

Compensation ordered for faulty hip implant

MUMBAI

The Central Drug Standards Control Organisation has ordered pharmaceutical giant Johnson & Johnson to pay ₹74.5 lakh to a Mumbai-based woman who was fitted with a faulty hip implant.

Going back to the salt pans of Mumbai

A group of enthusiasts relives history, from Shivaji Maharaj to Gandhi's Dandi march, with a walk through Wadala

JYOTI SHELAR

MUMBAI

It's 89 years since the famous salt satyagraha led by Mahatma Gandhi, who marched 241 miles to Dandi along with 80 people to break the salt law imposed by the British. In Mumbai, a group of enthusiasts recently relived a part of history by participating in a salt pan walk at Wadala organised by the Asiatic Society of Mumbai.

"Mumbai was always known for its salt pans. From Shivaji Maharaj to the British, everyone had interest in this region because of



The city's salt pans are spread from Wadala to Mahul, KanjurMarg to Vikhroli and Goregaon to Bhayander. ■ FILE PHOTO

its salt pans," Vinayak Parab, a member of the Mumbai Research Centre of the Asiatic

Society, who led the walk, said. Mr. Parab has been researching salt pans for the

past six years.

The city's salt pans are spread from Wadala to Mahul, KanjurMarg to Vikhroli and Goregaon to Bhayander. On the eastern side, the British had built a narrow-gauge railway between Mahul and Wadala and from Vikhroli towards Thane to collect and transport salt. Remains of these tracks are visible in some places. During Gandhi's salt satyagraha in 1930, many locations in Mumbai witnessed the civil disobedience movement, but the satyagraha at Wadala salt pan was the most prominent. Thousands of satyagra-

his would gather at the Wadala salt pans and often face brutal lathi charge.

"Salt has a very rich history. It was the first commodity that was traded. It plays an important role in our body. The words salary and soldier have originated from salt. But today, we never look at salt with such importance," he said. In ancient Rome, soldiers were given money to buy salt, which was expensive but essential, and sometimes even paid in salt.

Salt pans, Mr. Parab said, play a significant role in the ecology of the city and an

entire culture has evolved around it. "Salt pans have different species of birds and insects thriving on them. They have an enormous water-holding capacity that helps in flood control. The communities that work on salt pans have their own songs revolving around them," said Mr. Parab. There is a lack of awareness about salt pans, he said. With the government's plan to use the salt pans for affordable housing projects, they now face a threat of extinction.

"I knew about how important salt pans were but there were so many new dimensions of salt to us," she said.

Major Gogoi to face seniority loss for Srinagar hotel episode

Found guilty of 'fraternising' with a local against the rules

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI



Major Leetul Gogoi, who is facing an inquiry after being seen with a local woman in a Srinagar hotel, has been recommended reduction in seniority after a court martial, Army sources said on Sunday.

"The court martial has recommended a seniority loss for Major Gogoi. The sentence has to be formally approved by the competent authority in the Army," a senior officer said.

The approval seems certain and the seniority loss is likely to be six months.

Last August, orders were issued to initiate disciplinary action after a Court of Inquiry (CoI) held him accountable for "fraternising" with a local in spite of instructions to the contrary and being

local police in Srinagar after a scuffle when he tried to get into a hotel with an 18-year-old local woman. Following this, Army ordered a CoI to ascertain the facts.

Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat, during a visit to the State shortly after the incident, said action would be taken if he was found guilty. "If any officer of the Army is found guilty of any offence, we will take the strictest possible action," he had stated.

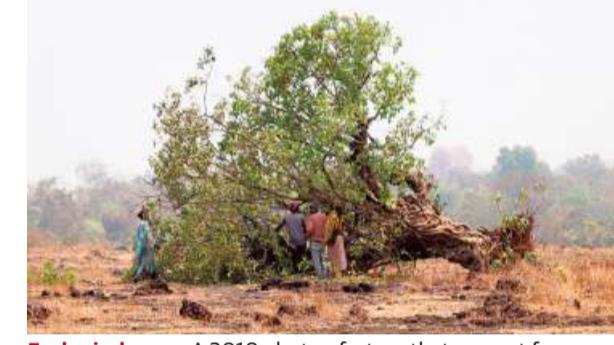
Major Gogoi was earlier in the news in April 2017 when he used a local, Farooq Dar, as a human shield against stone throwers during the Srinagar Lok Sabha by-election. On this occasion, he was awarded a commendation card by Gen. Rawat in appreciation of his sustained efforts in counter-insurgency operations.

SC suspends eco clearance for international airport in Goa

A firm regime against environmental exploitation will strengthen rule of law'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI



Ecological scare: A 2018 photo of a tree that was cut for constructing the Mopa airport in Pernem, 40km from Panaji.

The health of the environment is key to preserving the right to life, the Supreme Court has observed in a recent judgment and suspended the environmental clearance granted for an international airport at Mopa in Goa.

Upholding the need to strengthen the 'environmental rule of law' for both intra and inter-generational equity, a Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and Hemant Gupta said every branch of governance and institutions across the country should strive to enforce this rule of law.

While the most direct effect of a strong rule of law is protection of the environment, a firm regime against

environmental exploitation would "strengthen rule of law more broadly, support sustainable economic and social development, protect public health, contribute to peace and security by avoiding and defusing conflict, and protect human and constitutional rights."

The apex court said transparency is necessary for the robust enforcement of environmental rule of law.

"The rule of law requires a regime which has effective, accountable and transparent institutions," Justice Chandrachud observed.

In this case, the court said

how the State of Goa, the Centre and the concessionaire highlighted the need for the new airport to accommodate the increasing volume of passengers. They had urged the court to disregard the "flaws" in the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) process. They had argued that setting up a new airport was a "matter of policy."

However, dismissing their pleas, the court said "the role of the decision-makers is to ensure that every important facet of the environment is adequately studied and that the impact of the proposed activity is carefully assessed."

"In the present case, as our analysis has indicated, there has been a failure of due process," the court held.

MiG-27 crashes in Jodhpur, but pilot ejects to safety

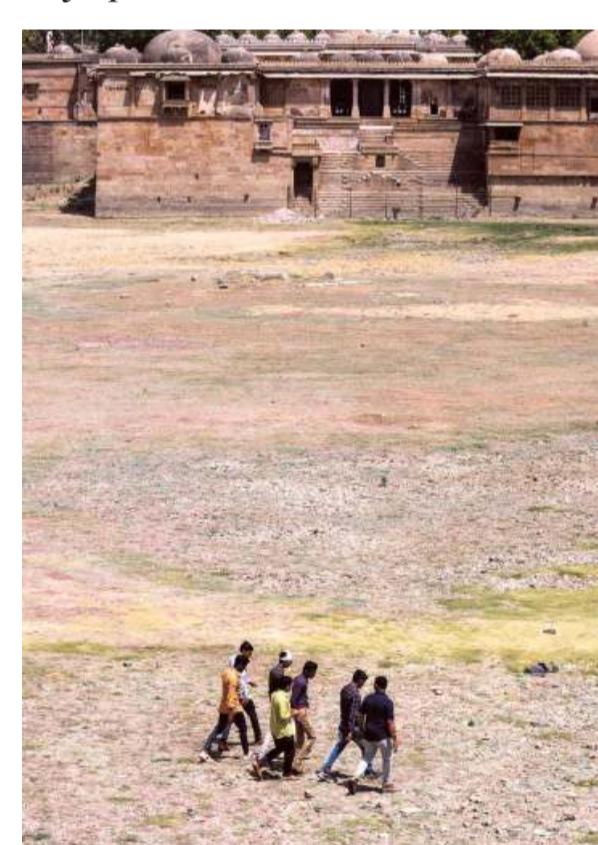


The remains of the MiG 27, which crashed at Sirohi near Jodhpur in Rajasthan on Sunday. ■ PTI

SI, home guard suspended for damaging two-wheeler

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI



Parched: Youngsters walking on the dry bed of the Ahmad Sar Lake at Sarkhej Roza in Ahmedabad. The 15th century complex comprises a mosque and a tomb of Saint Ahmed Khattu Baksh. Several parts of Gujarat are facing severe water scarcity in the initial days of the summer season. ■ AFP

After a video of a home guard damaging a two-wheeler under the supervision of a sub-inspector (SI) near War Memorial went viral on social media, the city police have suspended SI Haribabu and home guard Mohan.

In full public view

A video shot by a local shows a home guard damaging the two-wheeler with a stick in full public view. He first damages the rear view mirrors. The SI then gives instructions to smash the front of the vehicle. After a couple of minutes, a youth comes to take the vehicle away.

Fort Police Station personnel initially claimed that the youth had come to purchase ganja and the SI had warned him to leave the place. As he did not leave, the vehicle was damaged, they reasoned.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A MiG-27 UPG fighter aircraft of the Air Force crashed in Jodhpur on Sunday morning. The pilot has ejected safely.

"The aircraft took off from Air Force Station Uttarlai in Rajasthan at 1127 hrs on Sunday for a routine sortie. It crashed at 1145 hrs, approximately 120 km south of Jodhpur," the IAF said in a statement.

"The pilot ejected safely and has been recovered by search and rescue helicopter. The pilot is safe and preliminary investigations have revealed no damage to any person or property on the ground," the statement added. The pilot had reported engine problems before ejecting. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the cause of the accident.

The IAF has suffered a series of accidents in the last month and the MiG-27 fleet, too, saw several accidents

this year. The last of the Russian-origin jets are in the process of being phased out.

Last month, a MiG-27 that took off on a training mission from Jaisalmer crashed near the Pokhran range in Rajasthan. In September 2018, another MiG-27 crashed in an open area in Deolia Kalan village in the Jodhpur district. The pilots ejected safely in both the instances.

High casualty

The IAF has lost at least 10 personnel in crashes this year. As India and Pakistan

Supreme Court holds man unfit for police job

He had impersonated a police officer

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court agreed with the Madhya Pradesh High Court Division Bench, which set aside the screening committee's call to reject Bunt. A single judge of the High Court had earlier upheld the committee's stand.

The court said acquittal on benefit of doubt is not really a "clean acquittal."

"If acquittal in a case involving moral turpitude or offence of heinous/serious nature, on technical ground and it is not a case of clean acquittal, or benefit of reasonable doubt has been given, the employer may consider relevant facts as to antecedents and may take appropriate decision as to the continuance of the employee," the apex court referred to past precedents.

The court pointed out that it is really up to the police force to decide whether a person who has not had an "honourable" acquittal should be inducted in the police force.

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Kartarpur focus

Security concerns are high-priority, but blocking work on the corridor is not right

When India and Pakistan announced in November they would operationalise a corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Punjab to Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara in Pakistan's Punjab, it was hailed as a step forward in an otherwise fraught relationship. Prime Minister Narendra Modi appeared to share the optimism when he likened the initiative's potential to the fall of the Berlin Wall. What has followed, however, is round upon round of wrangling between the two governments over every detail: from the number of pilgrims to be accommodated, to the security restrictions, to the documentation and mode of transport to be used by pilgrims. At the base of the differences is the deep distrust between the two governments, a chasm that has deepened in the aftermath of the Pulwama attack and the Balakot strike. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's administration feels it should be given more credit for having cleared the Kartarpur proposal, something Indian Sikh pilgrims have demanded for decades, ever since the Radcliffe Line left their sacred shrine on the other side of the border in 1947. For its part, New Delhi refuses to acknowledge Pakistan's overture, and has made it clear the corridor will have no connection with furthering bilateral talks on other issues. Meanwhile, security agencies have voiced concerns about a possible attempt by Pakistan's military establishment to use the corridor to fuel separatist Khalistani sentiment. The Modi government's decision now to postpone the next round of technical talks, which were scheduled for April 2, is driven mainly by those concerns, in particular the inclusion of some known Khalistani activists in a gurdwara committee that would interact with pilgrims from India. Last week, the Ministry of External Affairs summoned Pakistan's Deputy High Commissioner and sought clarifications on the "controversial elements" on the committee, and said the next meeting would only be held after it receives Pakistan's response.

While none of the government's concerns is unwarranted, it could not have been unprepared when it embarked on the corridor proposal. Pakistan's support to separatist Sikh groups goes back several decades, and India must work to secure its border from the threat even as it opens the gates for thousands of pilgrims to travel to Pakistan. National security must get priority. But for this, there must be an effort by all stakeholders in India – the Centre, the State government and the leadership of the BJP, the Akalis and the Congress – to resist scoring political points against one another. Modalities and technical issues, such as on the numbers, eligibility and identity proof required for the trip to Kartarpur Sahib, should be ironed out by both governments. Putting off meetings is hardly a constructive solution, given the proposed opening by November to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak.

Murky swamp

The midnight manoeuvres in post-Parrikar Goa raise disturbing questions

The drama of government-formation and Cabinet shuffle amid shifts in political allegiance in Goa serves as a reminder of the dark shadows of manoeuvre and intrigue that lurk within Indian democracy. Goa politics has for long been an arena of overnight desertion and defection. But the death of Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar earlier last month, and the midnight swearing-in of Pramod Sawant, came against the backdrop of the ruling BJP's aggressively expansionary phase. In this post-2014 phase, the BJP has been unabashed about targeting its allies, as its partner in Goa, the Maharashtra Gomantak Party, found out last week. Two of the MGP's three MLAs in the Assembly joined the BJP. One of them, Manohar Ajaonkar, was appointed Deputy Chief Minister hours later, replacing Sudin Dhavalikar, the third MGP lawmaker. The breakaway faction constituted a two-thirds majority in the MGP legislature party, which just might safeguard the manoeuvre from the anti-defection provisions of the law. The split of the MGP and the merger of the splinter group with the BJP were all carried out in the dead of night, with Speaker Michael Lobo working his office through odd hours as if it were a national emergency.

In the 2017 Assembly election, the Congress had emerged as the single largest party with 17 seats in the 40-member House, and the BJP had 13 seats. Through a series of manipulative acts that raised questions of political propriety, the BJP managed to form the government. To lead the rickety coalition with the MGP and the Goa Forward Party, the BJP brought Parrikar to the State. His death triggered the current round of jostling for power. The BJP sought to lure MLAs from supporting parties to reduce their collective bargaining power even as the new government was being formed. The MGP was trying to pre-empt the BJP bid by suspending one lawmaker to foreclose the option of a split in the legislature party, when the BJP struck first. The episode has underscored Goa's disrepute as a theatre of absurdities of Indian democracy. There is speculation that the BJP is now targeting MLAs of the GFP and even the Congress. The BJP and the Congress have 14 MLAs each. The GFP lawmakers boycotted the swearing-in of Mr. Ajaonkar, who has hopped from the Congress to the BJP to the MGP and back to the BJP. Some BJP leaders have rightly warned that such machinations will undermine the party's credibility. GFP leader Vijai Sardesai has sought clarity from the Chief Minister on his political plans. It is clear that the current government or any other combination will not inspire trust and confidence in the people. If Goa is not to witness a sequence of party-hopping in search of ministerial berths and loaves of office, a fresh election might be the only answer.

Seeking the next frontier

India's ASAT test has not violated any norm, but it is a reminder of the need for a global regulatory regime



RAKESH SOOD

Last Wednesday, on March 27, India carried out an anti-satellite (ASAT) test using an interceptor missile (as a kinetic kill vehicle) to neutralise a target satellite (possibly the Microsat-R launched in January this year) in a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) at an altitude of around 300 km. While India is the fourth country (after the U.S., Russia/USSR and China) to acquire this capability, Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first leader to have announced the successful test in a national address. In contrast, China had quietly carried out its first successful hit-to-kill intercept in January 2007 till international reports about the consequent increase in space debris forced Beijing to acknowledge the test. France and Israel are believed to possess the capability. India's test has not violated any norm as there is no international treaty prohibiting the testing or the development of ASATs.

Keeping watch, keeping pace
After the Indian test, a senior U.S. Air Force Space Command official, Lt. Gen. David D. Thompson, appeared before the Senate Armed Services Committee (Strategic Forces Subcommittee) and said that based on public information, the U.S. had expected a test, and that a base in Colorado had tracked it. U.S. systems are monitoring between 250-270 objects of space debris that were created following the test. The U.S. will notify satellite operators in case a threat to any is assessed. He added that the debris did not pose a threat to

the International Space Station, which orbits at an altitude of around 350 km.

An ASAT capability is normally a part of a Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) programme. While a BMD targets an incoming ballistic missile, an ASAT interceptor targets a hostile satellite. Since a satellite moves in a precise orbit which is tracked, it gives greater time for target acquisition though satellites in higher orbits pose greater challenges for the kill vehicle.

Faced with Pakistan's growing missile capability in the 1990s (Pakistan acquired the M-9 and the M-11 missiles from China and the No-dong from North Korea), India embarked on its BMD programme in 1999. A modified Prithvi was to be developed as the intercept missile. Work on a long-range tracking radar (Swordfish) that could track incoming ballistic missiles to enable target acquisition was also taken up. Testing began nearly 15 years ago followed by the integration of the various systems, including the active RF seekers, fibreoptic gyros and directional warheads. In 2011, an incoming Prithvi missile was destroyed by the interceptor missile over the Bay of Bengal at an altitude of around 16 km. Another half a dozen tests have been carried out since 2011, gradually expanding the parameters of the system to enable taking on targets at higher altitudes.

Both the U.S. and USSR began to develop ASAT systems as a part and parcel of their anti-ballistic missile programmes. During the 1980s, both countries concluded their kinetic kill interceptor testing. Instead, they began to focus on co-orbital anti-satellite systems and directed energy (laser) systems which could neutralise a satellite without fragmenting it and generating space debris. With de-



velopments in offensive cyber capabilities, a promising new area is to disrupt communication links between the satellite and ground control by damaging the transponders or the power source. After the 2007 test, China too has carried out subsequent ASAT development along these lines.

A crowded space

Since the Sputnik was launched in 1957, more than 8,000 satellites/manmade orbiting objects have been launched, of which about 5,000 remain in orbit; more than half are non-functional. Currently, more than 50 countries own/operate the nearly 2,000 functional satellites in orbit. The U.S. accounts for more than 800 of these, followed by China (approximately 280), Russia (approximately 150). India has an estimated 50 satellites. Of these, 2,000 satellites, over 300 are dedicated military satellites. Once again, the U.S. has the biggest share here, with nearly 140, followed by Russia with nearly 90 and China with nearly 40. India has two dedicated satellites, one each for the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force. Indian defence forces also use the civilian government owned satellites extensively for communications, remote sensing, and location accuracy and meteorology.

Growing amounts of space debris pose a real risk to satellites and spacecraft, as the Oscar-winning film *Gravity* demonstrated.

There are over 20,000 objects of debris which are the size of golf balls while those of smaller size run into hundreds of thousands, totalling nearly 6,000 tonnes. The U.S. Department of Defense routinely tracks approximately 23,000 man-made objects achieving orbit to ensure safety of its space-based assets. One of the reasons that the international community protested strongly about the 2007 Chinese test was that it added nearly 3,000 pieces of debris as the test was done at a higher altitude (800 km), from where it would take decades to dissipate. The debris created by the Indian test, which was undertaken at a low altitude, is expected to dissipate much faster.

Patchy international control

The salience of space in defence is evident from the fact that all three countries – the U.S., Russia and China – have set up 'Space Commands'. This has given rise to demands to prevent the militarisation of space so that it is preserved "as the common heritage of mankind". The 1967 Outer Space Treaty followed by the 1979 Moon Treaty laid the foundations of the legal regime for space beginning with the rule of law, refraining from appropriating territory, non-placement of any weapons of mass destruction in space, and prohibition of military activities on the moon and other celestial bodies. However, these treaties were negotiated when the technology was still in a nascent stage. Satellite registration was introduced in the 1970s though compliance has been patchy. The U.S. has been adamantly opposed to negotiating any legally binding instrument to prevent 'militarisation of space', questioning the very meaning of the term, given that space as a medium is increasingly used for mili-

tary applications.

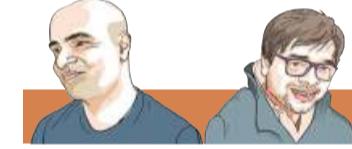
In 2008, Russia and China had proposed a draft to kick off negotiations on the Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space and of the Threat or Use of Force Against Outer Space Objects. It was rejected by the West, and not merely because it is such a mouthful of a title. The European Union, mindful of U.S. allergy to any negotiations on this issue, began to develop an international code of conduct based on transparency and confidence-building measures. The UN General Assembly has called for a declaration of political commitment by all countries that they shall not be the first to place weapons in space. This initiative too has floundered as norm building cannot take place in a political vacuum.

At present, the U.S. is the dominant presence in space, which reflects its technological lead as well as dependence on space-based assets. It therefore perceives any negotiations as a constraint on its technological lead. While countries have developed and tested ASATs, they are not known to have stockpiled ASAT weapons. Effective use of an ASAT also requires space situational awareness capability, which works best if it is a cooperative effort. India's successful ASAT test is therefore a technology marker. Further development of interceptor technology and long-range tracking radars is necessary for a robust BMD and the Defence Research and Development Organisation also needs to move on to newer technologies to enhance its ASAT capability in the coming years.

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The arrogance of the ignorant

It is tragic that 'New India' chooses to attack Adivasis and forest-dwellers instead of those destroying its ecology



ASEEM SHRIVASTAVA & ABHINAV GUPTA

When the tsunami hit the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in 2004, thousands perished. However, some of the oldest Adivasi tribes, the Jarawas and the Onge, lost nobody. These communities followed animals to the highlands well before the waves hit. Formal education was of little survival value in a context where you needed swift instincts.

When Western drug and pharma corporations send their scouts to remote regions in India to look for herbs to patent, the scouts do not consult top Indian doctors or scientists first. They smuggle their way into jungles inhabited by Adivasis where, in a moment of weakness, an elderly woman adept in the healing arts may divulge a secret or two. Later, the companies might test the herb in their labs and find that the woman's claims were correct. This has long been the staple of biopiracy.

That those forests inhabited by Adivasis are some of the best conserved in the subcontinent is a long-standing fact contrary to the understanding of supposedly edu-

cated Indians. What is invaluable is what is often described as 'indigenous knowledge' – as though the knowledge gained over centuries of lived experience is of somehow lower valency than the literacy acquired in a school, or perhaps of no value at all.

Relationship with nature

Sadly, the articulate arrogance of 'New India' is such that it is unable to see any virtue in the lives of Adivasis and other forest-dwellers who have lived in and by the forests since times immemorial. Ensnioned as it is in the air-conditioned offices of metropolitan India, duly estranged from any living ecology of the earth, while fully predatory on it, it sees people who live in and by the jungles as 'underdeveloped' criminals who are among those responsible for the thinning of the forests.

This appears to be the view held by petitioners, including retired forest officers and conservation NGOs, in a lawsuit filed in the Supreme Court in 2008. They seem to believe that humans are not a part of nature and can never coexist with it. It is far from their imagination to distinguish between Adivasis who know something about living sensibly with nature and the rest of us, who do not.

That even the courts would fall to such abysmal levels of understanding has become a defining feature of the reforms era. On Fe-

bruary 13, the Supreme Court ruled that over 1.12 million households from 17 States, who have had their claims rejected under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006, are to be evicted by the State governments before July 27. It is not clear what fraction of these are individual claims and what fraction are community claims. Nor are all of these Adivasi households. Some might fall under the 'other traditional forest-dwellers' category. Critically, the Central government failed to send its attorney to the court. Ironically, the FRA contains no legal provision for the eviction of rejected claimants. In the face of loud protests from around the country, the court issued a stay order (till July 10) on its ruling. This suits the political goals of the incumbent BJP as it prepares for the polls. Many States are yet to give their details to the courts. Once they do, the number of households to be evicted may rise. Close

to 8-10% of the Adivasi population may be asked to vacate their traditional homes and abandon their livelihoods. Has the court contemplated the gravity of the implications? Where are these people supposed to live and make a living? What justice is there in acting in such an inhumane manner?

If remote habitats are emptied of Adivasis, there may be nobody to forewarn us when ecologically imperilled tipping points are crossed in the future. To make matters worse, worrying amendments that have been proposed to the Indian Forest Act, 1927, which further strengthen the stranglehold of forest officials over India's jungles and its inhabitants, have now been made public.

Perhaps some day, when their decisions affect them, the folly of their pronouncements will dawn upon those who preside on the fates of millions today. But it shall be too late then. Before July, the safe-keepers of justice might wish to ponder Gandhi's words: "A time is coming when those, who are in the mad rush today of multiplying their wants, vainly thinking that they add to the real substance, real knowledge of the world, will retrace their steps and say: 'What have we done?'"

A dying civilisation

This is the arrogance of ignorant India and it shall not abdicate till it has laid to rest the last hopes of what was 'a wounded civilisation', and is now a dying one. For, let us

be clear about one thing: freeing the forests of their traditional inhabitants is almost certain to expose their erstwhile habitats in short order to the speedy, organised depredations of the forces of what has come to be seen by the elites as 'development'.

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Aseem Shrivastava is a Delhi-based writer and teaches Ecosophy at Ashoka University; Abhinav Gupta is an independent researcher who has worked on forest issues and the FRA

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or initials.

VVPAT numbers

The Election Commission's statement – a sheepish one – that an 'increase in VVPAT numbers will delay counting by six days' (Page 1, March 30) says many things.

In fact, Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) with Voter Verified Paper Trail Audits (VVPATs) were implemented to remove the concerns and the perception that EVMs are vulnerable to tampering. For some reason, the Election Commission (EC) has not been very keen on having a paper trail. Counting VVPATs has always been a difficult and time-consuming proposition. Therefore, if the trails couldn't be counted to the extent demanded, what else was the purpose of having such paper audit trails? For many years, paper ballots remained a trustworthy

mechanism, and helped in the declaration of accurate results within stipulated time schedules. A decade ago, the Federal Constitutional Court in Germany had said that the use of voting machines which electronically record votes and also electronically ascertain election results only meet constitutional requirements. Some of the western countries have paper ballots. It would be short-sighted of the EC not to take note of these developments.

HARIDAS RAJAN,
Kozhikode, Kerala

■ The EC should have given greater and more thought to voter acceptability in its submission than harping on how counting time would be increased by six days, admittedly a drawback. To engage more personnel for verification of paper slips

could be thought of. An additional six days is nothing in the nearly three-month-long election festival. The voter needs to be thoroughly convinced of his choice.

P.R.V. RAJA,
Pandalam, Kerala

Be neutral

I have some comments to make about some of the articles in this daily. Articles and reports regarding the Opposition's political alliances that are now being stitched together almost sound like exhortations and guidelines from a parent or a teacher to an erring student. To this reader it sometimes appears as if the writer of those articles, though cognisant of his/her need to be neutral, and to a very large extent wedded to neutrality, desires in some part of his/her heart that the Opposition parties should get their act together so that

they can dethrone the BJP. These seem to be minuscule deviations from journalistic scruples. There is never any such advice offered to the BJP about the strategy that it should adopt in the coming elections. There are also opinion pieces vehemently criticising the government for demonetisation and the faulty implementation of the goods and services tax (GST) – to a significant extent, rightly so.

But should not these opinion pieces make it a point to mention in the same breath, with equally intense vehemence, the successful working of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and the benefits that the GST, though imperfect, will bring in the coming years? Most do try to take a balanced view, but their attempts at balance sometimes seem half-hearted. My only wish is to say, at the risk of sounding trite, that a good news outlet

must not only be neutral, it must also be seen to be neutral.

UMANG PHOGAT,
Hisar, Haryana

Exhaust emissions

While the writer (Open Page, "Battling the smoke", March 31) has highlighted the ill-effects of vehicular pollution, the fact is that the rules exist only on paper. I recall my stint with an ISO-certified organisation, where every step had to meet with guidelines framed by the company. For example,

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

The Ground Zero page article, "The rumble beneath their feet" (March 30, 2019), incorrectly suggested that the earth's tectonic plates drift over a molten part of the mantle. This layer, called the asthenosphere, is better described as a ductile solid, rather than molten. In the same article, a reference to IIT Mumbai should be corrected to read as IIT Bombay.

A report headlined "Bihar ATS nabs Bangladeshi terror suspect from Pune district" (March 29, 2019, some editions) incorrectly said that the suspect was a Bangladeshi national. He is an Indian from Nadia district in West Bengal.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted

The dark side of grand narratives

The pursuit of national greatness must not impose a cost on the weak in the periphery



VARGHEESE K. GEORGE



"The search for greatness could numb our soul." Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a public meeting in Balangir, Odisha. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

"The impossible is now possible" is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's slogan for the 2019 elections. His supporters believe his vision and leadership have resulted in a new resolve for the country. They believe we now have a 'New India'. Two incidents last week provided glimpses of this resolve – the testing of an anti-satellite (ASAT) missile on March 27 and the detention by the police of development economist Jean Dreze in Jharkhand the next day. If the first was yet another tentative claim of India's superpower status, the second was instructive of the indisputable intolerance of the state. Mr. Dreze is a voice of India's weakest, and the police stopped him from campaigning on the right to food in a place where three out of 100 children die before their first birthday. Since September 2017, activists have catalogued 18 deaths linked to the collapse of social security schemes in the BJP-ruled State. The missile test and the arrest are linked; in the drumbeats of hyper-nationalism, the whimpers of the weak are a dissonant note.

Timid or not?

One school of strategists has always lamented that India is a 'soft state' reluctant to use power to achieve its goals. Hindutva strategists have linked this alleged softness of the Indian state to the 'timidity' of Hindus, as well as 'appeasement' of Muslims and Christians by the Congress. Over the last five years under Mr. Modi, India has ostensibly shed its timidity. Union Minister Arun Jaitley said after India's airstrikes in Pakistan: "I remember when the U.S. Navy SEAL had taken Osama bin Laden from Abbottabad... Today it is possible [for India also to conduct such operations]." In a recent speech, Mr. Modi said about terrorists, "We will enter their homes and eliminate them." In his first campaign speech, on March 28, Mr. Modi said "terrorists and their supporters across the border" wanted him to lose. BJP president

Amit Shah said on the same day: "Only two countries in the world avenged their soldiers' deaths earlier: the U.S. and Israel. Now, India is the third." India, which is synonymous with Mr. Modi in the narrative, is decisive, capable and willing not merely to achieve its domestic goals, but also to coerce other countries to fall in line.

Hindutva's geographical core is in north, central and western India, and its social core consists of upper caste Hindus and the emergent middle class. Hindutva tried to reach out to the periphery by entering into alliances under Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who became its first Prime Minister. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) during the Vajpayee years roped in ethnic parties in the south and lower caste parties in the north by suspending its three most controversial objectives: abrogation of Article 370 that grants special status to Jammu and Kashmir, the uniform civil code, and construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya at the spot where a Hindutva mob demolished the Babri Masjid in 1992. With its support in the core consolidated and expanding, Hindutva 2.0 under Mr. Modi went for the jugular in the periphery.

This approach has been demonstrated the starker in Jammu and Kashmir. In 2014, as Prime Minister, Mr. Modi campaigned relentlessly against the two regional parties in the State, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the National Conference. After the elections, the BJP

and the PDP formed a coalition government, but far from brightening the prospects of a political solution in the State, it has been downhill since then. The Modi government reversed all the gains made in the State towards normalcy. The BJP-PDP partnership did not temper the hyper-nationalism of the former as many hoped; it legitimised the PDP before its supporters, weakening New Delhi's link with the Valley further. The BJP is part of the government in seven of the eight north-eastern States now, by forming social coalitions of its own, such as in Tripura, or by forming alliances with regional parties, such as in Manipur. The BJP is soft-peddalling its cow protection agenda in the Northeast, but its goal of full cultural integration of the region with the mainland, or with the Hindi-Hindi nationalism of the Sangh Parivar, is never hidden.

Trimming society

Hindutva has a grand vision for India, and even the entire world, if one were to go by Mr. Modi's speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos in 2018. Mr. Modi's pursuit of that grand narrative of 'India as a leading power' is happening even as the perils of several grand strategies that came before are playing out. The U.S. and Israel, the models that Hindutva proponents want to emulate, continue to pay a heavy price. The U.S.'s project to remake the rest of the world as its clones has come a cropper, but not before huge costs were

paid in terms of lives and resources. Beijing is pursuing its own grand vision of reshaping the world.

For all such pursuits of grand ambitions, which appeal to the core of any society, aggregation and diversion of national resources from the weakest in the periphery are essential. Trying to trim any society to fit into a straitjacket, unidimensional notion of greatness generates agony and hardship as it requires massive use of force. Authoritarian societies achieve it easier, as in China. When a democracy does this, it drifts away from its ethos and turns authoritarian, as has happened in the U.S. and Israel. "How can we talk about being free in this country when we have to leave each day in fear of gun violence in schools... and even from law enforcement?" African-American Senator Cory Booker, who is running for the Democratic presidential nomination, said on the same day that India declared parity with the U.S. in anti-satellite warfare. He will surely be accused of talking the language of America's enemies by the hyper-nationalists in the country.

Subordination of particular aspirations, and even human rights, to a nationalist grand narrative was not impossible before Mr. Modi. Testing ASAT was also not impossible. The Indian state is not designed to be, and has not behaved, soft by any standards, as Gyan Prakash depicts in his recent book, *Emergency Chronicles: Indira Gandhi and Democracy's Turning Point*. India's dealings with insurgencies of various kinds have been brutal, and the elimination of Sikh separatism during Congress rule is a case in point. At the same time, the Congress system had a mechanism to deal with the aspirations of the social and geographical peripheries of the nation. There were restraints to global adventurism and peace was sought with insurgents, sometimes successfully.

In Hindutva 2.0's grand vision, the periphery is only a theatre to demonstrate strength before the core. The weakest amongst us will pay for this – as slain soldiers, petty criminals shot dead by the police, starvation victims and hapless undertrials. Their voices will be muffled. The search for greatness could numb our soul.

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FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

What is missing in the 2019 election coverage

The media's coverage of the Election Commission is too gentle



A.S. PANNEERSELVAM

work colleagues or other acquaintances think differently" about them.

The study says the levels of concern in India are comparable to those found in Brazil and Turkey. It pointed out that these high levels of concern could be based in part on recent events in India. Since 2012, at least 17 people have been arrested for posting material that was considered offensive or threatening to a politician. People who spoke out against Prime Minister Modi, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath were arrested. In December 2018, a journalist was jailed under the National Security Act for criticising the BJP and the Manipur Chief Minister. The second crucial finding is that 64% of the respondents, compared to just 41% in the U.S., felt that the government has a role in acting against disinformation.

To better understand disinformation problems in India, the study asked its English-language Internet users about their exposure to, and concern over, different types of potentially problematic content that previous research for the Reuters Institute identified as examples of what the public associates with fake news and disinformation. The study revealed that people do not conflate issues and find 'poor journalism' to be hurting as much as disinformation. The categories include false news narrowly defined (stories that are completely made up for political or commercial reasons), and also hyperpartisan political content, whether from politicians, pundits, or publishers (stories in which facts are spun or twisted to push a particular agenda), poor journalism (stories that respondents consider marred by factual mistakes, inaccuracies, etc.), and more.

Autonomy of EC under a cloud

When T.N. Seshan was the Chief Election Commissioner, the EC exercised its powers freely. Rules were not only implemented but were widely seen as being implemented. However, in the campaign to the 2019 general election, the autonomy of the constitutional body seems to be under a cloud. When the BJP displayed hoardings with Indian Air Force Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman's photograph on them, the EC merely asked political parties to "desist from displaying photographs of defence personnel". People do not expect the EC to behave weakly.

The idea of having a strong leader and weak institutions is not endorsed by many in India. The India Digital News Report, published by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, revealed the many elements that are impacting journalism and the way people access news. Two findings stood out.

The first is that fear lurks among Internet users in India, and there is trust in institutions to fix this system in which misinformation thrives. The survey covered English-speaking Indians. Nearly 55% of the respondents said that speaking their mind could get them into trouble with the authorities. Fifty per cent said they tend to "think carefully while expressing [their] political views openly on the Internet because this could make

Failure of the media

A closer reading of both the Reuters study of the digital news space and Indian newspapers shows an obvious failure in Indian journalism. It has not examined the slow transformation of the EC from the T.N. Seshan model to the pre-1990s system. From issues relating to the allocation of symbols to smaller parties to the conduct of by-elections in a State like Tamil Nadu where nearly 10% of the Legislative Assembly is unrepresented, the media's coverage of the election body is too gentle.

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

SINGLE FILE

Taking a chance with Imran

Imran Khan is India's best bet in years to ensure a durable peace with Pakistan, including on the Kashmir issue

UDAY BALAKRISHNAN

 In the recent firefight between India and Pakistan following the Pulwama attack, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan showed a maturity rarely displayed by any of his predecessors. However much we'd like to believe that Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman was repatriated because

of international pressure, it is entirely possible that Mr. Khan, overruling his army, ordered his release to establish himself as a voice of reason.

India lost the chance to gracefully accept its downed pilot's release by Pakistan and loosen just a bit the grip of Pakistan's generals over Mr. Khan. Instead of viewing Mr. Khan as a stooge of the Pakistan army, India must start working with him to achieve a durable peace by notching up a series of small successes that could lead to bigger ones. Each of these, like the steps taken to open the Kartarpur corridor, will likely build up Mr. Khan's capacity to be his own man and stand up to an army that in the past has always scuttled any peace move with India.

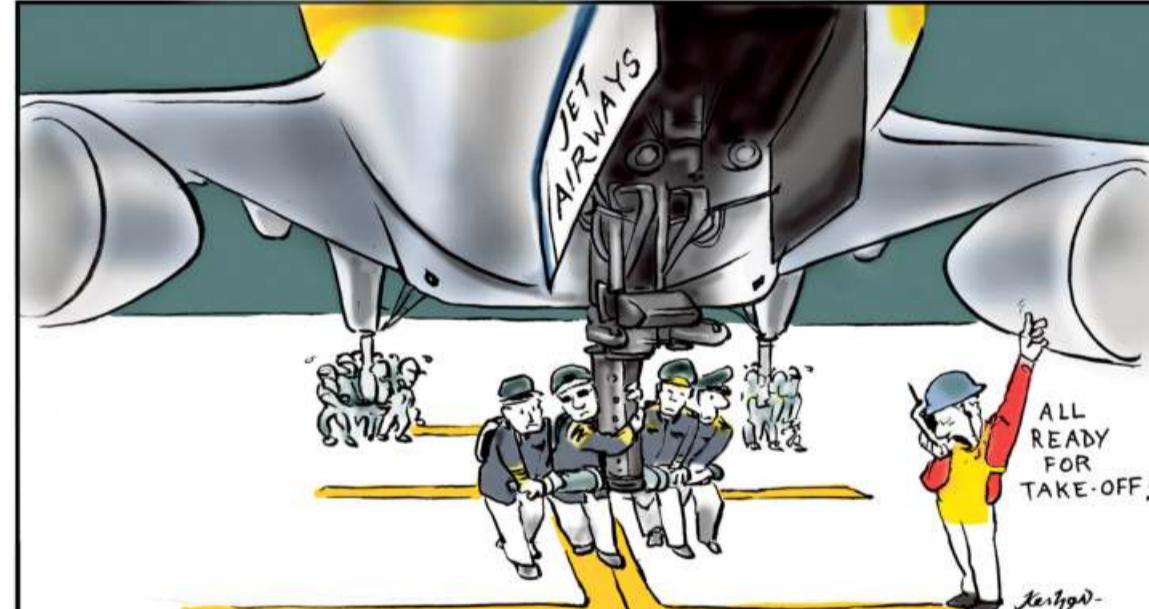
Indeed, Mr. Khan might be different from his predecessors, having been a much-loved national hero long before he became Prime Minister. He continues to be popular and admired by Pakistan's youth who make up much of that country's population. As Madha Afzal states in a recent article in *Foreign Affairs*, Mr. Khan is no pushover for the army.

Mr. Khan is widely perceived to be honest, unlike his immediate civilian predecessors, and might well have a genuine desire to better the lot of his people. Mr. Khan also realises Pakistan's terrible predicament – broke and caught in a Chinese debt trap it cannot talk about, besieged by militants within, and facing an India with a new-found determination to hit back when hurt.

For 71 years Indians have made Pakistan central to their lives. India's greatest joy is when it beats Pakistan on the battlefield or the cricket pitch or corners it in the United Nations. Indians have built up Pakistan as a formidable adversary, which it is not.

Just one State in India, Uttar Pradesh, has a population than is larger than Pakistan's. India is about four times bigger than Pakistan area-wise. And its GDP, in PPP terms, is about 10 times greater. To Pakistan it is India that is a formidable enemy, one at whose hands it has suffered violent victimisation and a monumental military defeat. It is no wonder then that Pakistan is paranoid about India and has always leveraged its only strength, a much more strategic location, to corner it. In Mr. Khan India now has a popular Pakistani leader it should engage with. He is India's best bet in years to ensure a durable peace with Pakistan, including on the Kashmir issue. It is in India's interest to reach out to Mr. Khan boldly and with hope.

The writer taught public policy and contemporary history at IISc, Bengaluru



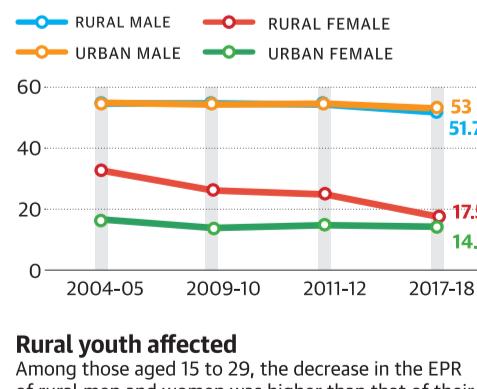
DATA POINT

Rural job crunch

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data have revealed a drastic increase in the number of unemployed in India. A comparison of the employment-to-population ratio (EPR) in rural versus urban areas shows significant variations. Rural EPR came down relatively more in 2017-18 compared to urban EPR, according to the PLFS data accessed by *The Hindu*

Rural women hit the most

Among all the cohorts, the EPR of rural women registered the sharpest decrease in 2017-18. It reduced by 7.3 percentage points from 2011-12, while the corresponding figure for rural men was 2.6 percentage points. The graph shows the EPR among usual workers (workers who worked regularly in the past year)



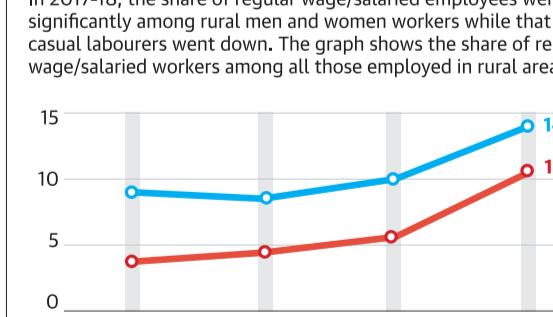
Rural youth affected

Among those aged 15 to 29, the decrease in the EPR of rural men and women was higher than that of their urban counterparts in 2017-18. The graph shows the EPR among usual workers aged 15 to 29



Share of rural salaried employees goes up

In 2017-18, the share of regular wage/salaried employees went up significantly among rural men and women workers while that of casual labourers went down. The graph shows the share of regular wage/salaried workers among all those employed in rural areas



Lower quality of jobs

Though the share of salaried workers has gone up, the quality of jobs has come down among rural men. The table on the right shows the % of regular wage/salaried rural workers without written job contracts

Period	Male	Female	Period	Male	Female
2004-05	47.3	48.7	2004-05	55.5	60.8
2009-10	50.2	47.6	2009-10	55.8	61.5
2011-12	51.7	48.1	2011-12	56.8	63.4
2017-18	58.1	47.9	2017-18	51.9	55.1

FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 1, 1969

Yahya Khan installs himself as Pak. President

General Yahya Khan assumed the office of President of Pakistan to-day [March 31], six days after taking over powers from Field Marshal Ayub Khan, it was officially announced in Rawalpindi. The Pakistan Government issued a statement saying that Gen. Yahya Khan was assuming the Presidency until a new Constitution was framed in Pakistan, which has been under martial law since Mr. Ayub Khan stepped down as President. The 52-year-old Commander-in-Chief of the Pakistan Army who became the Chief Martial Law Administrator last Tuesday [March 25], as violence mounted in Pakistan, becomes the third President of the country. A tough veteran infantry officer of World War II, Gen. Yahya Khan succeeded President Ayub who himself took over from President Mirza in a bloodless coup in 1956.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 1, 1919.

Two Disallowed Resolutions.

H.E. Lord Pentland has disallowed two more resolutions of the Hon'ble Mr. B.V. Narasimha Iyer before his departure from these shores. The resolution which had been admitted and included in the preliminary agenda already published recommending the appointment of a committee to inquire and report upon the conditions of Indian Labour recruited and transported from the Madras Presidency to the Malay States, etc., has been on reconsideration disallowed by H.E. under rule 3 (c) which states that no discussion shall be permitted except with the Governor's sanction [on] any matter which is the subject of discussion between the Governor General in Council or Secretary of State and the Local Government. One wonders whether H.E.'s sanction given at the preliminary agenda can be withdrawn now, or whether the

FROM PAGE ONE

Rahul's Wayanad choice leaves Left fuming

CPI national secretary D. Ra-ja said the decision was devoid of logic. "Who is the Congress's main political enemy? The Left or the BJP? Mr. Gandhi claims every day that he is fighting *chowkidar* and the BJP, but they [the Congress] have chosen to contest against the CPI in Kerala. What message do they [the Congress] want to convey to the entire country," he asked. The Congress should have instead chosen a seat in Delhi where the BJP is the key opponent," he said.

The Congress is hoping the decision will help cement the support of the minority communities. The consolidation of the minority votes helped the LDF sweep the 2016 Assembly election.

"The people of Kerala know very well who is fighting the BJP. Who is taking a firm and consistent stand against them [the BJP]. I don't think there will be any confusion on that," Mr. Karat said.

The demand that Mr. Gandhi contest from a southern State was first raised by the former Karnataka Chief Minister, Siddaramaiah. Soon, party leaders from Tamil Nadu and Kerala followed suit. To drive home their point, these leaders said PM Narendra Modi had contested from Vadodara and Varanasi in 2014. Mr. Gandhi's mother and grandmother had contested, at least once, from two seats.

Release list of convicted Customs officials: CIC

In his ruling on Friday, Central Information Commissioner Bimal Jitka said the information should be disclosed voluntarily "for the sake of transparency and accountability in the public authority."

Citing prior cases, he held that "such information cannot be held as a personal information and such information deserves to be given

to expose the corrupt person in the public."

Pointing out that the purpose of the RTI Act was to make public authorities more transparent and accountable to the public, he directed the department to release the requested information as it was "in the larger public interest and instrumental in achieving good governance".

+ Jet Airways pilots defer strike plan

The letter said, "The collective [strike] call is hence deferred to April 15."

Senior pilots said most of the NAG members were not in favour of going on strike. "They are all young and don't want aircraft to be on the ground but keep flying. In fact many of them have been asking to be rostered for duty on the few flights that continue to be in operation," an official said.

Officials informed that though former chairman Naresh Goyal had announced his stepping down on March 25, he actually ceased to hold the position only from March 29. "It was on March 29, that the State Bank of India (SBI) received a letter to this effect in the format it had sought. This

had caused the delay, but the moment it happened, SBI released funds that were used to clear pending dues," a senior official said. Among the consortium of banks, only SBI has released funds, he added.

Senior pilots said that under the present circumstances going on strike would be like arm-twisting the government directly.

"There is just the CEO, officiating with his limited powers. The interim board is yet to be formed. The same is the case with the interim managing committee and there is no chairman. The SBI is yet to formally get on board," a senior official said, explaining that a strike now would not yield the desired results.

INTERVIEW | LT. GEN. D.S. HOODA [RETD.]

'Surgical strikes alone can't counter terrorism'

Rather than attempting to portray single events as game changers, we need a long-term policy, says former chief of the Northern Command

**SOBHA NAIR
DINAKAR PERI**

Lt. Gen. D.S. Hooda (retd.), who led the 2016 surgical strikes as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Army's Northern Command, elaborates on a vision document on national security that he presented to Congress president Rahul Gandhi, and speaks on the politicisation of the armed forces and the role of surgical strikes as an anti-terror tactic.

You have just presented a vision document for the Congress on national security. Can you briefly elaborate on it?

■ There has always been a talk that India needs a national security strategy which will serve as the basis subsequently for other organs of the government and military to be able to come out with their own respective defence policies and doctrines. We do not have a written strategy. So I was asked by Congress president Rahul Gandhi if I could write a document suggesting what the national security strategy

should be. And having written it, I think they intend putting it in the public domain so that there is some debate and discussion and then it can be formalised by whichever government is in power.

I have structured it in the format that there are five pillars of national security strategy that we need to focus on. First of these is how India stands in global affairs. What should India's place be in national affairs and how should we have relationships with major powers and so on. Second is having a secure region – how are our dealings, not only with Pakistan and



In a democracy, all institutions are accountable...
Having said that, it doesn't mean you question everything

China, but with other regional neighbours and how can our cooperation grow?

The third pillar is resolving our internal conflicts. For that I suggested some strategies to deal with Jammu and Kashmir, the northeast, Left-wing extremism and also international terrorism. The fourth pillar of the strategy is protecting the people. End of the day, it is the people who are at the heart of na-

tionality and we need to provide them an environment in which they are safe, secure and prosperous.

The last one is if we want to achieve all this, it will only happen if we build up our

capabilities. In this I am talking of border management posture, military capability, indigenisation, restructuring of police, cyber, nuclear, space and also our strategic communication capabilities.

The 2019 election seems centred on nationalism, especially after the Pulwama attack and Balakot air strike. How healthy is such politicisation for the armed forces?

■ We can't ignore the fact that there are huge national security challenges and so this is an area that needs to be addressed. You can't ignore it if you keep having incidents like Pulwama. There will be a response and therefore, national security is an important part.

But, I think, along with that we should not look at national security narrowly from the spectrum of Pakis-

tan or terrorism. What does our population want, what are their aspirations and how do we meet them? There are major issues of economy and jobs. Those issues should also be brought to the front.

The ruling party has been saying that nobody should ask questions of the armed forces. Are armed forces above accountability?

■ In a democracy, all institutions are accountable. Therefore, taking this very narrow view point that you must not question the services, is not correct. Having said that, also it doesn't mean you question everything. I think we need to strike a balance in this.

We had cross border strikes in 2016 and now Balakot strikes... is this a permanent measure to stall the terrorists?

■ I don't think a single incident is going to stop Pakistan. Therefore, I have always believed that we need a consistent and long-term strategy which combines all elements of national power, diplomacy, economic pressure, political pressure and where required, military pressure. We should not expect anything to happen in short term, because we have this long festering problem with Pakistan. Rather than attempting to portray single events as game changers, we need a long-term policy.

What are your observations on our Kashmir policy of the last couple of years?

■ Whichever way we look at it, violence has gone up everywhere whether you look at security forces or civilian casualties. There is an increase in local recruitment. There is a growing sense of alienation.

Azad is a BJP proxy: Mayawati

**OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW**

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Sunday alleged that the head of the Dalit outfit Bhim Army, Chandrashekhar Azad, was contesting in Varanasi against Prime Minister Narendra Modi as part of a "conspiracy" by the BJP to divide Dalit votes.

This is not the first time that Ms. Mayawati had labelled the Bhim Army a BJP proxy. Mr. Azad started his campaign with a roadshow on Saturday.

The SP-BSP-RLD alliance is yet to declare its candidate against Mr. Modi. In a statement, Ms. Mayawati said: "It is well-known that the organisation was founded by the BJP which used it as a front to carry out the Shabbirpur incident (Dalit-Thakur clash) in Saharanpur."

Ms. Mayawati also alleged that the BJP had tried to send Mr. Azad as a mole into the BSP to get information.

Seized ₹14,000 crore assets of an offender: PM

Full recovery confirmed, says Mallya

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

Without naming absconding liquor baron Vijay Mallya, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the government had seized ₹14,000 crore worth of assets of "a man who committed a ₹9,000-crore fraud and left the country".

Mr. Mallya tweeted soon, asking why the BJP leaders were still targeting him though "the highest authority has confirmed full recovery" of his dues and more.

"What is the situation of those who committed fraud in India and fled abroad," Mr. Modi said at the TV9 Bharatvarsh Conclave. "The man who committed a ₹9,000-crore fraud and left the country, his ₹14,000 crore and more of assets have been confiscated," he said.

Tackling fugitives

"How was this possible?" Mr. Modi asked. "Because our government brought in a law that said that if anybody committed such a fraud, not only would all his assets in India be seized, but also all their assets abroad would be auctioned."

Mr. Mallya became the first person to be officially designated a fugitive economic offender by the special court assigned for the purpose under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act 2018.

Under the Act, the government can seize all the domestic and foreign assets



How was this possible? Because our government brought in a law to confiscate assets in India as well as those abroad

of anyone designated a fugitive economic offender.

*Why this rhetoric?

Mr. Mallya tweeted: "Saw PM Modi's interview in which he takes my name and says that even though I owe Rs 9,000 crores to Banks, his Govt has attached my assets worth Rs 14,000 crores. So the highest authority has confirmed full recovery. Why do BJP spokesmen continue their rhetoric?"

"I humbly submit that my assertion that I am a poster boy is fully vindicated by the PM's own statement about me (by name) that his Govt has recovered more than what I allegedly owe the Banks," Mr. Mallya further tweeted. "Fact that I have been a UK resident since 1992 ignored. Suits the BJP to say I ran away."

Same promises again: Modi

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**

In an apparent dig at the Congress' minimum income poll promise and the Gandhi family, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said its four generations had made the same promises but nothing happened, and first-time voters should see the "track record" of those pitching for eliminating poverty.

Addressing a 'Main bhi chowkidar' event here, he also said 'Mission Shakti', demonstrating India's anti-satellite missile capability, had nothing to do with polls and hit out at those opposing his announcement of the test in an address to the nation.

"The U.S., Russia and China did ASAT tests openly. Why should we hide it?" Mr. Modi said, replying to a question at the event that was beamed across the country at 500 places.



Congress leaders Ahmed Patel, A.K. Antony and K.C. Venugopal in New Delhi on Sunday. ■ PTI

An idea against divisiveness: Congress

Party says by contesting in Wayanad, Rahul wants to send the message that India is integrated

**VARGHESE K. GEORGE
NEW DELHI**

Wayanad, Congress president Rahul Gandhi's choice as his second constituency, is arguably the safest seat for the Congress in south India and among the safest in the entire country. Mr. Gandhi's main rival will be P.P. Suneer of the CPI. The BJP has a marginal presence in the constituency.

The Congress chief had been undecided over contesting from Wayanad, considering the multiple battles of perception that it brings.

First, while he has been pointedly trying to define the 2019 election as a fight to save India from advancing Hindutva, he will end up facing off with the Left, an adversary in Kerala but an ally nationally. Second, he will be accused of "running away" from Amethi. Third, the more fundamental question: whether contesting two seats will be seen as a sign of weakness. After weighing the pros and cons, on which he received divergent opini-

nions, the decision was taken.

Congress sources close to Mr. Gandhi are emphatic that they sense no challenge in Amethi. But the volatility in Uttar Pradesh, despite the formation of the SP-BSP alliance and its declaration of support for Mr. Gandhi in Amethi, is palpable. The battle lines in the critical State have not been defined yet, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's campaign blitz has only begun. That said, the reason for national leaders contesting a second seat is less because of any inse-

curity in one seat and more for expanding their personal imprint to critical territories,

as Mr. Modi himself did in 2014 by contesting from Vadodara in Gujarat and Varanasi in U.P. opening its account in Kerala this time," Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal, a close confidant of Mr. Gandhi, told *The Hindu*. A surge in the south will be critical for the party's comeback bid. In 2004 and 2009, it was the overwhelming victories in the south that catapulted the party to power. Party units and allies in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu were also keen on having Mr. Gandhi contest from their States.

While the Congress is trying to keep the narrative as a national contest against the BJP, Wayanad could mark a

complete rupture between the Congress and the Left. The formation of the United Progressive Alliance in 2004, in which the then CPI(M) general secretary Harkishan Singh Surjeet played a decisive role, was the expression of a broad consensus that the fault-line of Indian politics was whether this should be a Hindu majoritarian nation or not. That conceptual clarity was lost with the break between the Congress and the Left.

This is not the first time that Ms. Mayawati had labelled the Bhim Army a BJP proxy. Mr. Azad started his campaign with a roadshow on Saturday.

The SP-BSP-RLD alliance is yet to declare its candidate against Mr. Modi. In a statement, Ms. Mayawati said: "It is well-known that the organisation was founded by the BJP which used it as a front to carry out the Shabbirpur incident (Dalit-Thakur clash) in Saharanpur."

Ms. Mayawati also alleged that the BJP had tried to send Mr. Azad as a mole into the BSP to get information.

Congress manifesto to be out tomorrow

Promises may include quota for women in government jobs & farm loan waiver

**SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI**

Martyr status to paramilitary personnel killed in action, reservation of one-third of government jobs for women, farm loan waiver and stringent laws against fake and paid news could be among the key promises in the Congress manifesto for the Lok Sabha election, besides the minimum income guarantee proposal.

A law to automatically disqualify lawmakers who defect to another political par-

ty could also be proposed.

These and more points have been discussed while drawing up the manifesto, likely to be formally released on Tuesday.

Assured income plan
The focus of the manifesto will be poverty alleviation through minimum income guarantee or Nyuntam Aay Yojana (NYAY) that will transfer an annual assistance of ₹7,200 to the 20% poorest families.

"Today, there are 22 lakh

job vacancies in the government. We will have these vacancies filled by 31 March, 2020. Devolution of funds from the Centre to each State Govt for healthcare, education etc. will be linked to these vacant positions being filled," Mr. Gandhi tweeted on Sunday.

The Congress will promise universal health care as a right and increase expenditure on health up to 3% of the GDP. For education, the figure is likely to be 6% of the GDP.

To tackle the agrarian crisis, the party is likely to propose the setting up of an agriculture and education council on the lines of the GST [Goods and Services Tax] council. Apart from taking out agricultural implements and fertilizers out of the purview of the GST, the document will also promise easier access to credit to the farm sector. The manifesto will also contain industry-friendly promises like scrapping angel tax levied on investors of start-ups.

In bloom



Pleasing colours: The tulip garden in Srinagar, which is spread over an area of about 12 hectares and considered Asia's largest, was thrown open to tourists on Sunday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

N.V. KRISHNAN

should be. And having written it, I think they intend putting it in the public domain so that there is some debate and discussion and then it can be formalised by whichever government is in power.

I have structured it in the format that there are five pillars of national security strategy that we need to focus on. First of these is how India stands in global affairs. What should India's place be in national affairs and how should we have relationships with major powers and so on. Second is having a secure region – how are our dealings, not only with Pakistan and

China, but with other regional neighbours and how can our cooperation grow?

The third pillar is resolving our internal conflicts. For that I suggested some strategies to deal with Jammu and Kashmir, the northeast, Left-wing extremism and also international terrorism. The fourth pillar of the strategy is protecting the people. End of the day, it is the people who are at the heart of na-

tionality and we need to provide them an environment in which they are safe, secure and prosperous.

The last one is if we want to achieve all this, it will only happen if we build up our

capabilities. In this I am talking of border management posture, military capability, indigenisation,

[IN FOCUS: MADHYA PRADESH]

Tie on Hindu credentials, toss-up on livelihood issues

Congress has blunted the BJP's Hindutva advantage, and the fight is now more on bread-and-butter matters

VARGHESE K. GEORGE
Bhopal

This city has not sent a Congress member to the Lok Sabha since 1984, and nobody expected anything different in 2019, even a month ago. But Congress veteran Digvijaya Singh's abrupt entry into the fray has opened up the possibility of a fierce contest in an otherwise predictable seat.

"Every contest has its challenges. Let us see," Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*. "The Congress will win 20 seats in the State."

The party won only two of the 29 seats in Madhya Pradesh in 2014. In the 2018 Assembly election, the Congress took a lead in 11 Lok Sabha constituencies. The party returned to power in the State after a break of 15 years, though without a simple majority in the Assembly.

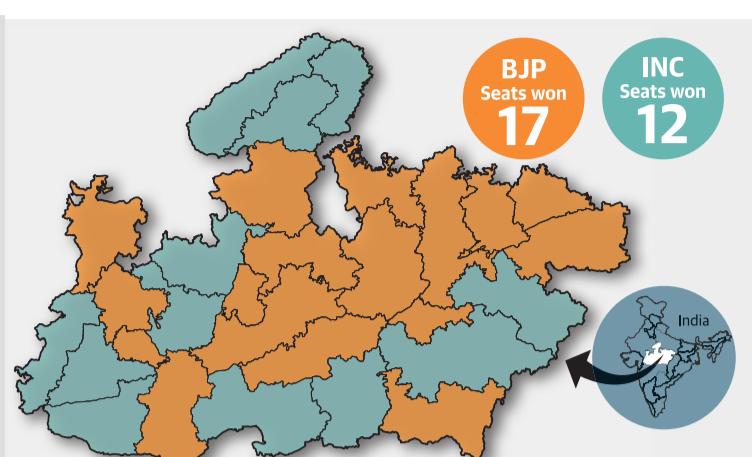
Without a break

The BJP has been winning several seats in the State, election after election. Though the Congress was in power in the State, the BJP did better than it in the Lok Sabha elections of 1996, 1998 and 1999. Eleven seats in 2009 was the best performance of the Congress after 1984.

The Congress leadership mostly included Rajputs and Brahmins, while the BJP had a long line of backward class leaders – Babul Gaur, Uma Bharati, Shivraj Singh Chou-

Projected wins

If the Assembly seats in the 2018 elections in Madhya Pradesh were aggregated into Lok Sabha seats, the BJP would have led in 17 and the Congress would have led in 12. Despite this, the Congress managed to win the Assembly election as the BJP's wins were concentrated in some regions. In contrast, the Congress won only in two parliamentary constituencies in 2014.



Congress leaders Digvijaya Singh and Kamal Nath addressing a press meet

han – to consolidate the Hindu votes.

The Congress leaders were targeted as "anti-Hindu" and "pro-Muslim". Mr. Singh and other Congress leaders made an effort to repackage themselves as authentic Hindus in the face of this BJP campaign.

Mr. Singh, 70, went on a tough pilgrimage last year – the circumambulation of the Narmada, walking around 3,000 km – and reinvented his political image in the process. "He has buttressed his Hindu

credentials with the yatra," a government official said. A slew of measures by Chief Minister Kamal Nath also has burnished the "pro-Hindu" image of the Congress.

"People do not see much of a difference between the Congress and the BJP with regard to Hindu sentiments," Rakesh Dixit, political commentator, said. Even "Jai Shri Ram" slogans are heard in some Congress meetings these days.

With the BJP's Hindutva edge blunted, the Congress

hopes to focus the campaign on economic and livelihood issues.

The massive crash in prices of agricultural commodities in the past five years, particularly of soya bean, chickpea and black gram, has angered farmers. Soya bean fetched ₹4,700 a quintal in 2014; now it is less than ₹3,000.

Even in Vidisha, a BJP stronghold, there are murmurs of protest against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Just murmurs, not any outcry.

But the Congress believes

that the BJP's plans to make it a referendum on Mr. Modi and his hypernationalism and national security will not succeed in the State.

"Those will be marginal factors and constituency-level factors will be determining the outcome. Here, the BJP is at a disadvantage as they are the incumbents in most constituencies," a Congress strategist, who did not want to be named, said.

Urban voters

The Assembly election in November did not produce a conclusive victory for the Congress or a defeat of the BJP. Several observers expect the confusion to continue in the Lok Sabha election. But one trend of November could likely continue – a reduction in the gap between urban and rural voters.

Curiously, the Congress government in the State, which is only 90 days old, faces flak for incomplete implementation of the farm loan waiver that the party had promised during the election.

Anti-incumbency

The absence of any palpable anti-incumbency sentiments against Mr. Modi is what the BJP hopes to cash in on.

"The BJP government at the Centre has been a pro-poor government, and the people of the State have benefited from it. On the other side, within three months, the State government of the Congress has exposed itself for its betrayal of the promises of loan waiver. People have not got what they were promised. We will win no fewer than the seats we won in 2014," Govind Maloo, BJP spokesperson, said.

Disappointment with Mr. Modi's economic scorecard in urban centres is the most cited reason for this. These are tentative pointers, and could change when Mr. Modi unleashes his unmatched ability to frame issues in a manner that suits him once campaigning picks up.

POLL POURRI**Centre turns down Bengal plea**

KOLKATA

The Mamata Banerjee government's plea to retain 35 companies of Central forces, adding up to over 3,000 paramilitary personnel posted in areas that were earlier dominated by the outlawed Communist Party of India-Maoist, has been turned down by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The State government has since then written to the Ministry to reconsider the decision, noting that the move might "re-ignite the Maoist problems in the region," an official said. About a fortnight ago, the Ministry had informed the State of its decision to pull out the 35 companies of Central forces and deploy them on election duty in other parts of West Bengal.

Will Patel answer Bharuch call?

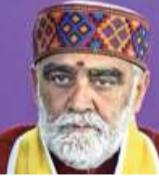
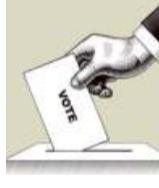
NEW DELHI
The Congress is exploring the option of fielding party treasurer and senior leader Ahmed Patel from the Bharuch Lok Sabha constituency in Gujarat. If he decides to take the plunge, he would be

contesting a Lok Sabha election after 28 years. The party's Gujarat unit has requested that Mr. Patel, currently a member of the Rajya Sabha, contest this time. The veteran Congress leader had won from Bharuch thrice – in 1977, 1980 and 1984 – but lost to the BJP's Chandubhai Deshmukh in 1991. Since then he has not contested the seat, even as the BJP has retained the seat thereafter.

Too many cars violate the code

PATNA

Union Minister and BJP leader Ashwini Kumar Choubey, who is contesting from the Buxar Lok Sabha constituency in Bihar, was caught on camera angrily confronting a government official after being stopped for allegedly violating the model code of conduct on Saturday evening. "Khabardar, tamasha mat kijiye (Beware, don't make a scene)," the Minister is seen in the video telling sub-divisional magistrate K.K. Upadhyay. The official had stopped the Minister's motorcade of 40 vehicles, which he said was more than the officially permitted limit. "Jo Election Commission ka aadesh hai woh to manna padega (We have to follow the orders of the Election commission)," said the officer, to which the Minister retorted, "Theek hai tujhe jail bhej dijiye... (alright then, send me to jail)".

**Hundred and raring to vote**

GUWAHATI
Western Assam's Nalbari district has 27 voters aged 100 or more. The district's Deputy Commissioner Bharat Bhushan Dev Choudhury said special arrangements have been made for the centenarians, 14 of whom live in areas under the Nalbari Assembly segment of Mangaldoi Lok Sabha seat, 10 under the Barkheli Assembly segment of Guwahati Lok Sabha seat and three under the Dharmapur Assembly segment of Barpeta Lok Sabha seat. The district also has 13,786 first-time voters under the age of 20.

Cong. to expand digital reach

NEW DELHI
The Congress is gearing up to further augment its digital battle for the Lok Sabha election in the coming days and has plans to disseminate customised content of its manifesto to various target groups. The party has plans to maximise the social media impact in the coming days by employing advertising companies. "Our catchy videos are becoming a rage and going viral, which has augmented our political narrative. We believe social media will be the most critical communication asset for the Congress party," spokesperson Sanjay Jha said. IANS

Forced to take the long road

MUZAFFARNAGAR
Haji Kallu, a trader, had hired helicopters of a private company to bring two brides from Mujheri and Kulheri villages to Khatoli town in the Muzaffarnagar Lok Sabha constituency in Uttar Pradesh for the marriage of his two sons on April 1 and 2. However, the district authorities denied permission to land the helicopters citing imposition of the model code of conduct, the police said. PTI

Nitish uncle, just 10 days are left for the polls. Where are you hiding? There is no fun in playing if the opponent doesn't take the field. Don't fear defeat so much. Are you afraid of going on campaigning alone?

**INTERVIEW | TARUN GOGOI**

'BJP wants to bring in foreigners, people will judge them'

By pushing the Citizenship Bill, it wants the Bangladeshi issue to remain, says the former Assam Chief Minister

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

At 82, Tarun Gogoi, former Assam Chief Minister, continues to be the fountainhead of the Congress in the State as it seeks to reclaim the ground lost to the Bharatiya Janata Party in the 2014 Lok Sabha election and the Assembly election two years later. Mr. Gogoi, confident that the Congress will bounce back, is particularly harsh on State Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

BJP leader Ram Madhav said the Modi wave is as strong as in 2014.

If there is such a wave, why did the BJP need the help of the AGP [Assam Gana Parishad] again and other smaller parties? If there is any wave, why do they need Himanta Biswa Sarma?

There is not even a ripple because they have robbed people of jobs, failed to check prices of commodities. They came by promising to eject foreigners, now they want to bring in foreigners. People will judge them soon.

By foreigners, do you mean the BJP's push for the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill that it says did not affect rural

Has the Congress learned to get over the issue of illegal Bangladeshis that dominates polls in Assam?

We started the NRC [updating of the National Register of Citizens] to put an end to it. The BJP, by pushing the Citizenship Bill, wants the Bangladeshi issue to remain. Otherwise, it is not an issue since the Hindus in Bangladesh are living peacefully.

You have said the BJP is showing signs of defeat. How do you explain that?

Look at Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Himanta. They are accompanying every candidate for filing nomination. This is because the candidates are not confident and they have to show their support. I never did that as the CM, not even for my son [Gaurav Gogoi, MP].

The Bill is designed to keep Muslims out. But it does Bengali Hindus no good too. They will be duped.

It is said the promotion of your son proved costly for the Congress...



They [BJP] are using Himanta because of his weaknesses and won't take long to throw him out

This is a wrong perception. My son was a newcomer in the 2014 election. A long-time politician like him [Mr. Sarma] had no reason to fear. Fact is, he became prominent because we encouraged him, trusted him.

But he is a man who cannot be trusted. A betrayer is always a betrayer.

He joined the BJP not to show his commitment but to save his skin because of Saradha [chit fund scam], Louis Berger [bribery] cases.

But wasn't his joining the BJP the beginning of the fall of Congress in Assam?

These things happen. Parties come to power, lose power. Himanta was with us when the BJP won seven Lok Sabha seats in 2014. The vote difference for the BJP MP in the Jalukbari Assembly segment, his seat, was more than 10,000. Where was his strategy then? His skills did not yield the BJP seats in Mizoram and Meghalaya despite spending lots of money. There is just too much hype about him.

But Ram Madhav said he is vital for the BJP to do well in the northeast.

This is a big joke. Ram Madhav wants to give more importance to Himanta, who was asked not to contest the parliamentary polls, than his party president. If Amit Shah, who has the responsibility of 543 Lok Sabha seats, can contest Gandhinagar, should I believe a person who has 25 north-

eastern seats to manage – that too with help from coalition partners and a few Chief Ministers – has a bigger responsibility?

They are using him because of his weaknesses and won't take long to throw him out. He is under pressure to do what they want and he has no courage to have his way.

Why do you think the Congress will bounce back in Assam?

The misrule and fake promises of the Narendra Modi government are a factor. The trend started with the Congress doing well in the Gujarat election.

Wins in Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan followed because of our politics of love as opposed to their hatred. Assam is feeling this change.

We have put up better candidates who will reap the benefits of peace and development that 15 years of Congress rule has provided.

TEJASHWI YADAV
RJD LEADER

ELSEWHERE



Ukraine votes, with actor as frontrunner

KIEV
Volodymyr Zelensky, a comedian whose political experience is limited to playing the president on TV vowed to tackle Ukraine's corruption, as he voted Sunday in the first stage of a presidential election he is tipped to win. AFP

Indian dentist among 2 killed in Chicago accident

WASHINGTON
Dr. Arshad Mohammed, 32, an Indian dentist pursuing an advanced medical course in the U.S., was among two persons killed in a road accident in Chicago, police said. Dr. Mohammed, originally from Hyderabad, was killed when a blue Volkswagen travelling the wrong way on the Veterans Memorial Tollway struck his Honda on Thursday night, police said in a statement. PTI

'U.K. could look at customs union with EU'

LONDON
British Prime Minister Theresa May would have to look closely at pursuing a customs union with the European Union if Parliament votes for it, Justice Minister David Gauke said on Sunday. Parliament is due to hold a second round of votes on alternative Brexit options on Monday. REUTERS

Israel reopens border crossings with Gaza

JERUSALEM
Israel reopened the Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings with the Gaza Strip on Sunday, after having kept them closed for nearly a week following a rare long-distance rocket strike from the Palestinian enclave, an official said. AFP

Saudis hacked Bezos's phone: official

They had access to Amazon CEO's phone, and gained private information, says security consultant

KAREN WEISE
SEATTLE

Jeff Bezos' security consultant accused the Saudi government of gaining unauthorised access to the Amazon CEO's phone, as part of an effort to harm the world's richest man. In an opinion article in *The Daily Beast* on Saturday, Gavin de Becker, Mr. Bezos's security chief, alleged that the Saudis wanted to hurt Mr. Bezos because he owns *The Washington Post*.

The Post has aggressively reported on the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, one of its columnists, who was killed in October in Turkey. U.S. officials have concluded that Khashoggi, who was critical of Saudi leaders, was killed on the orders of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Mr. De Becker said he had turned over his findings about the Saudis and their role against Mr. Bezos to law enforcement. "Our investigators and several experts concluded with high confidence that the Saudis had access to Bezos' phone, and gained private information," Mr. De Becker wrote.

The claims about the Saudis are difficult to verify and raise many questions. Throughout his article, the security consultant was vague on details. He did not reveal direct evidence of his accusations and wrote that he would not speak again publicly on the issue.

News on divorce

The unusual set of circumstances began in January, when Mr. Bezos announced that he and his wife, Mackenzie Bezos, were divorcing. The next day, *The National Enquirer* published an exposé revealing that Mr. Bezos was romantically involved with Lauren Sanchez, a former Los Angeles TV an-

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos owns *The Washington Post*, which has reported aggressively on the Khashoggi murder. ■AP

chor. Then in February, Mr. Bezos published a post on Medium accusing the parent of *The Enquirer*, American Media Inc., of "extortion and blackmail".

Mr. Bezos said AMI had threatened to publish graphic photographs of him, including a "below-the-belt selfie", if he did not publicly affirm that *The Enquirer*'s reporting on his affair was not motivated by political con-

cerns. He said AMI, which has had ties to the Saudis, was "apoplectic" about *The Post*'s reporting on the Saudis.

Earlier this month, *The New York Times* reported that two people with direct knowledge of *The Enquirer*'s reporting said that everything the tabloid received on Mr. Bezos's came from a single source. *The Wall Street Journal* later reported that

AMI had paid Ms. Sanchez's brother, Michael Sanchez, \$2,000 for the texts.

Riyadh's involvement

But Mr. De Becker on Saturday said the effort against Mr. Bezos went beyond Michael Sanchez and also involved the Saudis. Mr. De Becker pointed to an article published Saturday by *The New York Post* in which Michael Sanchez said *The Enquirer* "had seen text exchanges between the secret couple" before he was in touch with the tabloid on the matter.

He did not say whether the Saudis provided any of Mr. Bezos's personal information from the phone to AMI. Mr. De Becker said his investigation included interviews with cybersecurity experts and "people who personally know the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman."

N. Korea says Embassy raid was a 'terror attack'

Anti-Kim group blamed for incident

REUTERS
SEOUL

A break-in at the North Korean Embassy in Spain last month was "a grave terrorist attack", a representative from North Korea's Foreign Ministry said on Sunday in the North's first official comment on the incident.

The Foreign Ministry representative also called for an investigation and said North Korea was closely watching rumours that the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and an anti-North Korea group were behind the raid.

However, it stopped short of blaming Washington directly for the raid and asked Spanish authorities to conduct the investigation in a responsible manner. "We will wait for the result in patience," the North's state-run KCNA news agency quoted the representative as

saying. A mysterious dissident group accused of breaking into the North's Embassy in Madrid last month said on Thursday it was temporarily suspending operations.

That came after a Spanish judge issued international arrest warrants for two suspects Spanish authorities say fled to the U.S. The group has claimed the U.S. betrayed its trust after members approached the FBI. KCNA said an armed group assaulted its Embassy in Spain and bound, beat and tortured Embassy staff and stole communication equipment. "An illegal intrusion into and occupation of a diplomatic mission and act of theft are a grave breach of state sovereignty and a flagrant violation of international law..." the North's Foreign Ministry representative said.

Arab leaders condemn U.S. move on Golan

Tunisian President calls for 'comprehensive settlement' on Palestine

REUTERS
TUNIS

Arab leaders, long divided by regional rivalries, condemned on Sunday a U.S. decision to recognise Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights and said West Asia's stability depended on creating an Palestinian state.

Arab leaders, gathering at summit in Tunis, have been under popular pressure to reject Washington's action, while they also grapple with regional differences, including a bitter Gulf Arab dispute, splits over Iran's regional influence, the war in Yemen and unrest in Algeria and Sudan.



Djibouti's President Ismail Omar Guelleh, left, Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, centre, and Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz in Tunis on Sunday. ■AP

Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz told Arab monarchs, Presidents and Prime Ministers at the meeting that his country "absolutely rejects" any measures affecting Syria's sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

The Saudi King's condemnation echoed those of Arab

officials before Sunday's summit of the Arab League, which usually ends with a final declaration agreed by the 22 member states.

Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi said Arab leaders also needed to ensure the international community understood the importance of the Palestinian cause to Arab nations. Regional and international stability should come through "just and comprehensive settlement that includes the rights of the Palestinian people and leads to the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital," Mr. Essebsi said.

Maldives court lifts freeze on Yameen's bank accounts

Move comes ahead of parliamentary elections on April 6

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MALE

A Maldivian court on Sunday ordered the authorities to lift a freeze on former President Abdulla Yameen's bank accounts holding about \$6.5 million but said a money laundering case against him would proceed.

The High Court overturned the Criminal Court's earlier decision to freeze the eight accounts over allegations that Mr. Yameen had received illicit payments just before he lost his re-election bid in September.



Maldives's ex-President Abdulla Yameen. ■AP

Mr. Yameen was arrested last month on a charge of trying to bribe witnesses in his money laundering trial, but was released from custody on Thursday. The move came ahead of April 6 parliamentary elections contested by his Progressive Party of Maldives. Authorities believe millions of dollars allegedly siphoned off by Mr. Yameen could be stashed abroad, and have said that talks are under way with foreign entities to repatriate any cash found.

Mr. Yameen's chief lawyer and former Justice Minister Azima Shakoor is also facing charges of embezzlement and helping her boss to launder money.

'She power' in Europe

These are the women heads of state in the continent

ANGELA MERKEL
Germany

Merkel became Germany's first woman Chancellor when she was elected in 2005 and has led Europe's biggest economy ever since, winning a fourth four-year term in March 2018.

■ The EU's most experienced leader, she has been named "the world's most powerful woman" several times by Forbes magazine

Slovakia, where Zuzana Čaputová is set to become President, becomes the eighth country in the 28-member European Union (EU) to currently have a woman in power. Čaputová, at 45, will be the youngest President in the history of the nation

KOLINDA GRABAR-KITAROVIĆ
Croatia

■ Grabar-Kitarović won Croatia's top job in January 2015, becoming the first woman to be elected President by universal suffrage in the Balkans

■ At 46 years of age, she also became the youngest person to assume the presidency

KERSTI KALJULAI
Estonia

■ Kaljulaid, a trained biologist, became in October 2016 the first woman President of the Baltic state, after being elected by Parliament

DALIA GRYBAUSKAITĖ
Lithuania

■ Former European Commissioner Grybauskaitė became the first woman President of the Baltic country in May 2009. She is currently wrapping up her second term and cannot stand again

■ Referred to as 'Iron Lady' and 'Steel Magnolia'

MARIE-LOUISE COLEIRO PRECA
Malta

■ Coleiro Preca became President in April 2014, on the proposal of the Prime Minister. She is the Mediterranean island's second woman President

VIORICA DĂNCILĂ
Romania

■ Dăncilă, a teacher and an engineer, became in January 2018 the first woman to head the Romanian government

THERESA MAY
Britain

■ May in July 2016 became Britain's second woman PM after Margaret Thatcher



■ She took over after David Cameron resigned following the referendum vote to leave the EU

Other European (non-EU) countries that have women leaders

ZUZANA ČAPUTOVÁ
SlovakiaERNA SOLBERG
NorwayKATRÍN JAKOBSDÓTTIR
IcelandSALOME ZURABISHVILI
GeorgiaANA BRNABIĆ
Serbia

SOURCE: AP

Slovaks elect first woman President

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRATISLAVA

The election of Zuzana Čaputová as Slovakia's first woman President was greeted on Sunday as a vote for change, with the anti-graft activist expected to provide a check on a government tarnished after last year's murder of a journalist.

The 45-year-old environmental lawyer's clear victory on Saturday over the ruling party's candidate was a blow to the populist-left Smer-SD — the largest grouping in Parliament — and could spell trouble for them in the EU elections and next year's general vote.

Ms. Čaputová won 58.4% of the vote according to a final tally of results released Sunday, compared with 41.6% for her ruling party rival, EU Energy Commissioner Maros Šefčovic.

"Let us look for what connects us. Let us promote cooperation above personal interests," she said as the results rolled in.

Two owners of blaze-hit Bangladesh tower arrested

Fire in Dhaka building killed 26 people

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DHAKA

Police in Bangladesh said on Sunday that they had arrested the owners of an office tower in Dhaka that caught fire earlier this week, killing 26 people and renewing the country's debate over lax safety standards.

The latest deadly blaze to hit Bangladesh's congested capital tore through the 22-storey FR Tower on Thursday, leaving some of the hundreds trapped inside screaming for help as horrified onlookers massed outside.

Police said they had detained two men, S.M.H.I. Faruque and Tasvir Ul Islam — who is district leader of the Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) — in the capital, after filing charges against them for criminal negligence.

Police said they were also looking for the owner of the construction firm which built the tower in the 1990s.



The high-rise building that was damaged in Thursday's fire in Dhaka. ■AP

Asian-origin gang funded al-Qaeda through tax fraud

£80 million funnelled out as part of scam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

A British-Asian gang of fraudsters may have been involved in misusing billions of pounds of British taxpayers' money to fund terrorist networks in Pakistan and Afghanistan, claims a U.K. media investigation based on police and intelligence files. The gang is alleged to have sent 1% of its gains from its elaborate tax fraud to al-Qaeda in Pakistan and Afghanistan, where it funded madrasas, training camps and other terrorist

activities, according to the leaked files seen by *The Sunday Times*. An estimated £80 million is believed to have been funnelled out by the fraudsters as part of an elaborate VAT and benefits fraud against the U.K.'s revenue department over the past two decades, with further gains made through mortgage and credit card fraud. Secret intelligence held by MI5 states that some of the money reached the Pakistani compound that housed the Al-Qaeda mastermind Osama bin Laden.

President Maithripala Sirisena on Sunday said he had fixed a date to execute convicted drug traffickers, reiterating his earlier announcement on restoring the death penalty in Sri Lanka. He was speaking at an event on drug prevention, attended by religious heads representing different faiths, and underscored his resolve to eradicate the problem of illegal drug trafficking, bravely "any challenge" that might come his way, a press statement issued by the President's Media Division said. "A schedule is ready," he said. Amid what officials call "a heightening drug menace", President Sirisena announced in February that the death penalty would be restored to combat the problem.

Sri Lanka has a four decade-long moratorium on capital punishment and his

Date fixed to execute drug offenders'

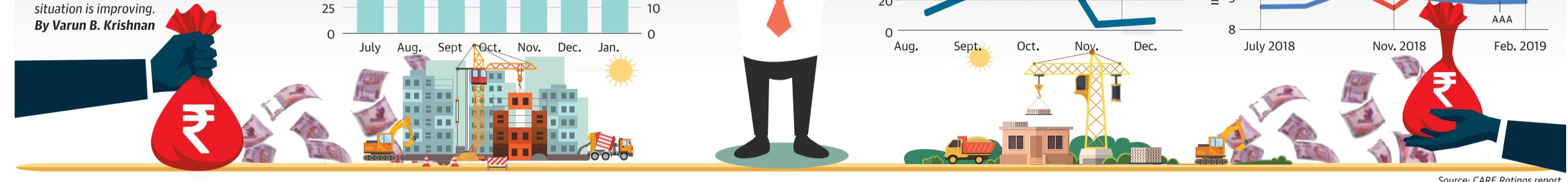
Sri Lanka has convicted at least 25 people for drug trafficking

क्र.सं. Sr.No.	निविदा संख्या Tender Number	विवरण Description
1	एसपीएल / आरएसएल/ २०१९०१३१८०१ SCL/RNQA/2019E0131801 (दो भाग निविदा	

Tough times for NBFCs

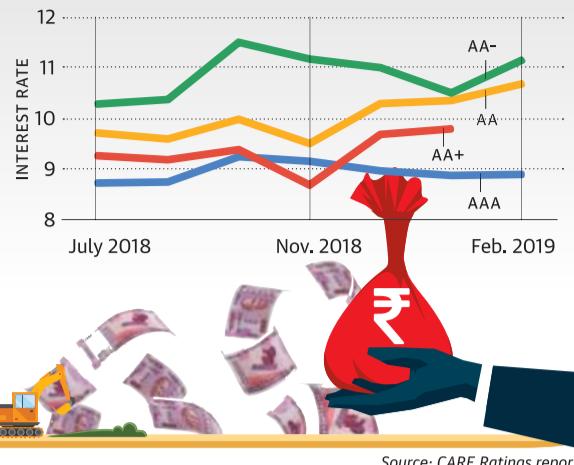
Non Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) raise money and lend to projects related to infrastructure, housing and more. IL&FS was one of the biggest such firms and ever since it began defaulting on loans, NBFCs found it more difficult to raise funds. However, the situation is improving.

By Varun B. Krishnan



INTEREST RATES HIGH

The chart shows interest rates for borrowings, based on the rating of NBFCs. AAA-rated funds have a good credit rating, AA a lesser rating and so on. As of February, the rates are still high, reflecting that things have not returned to normal



Source: CARE Ratings report

Music streaming providers like what they hear as listeners tune in

Riding on inexpensive data, app providers are building customisation, such as voice-enabled features, to distinguish themselves in the market

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

Music lovers in India are spoilt for choice with various music streaming applications flooding the market.

The segment has come under the spotlight following the entry of two international giants – Spotify and YouTube Music – within a span of a month. They will compete with homegrown players such as Wynk, Gaana and JioSaavn, besides international rivals Apple Music and Amazon Music.

Driven by cheap data

India is the next big market for music streaming, driven by factors such as increasing smartphone penetration and low data prices, plus the fact that a large part of the population accesses Internet via mobile phones.

"Streaming has been around for a long time but it was constrained by consumers thinking very hard about how much it was going to cost them, because data charges were so high. In the last two years or so, data prices have dropped almost 90%, so the industry is really coming into its own," Jehil Thakkar, partner at Deloitte India, said.

A recent report by Deloitte and the Indian Music Industry (IMI) pointed out that the launch of Reliance Jio acted as a 'powerful catalyst', leading to a dramatic shift in not only the economics of the Indian telecom industry, but also in the quantum of Internet and data usage in the country. The overall number of

music streaming users in India was estimated to be nearly 150 million in December 2018.

"India is a music loving society with consumers spending 21.5 hours every week listening to music, against the global average of 17.8 hours. Helping satisfy this love for music is the audio OTT industry which is at an inflection point today," Blaise Fernandes, president and CEO, IMI said.

Echoing similar views, Sameer Batra, CEO – Content and Apps at Bharti Airtel, which runs Wynk Music, said, "For a category like music, you and I can be different in terms of what we like listening to, but love for music is fairly ubiquitous. So, there is significant market opportunity out there, which is essentially equal to the number of Internet users on mobiles."

He pointed out that India has about 400-450 million "serious Internet users... contrast this with the backdrop that the country doesn't have too much broadband... What I see is an opportunity that doesn't exist in any part of the world, which is why everybody is trying to get into the India market."

'Still at nascent stage'
Stating that these are still very early days for this sector, Mr. Thakkar said, "I think we are in year one of a 10-year journey. We are only just about starting to see large-scale adoption of these applications."



Sound of music: Indian consumers spend 21.5 hours every week listening to music, compared with the global average of 17.8 hours. ■ M. KARUNAKARAN

He said that intense competition was natural for an industry in its early stages, and added that a lot of these apps were working on bringing out originals to woo consumers.

However, Wynk Music is not very kicked up about "exclusive stuff".

'Some of our competitors have been trying to do exclusives. We don't think that is the right way to go. We want to do more on the personalisation side rather than trying to buy exclusive content... Nobody knows what will work. What you may think is super hit, may be a dud for me and vice-versa. So, the success of following an exclusive strategy is right now questionable in the Indian context. It is now that the habit is building, so you can't take very bold and long term bets on exclusivity," Mr. Batra said.

"The reality is that unlike video, where there is a lot of original content, music supply is pretty much similar... there are only so many songs in movies, etc... The key in terms of unlocking engagement is really about saying within the larger universe of say, 6-7 million songs that exists with everybody, who can

customise and personalise the hell out of it."

Potential to transform'

Amazon Prime, on the other hand, is betting on voice-command based features to pursue customers. "Music streaming is entering a new era... We believe voice has the potential to transform music listening," Sahas Malhotra, director, Amazon Music - India, said.

He pointed out that Amazon Music had integrated voice-based assistant Alexa into its mobile application.

"We are so focussed on voice not because it is new or

it is the cool thing. We believe voice removes barriers for people who otherwise find visual apps challenging, or to simply cut the time taken for people to get to their favourite song."

He added, "Our North Star is that Alexa becomes your music buddy. You should be able to think of it as a friend who will recommend stuff for you, play stuff for you depending on the mood you are in, or help you discover new music."

The Deloitte-IMI report pointed out that while Bollywood had ruled the recorded music industry for decades, in the past couple of years, demand for more regional language content had risen. In 2016, Hindi film music contributed to 70% of consumption on streaming services such as Gaana and JioSaavn. However, about two years later, this figure has dropped to 50%, according to the report.

It added that consumption of regional music during the time has grown from 5% to 25%. "More penetration to tier 2 and tier 3 cities has led to this shift."

Mr. Batra agreed. "As penetration of music services goes deeper into the country beyond people in large cities with multiple phones, who have exposure to forms of entertainment... the whole notion of regional content and role of regionalisation and stuff in the mother language of the users starts to play a big role. We are already seeing some massive trends in terms of regional

among consumers, it is critical that audio OTT platforms actively try and convert free users and bundled users to paid subscriptions." Currently, bundled users pay for music streaming services as part of the data pack charges levied by the telecom service provider.

Mr. Batra said "We have decent scale on it. I won't say outstanding scale, but the real answer is that right now habit formation is happening. I don't think there is anybody at a meaningful scale at the moment. But I think that time will come."

While green shoots can be seen, monetisation will be a long-haul contest in India, he opined. "Early signs of monetisation are still there. It's not a bleak picture. Are you at a place where cost of investment vs monetisation are evening out, there is some time... as you get deep into the country, we believe monetisation will emerge. The top-end of the pyramid is already paying for content."

Stating that real differentiation between the companies will be on the content, the user interface and the pricing, Mr. Thakkar added that "general category" streaming services will need deep pockets to stay in the game because monetisation today is challenging. "So, you will have to continue to spend on content, new features in your apps without commensurate returns for the medium term. It is almost imperative for you to be a deep-pocketed player."

Hindi film music's share in these apps has fallen from 70% in 2016 to 50% now; regional music's has risen

non-filmy content."

"We are able to see that if you get customers to listen to regional songs in their mother language, then you are able to lock customers to servers in a meaningful way," he added. Mr. Malhotra pointed out that India was the first market where the company saw people consuming music in multiple languages.

Monetisation

Presently, of the various digital music revenue modes in India, 60% revenue comes from streaming. While paid subscribers provide a stable source of revenue, unfortunately, in India, less than 1% of the subscribers are paid users and nearly 14% are bundled users, as per the report, and the remaining 85% are on free subscription.

"This implies 15% of subscribers contribute to 55% of streaming revenues, whereas 85% of subscribers contribute to the remaining 45% of streaming revenues [i.e. ad-supported streaming revenues]."

As per the report, currently, the cost of a 10-second advertisement on music streaming apps ranges between ₹150 and ₹250 CPM (cost per thousand impressions).

"Therefore, to inculcate the habit of paying for music

INTERVIEW | MADS NIPPER

'Our role will be to find new business models that can make water much more accessible'

Replacing millions of submersible diesel pumps with sustainable solutions, an ambition for Grundfos

LALATENDU MISHRA

Grundfos A/S, the world's biggest pump manufacturer in terms of value and volume, is aiming to be a major catalyst in sustainability by solving water challenges and climate change issues. In an interview with The Hindu, Mads Nipper, CEO & global president, Grundfos, said the Danish company, by supplying energy efficient pumps, can help reduce 50% of energy consumed by water pumps globally. Edited excerpts:

What do you see as potential threats to environment and what can Grundfos do about it?

How challenging are climate change and water scarcity and as a company, how are you addressing it?

I personally believe that the world's two biggest potential risks right now are climate change and water challenges. And even we are not a huge company, we are only \$4 billion. It is fascinating to think how we have good chances to be one of the world's most important companies in addressing water and climate change challenges. 10% of the world's electricity is consumed by pumps and that can be reduced to half with the existing technology.

Many other water problems that people are facing are solvable.

The technical solutions are here. My dream is that Grundfos becomes a catalyst for other companies to structurally start addressing those challenges.

We are a water and energy efficient company that happens to be the biggest pump manufacturer of the world.

India has seven to 10 million diesel submersible pumps, which is a disaster, because diesel-driven pumps are not reliable and are polluting. So, how can we be a catalyst to replace all that with sustainable solar power solutions? We can't do that ourselves, but can help the government find business models for that. Those are the kinds of ambitions we have.

The same thing is in sub-Saharan Africa. There are hundreds of millions of people living without access to basic water. But they all have mobile phones. So, how we

For the next 10 to 20 years, it will be incredibly important to combat climate change

can create a micro payments ecosystem to make clean water available to those who essentially pay symbolic fees for accessing clean water. Investing in those business models and working with partners is something we can do through technology.

How challenging was it to turn the company around?

At Grundfos, technology has been developed at one place in the world, up here. We decided to spread out. So, more R&D is now happening in India, China and the U.S. In 2013-14, when Grundfos had profits declining for five years in a row, the short-term task was to get that back to a decent level. Not that we had greedy owners, but if you want to invest for the long term, you need to have decent earnings. So, the first two years for me was very much about getting to know Grundfos and not just the product, but also spirit and the soul of the company, and then it was to make it relatively a classic financial turnaround.

And the future is about strengthening the current business of pumps. But building much more on top of that is the digital journey. Digitalisation will play a huge role.

Your company is 85% owned by the Foundation. How about your spending on charity?

The Foundation has in its charter that to be a good owner, we must spend on water research and water access for the world's poorest and for education and local society. We give between \$20 and \$30 million every year in charity. I am happy and proud that Grundfos makes solutions that do really good things. And, we can make some money in doing it. Our Foundation, Bill Gates and Melinda Gates Foundation and Tata Trusts do a great thing through charity.

In Africa, we supplied water to almost a million people. It made a huge difference to the families when they got access to water. When women and girls do not spend five hours to fetch water, they will have time to go to school and do productive things. We got paid for our services, but in the process helped changed lives.

(The interviewer was in Denmark at the invitation of Grundfos)



Some soup, with a dash of health

A cafe in Sivakasi offers food as preventive medicine

S. ANNAMALAI

What came as an idea in 1998 to use naturally available herbs and plants to cure his mother's rheumatoid arthritis has now taken roots in the form of cafes selling 'food as medicine and medicine as food.' G. Maran of Sivakasi, who claims that regular intake of sprouted cereals and mudakkathai (balloon vine) soup obviated the need for knee replacement for his mother, started the *Thaai Vazhi Iyarkai Unavagam* with a meagre investment of ₹50,000 to sell three varieties of soup.

Today, he offers 25 varieties of soups and juices to more than 300 customers every day.



Healthy gulp: G. Maran offers 25 varieties of soups and juices to more than 300 customers every day. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

had been told to bring down the medical expenses of a family. Hence, the maximum cost of an item at the cafe is ₹25.

GREEN SHOOTS

He follows time-tested, traditional methods to add value to ordinary herbs and vegetables. For example, the aloe vera juice offered at the cafe, a hot seller, is called 'Sivakasi Jigarthanda.' The curvy leaf juice, made with coconut milk is a hit among girl students as they believe that it prevents hair loss.

Small farmers of the rain-fed area bring plants found in the wild and cultivated by them to the cafe. "I pay them more than what they normally get in the market. One kg of *avaram poo* (*cassia auriculata*) fetches ₹90 in the market but I pay them ₹200," he says. On Sundays, farmers bring organically grown greens and vegeta-

bles for display and sale to the cafe. This sale, called *Thaalammal Uzhavar Sangai* (Benevolent Farmers' Market), happens between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m.

Stakeholders benefit

Mr. Maran says that this model is beneficial to all stakeholders. While the farmer gets a higher price, the entrepreneur realises a handsome profit through traditional value-addition and consumers get real value for their money. He is of the view that this model, which entails low investment, is ideal for small farmers and jobless educated youth in small towns. It also provides employment to women. In Sivakasi, women thrown out of employment from fireworks units, make soups and juices at its outlet.

He says, "My dream is to encourage young entrepreneurs to start one such cafe in every street."

ASK US

ARATI KRISHNAN

Q. Recently, we sold land and I got ₹15 lakh as my share. I'm confused about whether I must invest the money in a fixed deposit, land or in stocks?

RAJESH KUMAR

A. Your choice of asset should depend on three things – your risk appetite, return expectation and need for money. Do you want to protect your capital at all costs and think you will need the money in two to three years? Then bank deposits for 2-3 years may be your best option. Presently, the rates range from 7% to 8.5%. Do remember that your interest from deposits will be taxable every year at your income tax slab rate.

If you can take a little bit of risk and plan not to touch the money for three to five years, debt mutual funds are a good option. If returns are your priority and you will definitely not need the money for five-plus years, you can consider aggressive hybrid mutual funds that invest in stocks and bonds in the 65-35 proportion. There's some risk of capital loss with possible returns of 10%-12%. Investing directly in stocks can mean a high risk of capital loss. We don't recommend either land or gold because they aren't as liquid as bank deposits or mutual funds.

Q. I find that small finance banks offer a high rate of interest on fixed deposits. Why should I opt for a post office fixed deposit which gives a low rate of interest?

SHIVA CHHABRA

A. Small finance banks, though not government-backed, are tightly regulated and monitored by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). As these are a relatively new category of banks licensed by the RBI, most of them have much lower bad loan ratios than some established banks. The key regulatory provisions that help protect depositor interests in traditional banks also apply to small finance banks. One, to ensure that banks have money that they can quickly draw on in case of deposit withdrawals, all commercial banks are required to set aside 4% of their deposit base in the form of a cash reserve ratio and invest 19.25% towards statutory liquidity ratio requirements. Two, deposit insurance from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India, insures the principal and interest held in savings accounts, current and fixed deposits to the extent of ₹1 lakh per depositor per bank. This is applicable to small finance banks as well. However, your deposits with the post office do theoretically carry lower risks than deposits with any bank, because they represent direct borrowings by the Government of India.

Readers can send in queries on personal finance and investing to moneywise@thehindu.co.in. Our experts who write on personal finance will answer these queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

Outdated financial advice parents should avoid giving

Advising millennials to buy an insurance policy first or even invest in a house could simply be wrong in today's environment

VIDYA BALA

Several of the 50-year-plus investors I know are eager to initiate their millennial children into investing as soon as possible. In their eagerness, they help their children with the 'first steps.' Sadly, those steps often constrain or cripple the millennial's financial journey. It is terribly hard for me to tell the earnest parent how he (it's mostly the father) has given advice that is not only outdated but simply wrong in today's environment for two reasons: one, the millennials lead a very different working and personal life from their parents and therefore, have different financial needs. Two, the range of financial products and options available today are dramatically different from what their parents had when they started their careers. I seldom get to tell them this but here's a list of such advice and why they should not be repeated.

Buy an insurance policy

With an average Indian, no investment journey begins without a policy and policy usually means LIC Pension Policy unless stated otherwise. A pension policy where

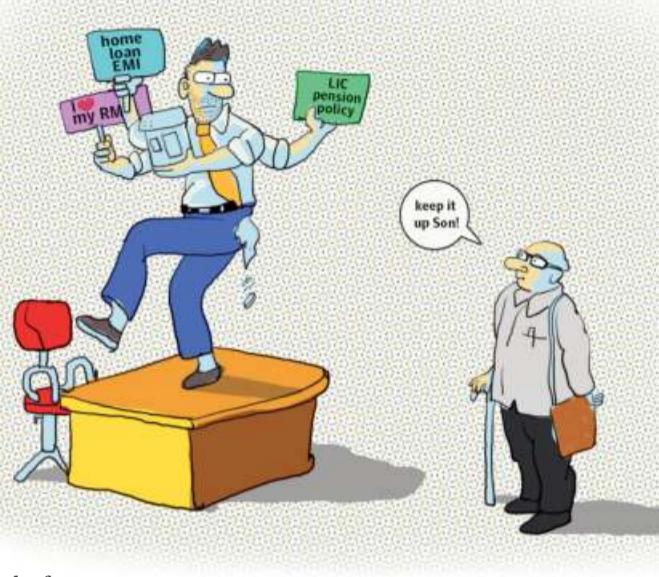


ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

one would get a handsome ₹8,000 per month after 25 years. Now, what exactly will the child do with just ₹8,000 a month, 25-35 years hence, even under a low inflation scenario? Even assuming it will just add to the rest of his income sources, what is the return? It may sum up to some measly returns of perhaps 4.5-5%! It is a different story entirely if you advise him to buy a pension policy soon after retirement. But tucking away his

early earning years' savings now in low earning products? That's sad.

The insurance policy a millennial needs may be very different. A term policy, if and when they have dependents, yes. And there may be others. For example, an insurance that helps sail through job loss or on diagnosis of major medical illness and so on. Let your children figure

out what they need before you tie them down by gifting their first premium for their pension policy.

Relationship with bank'

If parents approved of any relationship of their millennial kids, it must be with their bank 'relationship manager (RM)'! Investing in products suggested by the father's

perspective because one needs to be in the good books of the RM. For what exactly?

Unlike those days, the millennial is unlikely to visit a branch for the rest of his/her life. There will be no occasion requesting for cheque clearance or asking for change in denominations of 10s and 50s; nor is a higher education loan dependent on how much you invested through the RM.

Your millennials do not have to blindly listen to the RM's advice. It could mean tying oneself to products one didn't know had a lock-in, products that would incur high costs if exited early or that are sold as high dividend products, not knowing the risks involved.

Anywhere between ₹1.5-2.5 lakh per annum of a young earner's income is locked into investment products that are of little relevance to his/her financial goals.

Second, you have no idea in which State or country your children are going to settle in. Third, if your children pay an EMI now, that will leave little surplus by way of savings for the next 15-20 years. Exactly what are they

supposed to do for the rest of their life's goals and aspirations? Fourth, EMI is not equal to rent, please!

You could have a spacious 1,500 sq ft house and pay a rent of one-third (or less) the cost of its EMI. Purchasing a house before settling into a career, before marriage or even before having kids (there is an 'if' component to all these in the millennial age) is not a good idea.

And please remember, many millennials give up their jobs just after a few years to do their heart's calling – be a stand-up comedian, travel and photography or be an observer of people. Call it crazy or deep, the fact is they may not even work like you did for the next 15-20 years after they take up a job. Let them decide what debt they want to take up.

And please, don't even think you are being a bad parent by not advising them. You will still have enough to advise on their spending habits (a new mobile every year) and their not removing their headphones the whole time you're talking to them!

(The author is head, MF research, FundsIndia.com)

FD FOCUS: DCB BANK

Healthy capital ratios, low NPAs

Private sector lender has been able to maintain asset quality with 1.5-1.9% GNPA

RADHIKA MERWIN

The RBI's policy rate cut in February this year is likely to nudge banks to trim deposit rates over the coming months.

Though a sharp cut is unlikely in the near term, depositors with surplus funds should consider locking into attractive rates now.

DCB Bank offers 8.05% for deposits with tenure of 15 months to less than 24 months. It also offers 8.05% on its 36-month deposit.

Lock-in now

Banks had raised deposit rates last year with those in the private sector hiking rates more aggressively.

With the RBI expected to cut the policy rate further in the coming months, retail deposit rates offered by banks are likely to fall too.

Hence, shop for higher rates now.

Attractive option

DCB Bank's 8.05% is among the best offered by traditional banks currently. Most other banks offer 6.5-7.5% for two to three year deposits – though there are a few others such as IDFC First Bank that offer 8.25% for a 731-day deposit. Small finance banks offer a rate closer to 9%.

Given that interest rate cycles have become relatively shorter over the past two to three years, sudden reversal in rates (from rate easing now to hikes) cannot be



ANUJ ARORA

Key stats

- Rate offered: 8.05%
- Tenure: 15 months to less than 24 months; 36 months
- Minimum investment: ₹10,000
- Rating A1+ (very strong degree of safety regarding timely payment of financial obligations)

rate. The shorter tenure can also allow you to cash in on any rate hikes two years or so hence.

Given that interest rate cycles have become relatively shorter over the past two to three years, sudden reversal in rates (from rate easing now to hikes) cannot be

ruled out.

If you are looking for a longer horizon to park your funds, the 36 months deposit is also a good option.

Remember, bank deposits score on safety over options such as deposits in NBFCs (non-banking finance companies) or non-convertible debentures (NCDs).

Bank deposits are covered by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (DICGC). Each depositor is insured up to ₹1 lakh for principal and interest.

About DCB Bank

DCB Bank, under the aegis of the with a new management since 2009, had shifted its focus towards secured lending, which has helped it tide

over its asset quality issues.

It had delivered a healthy 25% annual growth in advances between FY13 and FY18 while the profit grew 19% annually during this period. In the December 2018 quarter, net advances grew by 23% YoY while profit after tax increased by 51%.

Healthy growth in core net interest income, other income boost and favourable cost to income aided earnings.

The bank predominantly focuses on mortgages, and the SME segment. It has been able to maintain its asset quality – its gross non-performing assets (GNPA) as a percentage of loans ranged between 1.5% and 1.9% over the last five fiscal years.

As of December 2018, gross NPAs stood at around 1.9% per cent. However, DCB's scale of operations is still modest, and so are its return ratios.

As of December 2018, the bank's return on assets stood at 1% while return on equity stood at 12.6%. Investments in branch expansion and technology have kept profitability modest.

Nonetheless, the bank's steady focus on SME, new branches expected to achieve scale, and healthy capital ratios lend comfort to earnings.

(The purpose of this column is to provide information. It is not recommendation in nature.)

BLACKBOARD - SIP

A systematic way of maximising returns on investment



ASHISH RUKHAIYAR

What is a SIP?

- A Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) is a way to invest in mutual funds wherein a fixed sum of money is put into a mutual fund scheme at a specified date every month.

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though the fund house or go through a distributor. For direct plans, an investor can go to the website of the fund house for the scheme in which the SIP has to be started.

All the fund houses have a link on their portals for investors who want to start an SIP. Typically, only the Permanent Account Number (PAN) and/or Aadhaar is needed to open an account.

Thereafter, one can select the scheme, SIP amount, starting date and duration of SIP. If one opts for a distributor, then the same process can be done online on the distributor's portal.

Is it better to start direct SIPs or go through a distributor?

- The returns for those investing directly will always be marginally better than for those investing through distributors as direct plan investors do not need to pay distributor commission. And since SIPs are typically long-term investments, the difference in the total corpus, at times, could be substantial.

However, going through a distributor has its advantages as well as one can get access to investment advice, help in fund selection and a consolidated view of the holdings through an app.

On the other hand, if an investor wants to start 4-5 SIPs with different fund houses,

What are the benefits of a SIP?

- Timing the market is the most difficult thing when it comes to equity investment. SIPs, in a way, address this issue. SIPs capture every rise and fall of the market and hence, an investor need not worry about the level of the market. Also, there are sector-specific funds – pharma, banks, technology, etc. – and also those based on the size of the companies – such as large-cap, mid-cap, small-cap funds – that allow the investor to have a diversified portfolio rather than concentrate risk in a few companies.

LOOSE CHANGE

RAVIKANTH



"I really love their service! Our spending came down a lot, all thanks to this ATM!"

Life insurance term plan premium

Age: 30 Years, Sum insured- Rs. 1 crore, Cover upto- 70 Years

Insurance company	Plan name	Maximum cover	Annual premium (Rs.) (Male)	Annual premium (Rs.) (Female)
ICICI Prudential Life	iProtect Smart	99 Years	12,502	11,028
HDFC Life	Click2Protect 3D Plus	100 Years	12,478	11,004
Max Life	Online Term Plus	85 Years	10,148	7,670
Aegon Life	iTerm	100 Years	8,331	6,861
TATA AIA Life	Sampoorna Raksha	100 Years	9,912	9,096
PNB MetLife	Mera Term Plan	99 Years	10,146	8,675
Kotak Life	Kotak e-Term Plan	75 Years	9,558	8,260
Aditya Birla Capital	Ultima Term	85 Years	10,270	8,733
Edelweiss Tokio Life	Zindagi+	80 Years	9,206	7,522
India First Life	e-Term Plan	80 Years	8,260	7,080
Aviva Life	iTerm Smart	80 Years	9,007	7,741
DHFL Pramerica Life	Flexi e-Term	75 Years	9,403	8,026
Future Generali Total				
Insurance Solutions	Flexi Online Term	75 Years	9,427	8,184
Bharti AXA Life	Flexi Term	85 Years	9,440	8,260
Canara HSBC OBC Life	iSelect	80 Years	9,491	8,022
Reliance Nippon Life	Digi-Term	80 Years	11,012	8,719
IDBI Federal Life	iSurance Flexi Term	80 Years	12,402	10,136
Bajaj Allianz Life	eTouch Online Term	75 Years	14,067	10,896
SBI Life	eShield	80 Years	15,070	12,898

CSK does what CSK does best – win from a precarious position

Fans get their money's worth with a classic captain's knock from Dhoni; the support cast of Bravo, Raina and Tahir too performs well



S. DIPAK RAGAV

CHENNAI

Dhoni and Suresh Raina then steadied the ship after Kedar Jadhav was dismissed by Kulkarni. The duo went about setting a platform with a 61-run stand for the fourth wicket with some sensible batting against the spinners.

Rush of blood

Just when he was looking good picking boundaries off the tweakers, Raina played a poor shot trying to give himself room and clear the cover boundary. He only ended up being bowled by a slower one from Jaydev Unadkat for 36.

But Bravo consolidated alongside Dhoni with a 16-ball 27. They smashed 24 runs in the 18th over, bowled by Kulkarni, to give the innings a much-needed momentum.

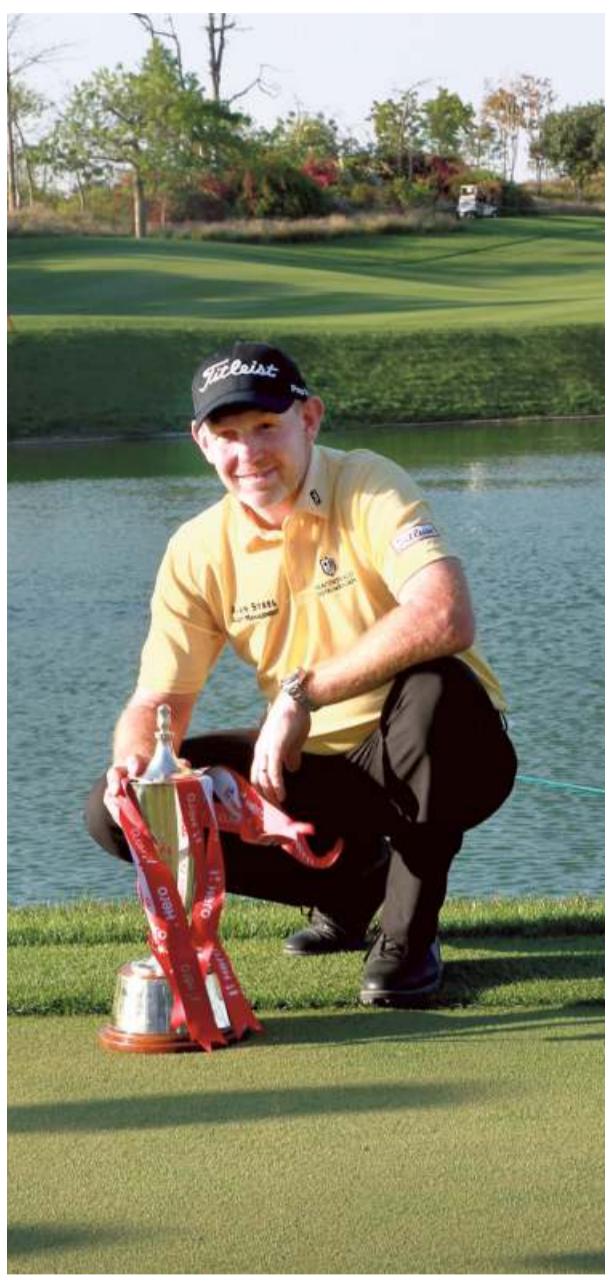
The skipper seemed to mark out Unadkat as the bowler to target. Dhoni picked his first two boundaries off him before thrashing the left-arm pacer for three sixes off the final three deliveries of the innings. In the final 10 overs CSK made 120, 76 coming off the last five as it made 175.

Stuttering start

Royals' innings stuttered at the start like CSK's. Deepak Chahar removed Ajinkya Rahane and Sanju Samson while Shardul Thakur accounted for the dangerous Butler to reduce the visitors to 14 for three.

Steve Smith and Rahul Tri-

Gallacher wins; Rashid, Chikka 10th



Fortuitous: Stephen Gallacher produced two superb approach shots on the 17th and 18th en route to the title. ■ K. JAIRAJ

Reds hang on with nervy win

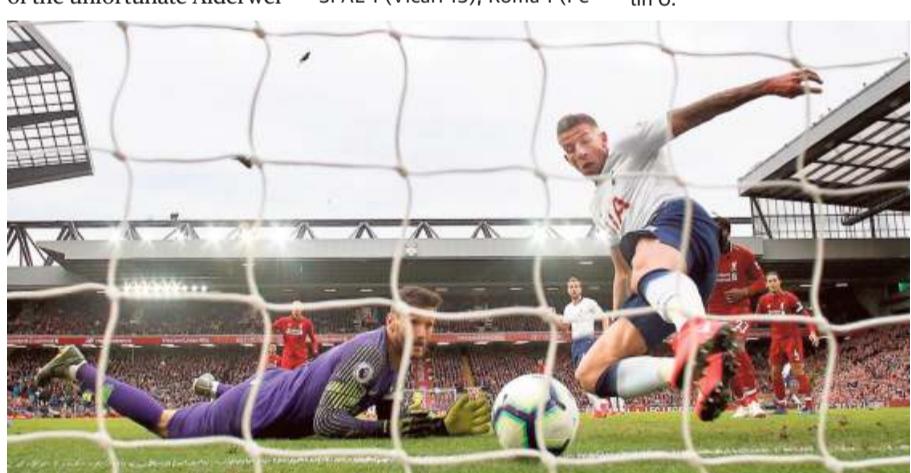
EURO LEAGUES

REUTERS

Liverpool moved back top of the Premier League in dramatic fashion as Toby Alderweireld's last minute own goal beat Tottenham 2-1 at Anfield on Sunday.

Liverpool's hopes of ending a 29-year wait to win the title looked set to be dealt a massive blow as Lucas Moura's strike 20 minutes from time cancelled our Roberto Firmino's early opener.

However, Hugo Lloris could only palm Mohamed Salah's header into the path of the unfortunate Alderweireld.



Heartbreak: Tottenham goalkeeper Hugo Lloris looks on as Toby Alderweireld tries unsuccessfully to drag the ball back after inadvertently knocking it goalwards. ■ REUTERS

reld to condemn Tottenham to a fourth defeat in five Premier League games.

The results:

Premier League: Cardiff 1 (Camarasa 46) lost to Chelsea 2 (Azpilicueta 84, Loftus-Cheek 90); Liverpool 2 (Firmino 16, Alderweireld 90+og) bt Tottenham 1 (Lucas 70).
La Liga: Levante 2 (Morales 5, Rochina 26) drew with Eibar 2 (Escalante 19, Enrich 78); Rayo Vallecano 1 (Tomas 34) drew with Real Betis 1 (Tello 81); Sevilla 0 lost to Valencia 1 (Parejo 45+pen).
Serie A: Parma 1 (Gervinho 8) lost to Atalanta 3 (Pasalic 24, Zapata 75, 90+4); Fiorentina 1 (Simeone 7) drew with Torino 1 (Baselli 34); Frosinone 0 lost to SPAL 1 (Vicari 13); Roma 1 (Pe-

rotti 45+4+pen) lost to Napoli 4 (Milik 2, Mertens 50, Verdi 54, Younes 81).

Bundesliga: Hanover 0 Schalke 1 (Serdar 39); Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Kostic 45, 64, Jovic 84) bt Stuttgart 0.

On Saturday: Premier League: West Ham 0 lost to Everton 2 (Zouma 5, Bernard 33).

La Liga: Celta Vigo 3 (Aspas 50, 85+pen, Gomez 71) bt Villarreal 2 (Ekambi 11, Alfonso 15); Alaves 0 lost to Atletico Madrid 4 (Niguez 5, Costa 11, Morata 59, Partey 84).

Serie A: Juventus 1 (Kean 72) bt Empoli 0; Sampdoria 1 (Defrel 1) bt AC Milan 0.

Bundesliga: RB Leipzig 5 (Forberg 17, Poulsen 27, 56, 62, Haidara 64) bt Hertha Berlin 0.

CCFC rides on Manzi's hat-trick

SPORTS BUREAU

A 10-man Chennai City FC rode on Pedro Manzi's fifth hat-trick of the season to move into the quarterfinals of the Hero Super Cup with a 4-2 win over FC Pune City here on Sunday.

I-League champion Chennai City went into the half-time leading 2-1 after goals from Manzi.

Pune City equalised through a Marko Stankovic spot-kick in the 57th.

With the teams deadlocked at 2-2 at the end of 60 minutes, Chennai City received a penalty which Manzi converted.

He turned provider for Chennai's fourth strike when he set up compatriot Sandro Rodriguez, who netted his 10th goal of the season.

Chennai City will next take on Indian Super League champion Bengaluru FC in the last-eight stages on April 4.

The result: Chennai City FC 4 (Pedro Manzi 35, 40, 62, Sandro Rodriguez 74) bt FC Pune City 2 (Marcelinho 42, Marko Stankovic 57).

Title No. 101 for Federer

Barty defeats Pliskova for the women's crown

MIAMI OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE MIAMI

Roger Federer defeated a hobbling John Isner 6-1, 6-4 for his 10th career title at the Miami Open on Sunday.

Holder Isner struggled to continue late in the second set, hampered by pain in his left foot.

Federer, who won his fourth Miami title, broke Isner three times in a blazing opening set.

But the American fought back in the second, levelling the set 3-3 and 4-4 before the pain made it difficult to continue.

Federer took the final two games for the victory.

Biggest title

Ashleigh Barty's transformation is complete after the Australian defeated Czech fifth seed Karolina Pliskova 7-6(1), 6-3 to win the biggest singles title of her career in the WTA event. The 22-year-old Aussie quit tennis five years ago after finding the mental grind of the tour too much to bear, turning to professional cricket in a bid to find sporting happiness.

Barty, a junior Wimble-

Dramatic win for Hamilton

He makes good of rookie Leclerc's misfortune



Taking advantage: Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes, left, cashed in on Ferrari's Charles Leclerc's engine problems. ■ AP

Fast facts

- Leclerc's podium finish is the first for a driver from Monaco since Louis Chiron's in Monte Carlo in 1950 - and that was 997 races ago!
- Vettel has been beaten by a team member for the first time since the 2011 Brazilian GP, Leclerc outpacing his Ferrari mate
- Ricciardo's brief tenure in the lead was Renault's first time this decade, the previous instance coming in the 2009 Singapore GP

Racing Line.

"That was unfortunate for Charles, he drove a great race," said Hamilton. "We've got work to do to keep these guys off our tails. It must be devastating for Charles."

The results (top-10): 1. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) 1hr 34min 21.836sec; 2. Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes) +2.980; 3. Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) 6.131; 4. Max Verstappen (Red Bull) 6.408; 5. Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari) 36.068; 6. Lando Norris (McLaren) 45.754; 7. Kimi Raikkonen (Alfa Romeo) 47.470; 8. Pierre Gasly (Red Bull) 58.094; 9. Alexander Albon (Toro Rosso) 1:02.697; 10. Sergio Perez (Mercedes) 1:03.696.

Best lap: Leclerc (Ferrari) 1:33.411, 38th.

Standings after two rounds (top-5): Drivers: 1. Bottas (44 points); 2. Hamilton (43); 3. Verstappen (27); 4. Leclerc (26); 5. Vettel (22).

Constructors (top-5): 1. Mercedes (87); 2. Ferrari (48); 3. Red Bull (31); 4. Alfa Romeo (10); 5. McLaren (8).

Australia makes it 5-0

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE DUBAI

Australia defeated Pakistan by 20 runs in the fifth and final ODI here on Sunday, sweeping the series 5-0.

Australia rode on a solid 98 by Usman Khawaja and a 33-ball 70 by Glenn Maxwell to post 327 for seven in 50 overs before Pakistan managed 307 for seven despite Haris Sohail's 130.

This was Australia's eighth straight ODI win.

The results: Australia 327 for seven in 50 overs (Usman Khawaja 98, Aaron Finch 53, Shaun Marsh 61, Glenn Maxwell 70, Usman Shinwari four for 49) bt Pakistan 307 for seven in 50 overs (Haris Sohail 130, Shan Masood 50, Imad Wasim 50, Umar Akmal 43, Beherendorff three for 63).



Unstoppable: Roger Federer showed no mercy to a hobbling John Isner in winning his fourth Miami Open crown. ■ AP

don winner at age 15, will rise from 11th to No. 9 in the world rankings and become the first Australian woman since Sam Stosur in June 2013 to crack the top 10.

"It feels like it's a long time ago now since I took the break and since I came

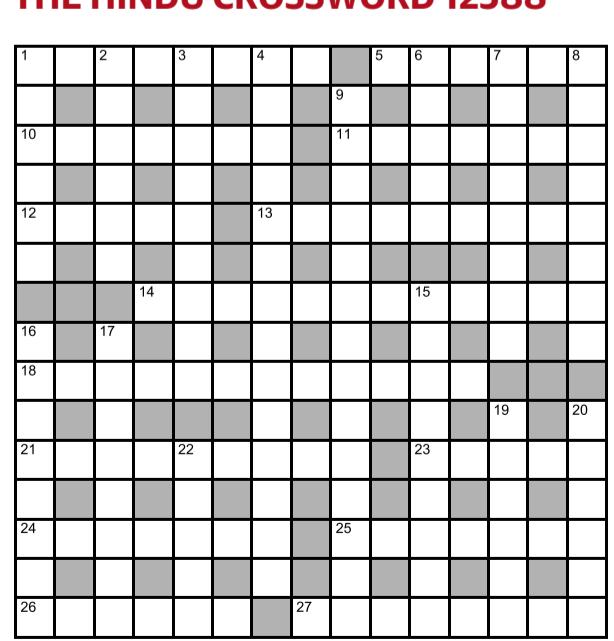
back," said Barty, who also reached the doubles semifinals at the Hard Rock Stadium with Victoria Azarenka.

The results (final):

Men: Roger Federer bt John Isner 6-1, 6-4.

Women: Ashleigh Barty bt Karolina Pliskova 7-6(1), 6-3.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12588



ACROSS

- Illegal salesman chasing pretty girl endlessly? Stop doing that! (3,2,3)
- Single, hot, enters party bringing back cravings (6)
- Stabbed! Left behind weapon (7)
- Inamorata sadly abandoned at European country (7)

(set by Dr. X)

- Scoundrel involved in ridiculous plan (5)
- Pest is tottering, about to fall in a drunken state (9)
- Wearing more casual clothes leads to a severe reprimand (8-4)
- Trick to entice a sprinter perhaps (4,1,4,3)
- Struggle in Fashion Street for dining accessory (9)
- Irritate and run after female for a little smooch (5)
- Associate lost earliest invented weapon for spearing fish (7)
- Unhappily moaned about a little beer belly (7)
- Character killing wife in fight about an Italian man (6)
- Kiddy on vacation breaks small window in roof (8)
- Creepy-crawly boulder trapped by spies (6)
- Person of great importance embraces one Italian painter (6)
- What emcee delivers in PowerPoint routinely (5)

SUDOKU

			5	8				
8	3				2	6		
			2		1	9		
3	9				7	6		
6						9		
2	8				3	5		
8		4			9			
7	3				4	1		
			1	5				

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12587

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	6	9	1	4	2	3	8	7
1	4	8	7	3	9	2	6	5
2	3	7	5	8	6	4	9	1
8	2	3	4	6	5	1	7	9
7	1	6	8	9	3	5	4	2
9	5	4	2	7	1	8	3	6
6	9	2	3	5	4	7	1	8
3	8	1	6	2	7	9	5	4
4	7	5	9	1	8	6	2	3

FAITH

Importance of raja vidya

In chapter nine of the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna tells Arjuna about bhakti yoga. The Lord calls it raja vidya. It is the king among vidyas, and hence the name. But in that case, it should be vidya raja. Why is it called raja vidya? The central incisors are referred to as rajadanta, because they are considered the most important teeth. Vedanta Desika points to this Sanskrit usage. This usage clearly shows that saying raja vidya is correct, explained V.S. Karunakarachariar, in a discourse. However, the word raja should not be interpreted in the narrow sense of referring to a ruler. That would limit this vidya only to kings. The word raja is used to indicate that this is a vidya for anyone with thoughts of a higher order. Anyone not preoccupied with mundane things, who wants to keep his mind on a higher plane automatically becomes a fit person to receive knowledge about this vidya.

The Bhagavad Gita can be difficult to understand, and to simplify it for us, Alavandar summarised its salient points in his Gitarthra Sangraha. Ramanujacharya, of course, wrote a bhashya (commentary) for the Gita. Vedanta Desika wrote the Tatparya Chandrika, explaining the Bhagavad Gita.

The Bhagavad Gita begins with Arjuna's confused state of mind. He tells Krishna to drive the chariot and place it between the two opposing armies, so that he (Arjuna) can look round and see the people he has to fight. Seeing on the opposite side the elders of his family, his teachers and kith and kin, Arjuna says he will not fight. How can he kill his own people, he wonders. Krishna then tells him that he will not be killing them, because the atma cannot be killed. But why is an entire chapter devoted just to Arjuna's doubts? The reason is because doubts constitute the starting point of acquiring knowledge.

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 5.30 a.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1, 2 & Select 1 (SD & HD), 8 p.m.
Super Cup: Star Sports 3, 8 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 & 2, 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

IN BRIEF



Harden fuels Rockets over Kings

LOS ANGELES James Harden's 50-point triple-double powered Houston Rockets to a 119-108 victory over the Sacramento Kings in the NBA on Saturday. Harden, the reigning NBA Most Valuable Player, scored 50 points, pulled down 11 rebounds and handed out 10 assists as the playoff-bound Rockets fended off a Kings squad that was officially eliminated from post-season contention with the defeat.

The results: New York 92 lost to Miami 100; Detroit 99 bt Portland 90; Indiana 116 lost to Orlando 121; Chicago 101 lost to Toronto 124; Minnesota 109 lost to Philadelphia 118; Phoenix 115 lost to Memphis 120; Brooklyn 110 bt Boston 96; Houston 119 bt Sacramento 108; LA Clippers 132 bt Cleveland 108.



LeBron James to sit out for rest of season

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles Lakers, eliminated from NBA playoff contention, said on Saturday that superstar LeBron James will sit out the rest of the regular season. The Lakers said the move is being made to ensure that the groin injury suffered by 34-year-old James in a Christmas Day game can fully heal. "After consulting with our team doctors we have decided to hold LeBron out of games for the remainder of the season," Lakers executive Magic Johnson said in a statement. AFP



Dimuth Karunaratne arrested after accident

COLONBO Sri Lanka Test cricket captain Dimuth Karunaratne has been arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol after an accident in the capital, police said on Sunday. Karunaratne, 30, was taken into custody following the pre-dawn accident that resulted in the driver of a three-wheel taxi being taken to hospital. "We have released him on personal bail, but has been asked to be in court on Monday for a magisterial inquiry," a police spokesman said, adding that his vehicle was detained. AFP

Axelsen emerges victor over Srikanth

Ratchanok Intanon defeats He Bingjiao in a one-sided contest to win the women's title

INDIA OPEN

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Viktor Axelsen continues to be on a roll. Looking fiercely determined to win back his World No. 1 spot, the lanky Dane got the measure of K. Srikanth after saving two game-points to regain the men's singles title in the India Open badminton here on Sunday.

The World No. 4, who won 15 straight points to open a 3-0 lead in the second game, battled from 18-20 down to win 21-7, 22-20.

This was Srikanth's fourth defeat to Axelsen in five encounters since March 2017.

After Srikanth failed to retrieve from his back-hand, Axelsen was quick to toss away his racquet and black T-shirt into the crowd.

Jubilation

In the time between he won the match and received the trophy, medal and the cheque of \$26,500, Axelsen kept pumping his fist in jubilation, a reflection of what it meant for him to the title again.

In 2017, Axelsen won here



On top: Viktor Axelsen stopped K. Srikanth in the final to regain the men's crown.

*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and went on to claim the World title.

On a day of one-sided finals, the 2013 champion and former World champion Ratchanok Intanon, too, regained the women's singles title by stopping China's He Bingjiao 21-15, 21-14 in a contest that did not rise to expectations.

For Srikanth, who won in 2015 by beating Axelsen in the final, the biggest takeaway from the 36-minute defeat was the way he fought back from 9-12 in the second game to hold two game-points.

The match, where some of the rallies were played at a furious pace, saw the players

fight on an even keel in the second game after Axelsen ran away with the opening game in just 11 minutes.

Fightback

Srikanth who got his confidence back following some fine touch-play at the net in the second game, forced several errors from the Dane

Azlan Shah Cup 2019

SPECIAL AWARDS

Fairplay: Japan

Top-Scorers: Mandeep Singh (India) and Jang Jong-hyun (South Korea) seven goals

Player-of-the-tournament: Surender Kumar (India)

Runner-up: Thrice [2008, 2016, 2019].

Third Place: Seven times [1983, 2000, 2006, 2007, 2012, 2015, 2017]

Olympic qualifiers first challenge for Reid: Gomes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

Hockey Olympian Marcellus Gomes sees the qualifiers for the 2020 Tokyo Games as the first major challenge for new national men's coach Graham Reid.

Set to take over

Reid, an Australian, is set to take over as the coach of the senior men's team following the exit of Harendra Singh from the post after the last World Cup in Bhubaneshwar.

"The most important thing for him is to ensure that the team qualifies (for

the 2020 Tokyo Olympics) and the qualifying round is important," he said.

M.M. Somaya felt that with Reid set to take charge, the Australian style of play could come into effect which would help the national team.

Graham Reid is an experienced coach and he will probably get some of the Australian style of play and that (could be) beneficial," said Somaya.

Gomes also was of the opinion that Reid would need to adapt to the Asian style of play.

Bjerregaard gets the better of Tiger

WGC MATCH PLAY

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Tiger Woods won a dramatic morning showdown with Rory McIlroy only to be upset by Denmark's Lucas Bjerregaard in Saturday's quarterfinals of the WGC Match Play golf Championship.

Woods, seeking a fourth WGC Match Play title, defeated McIlroy 2&1 in a morning knockout match only to fall 1-up to the 50th-seeded Dane, dropping the 18th hole when he missed a four-foot par putt.

"We read it inside left centre and it went left," Woods said. "It was just one of those weird spots. It's match play. They are going to put the pins in difficult spots and we just have to make the shots."

To meet Kuchar

Bjerregaard, who will face 23rd seed Matt Kuchar of USA in the semifinals, marvelled at his achievement and the crowds Woods drew.

"We had a great match. It's a shame it had to end like this," Bjerregaard said. "I enjoyed playing with him. It



Upset: Lucas Bjerregaard, right, marvelling at his achievement and the crowds Tiger Woods drew. ■ AP

ASIAN AIRGUN

Elavenil claims gold; Divyansh on top in 10m air rifle

SPORTS BUREAU

TAIWAN (CHINESE TAIPEI)

Elavenil Valarivan dominated the women's air rifle in winning the gold in the 12th Asian Airgun championships here on Sunday.

The 19-year-old Elavenil shot 250.5 in the final to edge out Ying-Shin Lin of Chinese Taipei by 0.3 point.

In partnership with Apurvi Chandela, who had won the Olympic quota in the World Championship last

year, apart from the World Cup gold in Delhi this season, and Meghana Sajjanar, Elavenil helped India to the team gold.

India's domination continued in men's air rifle as Divyansh Singh Panwar shot 249.7 and beat Kim Dajin of Korea by 2.3 points for the gold.

Ravi Kumar and Deepak Kumar, along with Divyansh, won the team gold.

India took its tally to 12 gold, four silver and two bronze medals.

The results: 10m air rifle: Men:

1. Divyansh Singh Panwar 249.7 (628.2); 2. Kim Dajin (Kor) 247.4 (624.1); 3. Shin Minki (Kor) 225.5 (620.0); 4. Ravi Kumar 204.8 (626.3); 6. Deepak Kumar 164.1 (626.2).

Team: 1. India (1880.7); 2. Korea (1862.3); 3. Chinese Taipei (1856.1).

Women: 1. Elavenil Valarivan 250.5 (630.0); 2. Lin Ying-Shin (Tpe) 250.2 (624.3); 3. Park Sunmin (Kor) 229.1 (627.88); 4. Apurvi Chandela 207.8 (625.4); 7. Meghana Sajjanar 143.3 (623.2); Team: 1. India (1878.6); 2. Chinese Taipei (1872.5); 3. Korea (1870.7).



Proud moment: The Indian shooters who won gold medals on Sunday with the coaches. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mithun, Aakanksha pocket titles



N. Mithun.

SPORTS BUREAU

VARANASI

N. Mithun of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra's Aakanksha Kadamb bagged the boys' and girls' titles in the National sub-junior carrom championship here.

Mithun defeated Moi-nuddin 15-1, 14-10 in the boys' final while Aakanksha registered a 21-0, 12-10 victory over R. Monisha.

The results: Sub-junior boys (final): N. Mithun bt Moi-nuddin 15-1, 14-10.

Semifinals: Moi-nuddin bt R. Sithik Raja 17-16, 7-14, 12-7; Mithun bt M. Kaushik 17-12, 19-18; Quarterfinals: Sithik bt Wakil Iqbal Hussain 19-16, 20-6; Moi-nuddin bt D. Hariharan 5-20, 14-4, 21-11; Kaushik bt Anirudha Chavan 18-14, 21-15; Mithun bt Faiz Qureshi 16-9, 21-9.

Sub-junior girls (final): Aakanksha Kadamb bt R. Monisha 21-0, 12-10.

Semifinals: Monisha bt H. Hasvika 21-7, 15-13; Aakanksha bt M. Khazima 13-20, 20-12, 13-12; Quarterfinals: Hasvika bt Sonali Kumari 15-11, 14-8; Monisha bt C.S.S. Raksha 19-0, 21-10; Aakanksha bt Sakhee Datar 19-6, 21-0; Vaidhavi bt M. Khazima 16-9, 21-9.

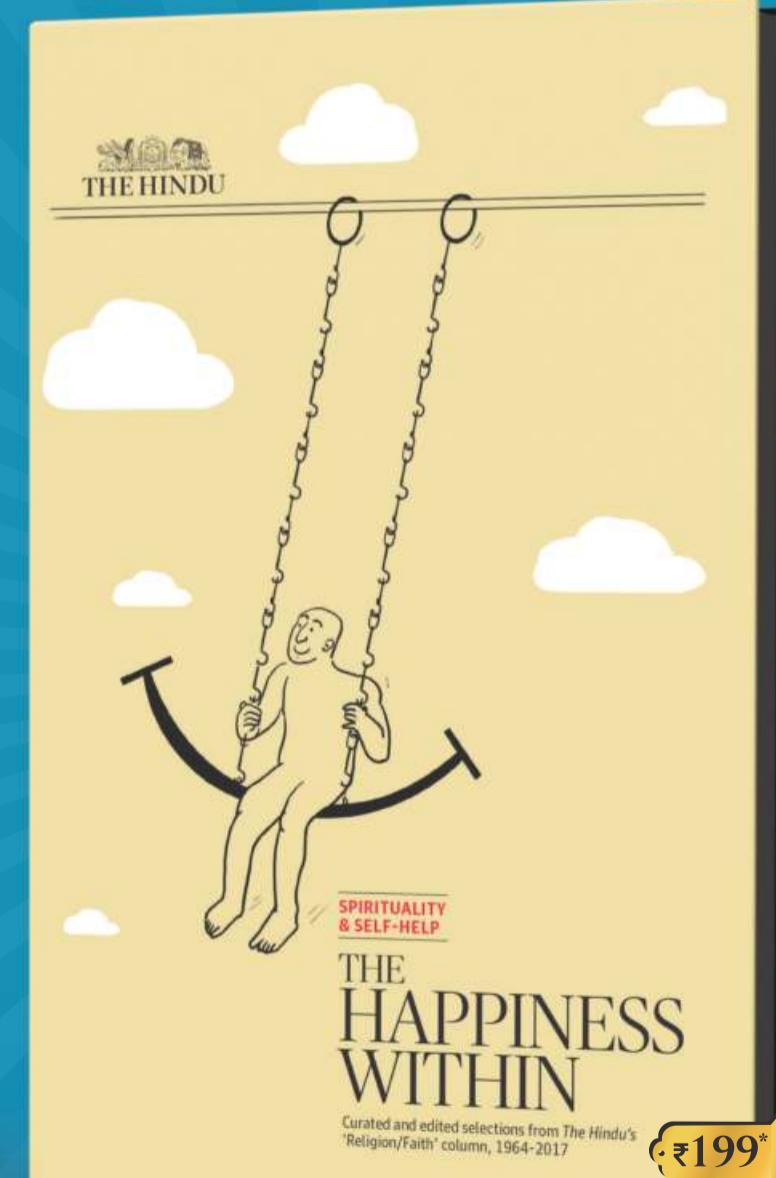
The results: Sub-junior boys (final): N. Mithun bt Moi-nuddin 15-1, 14-10.

Semifinals: Moi-nuddin bt R. Sithik Raja 17-16, 7-14, 12-7; Mithun bt M. Kaushik 17-12, 19-18; Quarterfinals: Sithik bt Wakil Iqbal Hussain 19-16, 20-6; Moi-nuddin bt D. Hariharan 5-20, 14-4, 21-11; Kaushik bt Anirudha Chavan 18-14, 21-15; Mithun bt Faiz Qureshi 16-9, 21-9.

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A selection from Religion / Faith columns published in The Hindu between 1964 & 2017



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India: Champion: Five times [1985, 1991, 1995, 2009, 2010 (shared); Runner-up: Thrice [2008, 2016, 2019].

Third Place: Seven times [1983, 2000, 2006, 2007, 2012, 2015, 2017]

MISHKA'S PRIDE ridden by A. Sandesh, won the J.D. & Peggy Banatwalla Trophy, the main event of Sunday's (March 31) races. The winner is M/S. Saleem A. Jasdanwalla, Ashley Bob, Peter C. D'Souza, Zaahir H. Mistri, Deepak Suryavanshi, Cowas D. Bajan, Bal Krishan Agarwal & Vivek Sett. Imtiaz A. Sait trains the winner.

IV, rated 20 to 46; **CORMORANT** (Trevor) 1, Dance The Dream (Sandesh) 2, Who'syourdaddy (Zervan) 3 and Myrcella (Zeehan) 4, 2, 8 and 1/2, 1m, 23.65s, £20 (w), 12, 12 and 13 (p). SHP: 29, FP: 47, Q: 22, Tanala: 155 and 113. Favourite: Cormorant. Owners: Mr. & Mrs. Sharopoff P. Mistry rep. Manjiri Horse Breeders' Farm Pvt. Ltd., M/S. Vinay Kumar & Cowas D. Bajan. Trainer: Faisal A. Abbas.

V R MENON PLATE (2,000m), Cl. V, rated 20 to 43; **MYSTERS' VICE** (Sandesh) 1, Romanesque (Neeraj) 2, Wizard Of Odds (Dashrath) 3 and Power Of Thor (Nazil) 4. Not run: Strong Values 1-3/4, 1-1/2 and NK, 2m, 5.57, £25 (w), 11, 17 and 16 (p). SHP: 35, FP: 54, Q: 17; Tanala: 56.



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AIR 3 ROHIT KHANNA PI	AIR 4 CHETAN HANAKANHALI EC	AIR 4 CHAITANYA KUMAR EC	AIR 4 ARJUNDAS K IN	AIR 3 IDRIS MANAQIBWALA CE
AIR 5 RUTVIK LATTHIA XE	AIR 6 PRIYANSHU SHARMA EC	AIR 6 HARI SHRAWGI CSIT	AIR 6 RAMESH KAMULLA IN	AIR 3 SHUBHAM MAURYA EC
AIR 7 SHUBHAM MITTAL EE	AIR 7 SAISH KALASKAR IN	AIR 7 SHWETA YADAV IN	AIR 7 AMIT LAL SHAH PI	AIR 3 PRATEEK AGARWAL CSIT
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				AIR 3 AYUSH JHAM PI
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				AIR 7 AYUSH JHAM PI
				AIR 7 DEEPIKA ROY EE
				AIR 9 B. SREEKAR IN
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Education is learning what you didn't even know you didn't know.

DANIEL J. BOORSTIN



Australia's Gold Coast is fast emerging as a top-notch educational force to reckon with, due to its world-class universities

■ TREVOR JACKSON

Traditionally, the Gold Coast has long been Australia's favourite holiday destination. While this stunning city by the sea is still popular among holiday-makers, the significant investment and subsequent growth, over recent years, has seen the Gold Coast emerge as a new-world city.

Nowhere has this newfound maturity been more obvious, than within the Gold Coast's education sector. The city is home to three world-class, research-intensive universities, each providing a unique offering to students.

Bond University is privately operated, and sits in the Top 20 Best Small Universities of the World, according to the Times Higher Education rankings. The university is also rated as the number one university in Australia for student experience with five-star ratings, in every student category of the 2018 Good Universities Guide.

Popular courses

Around 40% of Bond's population are international students, with the number of Indian students surging over the past three years, on an average increase of 20 per cent, per annum. The most popular courses for Indian students, at Bond University, are business, project management, construction practice and accounting.

The university's new Master of Business Data Analytics (Professional) is expected to be particularly popular with Indian students. The programme began in January, this year, and enrolments from India are already strong. Students first learn technical skills, including the R and Python languages most commonly used in the development of data programming, after which they focus on practical application, based on actual business problems in industries, such as health, marketing and finance.

Exposure to expertise

In Bond's trademark small classes, students are mentored by Aus-



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

GOLD RUSH



Strong: Enrolment from India rising

tralia's leading economists, statisticians, financial analysts and mathematicians, including Professor Steven Stern, custodian of cricket's Duckworth Lewis Stern (DLS) system for rain-affected matches.

"Skills in data analytics are in such high demand that it is a popular area for continuing professional development. As the modern world transitions itself to the information age and economy, there is essentially no area of modern business that is free of

data-based decision-making, meaning that the most important component of any successful business, regardless of size or industry, will be its ability to mine its modern storehouse of customer and market information into gains, for the company's efficiency and productivity," says professor Stern.

Griffith University has more than 50,000 students across Queensland, with the Gold Coast hosting its largest campus. The

university ranks in the top two % of universities globally, and is recognised as one of the world's top young universities. Interest in studying at Griffith University's Gold Coast campus is growing among prospective students as to what the university and the City of the Gold Coast has to offer, as a study destination.

Located opposite the site of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games village, Griffith's Gold Coast campus is a core partner in

the Gold Coast's \$ 5 billion health and knowledge precinct development that is attracting multinational companies, keen to take advantage of the expertise available and the outstanding graduates.

Griffith offers a comprehensive range of programmes and disciplines at its campus, including leading programmes in health, IT and engineering, science and business, as well as law and social sciences.

Professor Sarah Todd, Vice President (Global), Griffith University says, "We have Indian students coming to our Gold Coast campus to study IT and engineering, business, sports management, health services management and architecture, as well as in a number of other areas. With Griffith University continuing to progress in the international rankings, we offer Indian students the opportunity to study on a modern campus where they are

supported to achieve their potential."

Southern Cross University, is Australia's only beachside campus. It is the newest of the Gold Coast's universities and is ranked in the top 150 universities under 50 years old, in the world, according to the Times Higher Education Young University rankings.

Options galore

Popular Southern Cross University programmes include Bachelor of Business, Bachelor of Information Technology, Bachelor of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Master of Engineering Management/Master of Business Administration double degree, and Master of International Tourism and Hotel Management.

Located right next door to the Gold Coast International Airport, Southern Cross University also offers a three-year Bachelor of Business (aviation management) with a fully-credited CASA Commercial Pilot Licence. Sanjeet Karkada is an expatriate Indian student, who had always dreamt of becoming a pilot and is undertaking the course.

Sanjeet says, "When you first get in the cockpit of the plane, you can feel a little overwhelmed with all the buttons and controls. "But once you are in the air, it is beautiful. You don't feel nerves, you just enjoy every moment."

Southern Cross has a substantial community of students from the sub-continent, particularly from India and Nepal. Don Whitford, the University's regional manager of South Asia, Middle East and Africa, says, "Southern Cross University welcomes international students from more than 60 countries, and students from South Asia form an important part of our international student cohort."

The writer is content editor, Study Gold Coast

VOICES

Change for the better

What aspects of the western education system can be adapted by India? Students and faculty share their views



NIDHI BANSAL, PRO-VICE CHAIRPERSON, PACIFIC WORLD SCHOOL, GREATER NOIDA

SAHIL CHHABRA, UGFD, PEARL ACADEMY, NEW DELHI

VEENA GOEL, PRINCIPAL, APEE-JAY SCHOOL, PITAMPURA, DELHI

TUSHAR ARORA, X, GURU HARIKRISHAN PUBLIC SCHOOL, NEW DELHI

The Indian education system needs to focus more on realistic terms; there are subjects which cannot be taught, but can only be learnt by experience. Moreover, the syllabus should be revised and updated constantly. Focus should be on educating students instead of making them cram, in order to top a class of 50. It also needs to be student-friendly, as students will learn only when they are comfortable, and not terrified of their tutors.

The Indian education system reveres the *guru*. In ancient times, the teacher was believed to provide all the answers, and his/her word was the law.

We must change our education style and overall education scenario.

The reverence of the *guru* is still intact, but today, learners and the *guru* seek answers together.

No one is going to interview us with a list of questions on what we studied in school. When we talk about changing the system, we must bring technology in focus.

Western education is more practical, application-based and has more room for creativity. This approach, if woven into the Indian system, will make it unparalleled globally.

Online learning is fast developing; eventually, western education is successful because of better system of management.

Focus should be on educating students instead of making them cram.

SAHIL CHHABRA

Law School Admission Test-India

The Law School Admission Test-India (LSAT-India), an entrance test for undergraduate and postgraduate law programmes is scheduled to be held on June 2. Pearson VUE delivers the exam in collaboration with the U.S.-based Law School Admission Council (LSAC). Kellye Testy, President and CEO, LSAC, USA said, "To provide law aspirants sufficient opportunity to take the LSAT-India, and in light of Lok Sabha

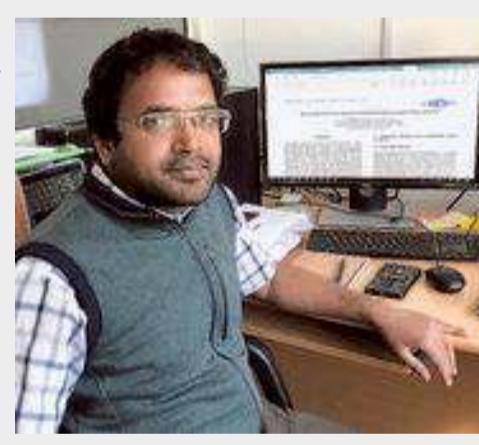
General Elections in April and May, LSAC has decided to move the date of LSAT-India to June 2."

Divyalok Chetan Sharma, senior director, Pearson VUE said, "We make law aspirants' schedules a top priority and continually work to provide as much convenience and flexibility as possible." Applicants can register on www.pearsonvueindia.com/lsatindia.

URSI Young Scientist Award

Indian Institute of Technology Mandi's G. Shrikant Reddy, Assistant Professor in School of Computing and Electrical Engineering, was recently awarded 'The International Union of Radio Science (URSI) - Young Scientist Award 2019', for his substantial contribution to radio science.

He was presented the award by the URSI Society during the 2019 URSI Asia Pacific Radio Science Conference (APRASC-2019), held recently, at New Delhi. The honour bestowed upon scientists/research-



ers who are under 35 years of age, and have contributed substantially to the area of electromagnetic waves and propagation. Shrikant Reddy, said, "Such awards will motivate young researchers to work in the area of radio science and electromagnetism. Since these are the days where high speed communication and robust connectivity are in great demand, conferences like this will bridge the gap between cutting-edge technology and society."

SCHOLARSHIPS

MSC Scholarship Research programme

Marine Stewardship Council, London is providing five scholarships to students who are studying fisheries' science and management or supply chain traceability, from any part of the world, to promote the innovative and scientific problem-solving initiatives in the field.

ELIGIBILITY: Indian undergraduate and postgraduate students, willing to undertake projects for problems and solutions in the field can apply.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: The programme provides scholarship grant worth GBP 4,000 for travel and research support for the

selected student projects

APPLICATION: Online
DEADLINE: April 07
<http://www.b4s.in/EDGE/MSR3>

Inlaks Scholarships

Inlaks Shivdasani Foundation will provide scholarships to Indian graduates, applying for postgraduate courses from universities in America, Europe and the U.K. The foundation will also cover their academic expenses of tuition fees, living expenses and travel costs.

ELIGIBILITY: Indian graduates below 30 years of age, with accepted admissions at top-rank institutions.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: The scholarship award covers

complete tuition fees including travel, accommodation, and living expenses throughout their course duration, for a scholarship limit of US\$1,00,000.

APPLICATION: Online
DEADLINE: April 15
<http://www.b4s.in/EDGE/IS71>

Charpark Master's programme, France

Campus France company will provide Indian students with an opportunity to get scholarships to pursue their master's degree in France, which covers their academic, living, and travel expenses, among other benefits.

ELIGIBILITY: Indian nationals with a graduation degree, or employed profession-

als with work experience of not more than three years, seeking admission to master's courses, applying for or already accepted for master's degree courses in France may apply. Applicants must not be above 30 years of age.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Tuition fee support up to € 5,000, medical insurance coverage of up to € 300 p.a., and living allowance of up to € 700, one-time airfare, student visa expenses, and assistance for accommodation.

APPLICATION: Online
DEADLINE: April 15
<http://www.b4s.in/EDGE/CMP5>

Courtesy:
www.buddy4study.com

Embrace the Essentialist outlook

Do less, achieve more — let go of the notion that only if you work hard can you do it all



GETTY IMAGES



THINK

ARUNA SANKARANARAYANAN

In addition to your usual college course load, you join the debate, drama and quizzing societies. As you are an active member in each one, your days are packed.

Though you are already stretching yourself thin, you decide to do a part-time internship at a local startup, after college hours, three days a week. As you hadn't expected to get the internship when you applied, you now feel compelled to take up the offer. But, as you are loath to forsake any activity, you find yourself on a

very tight rope.

And, sure enough, you begin to slip up. First, you are late in submitting your record work. Then, unlike your usual stellar accomplishments, your marks on tests are below average.

To add to your woes, the head of the quizzing society pulls you up for missing two meetings in a row. When you take part in a debate, your performance is lacklustre. Just when the work at the startup gets interesting, you contract a nasty flu. Being forced to rest in bed gives you a much-needed respite to assess your situation objectively.

Prioritise

You have taken up an insurmountable load that it is simply not possible to do justice to your commitments. Business

consultant and author, Greg McKeown, advocates the less is better principle, and urges you to become what he calls an 'Essentialist'. He says that if want to succeed, you have to "give yourself permission to stop trying to do it all" so that you "can make your highest contribution towards the things that really matter." In other words, you need to evaluate how you are investing your time and energy, and prioritise things that are most significant. By opting to do what is essential and weeding out the rest, you can make a

more meaningful contribution.

In order to embrace an Essentialist outlook, let go of the notion that can do it all if you simply work harder. If you keep pushing yourself by taking on more, soon enough you will reach breaking point. Besides your work getting slipshod, you will also compromise your health. Instead of aiming to do more, pick and choose what you take on. Given that there is limited time, make judicious choices on how you want to spend your day.

To make the most prudent selection, first, be open to all available possibilities. But before committing to an activity or duty, ask yourself if these tasks inspire you. Do they tap your talents or fulfil a need within you?

Don't feel guilty when you eliminate extraneous activities. McKeown exhorts us to switch from the "undisciplined pursuit of more to the disciplined pursuit of less."

Ironically, success can compel you to assume more responsibilities as you feel confident of handling more tasks. But as you assume more duties without necessarily assessing your impact, your efforts may get diluted and you may grow increasingly distracted. McKeown refers to this as the "paradox of success." So, even when the going is good, be discerning of the choices you make. And, this involves learning to say 'No', firmly but politely, to activities or commitments that detract from your most salient goals. Eminent management guru, Peter Drucker, once said in an interview, "People are effective because they say 'no,' because they say 'this isn't for me.'"

Take stock of your progress and periodically review your objectives, which may change in subtle or profound ways. Being in touch with yourself will help distinguish essential from superfluous goals.

The author is Director, PRAYATNA.
arunasankara@gmail.com

Options aplenty



OFF THE EDGE

NANDINI RAMAM

I am a class XII humanities student, who is in the process of writing my board exams in English, Hindi, political science, geography, history, and physical education. I don't know what I want to do after class XII, as I do not know my field of interest. I am a good listener, I can give good advice, and love reading. Other than that, I don't know what I want to do. Please guide me about the different fields which are unique. - Divya Shrivastava

Dear Divya,
I hope you have completed your board exams and finally have some time to breathe and keenly think about your field of interests. Since you are a good listener and can give sound advice and love to read, do you want to consider psychology or law? Both are pretty unique and have brilliant scope. English literature is also a good option. What do you really enjoy? Would you want to teach? Do you see yourself being a therapist, or someone in the advertising world, an event manager? Or do you want to specialise in mass communication, work with a leading business house, or be a journalist? Please meet an equipped career counsellor to help you narrow your search with your interest and skill sets.

I am 21 years old and have completed my B.E. in EEE. I got a job through college placements, but wasn't interested in the software job. My passion was always helping people, so I opted for teaching. During B.E., I took tuitions for school students. Presently, I am working as a math faculty in a private institution, but I want to do something to improve people's life and for my country. I am the only earning member in my middle-class family. How can I improve my career? - Subha Sri

Dear Subha Sri,
What else in addition to teaching would you like to do, in order to make a difference? Please shortlist specific areas of interest and skill sets that you would want to develop (whilst working). Many reputed universities offer online courses, specialised programmes through distant education in social work, public health and administration, counselling psychology and master's in many disciplines like math, for example. Alternatively, there are also organisations (like Teach For India) that are supportive of young adults and that you can join part-time till you find your calling. You could also join the Indian Army, Navy, or Air Force with your B.E credits, as a direct entry. Think of where you see yourself in the next few years and what makes you wake up effortlessly to be charged and ready for a bright new day; you will find your answer.

I am currently pursuing my third year in B.A.(Hons.) English, from Delhi University. I am least interested in pursuing M.A. in literature and am considering an MBA in international business or HR. Is there any scope for me? I have studied science in higher secondary. What should I do? - Tina Shah

Dear Tina,
MBA in international business is a great choice as you can pursue a career as an international trade specialist, an economist, or specialise in marketing and sales or business development or supply chain, become a risk management director, or even run your own business, eventually.

An MBA in human resource management, on the other hand, can equip you with the knowledge and skills that you need to deal with high stress situations and develop talent within an organisation. HR is, by far, the most important department of any organisation. Everything from hiring to firing, and in between, is taken care of by HR. HRM extends great potential for employee and company schemes, recruiting, increasing employee benefits, reworking effective policies, appraisals, designing and engaging in training and development, enhancing job stability and improving overall job satisfaction of the office employees.

Sunil is not at all worried about tomorrow's presentation. He's made many before. This is not his first rodeo.

Don't worry. Hema is not going to be nervous. This ain't her first rodeo. She's been in several finals before this.

What is the difference between 'godown' and 'warehouse'? (K Manjula, Trichy)

In terms of meaning, very little. Both words can refer to a relatively large building that can be used to store materials of different kinds. Native speakers of English also use the word 'warehouse' to refer to any large store, retail or wholesale, which sells a product at a low price. Although the two words are listed in most dictionaries, all of them suggest that 'godown' is mostly limited to eastern Asia; it is most frequently

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MY COLLEGE YEARS

'Find the balance'

College has played a major role in actor Kabir Bedi's life, influencing his career and life choices, both of which he is proud of

Kabir Bedi, an international actor, attended the book launch of *Lives of Freda*, at Asian College of Journalism, Chennai, where he had a conversation with students about his mother Freda Bedi, a British woman who fought for India's independence. The book has been penned by eminent journalist and former editor of BBC, Andrew Whitehead.

The actor talks about the various role models and influencers he's met along the way and why one must learn to be proud of the institution you are from, despite its people.

From the heart

My parents were idealists. We had no money in the family. I had to work my way through college. I was studying History honours at St Stephen's college in Delhi University. To earn some pocket money, I did commentary for AIR, read English news for television. Later, I even did a show called "Mirror of the world" on television. Remember, those were the earliest days of Indian television.

History was one of my favourite subjects and I followed that in my college as well. People asked me, 'What will you do with history?' I was always interested in where we came from. We had some great profes-

sors as well. Ameen Sahib, who taught us medieval history, was a phenomenal man. He should have become the principal, given his qualifications. But he couldn't because of circumstances. It was really unfortunate.

A lot of characters I played on screen have been inspired from characters of medieval history. I played Shahjahan and Tuglaq on stage and screen as well. When I moved to Bombay, I worked with a theatre group under Alyque Padamsee. All my training came from acting through stage.

You see, I could never become a conventional Bollywood superstar. I just couldn't sing and dance. I always considered myself more of a dramatic actor, Shakespearean in nature. Acting wasn't even my first choice. I wanted to be a filmmaker. That's why I had joined advertising after college, and worked for two big MNCs - Ogil-

vy and Lintas. I was their film chief for five years. But as fate would have it, Girish Karnad's first play "Tuglaq" became a major hit and producers came to sign me. I consoled myself saying that I could always come back to filmmaking.

I was always inspired by historical greats such as Gandhi and Tolstoy. I wasn't really moved to acting because of any Bollywood actors.

There were no filmmaking schools those days. So I always respect the institutions I came from. I learnt this from my mother. While in Tibet, she was teaching English to monks. But frankly, some of them were

absolutely worthless. I was extremely angry at my mother for bowing down to them. In reply, she said, "I bow down to the robe, not to the individual". Always be proud of the institution you are from, despite of its people.

I understand the pressure today's youth faces. The ridiculous practice of judging solely by marks is unfair not only to students but colleges as well. How can you judge someone from the marks they have scored? There are various types of skills!

I can only say this: Be clear of what you want to do and why. Don't search for a 'lucrative job'; search for a fulfilling one. Search for something that strikes a balance between the two. Second, ask yourself who is going to be the best father or mother to your child. If you get these two right, a major chunk of your problems won't even exist.

**As told to
Eetika Kapoor**



B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The ridiculous practice of judging solely by marks is unfair not only to students but colleges as well.

INITIATIVE

A leap of faith

A CEO at 28, and on the list of Forbes Asia 30 under 30, Gauri Angrish's journey is one of valuable experiences

JENNY VARGHESE

The healthcare industry, one that has vast and ample opportunities, can greatly benefit from the incorporation of technology. This is where the contribution of 28-year-old Gauri Angrish, founder and CEO of Caredose, a New Delhi-based MedTech company, comes in.

When Gauri was studying biotechnology, with a focus on cardiac stem cells, at the University of Nottingham in the U.K., her aim was to get into research. At the time of her return to India, however, stem cell research was neither as advanced as she had hoped for, nor was it as interesting. She then decided to expose herself to the business side of healthcare, joining McKinsey & Company in the pharmaceuticals and medical products vertical. "My job involved a lot of interaction with big pharmaceutical manufacturers, so that's where I realised that the problem of medicine non-adherence exists," says Gauri.

Medicine non-adherence, an unsolved problem in the healthcare industry, is when patients fail to take their prescribed medication due to



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Convenience at hand: A sample Caredose kit (top); Gauri Angrish

reasons such as incorrect dosage or instructions, failure to take it at the right time, or take it all together and so on. Having identified this problem, Gauri was unsure of how to solve it. She eventually quit her job to start Caredose in 2016, after running an independent pharmacy which helped her understand the business.

Caredose is an innovative system by which regular prescriptions, each dose precisely packaged, can be sent to patients with reminders and instructions on how to take them in the language understood by the patient. If a dose is skipped, alerts are sent to both the patient and the caregiver. It also monitors the daily medicine intake, data used by doctors when checking a patient's progress. Prescriptions are automatically refilled when they get over.

Caredose works with leading names in healthcare including MAX Healthcare, Apollo Hospitals, the World Health Organisation, USAID, and the Central TB Division, Government of India. To create Caredose, Gauri brought together an ideal team of two co-founders. Today, she has earned a spot on the Forbes Asia 30 under 30 for healthcare and science, and is a certified NASDAQ Milestone Maker.



- Caredose aims to solve the problem of medicine non-adherence.
- It is a system that ensures that patients take their medicines exactly as prescribed.
- The team works with leading names in the healthcare sector.

Possibilities galore

Gauri believes that healthcare is at an exciting period when the line between tradition and innovation is blurring. "I find it exciting," she says. "It's so dynamic and it has so many possibilities, that it's okay to be wherever you are, as long as you keep your mind open."

When considering the jobs in healthcare, Gauri says, "I will be a little biased towards the technology side, because my exposure does lie there." Biomedical engineering is also something she considers full of opportunity, especially when there is a combination of both medicine and technology. In today's day and age, data scientists and data analysts have a power of their own, and Gauri would urge people to focus on these areas. Artificial intelligence and machine learning are also making their way through the healthcare sector.

Takeaways

When asked about the tips for those heading down the start-up route, she says, "One of the most important things is to work with the right people – this goes beyond just the co-founders and extends to all the employees and the team as a whole. It makes a big difference when you share the load and responsibility with one another while having the same values and focus. Secondly," she continues, "Advisors, mentors and the people around you are important too. People who have a certain level of intelligence tend to believe that they know best. I don't think that's right, because we're all young and we're learning. It's important to evolve and get others' opinions on matters because sometimes they do know better. Lastly, the start-up world can be made to seem extremely glamorous sometimes – one of the things that drive an entrepreneur's focus away from what he or she is actually supposed to be doing."

Gauri believes that education isn't limited to being inside universities and classrooms. The experience in McKinsey taught her about the entrepreneurial aspect of things and the discipline needed to create her company. "Real education begins when you just jump," she says. "In reality, doing ground work actually teaches you what works and what doesn't," she signs off.

VALUE ADD

What's your narrative?

Universities look for an applicant's profile, not a resume, when considering a potential student. The Statement of Purpose should convince the evaluator

■ DEEKSHA TERI

Every person has his/her own strengths and weaknesses. Some people are good at learning, some people are better at being practical. There can be no set criteria of selecting students for admissions as there are students who might not score 90% but might be passionate for something other than studying set subjects.

In order to be fair to everyone, universities ask for a Statement of Purpose (SoP). It is an essay that a student writes when seeking admission to universities (especially universities abroad). This essay reflects a student's passion, work experience and the will to put his or her hundred percent in learning.

"Many universities follow a holistic assessment process. This would mean, that they would assess the respective student not just on tangible measures like marks obtained in competitive exams like Boards, SAT/ACT, or GMAT/GRE but also measures such as purpose, commitment level, fitment with programme, overall personality, and so on. All of these together are referred to as an applicant's narrative, profile or story. Application essays are purported to convey the applicant's story," says Abhishek Singhal, Co-Founder of



GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

Quick points to remember while writing an SoP:

- Why do you want to study this specific degree?
- Why do you want to study at this particular college?
- What do you plan to do with your degree after graduation?
- Would you choose to end up with a job or take up research?

process. Students should keep in mind that the evaluators are not looking for a mention of one's educational qualifications and work experiences. They are looking for what did you personally gain out

of those educational degrees and what you learnt while working in the said field. It is important to answer all the 'why's like why this university, why this course, why this country. Chalk out your goal for the evaluator and explain briefly how you plan to work towards that goal.

"An SoP is all about your independent thinking, experiences and failures, what helped you in becoming who you are today, and not just what you have mastered professionally, but also personally. If you go and venture your time in explaining your academic or professional achievements, it won't do. It is already there for you to write about in other parts of your application," says Adarsh Khandelwal, Co-Founder and Director at Collegify.

Universities abroad have opened their admission for their 2019 intakes, so, before it is too late, we suggest students prepare their statement of purposes and get ready to prove their candidature.

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To learn more, visit cambridgeinternational.org/march

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OFFBEAT... LUCRATIVE BEATS

Not your usual job

With newer and niche industries coming up, unconventional careers that cater to them are on the rise

■ ARCHANA SUBRAMANIAN

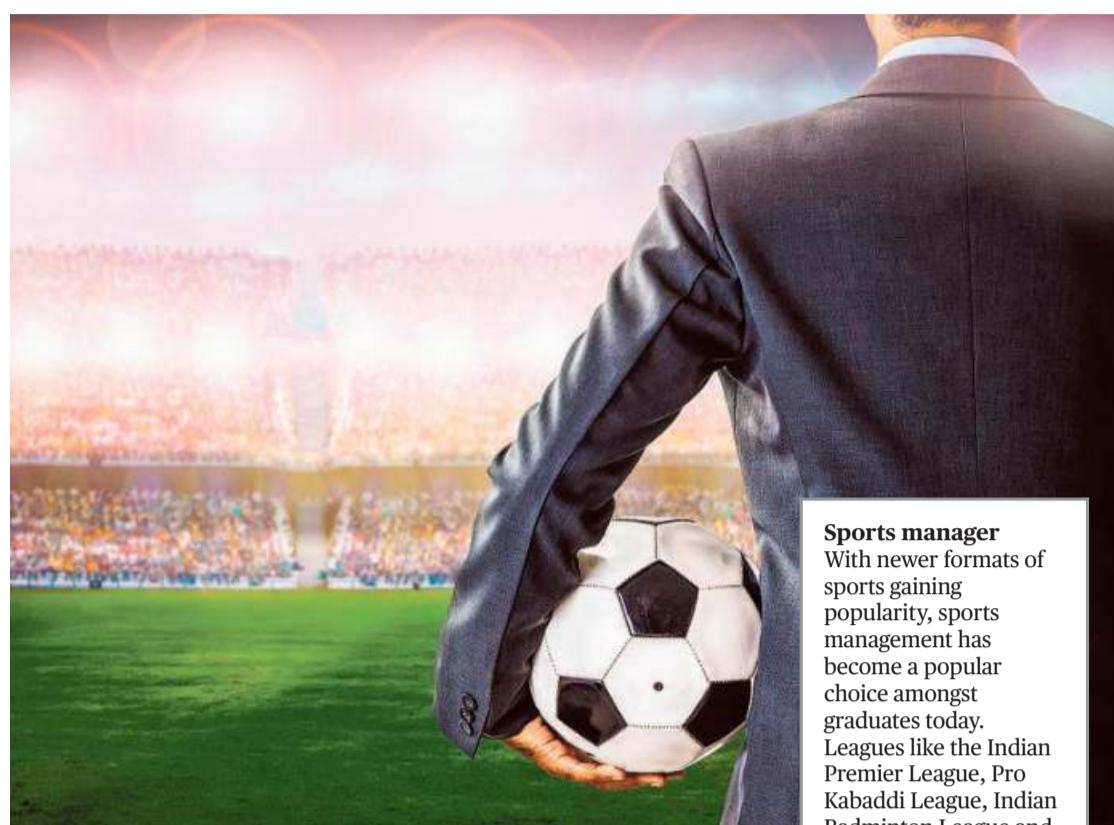
Deciding what you want to do for a living right after you have graduated from college can be quite daunting. It is common for us to think of our chosen field of study as the only means to a job. But what we do not realise is there are some really unusual, uncommon options out there for us to choose from, and they pay well too!

Here are a few options to get you to consider getting off the beaten track...



Golf ball diver

Are you someone who loves adventure, outdoors, and likes to take risks too? Then, you are a perfect candidate to be a golf ball diver. They are responsible for collecting all the golf balls from the bottom of ponds on golf courses. It may sound easy and fun, but the truth is that along with the balls, be assured to find other stuff too. But that's what makes it a lucrative choice as according to ESPN, golf ball divers can earn up to a \$1,00,000 dollars!



Be different: Find a career in something unexpected

Furniture tester
Imagine a job where all you have to do is simple sit all day. Sounds like fantasy, doesn't it? As a furniture tester, you will get to do just that! In addition, you do need to give your opinion on how comfortable the experience was. While machines can make the furniture, they cannot judge if humans will enjoy it. And that's why people are employed to do this. In fact, a variant of this is bed testing where people are hired to test beds – mattresses and pillows, to be specific – for companies and hotels. You are paid to sleep at work! A good bed tester must know how to lie down to check if the mattress has dips and if the edges of the bed are strong enough to sit on.



Pet food taster

Ever wondered what the food your dog is eating tastes like? As a pet food taster, it will be your job to know. You will have the responsibility of making sure our pets eat clean and good quality food. You will have to taste pet food to evaluate the flavours and check if it is up to quality standards. Nobody deserves bad food, and definitely not the favourite member of the family.



Wildlife photographer

If you enjoy photography and have a penchant for wildlife, becoming a wildlife photographer is a good idea. Touted to be one of the most challenging forms

of photography, you will need to have good skills. While a degree is not mandatory, you must be willing to travel and have a passion for nature. Contributing to travel and environment magazines like *National Geographic* or websites and television channels, can also be a lucrative option. Depending upon your shots, creativity, and sense of timing, you will be offered projects. You can earn anywhere from ₹1.25 lakhs to ₹2.5 lakhs per month.



Horse exerciser

Horse exercisers are individuals responsible for riding racehorses during workouts to keep the animals fit and race-ready. They must be skilled at controlling horses and need to be in top form fitness-wise

Sports manager

With newer formats of sports gaining popularity, sports management has become a popular choice amongst graduates today. Leagues like the Indian Premier League, Pro Kabaddi League, Indian Badminton League and many more, have provided a platform for sports persons as well as allied experts to grow. Sports managers are responsible for the athlete's mental, physical and financial health. This can mean doing everything from hiring fitness trainers, working out issues between the team and the player, overseeing legal contracts, and endorsements. They will also act as the spokesperson for their client. A sports manager can easily earn up to ₹1,00,000 a month.

to be able to give the horses a good workout. Being used as race horses, the riders must know the horse's running rate and plan their workouts accordingly. If you have certification and training you could start with a salary of ₹5000 a day.

EXAM PREP

Ace the JEE

Some last minute tips to breeze through the JEE Main and JEE Advanced tests

■ RAMESH BATLISH

Primary apprehensions
Q1 As the competition level will be high, will I able to make it?

The competition level will be stiff for everybody. Whether you can make it or not will depend upon the actual performance on the exam day. Put in sincere efforts, after practising a number of JEE Main questions. Focus on speed and accuracy. Believe in yourself.

Q2 I skipped a couple of topics. Should I start them now?

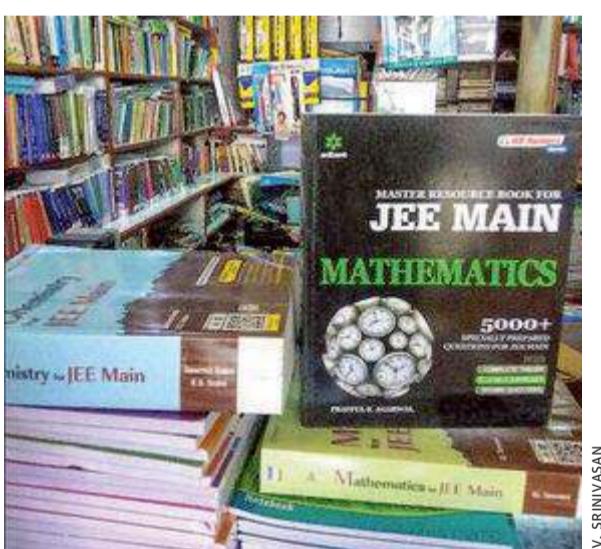
Don't start any fresh topic that you haven't read in the last one year or recent months. Revise formulas and practice as many questions as you can, from already studied topics.

Q3 What if paper's difficulty level increases?

If increases, it will be for every aspirant. From your end, be prepared as per the syllabi of JEE Main, and solve adequate number of questions. With your best efforts, you can secure a seat in any branch of National Institute of Technology (NIT), and qualify for JEE Advanced.

Q4 Where do I stand, as my friend's preparation is better than mine?

Selection in any competitive exam is based on one's preparation level, comprehensive and analytical



Be prepared: Insider tips and guides

skills, time management, and most importantly, the actual performance on the exam day. You cannot control your friend's performance, but you can certainly control yourself. If you give your best efforts, there will not be any need for comparison.

Q5 Are there any portals for mock tests?

Yes. The most famous web portal for mock tests is www.mypat.in. This will help you familiarise yourselves with strong and weak areas. Stay fit and healthy for the exam, as it enhances your performance.

Subject-wise preparation

Math

Keeping in previous year trends, co-ordinate geometry, algebra, and calculus are topics which need to be given more attention. Top-

ics such as mathematical reasoning, statistics and determinants, can be helpful in increasing your score. Refer to previous years' question papers for better understanding of what to expect.

Physics

Kinematics and particle dynamics are topics which are asked most often. As per trends, mechanics, electricity and magnetism are the topics from which questions are always asked. Thermodynamics is the most important chapter, both in physics and chemistry. Wave optics is a much smaller topic to cover, when compared to ray optics. Vectors need to be studied properly, as it troubles most students. Modern physics is theoretical, yet some scoring questions are frequently asked.

Chemistry

Conceptual clarity, ap-

Keep in mind

Carry your JEE Main 2019 admit card. Read the instructions on the admit card as you will not be allowed to carry any stationery such as pens, erasers writing boards, and so on. Be in bed by 10 or 10:30 p.m., and this should be added to your daily routine, a month before the exam.

Eat healthy and home-made food. Stay away from students who revise topics minutes before the exam.

Don't discuss your preparation with friends.

Read the instructions carefully, once you get the question paper.

Be mentally and physically prepared for everything.

Most importantly, believe in yourself.

plication skills, and awareness should be of focus. Special attention should be given to topics such as mole concept, chemical equilibrium, and electrochemistry. As far as inorganic chemistry is concerned, major topics such as chemical bonding, structures, processes, applications and coordination chemistry must be given special attention. First attempt theoretical questions before attempting those that require calculation.

The writer is IIT JEE expert, FITJEE

SKILLS

Stand out in the crowd

Follow these tips to ensure that your resume is effective, effusing clarity and focus

■ VINEY KIRPAL

Keep these points in mind while creating your resume.

CV vs resume

When Sachin Tendulkar is invited as the chief guest, he submits a curriculum vitae or CV, but when Sachin Vaikuntha, a graduate, applies for a job he submits a resume (pronounced /rezumay/ and not /rezum/).

Although curriculum vitae and resume often get used interchangeably, a curriculum vitae lists a person's achievements, awards, and honours. A curriculum vitae is two pages or more in length.

A resume is used by a job seeker and is never longer than a page. This does not mean using font size 8 to pack in information in one page, but to provide details relevant to a job or organisation.



the resume.

2 Write your job objective highlighting how you can contribute to the organisation's goals, in a simple, non-exaggerated way in less than 10 words.

3 Qualification:

Begin with the last degree first and briefly list your degrees from Class X/XI onwards, name of the college/university, place, and marks. You can use a table to save space and present information in a visually appealing manner.

4 Course and project details:

Title, business implications and benefits to the client

5 Skills:

Only those relevant to the job

6 Hobbies:

Just one or two to bring out an all-rounded personality. If you don't have hobbies, leave it blank or put in something simple such as listening to film music.

But do not fib. A student once mentioned classical music and one of the interviewers turned out to be a classical singer. The

student lost the opportunity as he couldn't answer any question on music.

Checklist

Once your resume is ready, check for the following before sending it. Does it:

- give a true description of your qualifications?
- match your beliefs?
- indicate preparation for stated career objective?
- reflect a realistic time span for fulfilling career goals?

If you follow these tips and write an organisation-specific resume with focus and structure, it will stand every chance of being considered an effective resume.

The writer is a trained coach and corporate consultant.

Internship fair

Internshala, India's largest internship and training platform, is organising summer internship fairs in five tier-II cities across India. The internship fairs would bring internship opportunities exclusively for the students pursuing BA, BCom, BSc, BBA, and other similar degrees. The fairs would offer in-office, part-time, and virtual internships across various profiles like content writing, business development, marketing, social media marketing, and operations. The first fair will be held in Jaipur on April 7, 2019, followed by Bhopal, Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, and Kochi in the coming months.

For those interested, registration can be done online at: <https://internshala.com/jaipur-internship-fair>

Staying ahead



The School of Management Studies – Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, had organised a three day international conference on Advancements in Technology, Business and Management in association with the University of

MISKOLC-Hungary

last week.

Dr. S. Sundar Manoharan, Vice Chancellor delivered the welcome address. Dr. T.

Sasipraba, Pro-Vice-Chancellor presented the highlights of the conference.

The themes included emerging research in innovative

technology, business and management. Over 400 academic research papers had been received in the conference themes including papers from Hungary, Erbil, Sultanate of Oman, Malaysia, Yogyakarta Indonesia, New Zealand, Brazil and Ethiopia.



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DELHI METRO



Abortion a right

Many mothers resort to unsafe methods of termination of pregnancy which at times prove fatal **Page 2**



Architectural theatre of NYC

Manhattan's skyline is changing, with art projects inspired by India's stepwells **Page 4**



Nurturing heritage-keepers

There's an increased need for museum curators in South Asia, and Khoj's programme is trying to bridge the gap **Page 5**



They are the champions

The documentary film *With This Ring* is an inspirational tribute to India's women boxers **Page 6**

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IN BRIEF



Bhondsi attack victims in shock over FIR
GURUGRAM
The Muslim family who were attacked in Bhondsi on March 21 are more shocked over the registration of FIR against its two members than the attack itself.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Restructuring landfills: Bhalswa follows Okhla

NEW DELHI
Having brought down the height of the Okhla landfill from 50 metres to about 38 metres and having stabilised the structure through a year-long 'remediation' process that started in March 2018, a similar project is now being undertaken at the Bhalswa landfill by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	182	Gurugram	173
Ghaziabad	223	Faridabad	111
Noida	180	Greater Noida	162
Good 0-50	51-100	Moderate 101-200	
Poor 201-300	301-400	Very poor >401	Severe
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) [SOURCE: CPCB]			

(AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) [SOURCE: CPCB]

Cold rush



A worker loads desert coolers on a rickshaw at a wholesale market near the Inderlok metro station. ■ ANUJ ARORA

Upset with makers of series on Nirbhaya case'

Says cop who was the SHO of police station where the case was registered in 2012

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

While Netflix series *Delhi Crime* has got rave reviews for its sensitive portrayal of the Nirbhaya gangrape case, Inspector Anil Sharma is upset with the makers and is planning to take the legal route against them for the depiction of a character based on him.

Mr. Sharma was the SHO of the Vasant Vihar police station where the case was registered in 2012 which had led to an outrage across the nation.

The police officer said he regularly met the victim when she was admitted in a hospital in the national capital and spent time with her.

He said he had not missed a single hearing in

C The series has maligned my reputation and I am considering whether I can go to court against them

ANIL SHARMA
Inspector

the case and is still in touch with the victim's family.

Director apologised

Mr. Sharma, who hasn't watched the series yet, claimed its director Richie Mehta has apologised to him, but he felt that the character's portrayal has hurt him.

Mr. Mehta had earlier said the show dramatises the incident and includes back stories of the police

personnel, the condition of the force, their power struggle with the bureaucracy and managing the scoop-hungry media.

The series depicts the Vasant Vihar SHO's character as an officer who is not trusted by his seniors and tries to shirk work, even when the team is racing against time to nab the culprits.

Later in the series, the character, christened Vinod, becomes more responsible and even makes a suggestion to the Deputy Commissioner of Police to go in for orthodontics technique, which was used for the first time in any case and helped nail the accused.

The technique matched the bite marks on the victim's body with the teeth

marks of the accused using dental casts.

The police officer said he is planning to initiate legal proceedings against the makers of the series.

Mr. Sharma, currently posted as the SHO of the Lodhi Colony police station, said that he had faced three inquiry commissions in the case and none of them found any laxity on the part of the police station.

"They, in fact, praised us. Even the courts praised the police's efforts. The series has maligned my reputation and I am considering whether I can go to court against them," he said.

Mr. Sharma said he is upset and even though the director, Richie Mehta, has apologised to him, he is not pacified.

A senior Department of Town and Country Planning Official told *The Hindu* that the houses scheduled to be demolished were vacated in adherence to March 31 deadline of the Supreme Court and the demolition would be carried out on Monday morning.

Undertaking given
"There are a total of 42 structures built on 44 plots in the township. Of these 24 people

had given undertaking in the Supreme Court to vacate their premises by July 31. Later, seven more gave the similar undertaking. The remaining 13 houses will now be demolished. We hope to complete the demolition in a single day," said the official.

The top court had on September 11, 2018, ordered demolition of houses built illegally in Kant Enclave, which lies in the protected forests of the Aravali, noting that

ship on Sunday evening and four more were on the way. The demolition will be carried out by a joint team of Department of Town and Country Planning, Municipal Corporation of Faridabad and Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Badkhal) under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner.

Deputy Commissioner Atul Kumar had on March 29 called the meeting of the affected residents at his office and told them to vacate their premises in adherence to the court order.

Vishisht Seva Medal awardee Brigadier (retd.) M.B. Anand, who has been spearheading the legal battle in the matter, said that it would probably be the first instance in the country when the houses in an authorised colony would be demolished.

Bulldozers arrive
The sources at the Kant Enclave said that two bulldozers had arrived at the town-

Decision on tie-up today, says Dikshit

'AAP-Cong talks stuck on seat sharing'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress president Sheila Dikshit on Sunday said that an official announcement about whether the party will have an alliance with the Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi would be announced on Monday.

She did not divulge any other information as she met scores of people who had come to wish at her residence on her birthday.

"You will get to know about it in a few hours, by this evening or by tomorrow [Monday]. There will be an official announcement," she told reporters outside her residence.

Late-night meeting
Those monitoring the developments closely were left waiting as there was no official announcement with a senior Congress leaders, however, saying that Congress president Rahul Gandhi was yet to take a decision.

Speculation that the Congress had arrived at a decision started after a late-night meeting was held on Saturday at Ms. Dikshit's re-



sidence that was attended by All India Congress Committee in-charge of Delhi P.C. Chacko and senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal.

Both leaders did not comment on the purpose of the meeting but Congress sources say that the meeting was called to discuss the names of candidates for the seven Lok Sabha seats if the Congress fights it out alone.

Sources said that alliance talks had hit a roadblock with both parties not agreeing on the seat-sharing formula. The Aam Aadmi Party has already announced its list of seven candidates and the BJP is expected to announce its candidates this week.

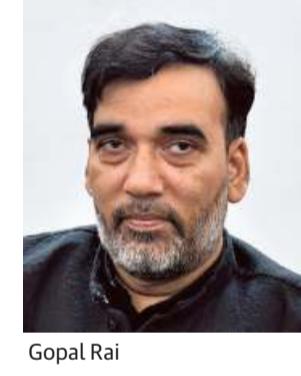
Cong trying to weaken Oppn parties fighting BJP, says AAP

It is fielding candidates in States to divide votes: Gopal Rai

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Sunday alleged that the Congress was trying to weaken the Opposition parties that were coming together to fight the threat to the nation posed by the "dictatorial regime" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"In Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and several other States, where the Opposition is strong, the Congress is fielding candidates to divide votes," alleged Delhi AAP convener Gopal Rai.



Gopal Rai

Needs to come clean'
"The Congress needs to come clean whether it is under some pressure of the Central government to split anti-BJP votes and if it was serious about removing a dictatorial regime," Mr. Rai said.

He added that anti-BJP parties were unable to understand what the Congress wanted to achieve by trying to divide the Opposition votes.

Confrontatory actions
He added that in Delhi and Haryana, the Congress had taken three months to decide on an alliance but was yet to take a call. Mr. Rai said that the actions of the Congress party were confrontatory to its publicly stated strategy that it was fighting to get rid of the BJP govern-

ment.

Mr. Rai said that by announcing that Congress president Rahul Gandhi was going to contest from the Wayanad parliamentary constituency in Kerala, where the Left Front is strong and the BJP has no presence, the Congress was giving mixed signals.

"Instead of concentrating on States where there is a direct BJP-Congress fight, the Congress is attacking regions which have presence

Kant Enclave houses to be pulled down today

Flats were vacated in adherence to March 31 deadline of the Supreme Court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
FARIDABAD

Thirteen houses at Kant Enclave, a 400-acre township housing bungalows of retired Army officers, former bureaucrats and senior advocates, are scheduled to be demolished on April 1. The demolition is being carried out in adherence to the Supreme Court order in September last year.

A senior Department of Town and Country Planning Official told *The Hindu* that the houses scheduled to be demolished were vacated in adherence to March 31 deadline of the Supreme Court and the demolition would be carried out on Monday morning.

Undertaking given
"There are a total of 42 structures built on 44 plots in the township. Of these 24 people



The Supreme Court had in 2018 ordered demolition of houses built illegally in Kant Enclave, which lies in the protected forests of the Aravali. ■ FILE PHOTO: MANOJ KUMAR

had given undertaking in the Supreme Court to vacate their premises by July 31. Later, seven more gave the similar undertaking. The remaining 13 houses will now be demolished. We hope to complete the demolition in a single day," said the official.

The top court had on September 11, 2018, ordered demolition of houses built illegally in Kant Enclave, which lies in the protected forests of the Aravali, noting that

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Only one in 10 abortions in Delhi are reported, say gynaecologists, with the official figures on termination of pregnancies hovering between 49,000 and 56,000 in last six years (2013 to December 2018), as disclosed by the Delhi Health Department in an RTI reply.

"This doesn't even come close to the actual figures that are rarely disclosed and kept extremely confidential," said gynaecologist Dr. Puneet Bedi.

While the official figures itself, according to doctors, are just an indication of the trend in the sector, what is more worrying is the fact that only 42 maternal deaths related to abortions have been reported and recorded between 2013 and 2018, all of them in government hospitals expect two.

The missing data

"There is no data available from private hospitals about maternal deaths related to abortions except two in 2016-17. The data clearly hides more than it reveals," said RTI activist Rajhans Bansal who sought the figures on abortions and related maternal deaths.

Abortion in India is legalised

and governed under the ambit of Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, wherein a woman can opt to medically terminate her pregnancy with the approval of one or two registered medical practitioners up to 20 weeks of gestation," said Dr. Rita Bakshi, gynaecologist-obstetrician and chairperson, International Fertility Centre.

She said it is unfortunate that till date a large majority of women, even in urban India, are unaware of their rights regarding abortion and continue to resort to unsafe and medically non-substantiated methods of abortions which at times prove fatal.

"As a matter of fact, unsafe abortions currently account for one of the leading causes of maternal mortality in our country," said the doctor.

Induced abortions

Dr. Archana Dhawan Bajaj, gynaecologist and IVF expert, Nurture IVF Centre, said an induced abortion is always a planned action which mostly takes place in a situation where the continuation of pregnancy carries risk to the life of the expecting woman or it can bring upon serious threat to her physical or mental health. Also in cases where the child is upon a substantial risk of

being born seriously handicapped with physical or mental abnormalities, induced abortion is an option.

"Often unexpected pregnancy due to failure of contraceptives also leads to induced abortion," she added.

"Earlier a significant number of abortions were carried out based on the gender of the baby [female foeticide], but in recent years people are opting for induced abortions mostly due to health concerns. The most common age group to go for abortions is also changing gradually from teenage girls to women in their late 30s and 40s."

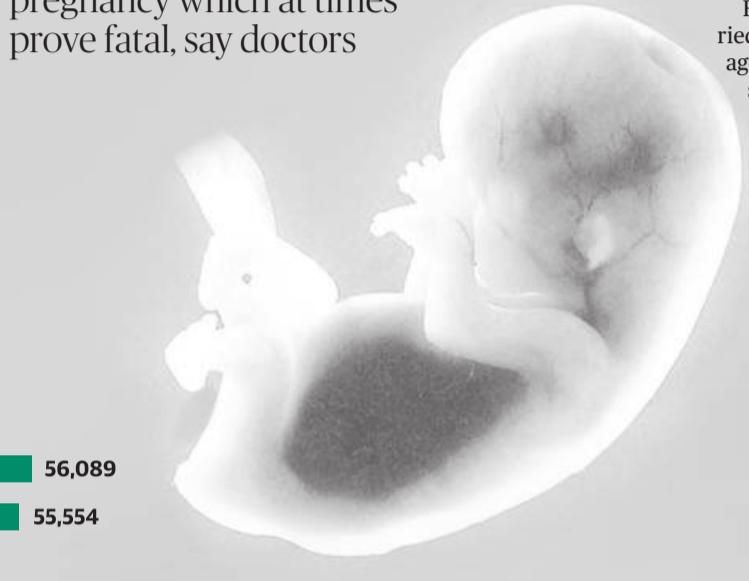
Miscarriage risk

Women over the age of 35 are at high risk of suffering miscarriages. According to doctors, miscarriage in early pregnancy (less than eight weeks) is most commonly because of genetic abnormalities in the embryo, hormonal imbalance or some other medical problems with the mother. Miscarriage in later pregnancy is because of uterine abnormalities and autoimmune diseases in the mother.

Dr. Sonia Naik, head of unit, obstetrics and gynaecology, Max Super Speciality Hospital, said: "Abortions are commonly seen

'Abortion a right few women are aware of'

Many mothers, even in urban India, resort to unsafe methods of termination of pregnancy which at times prove fatal, say doctors



SOURCE: RTI REPLY BY DELHI HEALTH DEPARTMENT

in pregnant women who are 35 years and above because of increased genetic abnormalities in the embryo."

She added that termination of pregnancy related to female unborn child happens in the early second trimester.

"These are women who come asking for termination of pregnancy or take pills sold over the counter [easily available in our country] for abortion," she added.

In metro cities like Delhi, women of reproductive age may seek abortions due to various reasons such as failure of contraceptives leading to unplanned pregnancies, medical complications that are likely to cause harm to the mother and the unborn baby, and being worried about various socio-financial implications (many couples do not wish to have a second child or feel that having a baby may interfere with their professional careers).

For unmarried girls or married women below 21 years of age, abortions are sometimes seen as a way out to shoo off age-inappropriate, untimely responsibilities.

Dr. Rita Bakshi said that even though gender detection of foetus is illegal in In-

Abortion in India is legalised and governed under the ambit of Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, wherein a woman can opt to medically terminate her pregnancy with the approval of one or two registered medical practitioners up to 20 weeks of gestation

DR. RITA BAKSHI
Gynaecologist-obstetrician, and chairperson of International Fertility Centre

dia, sex-selective abortions continue to be a persistent problem, especially in rural towns and suburbs.

"However, it is important to mention that only less than one-tenth of the total abortions happening in India are estimated to be sex-selective, while a vast majority of abortions take place during the first trimester [when it is practically impossible to determine the gender of the baby]. Female foeticide is a major social issue and a sensitive topic which needs to be seen and handled from a wider lens instead of only blaming abortions for it, which usually contribute to a very minor proportion of this large social problem," said Dr. Bakshi.

Not the whole picture

Abortions in Delhi

2013-14	49,355
2014-15	48,423
2015-16	56,089
2016-17	55,554
2017-18*	39,187

* TILL DECEMBER 2018

ABORTIONS

Maternal deaths (government hospitals)

2013-14	6
2014-15	10
2015-16	14
2016-17	5
2017-18*	5

* TILL DECEMBER 2018

DEATHS

Restructuring landfills: Bhalswa follows Okhla

Test report from Okhla showed the process, overseen by IIT-Delhi expert, helped reduce the height of landfill by 30%

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

Having brought down the height of the Okhla landfill from 50 metres to about 38 metres and having stabilised the structure through a year-long 'remediation' process that started in March 2018, a similar project is now being undertaken at the Bhalswa landfill by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation.

The collapse of a portion of the East Delhi Municipal Corporation's Ghazipur landfill in September 2017, which led to the death of two people, had shifted the focus on managing landfills to ensure safety.

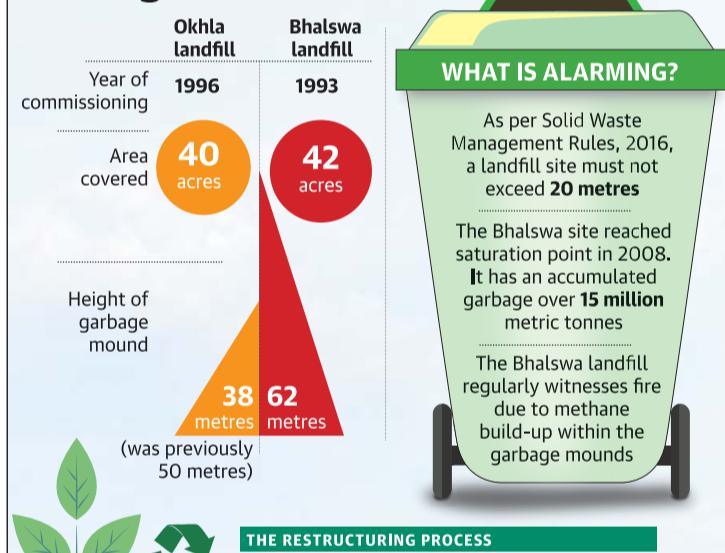
While the South Delhi Municipal Corporation, which runs the Okhla landfill, received external proposals to deal with the landfill, the work was finally undertaken through departmental means, especially given that it was a lot cheaper, said executive engineer for the project Taufell Ahmed. He has now been roped into working on the Bhalswa landfill, along with Civil Engineering Professor at IIT Delhi, Manoj Datta, who is overseeing both projects.

The drill

In the first stage, the garbage undergoes re-profiling. "The process involves excavation, cutting, channelling, aeration, spreading, levelling/dressing, compaction and sorting of fluffy material such as plastic or clothes," an SDMC project report on the Okhla landfill reads.

This involves the use of earth moving machines which tear the garbage down and turn it over multiple times. This allows the garbage, which is stuck in packed anaerobic conditions, to be aired out thus speeding up the decomposition process. The garbage is also spread

Garbage woes



The collapse of a portion of the Ghazipur landfill in September 2017 had shifted the focus on managing landfills to ensure safety. ■ FILE PHOTO

over vacant land near the site to help the decomposition. This is in turn pressed together, or compacted depending on the structural requirement. The dry bulk density of the compacted waste is 1.5 metric tonne per cubic metre, the report states. Finally, the garbage once in place, is topped with a layer of silt or some form of construction and demolition waste.

The stabilisation work itself begins with construction of 15-16 (average) metre-wide *kachha* road, including a three-metre open *kachha* drain at the bottom of the landfill, according to the report. The road helps in movement of the machines involved and for airing out the garbage and the drains help divert rainwater. This is done to reduce the amount of leachate generated which is the sludge that forms when water passes through garbage and dissolves soluble.

The first slope is 10-metres high and spread over a 27-metre long incline, in the ratio of 2.5:1, determined by the engineers to ensure stability. At the top of this slope, a six-metre wide *kachha* berm or a flat levelling is constructed along with another *kachha* drain. Similarly, three slopes of dumped material, of the same size have been constructed from top to bottom. And to trap rainwater, *kachha* drains have been constructed at the bottom of each slope. The final structure resembles a hill, with convex or roundish slopes so as to increase surface run off during rains, along with flat relief at two intervals where *kachha* drains collect the water.

Research report

Tests of the stabilised dump, carried out by Shri Ram Institute of Industrial research revealed that after

stabilisation, the garbage consists of 93.72% of sand, earth, soil, bricks, concrete etc, 1.97% organic matter, 3.77% plastic and 0.54% glass and metals, the report states. The test also noted that the process reduced the height of the Okhla landfill by 30%.

The report further reads, following a site visit by a Supreme Court appointed committee in December last year, environmentalist Almitra H Patel, who is part of the committee, suggested that grass be planted where work of slope stabilisation has been completed so as to hold the earth and eliminate chances of slippage. Ms. Patel also suggested that as and when additional land is made available to the SDMC, the "biomining" of the entire dump be carried out, according to the report. A total of 5,700 square metres is to be planted with grass. While this step was expected to be completed by the end of March, the engineer in-charge Mr. Ahmed, said that the work is likely to be completed by June.

In its attempt to manage the landfill, other processes such as trapping of leachate that leaks from garbage and treating it and installation of pipes to extract trapped methane are also involved. However, so far, Mr. Ahmed said that very low methane content is found in the garbage.

The undertaking at Bhalswa, spread over 52 acres with a height of 62 metres, will be the first step on the same line. Meanwhile, the North Corporation has also invited a tender for scientific capping of the landfill. However, commissioner Varsha Joshi has said that it will take place only after all possible volume reduction and biodegradation happens.

Delhi HC rejects HUL plea against Emami's TV ad

Does not disparage the product of the plaintiff, says court



The High Court held that the said commercial of Emami does not slander HUL's products.

**SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI**
The Delhi High Court has rejected a plea by Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), manufacturer of the 'Fair & Lovely' range of skin lightening/fairness cream, claiming that a TV commercial by Emami Limited for its 'Fair & Handsome' product makes fun of a male using a ladies' cream.

"In my opinion, overall the commercial advertisement does not leave an impression that in any manner it disparages the product of the plaintiff [HUL]," Justice Jayant Nath remarked.

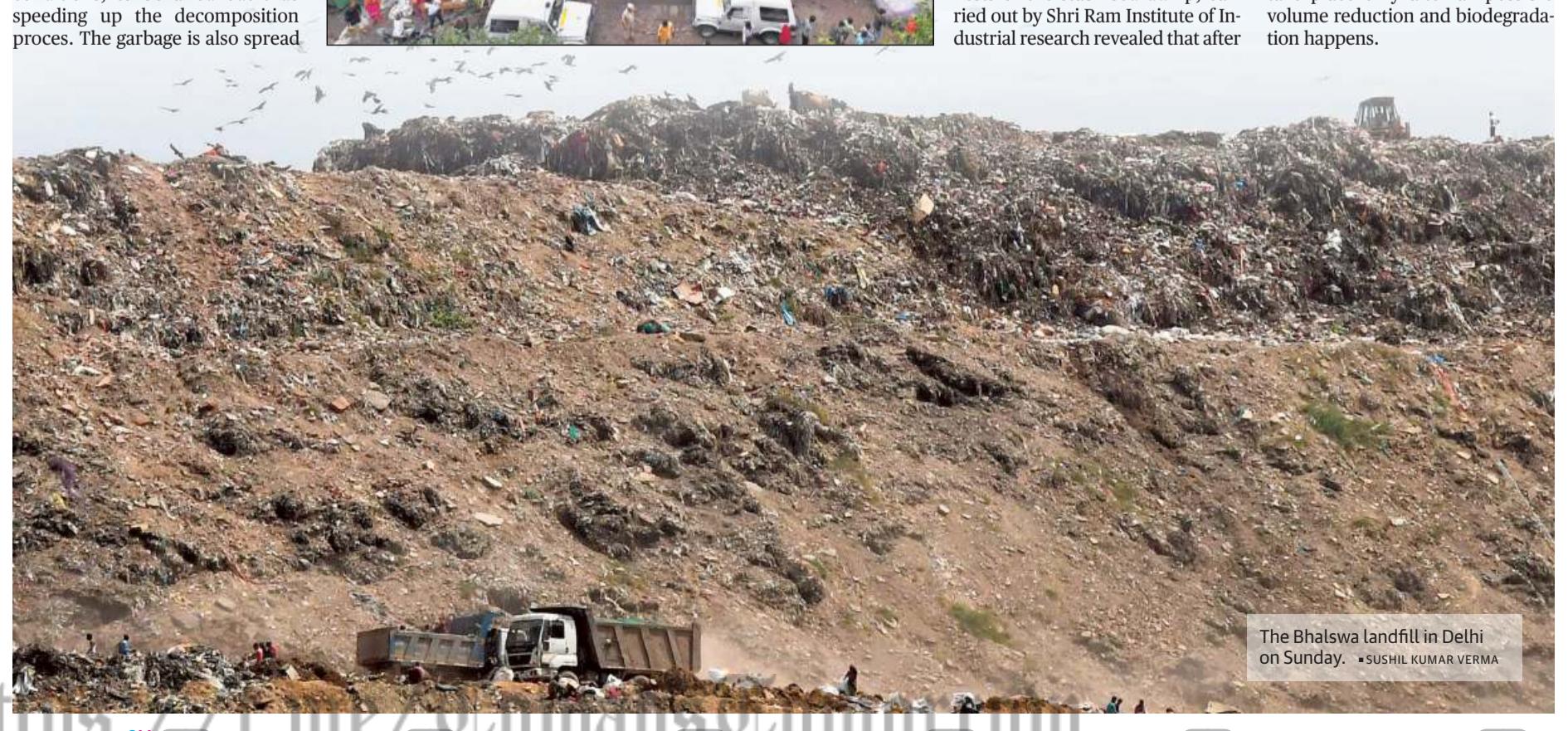
HUL had moved the High Court against Emami's TV commercial, which began airing around September last year. The commercial had Bollywood actor Vidyut Jammwal saying, "Ab to Ladkiyon ki cream chhodo Mr. Lovely".

HUL, which introduced 'Fair & Lovely' in 1975, claimed that the commercial disparaged its product.

"It is pleaded that the said commercial is claiming that the product of the plaintiff's brand 'Fair & Lovely' is rubbish and inefficient and restricted to only women while the product of the defendant 'Fair and Handsome' is much more effective and useful," HUL's plea said.

It additionally contended that 'Fair & Lovely' was initially used as a fairness cream which was gender neutral, though it was largely promoted as a fairness cream for women. HUL said almost 30% of the consumers are men who use the same product.

Around 2006, to specifically target the men's segment of the population,



The Bhalswa Landfill in Delhi on Sunday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The High Court ruled, "It cannot prima facie be concluded that the said TV commercial seeks to slander the goods of the plaintiff."

The defendant [Emami] had enough room to play around for making the advertisement. In view of the literature that has been posted on its own website by the plaintiff, it also cannot be said that prima facie the statements made in the advertisement regarding using of women's cream by men is false," he remarked.

The High Court ruled, "It cannot prima facie be concluded that the said TV commercial seeks to slander the goods of the plaintiff."

NYC's architectural theatre

Manhattan's skyline is changing, with art projects inspired by India's stepwells and a vintage terminal-turned-hotel



■ HOWARD HUGHES CORP

(Clockwise from left) 10 Corso Como, the TWA Hotel and burnished brass detailing in one of its rooms, NYC & Company CEO Fred Dixon, and The Shed



■ MAX TOHEY



KENNETH ROSARIO

The notoriously busy JFK airport is set to get a touch of glamour this summer. A mid-20th century Jet Age relic, TWA Flight Center – which was rendered obsolete but never torn down – is being refurbished into a luxury hotel, reminiscent of the '60s. Originally designed by Finnish-American architect Eero Saarinen, known for his neo-futuristic style, the terminal-turned-hotel will feature six restaurants and eight bars, including celebrity chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten's Paris Café.

"It captures the moment in time, architecture and the golden age of air travel, when people used to dress up to fly," says Fred Dixon, President and CEO, NYC & Company, over a cup of coffee at

Mumbai's Soho House on a balmy afternoon. Come May 15, the TWA Hotel will be open for guests, with 512 guest rooms that feature vintage interiors (midcentury modern Knoll furnishings) and noise-cancelling glass curtain walls.

Looking to stepwells
This summer is significant for the Big Apple, for more reasons than one. Alongside the month-long Pride celebrations in June, the city will witness the opening of various luxury spaces across its five boroughs, from dining to hotels to retail. Many much-anticipated projects are concentrated in the metropolis' shiny new neighbourhood, Hudson Yards, touted to be the largest private real estate development space in the



50 years of Stonewall

This year is significant for NYC's queer population. In the wee hours of June 28, 1969, members of the queer community locked horns with the police in a series of violent demonstrations, which today is referred to as the Stonewall Uprising. In many ways, the spontaneous riots form the bedrock of the queer rights movement in the US. Five decades on, the annual NYC Pride will mark the golden jubilee of the uprising, with the city coming together to celebrate the 'Year of Pride' and host WorldPride for the first time. "We took the mantle from Madrid in 2017 so for many this is Pride coming home," grins Dixon. Pride-related events and exhibitions are at the centre of NYC & Company's latest global marketing campaign, 2019: A Monumental Year. "All arts and culture institutes are laying on unique, bespoke exhibitions to celebrate the 50 years of struggle for equal rights," he says. "The year of Pride really kicked-off in November [last year] with [Andy] Warhol's retrospective at the Whitney Museum of American Art. It is an intimate look on his life and particularly his influence on other LGBT artists." The Met Gala this May will also pay homage to queer style and aesthetics with its theme, Camp: Notes on Fashion.

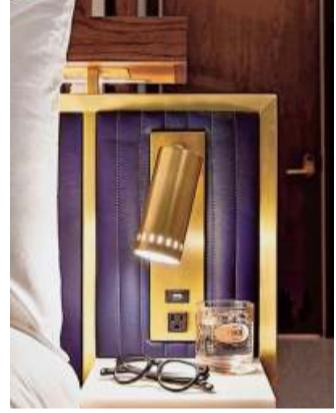
history of the US. "In excess of \$25 billion in investments are coming to this one project," Dixon reveals. In this part-commercial, part-residential space, high-end fitness brand Equinox is opening its first hotel in June. It has also attracted a number of celebrity chefs like Thomas Keller, David Chang and José Andrés to open their new outlets.

Calling it a "building on wheels that can be expanded and opened up on demand", Dixon says the opening performances will be a series of original mash-ups, including a collaboration between filmmaker Steve McQueen and record producer Quincy Jones.

Times Square indulgence

Outside Hudson Yard, traditionally touristy areas like Lower Manhattan is witnessing an explosion of luxury dining, hotel and retail experientials. There's the much-anticipated arrival of Milan's pioneering concept store, 10 Corso Como, a medley of art, clothing, music, design and food; Jean-Georges Vongerichten's 50,000 sq ft food market, located in the restored Tin Building; a new bar and grill concept by Momofuku Group's David Chang and Malibu Farm, all slated to open in 2019.

"Times Square is also getting a taste of luxury after quite some time," shares Dixon. Ian Schrager's 452-room Edition launched this month with high-end restaurants developed by chef John Fraser and a modern cabaret bar. Midtown Manhattan will also see two new properties by Portuguese hotel group Pestana launching this summer, and architect Jean-Michel Gathy's highly-anticipated über-luxury brand, Aman New York, is opening its doors in 2020.



POOCH CAFE



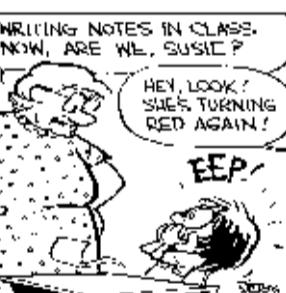
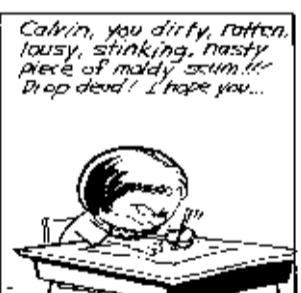
PEANUTS



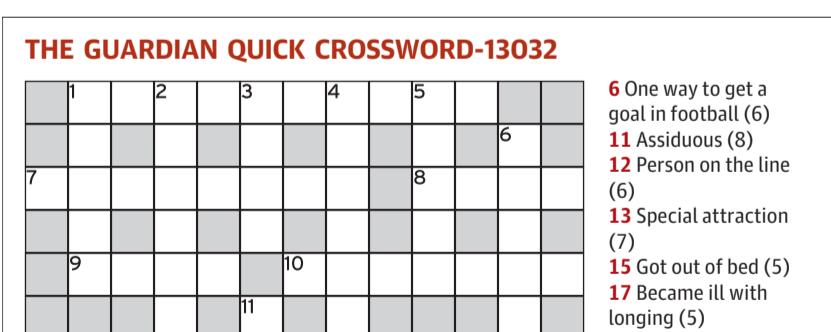
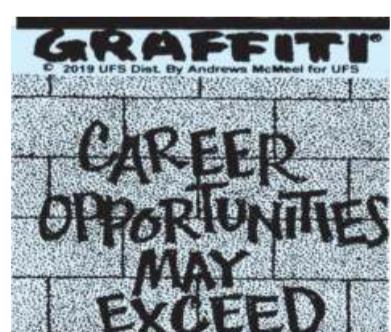
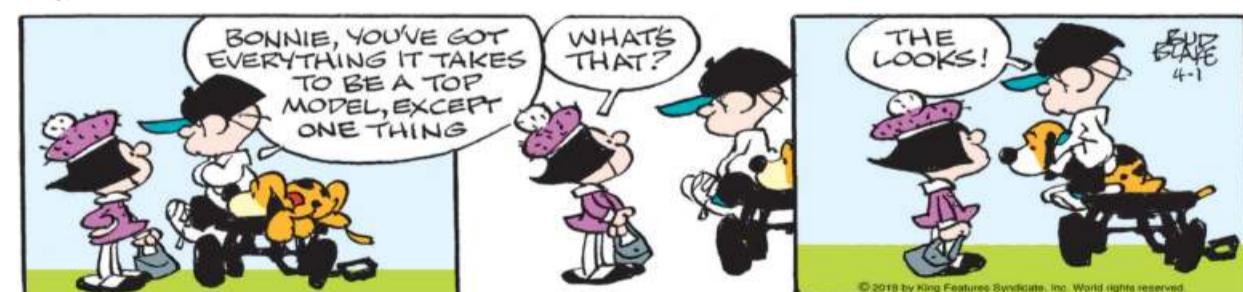
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



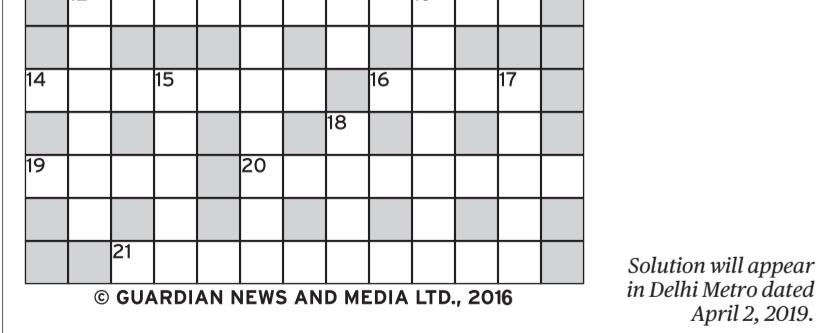
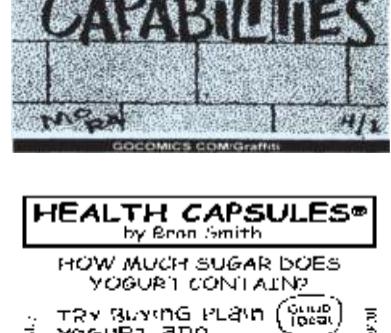
CALVIN AND HOBBES



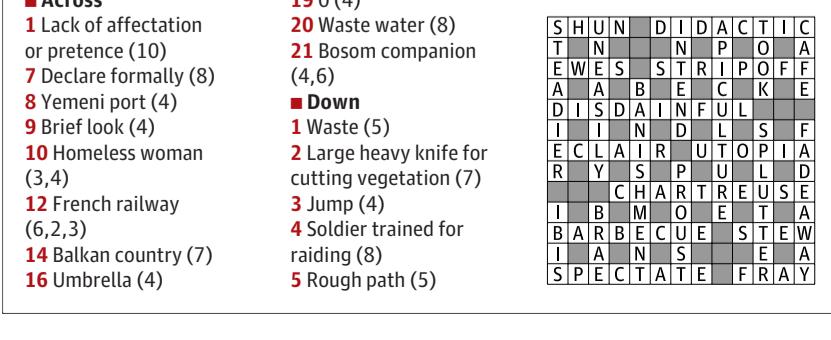
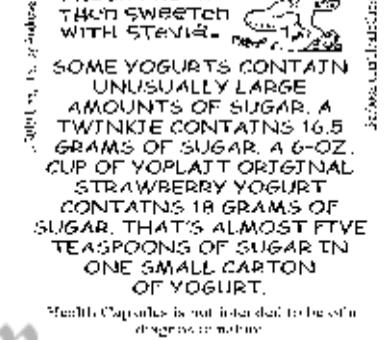
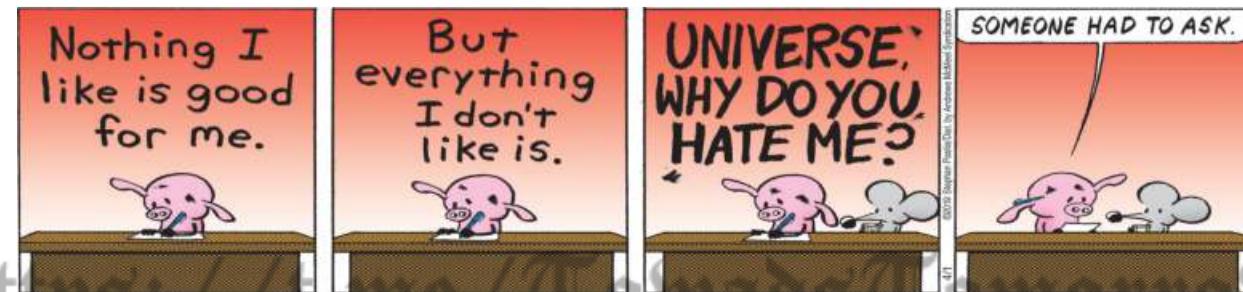
TIGER



WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13032

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Across

- 1 Lack of affection or pretence (10)
- 7 Declare formally (8)
- 8 Yemeni port (4)
- 9 Brief look (4)
- 10 Homeless woman (3,4)
- 12 French railway (6,2,3)
- 14 Balkan country (7)
- 16 Umbrella (4)

Down

- 2 Waste (5)
- 2 Large heavy knife for cutting vegetation (7)
- 3 Jump (4)
- 4 Soldier trained for raiding (8)
- 5 Rough path (5)

6 One way to get a goal in football (6)

11 Assiduous (8)

12 Person on the line (6)

13 Special attraction (7)

15 Got out of bed (5)

17 Became ill with longing (5)

18 Distant parts (4)

Solution will appear in Delhi Metro dated April 2, 2019.

Solution No. 13031

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Nurturing heritage-keepers: Scenes from previous sessions and activities of CISA at Khoj. ■ COURTESY KHOJ INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION & THE GOETHE-INSTITUT / MAX MUELLER BHAVAN NEW DELHI



More curators, please, WE'RE IN INDIA

There's an increased need for museum curators in South Asia, and Khoj's programme is trying to bridge the gap

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

tan and Iran, for its third edition that starts in July.

The idea to utilise the museum space, for national self-fashioning, to make crucial socio-political points, or to offer spaces of historical and cultural reflection, is slowly gathering steam in the South-Asian region. With this, so is demand for curators with well-rounded perspective and training. "We realised that there is a gap specifically in curatorial training...outside of the western paradigm," says Mario D'Souza, programmes manager and curator at Khoj.

For CISA, Khoj brings in weighty names from academia and the art industry as trainers and guest speakers. Natasha Ginwala, independent curator who recently worked on the Coutour Biennale 8 in Belgium; Naman Ahuja, a professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University's School of Arts and Aesthetics; curator Shuddhabrata Sengupta of Raqs Media Collective; and Abhay Sardesai, the editor of Art India Magazine, are some of the Indians on fa-

culty. Leonard Emmerling, curator and director of programmes South Asia from the Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan joins them, along with Benjamin Mayer-Krahmer, a professor of art history, visual culture, and cultures of the curatorial at the Academy of Fine Arts Liep-

Other courses

There are not many curatorial programmes in India. In 2010 the Goethe-Institut in India, with Pooja Sood, director of Khoj, initiated ArtThinkSouthAsia, a management and policy-research programme targeted towards professionals in the cultural sector. They partnered with the British Council and the Piramal Art Foundation. CISA was inspired by this partnership. In 2011, Kolkata's Experimenter Gallery did a two-day-long Young Curator's Hub event, inviting professionals whose work focused on contemporary South Asian art, to "discuss, debate, and present the most contemporary thought behind curating exhibits in today's context." Now re-named the Experimenter Curators' Hub, it held its eighth edition in July 2018. In 2012 the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai city museum started a post-graduate diploma in modern and contemporary Indian art and curatorial studies. In 2012, Mumbai Art Room, founded by art historian Susan Happgood, started a curatorial lab for Indian and international emerging curators. The programme, supported by the INLAKS India Foundation, works on a nomination basis. Since 2018 the Sri Sri School of Art, Design and Technology in Bengaluru has also been offering a specialisation in curatorial practices as part of their M.A. in Art Practices.

zig, forming the programme's international faculty.

As with any programme though, some of CISA's alumni have found parts of their two-week residential course redundant.

Khoj's jury has already laid down the basic requirement that applicants either come in with a background in the humanities, or have experience with realising a few curatorial projects. The first category welcomes the deep dive into art history and curatorial theory, the latter not so much. Some also hope that the programme reaches more areas and people outside the fraternity.

"I'd expressed in review that it would help to get in scholars from other South Asian countries too," Daga, who is currently an assistant professor at the School of Environment and Architecture in Mumbai,

says. Another fellow, NayanTara Gurung Kakshapati, 37, from Nepal agrees, noting that "A few mentors from around South Asia would make it feel more like a regional programme and experience."

Both fellows have extensive prior experience in curation. Daga had worked as assistant curator on the 'Young Subcontinent' project for the Serendipity Arts Festival in Goa, while Kakshapati co-founded Photo Kathmandu, Nepal's first international photography festival among other projects including the Nepal Picture Library.

Both however stressed how the programme's role as a platform in bringing together like-minded people from a diverse range of practices, and more importantly, how it allowed them space to reflect, question, read, and widen their horizons, that was valuable to them.

CISA's scope ranges from the origins of the museum, understanding the biennale model, and thinking and theory. "The nuts and bolts, really," says D'Souza, adding that it even teaches fellows how to write a curatorial note. They are then given six months and a budget, space, mentorship, and assistance to develop their own exhibition, giving many a launchpad to become independent curators.

Last year, 70 people applied to CISA. Only 13-15 make it as fellows. With sustained interest and quality participation from neighbours, the space for developing this conversation is only becoming more open.

The deadline to apply for CISA 2019 is 15th April. For more information: khojworkshop.org

PEOPLE On a mission...

Laxmi Agarwal walked the ramp for Laxmi Shriani Sood, at the recently-held India Runway Week



"It feels great. I was very confident on the ramp," says an excited Laxmi Agarwal, minutes after she walked as a showstopper for a designer who shares her sensibilities. Laxmi Shriani Sood chose her namesake inspired by the Stop Acid Sales movement. "We want to use her message to reach a larger audience."

The acid-attack survivor got the loudest cheers from the audience as she closed Laxmi Shriani Sood's show, in a Moroccan-inspired lehenga. The Indian Federation for Fashion Development (IFFD) hosted the eleventh season of the fashion week. Excerpts from the conversation.

What does fashion mean for you?

For me fashion is an avenue to change people's mindsets. Through this show, we are saying that fashion is inclusive. I am telling people that designer outfits can be worn by women who have been at the receiving end of a crime. So we are changing mindsets in a big way. This is very heartening for me. Please see the survivors from a fresh perspective.

How do you feel about the movie being made on you?

It feels great that *Chhaapak*, directed by Meghna Gulzar, will see Deepika Padukone playing me on the big screen. When a celebrity of the stature of Deepika accepts such a project, she not only extends support to this cause, but also creates awareness. I am sure she will bring about a huge transformation in the way people perceive survivors. In this biopic, she will speak for all survivors of acid attacks. After watching this film, many survivors will reveal their stories. If more such films from Bollywood are made then people know about the darker side of our society.

You were part of the London Fashion Week and this was your third show at India Runway Week. Do you participate in fashion weeks to raise your voice?

It helps me to raise my voice on behalf of so many victims. Now the media is supporting me in a big way. This has resulted in heightened awareness and today so many fashion lovers clapped for me when I walked on the ramp. This was my seventh show at a fashion week.

How successful have you been as campaigner with Stop Acid?

I started this campaign last year. I was told that my one-minute video can change the lives of scores of people. The best part is that it did strike a chord with the masses. Twenty thousand people watched this video. So many shopkeepers stopped selling acid. I would like to take this forward and also try to rope in those running the administration of our country.

Laxmi Shriani Sood's spring-summer line has laser-cut fabrics, three-dimensional hand-crafted embellishments and intricate thread work, fashioned into Indo-Western silhouettes. Available at Shop no. 100, Meharchand Market; lehenga-blouse-jacket sets ₹57,000 upwards

MADHUR TANKHA

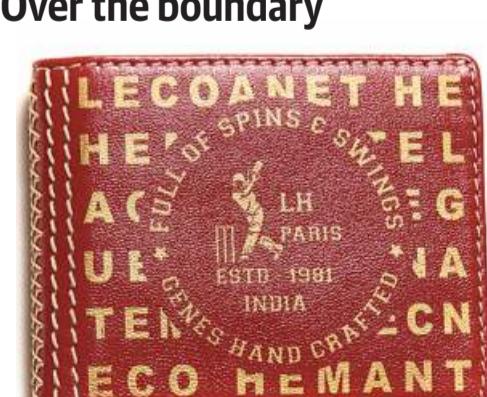
PRODUCTS Utility matters



Bexton by Carlton is a range of all-new soft luggage carriers suitable for business travellers. Available in blue and brown, the cases offer multiple features including a laptop compartment, TSA lock, neo-pack that provides the luxury of storing clothes without the fear of them getting crumpled. It is discreet, and comes in cabin and check-in variants. There are 360-degree spinning dual wheels that offer ease of movement in all directions.

The British brand has been in the business of offering travel solutions for 40 years now. Available at store.carltontravelbags.com, ₹8,190 upwards

Over the boundary



Red Cherry is a capsule collection by Genes Lecoanet Hemant, inspired by cricket and the ball's gold stamp, glossy red shine and white-stitch seam. Crafted in leather, there are fanny packs, messenger bags, passport holders, wallets, belts, visors and jersey tees for men and women.

Available at www.geneslecoanethemant.com and the Lecoanet Hemant store in Gurugram, ₹1,400 upwards

DOWN MEMORY LANE

IP College's grand past

The history behind Alipore House is both engrossing as well as insightful for heritage lovers



R. V. SMITH

Alipore House was originally the residence-cum-office of the Commander-in-Chief of the British-Indian Army. In 1932, Indraprastha College for Women moved into the colonial-style building designed by George Wood in the early decades of the 20th century. It shifted there from Chandrawali House in the Civil Lines.

Indraprastha (IP) College had started in Chhipiwara, behind the Jama Masjid in the haveli gifted by Rai Balkrishan Das in 1904 for the Indraprastha Girls' School. In September 2015, Dr. Romila Thapar of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), inaugurated the college archives and museum.

They are the repository of the history of the college, which started with just five students in 1924. In 1934-35 the number had risen to 71, thanks to the efforts of the Australian educationalist and theosophist, Leonora G'meiner, who was the first principal of the school and college right from 1904 to her retirement in 1935.

It was Lala Jugal Kishore, who was instrumental in acquiring the services of G'meiner. Later his grandson, Narain Prasad, was the manager of the school and college up to his death in February 2016. The principal, Babli Moitra Saraf, strived for years to create the archives and museum.

One can see in the archives hoary pictures of Annie Besant, Jawaharlal Nehru and other famous leaders, who visited Alipore House



Repository of history: A view of Indraprastha College for Women ■ THE HINDU

from time to time and recorded their memorable impressions of the first women's college of the Delhi University. Interestingly, one of the students was Zohra Ansari, daughter of the noted freedom fighter Dr. M. A. Ansari. Among other Muslim girls, who gave up purdah and joined the college was Begum Musharrif, mother of the former Pakistan President. Later, Qurratulain Haider, the Urdu litterateur and novelist, also studied there briefly.

Among the noted visitors in more recent years was Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, who was the guest speaker at the Fourth Annual Public Lecture on December 13, 2007. No wonder a visit to the college is a rewarding experience. It is made all the more vivid while sitting in the verandah facing an enchanting garden that still breathes of the halcyon days of Alipore House.

However that pleasure is denied to the visitor in other historic houses which have tumbled down like Jack and Jill of the nursery rhyme.

Linked to Alipore House is the primary girls' school in Patni Maliki-haveli, a landmark in Naiwara, which now houses Suraj Kanya Shikshayala.

The first Suraj Kanya presumably was Surajmukhi, Prithviraj Chauhan's daughter, for whom the first storey of the Qutub Minar (later built upon by Qutubuddin Aibak and Iltutmish) is believed to have been erected so that she could see the Yamuna at dawn and worship the sun. Now the 350-odd girls studying in this middle school are all considered "Surya Kanyas" and lavished with such love and affection that they never think of leaving it till passing out.

Patni Mal was a wealthy merchant of Chandni Chowk, whose two-storey, spacious mansion was later handed over to nearby Indraprastha Girls' School in 1924 by Lala Jagannath for running its primary section from where the foundation was laid for Indraprastha Girls' College before it moved to Alipore House. The school,

reached through Chawari Bazar Chowk via Nai Sarak and Chipywara, still retains its lovely old-world charm, like the Rajasthani-style balcony and canopy above the main entrance in marble, with intricate designs, pillared rooms and arched verandas.

Now after renovation it is a mixture of the old and new. The courtyard, where once ladies in purdah danced and swung on rope jhoolas at the Teej festivals or celebrated Janmashtami, Diwali (with a 100 earthen lamps) and Holi (when rainbow colours blotted out even the sunlight), is now the place where the students assemble in the morning to welcome the new day with a song, before entering class.

And what unique classrooms they have: arched with exquisite dallyan-type enclosures that breathe of the 19th century. In one of them was a well, a deep one, from which water was drawn before Delhi got its piped water supply. The cool water of the well was a blessing in the summer months, when there

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were no refrigerators. In the aftermath of the war in 1857, when a lot of wells in the city had been either poisoned or had corpses of the slain dumped into them, such mansions as this haveli were a real oasis for the thirsty as the wells were hidden inside the living rooms.

Now since the wells have lost their utility, the one in an anteroom of the senior classes has been closed, says the principal. She leads me through the classrooms and up a flight of stairs to the roof where two classes are held in newly-built rooms, with a wire mesh to keep out monkeys, which are a real menace. Before the school came to be housed here, there were probably kaua-haknis (women who chased away crows) and men employed to scare monkeys.

Standing on the balcony, one imagines the time when husbands, hiding behind their big-Rajasthani-skirted wives, watched the Persian soldiers looking for human fodder for their swords, which were drawn out when the huge one of Nadir Shah was unsheathed at Sonheri Masjid, near the erstwhile Kotwali, opposite the Fountain in 1739.

"So long as my sword is out of its scabbard, kill everyone you come across", were the invader's words as his soldiers rampaged through Chandni Chowk and entered its gullies. Now what one sees is a long queue of parents waiting for school to give over so that they could escort their children back home in the nearby or far away kuchas.

As one descends from the balcony through a narrow staircase that also breathes of old times, one cannot shake off the feeling that after seeing the bloodbaths of the 1739 invasion and the 1857 war, the inmates of this haveli must have hurriedly descended through it to take refuge from the killers who had been let loose in the city. Now, of course, it's the girls who run down this staircase to rush into the arms of their waiting parents.

THE AUTHOR IS A VETERAN CHRONICLER OF DELHI

CMK

SUNALINI MATHEW

If you boil wellness down to its basics, it's fairly uncomplicated: good health for as long as possible. It's a journey that takes you through life's ups and downs, with your body and mind reminding you to rest, eat wholesome food, stay active through the day, and laugh a little with family and friends.

The in-road

The problem is that we're mostly out of sync with our bodies and minds because of our lifestyles of sitting and screens, and a disconnection from community and Nature. And where there is emptiness, the devil – let's call him the marketer – steps in, with a product for every niggling 'problem'.

A generation ago, health communication was often centred around fear-mongering, as in the case of anti-tobacco advertising or even cooking oil. It was a 'give up the cigarette or else...', or 'buy this brand of oil or else...' line. Today, fear-mongering has been turned on its head, says Vijay Raaghavan, Associate Director – Management Consulting, Healthcare, PwC, Bengaluru. "Communication is tuned to assuage fears we already have. So if I see the product is 'all-natural', 'pollutant-free', and I'm already worried about a polluted city, it's pandering to it. But it's always a set of pleasant-sounding words that are used, like 'healing,'" he says.

What's changed is the approach to branding and packaging. While companies are spending more on R&D, it's also true that "they use information from existing health research selectively," says Dr Senthil Reddi, Additional Professor, Department of Psychiatry, NIMHANS, Bengaluru. The messaging is usually aligned with the socio-economic class that has the most disposable income.

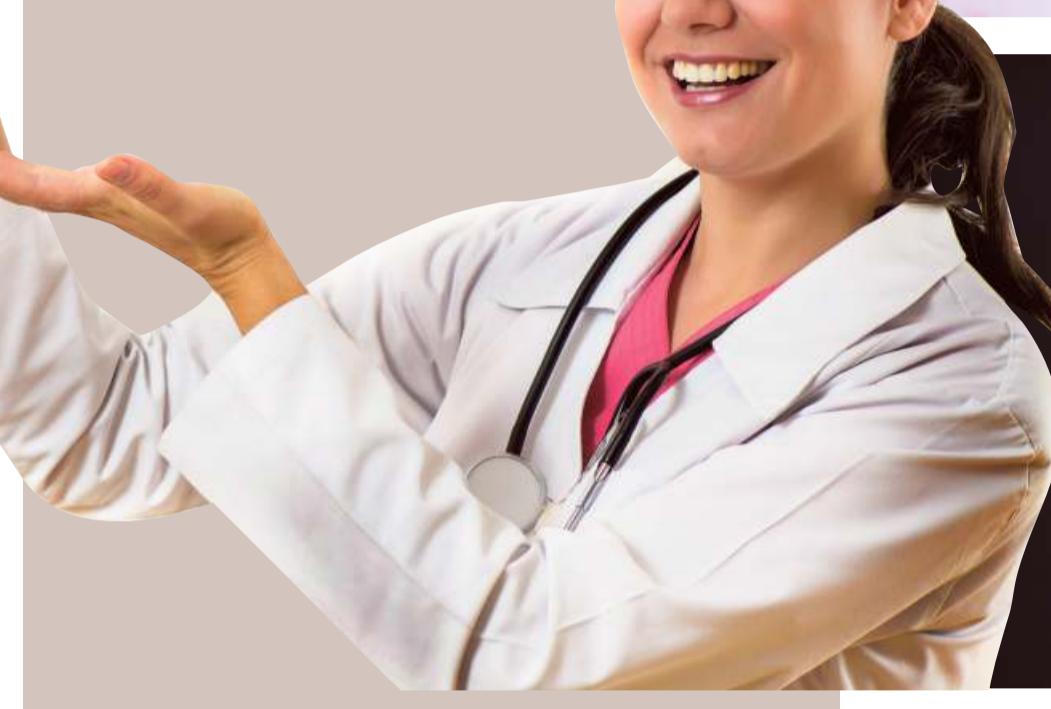
Out and about

With social-media explosion, peer pressure is at its highest, and now extends through multiple age groups. "Travel to say, Paris and London is passé. It's got to be to some exotic location," says Janaki Abraham, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Delhi. In the same vein, rice gets substituted with quinoa, or whatever grain celebrity is eating or a social-media influencer is pushing.

On their part, influencers need to live (and show) the most authentic life possi-

The wellness proposition

How businesses hijacked preventive health to make it aspirational, expensive, and almost unreachable



ble. Take Jacqueline Fernandez, Pilates poster girl, who has a stake in Raw Pressery. She must not just lead a healthful life, but also prove she does on social media and at events.

"Trust is key, which thanks to a serious trust-deficit in every sphere, is at an all-time low," says Delhi-based Sanghamitra Chakraborty, who edited *Prevention* and *Women's Health* magazines when they were in the country, and who now edits *Reader's Digest*. So, she says, people tend to spend money on big brands with science-backed claims, feeling that they can be trusted. Also, she says we've simply outsourced our health, turning to diabetics, life coaches, personal trainers, when we all know what we really need to do.

What is it about the exotic that lures us? The more complex a product sounds, the more aspirational it is. So out goes the face cream and in come

A generation ago, health communication was often centred on fear-mongering

day and night creams, among the arsenal of products you're supposed to use for healthy skin.

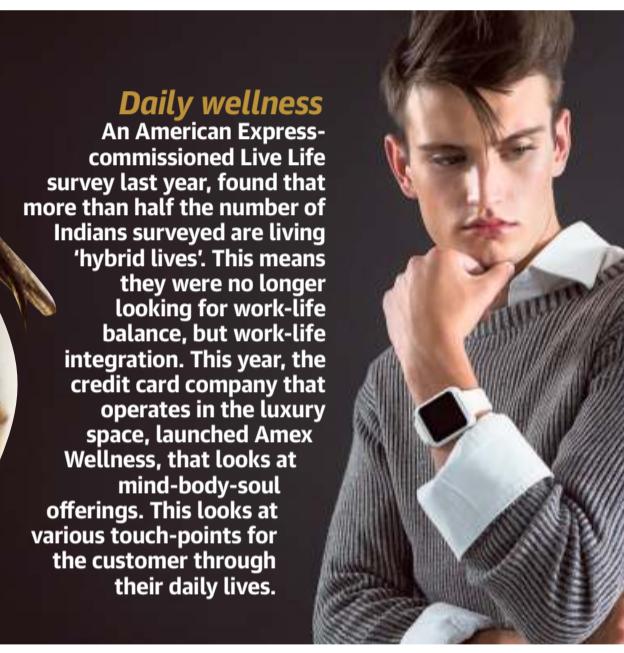
Raaghavan cites words that are key: organic, cold-pressed, virgin, gut health, all requiring a great deal of back-ground reading. This makes it exclusive. It signifies you have a certain level of English language comprehension, data access, disposable income. The market calls these better-for-you products. "It's a licence to charge more," he says.

Above and beyond

"In some way, the crisis in health had to lead to this," says Abraham. "Unfortu-



Daily wellness
An American Express-commissioned Live Life survey last year, found that more than half the number of Indians surveyed are living 'hybrid lives'. This means they were no longer looking for work-life balance, but work-life integration. This year, the credit card company that operates in the luxury space, launched Amex Wellness, that looks at mind-body-soul offerings. This looks at various touch-points for the customer through their daily lives.



Trust me, I'm a doctor: Health professionals are being linked to products • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

dev says will overtake HUL in the next financial year. Whether Patanjali (Saundarya Aloe Vera Gel, Neem Kanti Body Cleanser) or any of HUL's brands (Dove, Lever Ayush) are actually facilitating wellness is anyone's guess, but it's clear there's a market for them.

This spread of wellness into the FMCG (fast-moving consumer goods) segment is rooted to linking professionals – either doctors or others from the medical fraternity – with products. Take activated charcoal. Before it became popular in everything from burgers to smoothies, beauty brands used it. One product claim says it: "easily absorbs and lifts away the black impurities and pollution particles", and "reveals your natural pure-looking white skin," playing into insecurities at many levels.

A recent change

"It's only over the past decade or so that we've learnt what the sun protection factor (SPF) is, or what an 'active ingredient' in a beauty product is. Beauty brands began moving into the dermat space," says Chakraborty.

Dermatologists also spoke on behalf of companies, much like how dieticians spoke on behalf of say, almond or olive-oil brands. Packaging and labelling for beauty products world-over changed, to be minimalistic, almost medicinal – it was not an indulgence anymore; it was a downright necessity.

On the whole though, people don't see the attention to wellness as bad: it is an awareness, after all. If it makes you happy to wear a hearable rather than a hearing aid, and you can afford to pay for the pop colours, you've landed on wellness. For the rest of us, there's always preventive health.

Next weekend, they'll do their first two-day event. She's candid about the fact that products and services in the wellness space are exclusive and more expensive, but also says it'll trickle down.

In a sense, it already has, if we look at the success of Patanjali that Baba Ram-

TRACKING CONSUMERS
In 2012, PwC did one of its earliest reports on the wellness consumer, drawing up a pyramid that traced the development of a consumer from passive to beginner, active, and finally a believer.



They are the champions

The documentary film *With This Ring* is an inspirational tribute to India's women boxers



VIJAY LOKAPALLY

It took more than a decade for Ameesha Joshi and Anna Sarkisian, two independent filmmakers from Canada, to document the rise of Indian women boxers. The iconic Mary Kom is the central figure of the documentary, *With This Ring*, recently uploaded for public viewing on YouTube. A well-researched effort, it also captures the gripping journey of Sarita Devi and Chhoto Loura, champions from Northeast India.

"I could only imagine the criticism, even ridicule, these young women must have faced, yet, they were winning medals internationally. They were trailblazers in the

truest sense. I admired their strength of character and felt a strong desire to make this film and share their stories around the globe," says Ameesha, on the reason behind picking women boxers as the subject. The film, shot extensively on location in India and overseas, includes some breathtaking training sessions, apart from footage from the competitions.

Anna was not even interested in boxing as a sport. "I am fascinated by women's stories, particularly those that are absent from the mainstream. When I found out about these women, and the unconventional directions they have chosen, I knew they would have

interesting stories to share – stories worthy of being made into a documentary," notes Anna.

At the end of the 10-year toil, Ameesha is pleased. "There was nothing easy about making this film." Anna agrees, "We have worked on this project along with our regular paying jobs for more than 10 years. We worked on it in the evenings and on weekends. We had our ups and downs along the way. When you're in the thick of it, it can feel hopeless and interminable... We had very little funding."

Mary Kom and Sarita

Empowering stories: Ameesha and Anna during the shooting of the movie; (below) Mary Kom bites the gold • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Devi have come to symbolise the modern Indian sportswoman – daring in venturing into little-known zones. "It's been encouraging to observe the significant change in society's acceptance of women in more 'masculine' sports, since we began filming in 2006. I think the power of mainstream movies like *Mary Kom* and *Dangal* had an impact on changing people's mindset and are indicators that society is progressing – but I still feel we have a long way to go," says Ameesha.

Anna points out the difference between women boxers from India and Canada. "We were quite surprised to see how many resources were being poured into the women's boxing programme in India, compared with other countries. In Canada, for example, the boxers have no funding. It's just their hobby. They train at their own gym; they need to find jobs to support themselves, and try to

fund-raise to attend competitions. The Indian team has facilities, funding for education, and a generous travel allowance to send a full roster to competitions around the globe. Their Government jobs mean that they have a pension for life, without having to show up for work every day."

Does motherhood promote or impede a sportswoman's ambitions to venture out? Ameesha feels it depends on the attitude of the partner. "Two of our characters, Mary and Sarita, married men that champion their careers. Mary's husband Onler stayed at home to parent their twin boys, so she could continue to train full-time. Sarita continued to work as hard as ever post the birth of her son."

Anna agrees, "Some people say the busier you are, the more you can accomplish. I would imagine Mary has almost no time for herself! Sarita also has a child, and has managed to keep going. Mary and Sarita both have very supportive husbands who have put their own careers on hold to help their wives fulfil their own ambitions."

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