

THE HINDU

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Mayawati reaches out to Brahmins, yet again
Page 12



Jordanian writer Nahed Hattar shot dead over caricature
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China launches world's largest single-dish radio telescope
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Gavaskar, Kapil on Lodha panel report
Page 17



BRIEFLY

Diktat on Pak. actors: MNS claims success

MUMBAI: Forty-eight hours after asking actors from Pakistan to leave the country, the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) said on Sunday that film producers followed its diktat. However, several Bollywood celebrities said the ban would not help end terrorism.

■ NEWS | PAGE 13

Centre to block online content on child abuse

NEW DELHI: To protect children from sexual abuse online, the Union government will soon ask internet service providers to block objectionable images, videos and text.

■ BUSINESS | PAGE 15

Pregnant Dalit woman beaten up in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD: A five-month pregnant Dalit woman was beaten up by some upper caste men for refusing to dispose of the carcass of a cow in Gujarat.

■ NATION | PAGE 9

PSLV to place eight satellites in two orbits

CHENNAI: The Indian Space Research Organisation will launch a PSLV rocket from Sriharikota on Monday to put eight satellites into two orbits.

■ NATION | PAGE 9

EDUCATIONPLUS

4 Pages

METROPLUS

4 Pages

Don't view Muslims as vote banks: Modi

Consider the community as our own, PM tells BJP National Council

NISTULA HEBBAR
NJ. NAIR



LOTUS BLOOMS: Narendra Modi picks up a lotus as senior party colleague Arun Jaitley looks on at the BJP National Council meeting in Kozhikode on Sunday. — PHOTO: PTI

KOZHIKODE: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday reached out to Muslims as well as Dalits and sought to underline the BJP's position on Muslims not as "vote banks" but as "our own."

Making a powerful pitch to project the BJP as a pro-Dalit, pro-poor party dedicated to the idea of social justice, Prime Minister Modi said the ruling party's position vis-à-vis the country's largest minority has been "deliberately misrepresented." He was addressing the BJP's National Council meet here.

The meeting also saw the flagging off of the birth centenary celebrations of former Jan Sangh president and ideologue, Deendayal Upadhyaya, as Gareeb Kalyan Varsha or the Year of the Welfare of the Poor.

Mr. Modi said a "vikrit paribhasha" or "twisted definition of secularism" was holding sway. "Desh

bhakti ko bhi kosa jaata ho, aisa mahaul ban gaya hai, (there is an atmosphere in the country where even gestures of nationalism and patriotism are abused)," he said. He urged party men to look to Deendayal Upadhyaya's writings to answer critics. "Musalmahan ko na puraskruti karna chahiye, na tiras karna chahiye, unko vete ki mandi ka saaman nahin samajhna chahiye, unko apna samajhna chahiye (Muslims should neither be rewarded nor punished without any reason; neither should they be considered a vote market, they should be considered our own)," he said.

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

In the last few months the party had been under fire over incidents of cow vigilantism, with other parties accusing the Sangh of an anti-Dalit, Hindutva agenda especially around the issue of cow protection.

Mr. Modi, however, termed the Gareeb Kalyan Varsha as an opportunity for the party to articulate its true, welfare character. "Agar kisi ko barabar par laana hai, toh upar ke logon ko jhuk karke apne haath vanchit logon ki ore badhana chahiye (if you want to establish true equality then those at the top must lend a helping hand to the downtrodden)," he said.

PM to review Indus Waters Treaty today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: In an indication that the government was weighing extreme diplomatic actions against Pakistan in the wake of the terror attack on an Army camp in Uri, Kashmir last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to chair a meeting on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) on Monday.

The IWT between India and Pakistan was sealed in 1960.

The IWT, brokered by the World Bank, was signed between the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and his Pakistani counterpart General Ayub Khan.

Studying fallout

The meeting that the Prime Minister will chair would have representatives from the Water Resources and External Affairs Ministries. "It is only a meeting to assess the Indus Waters Treaty. The Prime Minister will discuss the pros and cons of turning off the tap to Pakistan," said a top government official.

The meeting comes in the wake of Mr. Modi's first public speech after the Uri attack, in Kozhikode on Saturday. Mr. Modi had said the government would take measures to isolate Pakistan diplomatically.

Ashwin's day out at Green Park

VIJAY LOKAPALLI

KANPUR: When Ravichandran Ashwin, playing in his 37th Test, took Kane Williamson's wicket on Sunday, he became the fastest Indian to reach the milestone of 200 wickets. A packed crowd at the Green Park cheered the off-spinner who was the second-fastest to reach the mark after Australian leg-spinner Clarrie Grimmett (36).

The fastest Indian before Ashwin was Harbhajan Singh who did it in 46 Tests.

In tandem with left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja, the Tamil Nadu off-spinner claimed three wickets on the fourth day as New Zealand, set a victory target of 434, was struggling at 93 for four.



200 AND COUNTING: R. Ashwin is all pumped up after trapping New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson on the fourth day of the first Test in Kanpur on Sunday. — PHOTO: V.V. KRISHNAN

■ ON THE BRINK | PAGE 17

Jayalalithaa getting better: Hospital

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI: Ms. Jayalalithaa is responding well to treatment and "there is no question of taking the Chief Minister abroad for treatment, as there is no necessity at all for this," said Subbiah Viswanathan, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Apollo Hospitals, on Sunday.

The meeting comes in the wake of Mr. Modi's first public speech after the Uri attack, in Kozhikode on Saturday. Mr. Modi had said the government would take measures to isolate Pakistan diplomatically.

said, adding that as part of the recuperation process, she had been advised a few more days of rest.

Protocols followed

At a press conference, he said Ms. Jayalalithaa continued to get better and would be discharged in a few days.

She would soon resume her normal duties.

"As per standard medical protocols, necessary investigations and tests are being done to prevent recurrence

of fever," the COO said.

The Chief Minister was on normal diet. Health Minister C. Vijaya Baskar, Health Secretary J. Radhakrishnan and the director of medical services at the hospital, Sathyabama, were present.

Ms. Jayalalithaa was admitted to hospital on Thursday to treat fever and dehydrated.

Party cadres camping near the hospital said they were reassured by the news and elated that she would resume duties soon.

Party cadres camping near

India to ratify Paris climate pact on Gandhi Jayanti

SUHASINI HAIDAR

NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON: India will ratify its U.N. climate change commitments next month to mark Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary and as a tribute to Deendayal Upadhyaya, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Sunday.

"On October 2, we will ratify it. Mahatma Gandhi's life perhaps left the least carbon footprint on earth. We follow his ideals and India will play its part in ratifying the Paris agreement," Mr. Modi told delegates at the BJP's national council meeting in Kozhikode.

The announcement comes

a day before External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj is expected to speak at the U.N. General Assembly.

The Prime Minister's announcement was welcomed by the US government that said it was "thrilled". "We are very excited to hear the PM's announcement today on India's intention to ratify the

Paris Agreement early next month," U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Nisha Biswal told *The Hindu*.

(With inputs from Varghese K. George in Washington & Nistula Hebbal in Kozhikode)

■ NO TRADE-OFF | PAGE 12

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Delhi City Maximum 34 Minimum 26 Safdarjang Maximum 34 Minimum 26 Palam Maximum 35 Minimum 25



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Delhi Palam Tomorrow 36°C

Dry weather will continue. Morning and evening remain mainly sunny & comfortable.

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BLOODY TRAIL

Gangster held for MLA's murder

Accused Deva was reportedly planning to murder MLA's brother, Krishan Pehelwan

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI: The Haryana Police have arrested Deva, a wanted gangster, and his accomplice for their alleged role in the conspiracy to gun down former Delhi MLA Bharat Singh last year.

It is alleged that Deva and his gang had also been planning to murder Singh's brother Krishan Pehelwan, a noted gangster himself. A Bahadurgarh police officer said the accused were arrested on September 23.

Deva is a wanted criminal, with both the Delhi and Gurgaon Police announcing rewards of Rs.50,000 each for information leading to his arrest. Deva and his accomplice were earlier arrested on allegations of dowry harassment. A firearm and a car, which was snatched, were also recovered, said the police.



Deva is also accused in cases like the murder of the son of a sarpanch and snatching cars at gun-point



CASE DIARY: MLA Bharat Singh (inset) was attacked while he was attending a religious event at Abhinandan Vatika in Najafgarh on March 29, 2015. FILE PHOTO

The officer added the duo confessed to their involvement in the MLA's murder and reportedly disclosed that they were planning to kill his brother too.

Singh was attacked by six armed men while he was attending a religious event at Abhinandan Vatika in Najafgarh on March 29, 2015. The attackers had come to the spot in a car that was later recovered from Kharakundi in Haryana.

Five assailants, including

gunned down.

A car pulled up in front of Vipin, four to five armed men exited the vehicle and started firing at the MLA's former driver. Vipin tried to save himself, but got shot five times.

Deva is also accused in several other cases, including the murder of the son of a sarpanch in Farukhnagar, snatching a car at gun-point from Kosli earlier this year and snatching another car on Manesar-Gurgaon Road.

Cop crushed by speeding truck

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI: An on-duty Traffic Police constable was crushed to death by a speeding truck in north-west Delhi's Mahendra Park area on Sunday evening. The truck driver allegedly tried to speed away, but was nabbed by the locals who handed him over to the police.

The incident took place when 28-year-old Ravinder Singh was on the way to Jhangirpuri from Azadpur for official work.

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We will highlight these in our pages

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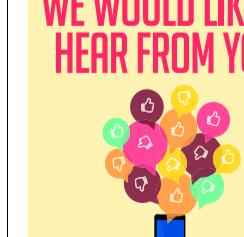
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THE HINDU

20-year-old held for abetting suicide

STAFF REPORTER

GAZIABAD: A 20-year-old engineering student has been arrested for allegedly abetting the suicide of a 17-year-old girl, the daughter of an Uttar Pradesh Police officer, who jumped to her death from the second floor of Cross River Mall in east Delhi's Anand Vihar this past week.

It is alleged that the arrested man, Rinku Kumar, a native of Sirohi district of Rajasthan, had made public some of his pictures with the girl and even shared it with her father, which prompted the suicide.

Kumar is currently pursuing civil engineering from a college in Jaipur. He was arrested from Maharajpur bus station where he had come to meet a friend, said

Superintendent of Police Rajesh Kumar.

The accused reportedly told the police that he first spoke to the girl on Facebook around two years ago. They decided to meet after talking on WhatsApp for seven months. Initially, Kumar insisted that the girl come to Jaipur, but when she refused he came to Ghaziabad instead. They met at a mall in Kaushambi before he returned to Jaipur.

Had made photos public

"They remained in touch and he came to Ghaziabad again to meet her. They clicked several pictures on their mobile phones, later, they exchanged mobile phones, which allowed him access to her contact list, including details of her father and relatives," said a senior police officer.

When the girl's younger brother saw the new phone, he argued with her and took it away. When he contacted Rinku, he was threatened with dire consequences. The brother of the deceased then informed his father, after which a police complaint was lodged.

The girl, meanwhile, started avoiding Rinku, who threatened to commit suicide if she stopped talking to him. Upset with his calls going unanswered, he sent the photos clicked at the mall to her relatives, whose numbers he had.

"The accused has been booked on charges of abetting the teenager's suicide under section 306 of the IPC. We are also investigating the role of two other friends of the accused who helped him," said the officer.

Industrialists offer to assist police

STAFF REPORTER

The police said they are considering the offer and would take it up with their seniors

pickets, and deployments of private security guards were also on the agenda," said Mr. Singh.

In the past, several residents' welfare associations have extended cooperation to the police, but this was largely confined to installing CCTV cameras.

The initiative by factory owners in areas of Narela, Bawana, Mangolpuri, Samaypur Badli, Wazirpur Industrial Area, Rajasthan Udyog Nagar, Lawrence Road, Industrial Area GT Karnal Road, and Shakti Nagar, come after a review observed that the local police encountered several limitations

"Importance of a secure environment for any industrial activity is a 'sine qua non'. It is a known fact that economic activities flourish in a safe environment," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (North West) Vijay Singh.

The police said they are considering the offer and would take it up with their seniors. For now, the ACPS and SHOs have been directed to hold regular meetings with the Industrial Area Welfare Association and expedite the process.

"A WhatsApp group of members of the industrial associations has been formed to share information and issues related to safety and security in the area," said Mr. Vijay Singh.

DELHI TODAY

Music: Remembering Naina Devi by Vidya Rao, disciple of musician Naina Devi presents an evening of Thumri, Dhadra and Ghazal at IHC, 7 p.m.

Music: 6th Delhi International Jazz Festival 2016. Donald Harrison & the Barklee all Stars Band from USA; Lichtenkun Sound Lab Jazz group from Poland, 4th Element Band group from Shilong (India) at Nehru Park, 6:30 p.m.

Paintings: "Devi" a solo show of paintings by Shampa Sircar Das at Shridharan Art Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, House, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "In the Realm of Myths" - solo show of paintings pop-up art and installation by Sankha Banerjee from Kolkata at Art Gallery, Annex Building, IIC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: Creative Front presents a group art show at All India Fine Arts & Craft Society (AIFACS), 1 Rafi Marg, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: The Fantasy World of Gouri Vemula and The Recent Works of Aditi Aggarwal at Art Heritage Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Allured" - solo art show by Ashok Ahuja at Gallery Espace, 16 Community Centre, New Friends Colony, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Soul of Delhi" - a photo series capturing "Saddi Dilli" by Abhishek Khanna at Delhi 'o' Delhi Foyer, IHC, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Screening and discussion: "Revisiting the Philosophy of Verrier Elwin: Tribal Anthropology Festival". Screen-

ing of documentary films: "The Story of the Peacock" - from the Pardhan Gonds of Madhya Pradesh; "Man Tiger Spirit" - from the Angami tribe of Nagaland; "Abotani" - from the Tani tribes of Arunachal Pradesh; "Raven Tales" - an episode from the animated series made in Canada and "Hum Chitra Banai Hain" (We Make Images; 8 min) - an animated interpretation of an origin myth from the Bhil community in Madhya Pradesh. Screening to be followed by a discussion with the filmmakers, at IIC, 6:30 p.m.

Screening: Colombian Film Festival "Of love and other Demons" at IHC, 7 p.m.

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Miscreants fire in the air, held

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI: Four miscreants allegedly opened fire in the air, triggering panic in the Dhobi Ghat area of Lodhi Colony on Saturday night. The shooters were arrested at the spot, with the police claiming they were drunk.

The accused have been identified as Ravi, Aryaman, Manoj and Sidhant, all residents of Dhobi Ghat locality.

Incident at Lodhi colony

A senior police officer said the accused were drunk and fired in air late on Saturday night. A passer-by who was in his car spotted them firing in air and called up the police control room.

A team from Lodhi Colony police station immediately rushed to the spot and arrested the four accused.

"The four persons were drunk. We have recovered a pistol from their possession. A case under the Arms Act has been registered against them and further investigations are on," said the officer.

The police added that at least four shots were fired in the air.

Joys of life



BEST FOOT FORWARD: Boys enrolled in a madrasa enjoying a game of football on Sunday. PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

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ESSAY

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Buy a cab from Ola: Down payment of Rs. 20,000 + Rs. 808 per day for three years. Insurance and maintenance are responsibility of Ola for three years, after which the driver is the owner of the car. With this financing scheme, a car worth Rs. 3 lakh costs Rs. 9 lakh, but the financing procedure is simpler compared to a bank loan

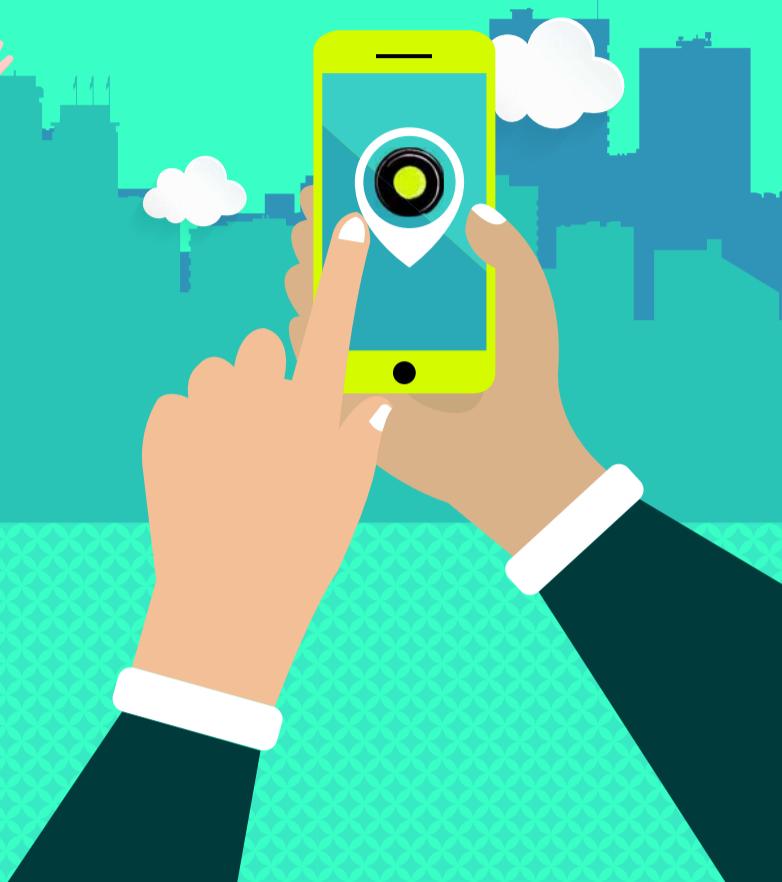
**Earning differs if you buy a cab from Ola**

 Apart from the earnings per ride, rates of which are fixed and advertised by the company, Ola drivers get an "incentive" for completing a fixed number of rides during the day. On regular earnings, Ola charges 20 per cent commission and the rest goes to the driver

 The extra incentive is what most drivers look forward to on a daily basis. For most, no incentive means no business. Canceling a ride or offering a bad service may result in cancellation of the incentive, even if the requisite number of rides has been completed. The drivers say they are not informed about the reason in case the incentive is cancelled

Cabbies go Ola la...

From jobless youths to budding entrepreneurs, many young men are taking the wheel to fulfil their dreams



For drivers who buy a cab from Ola there is no provision for any incentive

Gaming the system

In the incentive system, the distance does not matter, only the number of rides is taken into consideration. Hence, short trips are beneficial. Five rides totalling 50 km is more business compared to one ride involving a 60-km journey.

And hence, some drivers attempt to game the system. A popular strategy is to generate fake rides - requesting the customer who finished his/her ride to make another booking. The proximity to the cab ensures that the same driver gets the booking. The driver doesn't ask the customer to pay, but drives for 4-5 km and eventually stops the ride. A bill is generated and an extra ride is added to their account, taking them closer to their target.

Dropped Canada dream to drive a cab

Gagandeep Singh, 37

west Delhi
For several weeks after he took up driving with cab aggregator Ola, Gagandeep Singh would use sun shades in his car to conceal his identity. So embarrassed he would be of his occupation, that he would leave home for work suited-booted, telling his family that he managed the transport business of a five-star hotel.



Today, he owns a dozen cabs, all operating for Ola, and is set to add luxury cars such as Mercedes, Toyota Fortuner and Ford Endeavour to his fleet. "I earn around Rs. 4 lakh per month," says the 37-year-old.

His son, a Class V student in a reputed school in Dwarka, is now aware that his father drives for a living.

"My son told me there was no shame in any work," says Singh.

His wife, employed with Google, has also been full of support, and so are his relatives.

"Initially, I was most worried about what my two sisters would think about me. They are well-settled, and own luxury cars. However, one day they called me to say they were proud of me and my work," says the man.

Singh was a national-level tennis player, something that helped him bag admission into Delhi University's Shri Ram College of Commerce.

Up until three years ago, he was involved in his father's transportation business. "We owned 52 trucks, but losses forced us to sell them all," he recounts.

When he started looking for work, his relatives in Canada suggested that he move to the country and begin a transport business there. His visa was ready, and he was all set to depart when one day he happened to visit a car showroom in west Delhi's Rajouri Garden.

A conversation with a sales executive ended up with me casually attending some classes held by Ola at their office in Gurugram. The trainers said a driver

could earn Rs. 2,000-Rs. 2,500 per day by joining Ola. That day I decided to dump the Canada plan, and take the plunge in India once again," says Singh.

He purchased a Swift Dzire car

which he immediately attached with Ola. But for days together he was unable to find a "suitable driver" even as the monthly instalment of his vehicle was calling out. The situation, however, turned out to be a blessing in disguise, he says.

"Not willing to wait anymore, I decided to drive the car myself. The first day, sometime in March last year, I earned a profit of over Rs. 4,000. I drove the second day and then through the entire month. I would ply the vehicle for 16-18 hours every day. By the month-end, I earned around Rs. 1 lakh," says Singh.

He then began buying more cars. Now, he drives one of the cars himself even as several drivers work for him. "I drive the very same Swift Dzire that I had first attached with Ola. It is my lucky car," he says.

His journey, however, has not been easy. "I would change into my driving uniform inside the cab. I did not want my son to feel awkward in front of his schoolmates," he recalls.

On one occasion, he felt a strong urge to give up his job. "I had received a pick-up request from a railway station. The passenger called me a driver, and rudely ordered me to load his luggage in the cab. I felt insulted and had tears in my eyes," he says.

Shiv Sunny

The more you drive, the more you earn'

Ashok Kumar, 49

Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh

Hailing from Moradabad, Ashok Kumar, 49, moved to Delhi in 1983. After his marriage in 1994, he started driving an autorickshaw to earn a living.

Three months ago, his brother, who runs a small business, bought a car and got it registered with Ola. He hired a driver to run the car and the earnings from it served as a side income. A month later, having experienced the Ola system, he told Kumar's wife and kids about the advantages of the cab service.

"Convinced by their uncle's argument, my kids persuaded me to give up my autorickshaw and start driving a car," says Kumar.

After riding an autorickshaw for 20 years, on August 17, Kumar hit the road in a new vehicle and a new avatar - Ola cab driver. Turning on the AC, he exclaims, "No sweating from now on."

Mr. Kumar has two daughters



- one pursuing BA in English Literature from Delhi University, the other enrolled in an engineering course - and a son who is in sixth grade.

"At the moment, it's a no profit, no loss situation. I have to pay my car's instalment as well. But it will pick up. It's all about hard work. The more you drive, the more you earn," Kumar says about the cab business.

Kumar belongs to a section of people who wanted and voted for Arvind Kejriwal as Chief Minister and Narendra Modi as Prime Minister. As he complains about exploitation by Delhi's traffic policemen, he fondly remembers the 49 days of the previous AAP government: "49 din me sab sudhar gaye the. Aur ab dekho, khule aam len den chalta hai (In 49 days, things had improved remarkably. Now, there is rampant corruption)."

While many of his friends enrolled their autorickshaws with Ola - very similar to the cab system - Kumar chose not to. He laughs and says, "The company gave everyone a smartphone upon enrolling. A lot of them did not return those phones after de-registering." He was also a part of the autorickshaw driver's protest against Ola and still believes that some regulations should be put in place.

Kumar recalls his early 20s, when he was going through the recruitment process for Indo-Tibetan Border Police in Seemadwar, Dehradun.

"I had reached quite far, but then they asked me to give some exam in Delhi. I didn't go. That is my only regret in life. Had I done that, I would not have been driving an auto or this cab. I would have a nice government job."

Samarth Bansal

A chance to become an entrepreneur

Bhaskar Yadav, 32

Mahendragarh, Haryana

For nine years, Bhaskar Yadav worked in the administration department of various multinational companies in the Capital. Cooped up in office for 13-14 hours a day, he often wondered why he was working so hard for someone else to keep their clients and employees happy".

Bitten by the entrepreneurial bug while he was still working with the MNCs, Bhaskar saved money, purchased a car for commercial use and employed a driver. However, the recurring thought eventually made Bhaskar quit his job in 2013 and grab the opportunity Ola was offering — a chance to become an entrepreneur.

Bhaskar started driving the car himself to learn first-hand what it took to be a successful driver. Today, he owns five cars and employs as many people.

"I always wanted to run my own business and create job opportunities for others. I have taken a small step by doing so and would like to expand my fleet by owning luxury cars and employing more people," says Bhaskar.

From 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily, Bhaskar is in "office" — his car

mind when those around you are losing theirs."

He recalled multiple instances when people shouted at him, but he stayed calm and simply let it go. He says driving a taxi is a part of the service industry and he aims to provide a comfortable experience to every customer by engaging in conversation, offering water, phone chargers and being polite.

"Like none of our fingers are the same, no customer is the same. Often people get in and ask me to drive fast as they are in a hurry. Sometimes they even leave without paying. I use my experience to train my drivers on how to deal with such situations."

He wishes to go back to his village in Haryana and help those who want to join the business.

Jaideep Deo Bhanji

— monitoring his fleet on his mobile phone, besides driving passengers all day. He has also installed GPS trackers in all his cars to make the process of monitoring them easier.

"Delhi is a tough city to work in. You have to deal with traffic jams, long distances and road rage. The only way to counter all this is by keeping a cool

difficult for drivers like me who drive sedans which should be operated on higher fares compared to smaller cars. My EMI is higher than a smaller car but I earn the same fare as the driver of a smaller car. What's worse is the way fare-sharing passengers behave with each other," he said.

"I recently ferried a pregnant passenger and a smoker heading to the same location. The man showed no concern for the health of the other occupant and refused to stub his cigarette despite being asked politely. Thankfully, for the lady, it was a short trip," he said.

"Things have become very

Ola is his gateway to economic freedom

Ajit Khandelwal (name changed), 29

Sonipat, Haryana

In August 2015, fortunes turned for the worse for 29-year-old Ajit Khandelwal (name changed) when his family discovered that his father was under a debt of Rs. 3 crore.

A resident of Sonipat, Ajit completed his BBA from Delhi University. After his short stint as a trainee at a CA's office in the Capital, he went to Chandigarh to work at a call centre. Alongside, he pursued an MBA degree via correspondence. Thereafter, he went to Patna where he got a job of Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTE). He still keeps the TTE ID card in his wallet as a prized possession. Six months into the job, he was diagnosed with Tuberculosis. He went home for treatment, but never returned to join his railway job.

For the next three years, Ajit ran his family business in Sonipat - wholesale dealers selling over 30 products -- earning a decent living. When the story of the debt his father owed came around - which no one in the family was aware of - the Khandelwals had to sell off the bulk of their property. Consequently, their business suffered and Ajit was rendered unemployed.

Now, after one year of job hunt, Ajit has bought a car financed by Ola's scheme and has registered with them as a cab driver. Ola for him is a gateway to economic freedom. It was his first day and this reporter was his first customer.

Though determined for this new phase, he gloomily recalled the old days. "There was a time when I used to drive, for leisure, my own sedan, Verna. And today..."

Does he know Delhi's roads well enough to be a taxi driver? "While in college, I used to ride around on a motorbike with my girlfriend. We left no corner of Delhi unexplored. And back then, there was no navigation app in phones. So, yeah," he confidently said.

Aji had conversations with Meru and Uber, before deciding to associate with Ola, which he found the most promising. This first ride with Ola did not end on a rosy note. At the IT/O crossing, a traffic policeman noticed that the car did not have 'Owner Detail' sticker - which should have the name, phone number, address and other details of the driver - and hauled up the driver, calling for a fine of Rs. 2,000. After 10 minutes of negotiation, a settlement (read bribe) was made for Rs. 300 and he was let off. "The last one year has been extremely tough. But still, I had food to eat, shelter to live and a caring family. I want to rise and get back the old life. I will work extremely hard and drive for long hours. That is what ensures a good business with Ola," Ajit said.

Samarth Bansal

Three years later, few passengers, fewer incentives

Vijender Saini, 28

Barola village, Noida

As Vijender Saini's wait for a potential fare near a sprawling commercial complex in Noida's Sector 132 entered its fifth hour, the 28-year-old animatedly recalled his initial days behind the steering wheel of a sedan attached to a prominent app-based taxi service.

"You see this circle around the blue blimp which means this car?" he asked pointing to the screen of his smartphone attached to a holder stuck on the windshield. "It used to be filled with duties (potential customers) any time of the day and at any given location in the National Capital Re-

gion (NCR) when I switched on my device three years ago. Look at it now; nothing. *Kaam hai nahin* (there is simply no work)," he said, his smile wearing off.

Over the last three years, Saini, a resident of Noida's urbanized Barola village, said he was among lakhs of "average drivers" based in the NCR who rode the "Uber-Ola bubble" to what now "seems to be its conclusion".

The rush of being "flooded with work" which had greeted their move onto the web-app platform in the name of the "changing times" and attractive incentives has, three years later, become "a daily struggle" given the massive

numerical increase of his peers, "more uncertainty" in the rate chart and the risk of "customers with behavioural problems" opting for shared rides.

"Surge pricing may sound like a crime, like something extra that we are fleecing out of our customers without their knowledge, but the truth is that it was the only reason that made this job worthwhile and kept the effect of the increasing number of cabs on the streets uniform and fair for everyone," he said.

"It was like winning a lottery for both the driver and the passenger; sure the customer would need to pay a little extra but that extra

money also ensured instant service. Since surge pricing was banned (in Delhi), both drivers and customers are bearing the brunt," he added.

The fare-sharing system, which has replaced both surge-pricing and target-linked incentives in relation to the total number of trips being undertaken by a driver, he said has made eking a living more physically exhausting and uncertain for drivers.

The need of the hour, he said, was a fixed rate chart for vehicles even as he complained about "lack of basic courtesy" he routinely observed among passengers opting for shared rides.

"It was like winning a lottery for both the driver and the passenger; sure the customer would need to pay a little extra but that extra



Cambridge prof claims he was escorted out of St. Stephen's

Two guards, who said they had orders from the principal, saw the professor out

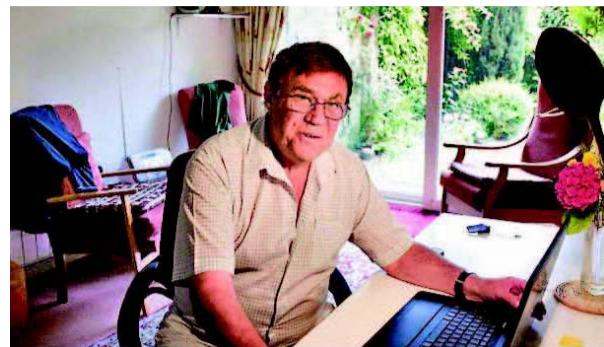
STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI: David Gosling, an academic supervisor at the University of Cambridge, alleged that he was escorted out of Delhi University's St. Stephen's College by security guards on August 19, a few days after being welcomed as guest of the university.

Dr. Gosling, who taught physics at St. Stephen's College for six years in the late 1990s, said he was shocked at the treatment meted out to him as it came a few days after he was invited for breakfast by Principal John Varghese and was introduced warmly to all the students and staff members during the morning assembly.

Dr. Gosling added that he had written to Dr. Varghese on September 20, asking him to explain and, if necessary, investigate the incident.

However, he is yet to re-



MIXED MESSAGE: David Gosling says the incident happened a few days after he was welcomed as guest of the university.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ceive a response or even an acknowledgement of the letter. *The Hindu* attempted to reach Dr. Varghese for a comment, but he remained unavailable.

Speaking about the incident, Dr. Gosling said two security guards confronted him in the staffroom on August 19

and explained, with the help of a faculty member acting as an interpreter, that they had instructions from the Principal to escort him out of the campus.

Dr. Gosling said he left via the Allnutte gate, with a security guard accompanying him, as the staff member ad-

vised him to leave at once or they (the security guards) would get physical.

Commenting on the incident, College Staff Association president Nandita Narain said the matter was raised during the staff association meeting and faculty members expressed dismay and concern over the incident.

Thampu had problem with Gosling'

"If the incident is true, I hope various forums at St. Stephen's College take it up as this is uncivilised and inhuman behaviour. I hope the Church of North India also takes up the issue," Ms. Narain said. She added that the former Principal of the college, Valson Thampu, had a problem with Dr. Gosling, but did not understand why the current Principal made a "u-turn" after receiving him warmly.

Vocabulary class

Last week, an eminent lawyer got held up in traffic while trying to reach the Delhi High Court from the Supreme Court for a case involving the lease of a renowned hotel. While the court waited, the advocate's juniors tried to engage the judge in discussions on various legal aspects.

One such discussion prompted the judge, known for his vast vocabulary and knowledge of various subjects, to declare that many lawyers sometimes use the wrong words in the wrong places.

"You see, for example, an issue is never 'framed', like we are used to speaking. An issue is 'settled', a charge is 'framed,'" said the judge, adding: "You know a court should never decide a case. It should declare a law and the decision of the case should be a by-product of that declaration".

After about 15 minutes, the

CORRIDORS OF POWER

senior advocate rushed into the courtroom uttering "sorry" many times. Turns out his usual driver had not come, and the new one did not know the route from the Apex Court to the HC. "He took a wrong turn while I was busy on the phone and I got stuck near Mathura road," said the lawyer.

■ ■ ■

No smoking

From now on, Delhi Police officers will be actively cracking down on people smoking in public places. Cops are usually not seen enforcing the Cigarette and Other Tobacco Product Act, 2003, wherein it is mentioned that public smoking has to be fined. But in a letter issued earlier this month, it has been said that the COTPA cases will also be mentioned in the Crime Diary of all districts. The letter, issued by the headquarters, has been sent to all the District heads. Sambandh Health

ripe to move ahead and work towards the greater cause to help improve the infrastructure and bring out policy changes. The popularity of the programme, which was launched amid much public support, has also gone down over the past few months.

However, rumour are rife that the programme has lost favour with the police after the new Commissioner of Police Sandeep Khirwar took over a month ago. Insiders say that unlike his predecessor, Mr. Khirwar believes that such programmes achieve little on the ground and put additional burden on the already limited police force. In the wake of the "monster jam", the priorities of the police have now shifted to bring about real change on the ground rather than organise such "fancy" programmes.

(Contributed by Akanksha Jain, Shubhamoy Sikdar and Ashok Kumar)

EDUCATION WATCH

16 years on, NGO moves HC again as 26,000 school teacher posts lie vacant

Plea seeks action against officials responsible for 'intentional disobedience' of court's 2001 order

AKANKSHA JAIN

NEW DELHI: Sixteen years after the Delhi High Court directed the government and the municipal agency to recruit teachers for their schools in a time-bound manner to ensure zero vacancy at the commencement of each academic year, at least 26,000 posts of teachers are still lying vacant still.

Social Jurist, an NGO, through advocate and activist Ashok Agarwal has moved the High Court once again demanding action against the government and the three municipal corporations for "sitting over the recruitment process".

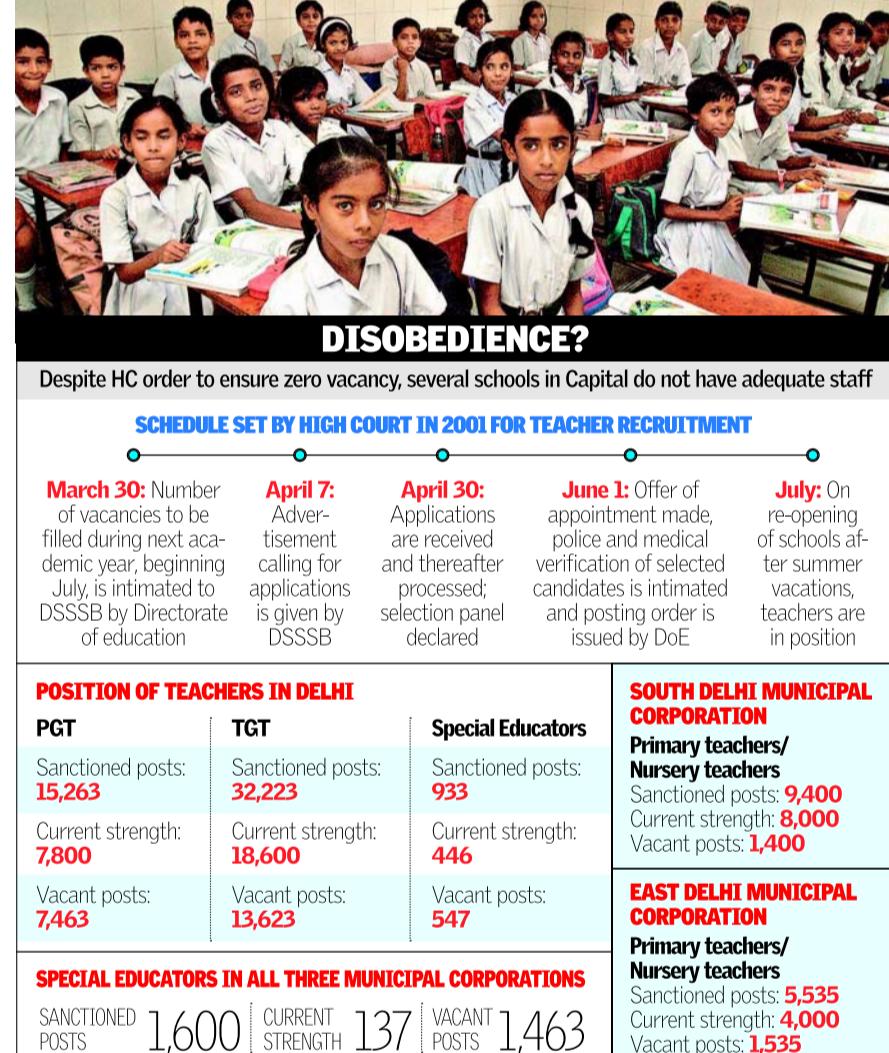
The petition seeks action against government officials responsible for "deliberate and intentional disobedience" of orders of a Division Bench of the High Court to ensure zero vacancy at the commencement of each academic year in schools.

Failure of government

"Failure on the part of the government of Delhi and the MCD to provide adequate number of teachers adversely affects more than 21 lakh students and is a violation of their fundamental right to education," the petition says.

In 2001, on a petition filed by Social Jurist against the Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board, the Delhi government and the Municipal Corporation, the High Court had set a schedule for appointment of teachers to ensure that all posts are filled by beginning of July every year.

In 2010, on a contempt petition, the court had said the recruitment process is slow but appointment of teachers was taking place anyway. It had, however,



granted liberty that if the State does not recruit teachers, the court can be approached again.

In figures

Now, Social Jurist has sought revival of its contempt petition saying the State and its agencies are not slow in the recruitment process but are "actually sitting over it".

"It is submitted that as

many as 15,40,691 students are studying in 1,011 schools run by the government of N.C.T. Delhi, 3.29 lakh students are studying in 719 primary schools run by North Delhi Municipal Corporation, 2,86,000 in 579 primary schools run by SDMC and 3.50 lakh students are studying in 387 primary schools run by East Delhi Municipal Corporation. Thus, a total of

25,05,691 students are studying in 1,977 schools run by the government of Delhi and three MCDs.

"26,031 (this does not include 9,000 posts created by the Delhi government) vacant posts of teachers in Delhi government and three municipal corporation-run schools result in depriving these students of their fundamental right to receive quality education," it said.

Dreaming of a school with a building

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI: Since 1984, students in the government school at Bhatti Mines, 1,933 kids study in 41 pre-fabricated classrooms.

At a govt. school in Bhatti Mines, 1,933 kids study in 41 pre-fabricated classrooms

The classrooms are such that there is a wide gap between the four pre-fabricated walls and the tin roof, enough for the monkeys to enter.

"Monkeys come inside very often. There have been instances of students being bitten," said a student of Class IX.

Another student added to this: "It is a task to study in the classrooms that feel like a blast furnace in summers". In almost all classrooms, two to three of the five fans installed were out of order.

Another problem is the

location of a dumping ground right next to the school. Whenever the waste here is set on fire, the fumes envelope the school - the entrance to which is through a small iron gate in a narrow lane.

Famous student The plight of the students was recently brought to the notice of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal by activist Ashok Agarwal, who visited the school to get Pakistani refugee Madhu admission here.

"Allowing the children to study in such classrooms is pitiable and a violation of their fundamental right to education," the letter said while requesting the Chief Minister to ensure that the school gets a *pakka* structure.

A senior teacher said on condition of anonymity that they were constructing their own concrete building with proper classrooms, but nothing can happen further until the Delhi government does not take up the issue with the Forest Department.

Monkey menace In summers, the sweltering heat plays havoc inside while the monkeys create chaos outside.

AAP launches 'spot the kachra' campaign

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Delhi convener Dilip Pandey on Sunday started the 'Spot the Kachra' campaign over unattended garbage in east Delhi's Gandhi Nagar.

The campaign aims to "name and shame" the BJP-led civic bodies, as the responsibility to clean the streets rests with them.

AAP volunteers, along with Mr. Pandey, put up red hand-shaped stickers on walls pointing towards garbage strewn on the street.

The sticker read: "Spot the Kachra: it is BJP-led MCDs' duty to clear this filth".

Assigning responsibility

The campaign comes within a week of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's appeal for cross-party unity

to tackle the rising cases of chikungunya and dengue.

The campaign will cover all the 70 Assembly constituencies in one week," Mr. Pandey said. The campaign aims to make people aware that it is the sole responsibility of the civic bodies to keep the city clean and free of mosquitoes, "as the message often gets lost due to multiplicity of authorities in Delhi", the AAP leader said.

The AAP government had on Thursday launched a month-long fogging drive across the city, stating that it was forced to take up the work due to the failure of the BJP-led corporations to do so.

"The BJP-led civic bodies are playing with the health of Delhiites," Mr. Pandey said.

The move is strategic as the municipal elections are slated in April next year.

Delhi govt officials to get social media savvy

MARIA AKRAM

NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi will now teach its officials how to be social media savvy so that they can interact with the citizens through various platforms.

On Thursday, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia asked the Delhi government's Information Technology (IT) Department to add Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp as part of IT training for officials, along with Microsoft Word, Excel and other software.

The move comes in the wake of Mr. Sisodia observing that communicating and sharing information through social media was more convenient, faster and easier than traditional 'Excel sheets'.

"Mr. Sisodia asked us to add these three social media sites

as part of the training," said a government official.

Though a formal policy on the matter is yet to be formulated, it is expected to be on the lines of the Centre's social media policy for its officials.

"In the past one month, all departments were able to communicate better through WhatsApp. Sharing pictures and reports on fogging, dengue and chikungunya cases and road repairs was much easier," said an IT Department official.

No staff

However, IT Department officials are sceptical about the addition of social media as they are understaffed. "We are short-staffed. To manage social media, a team is needed. It can only be a success if people are hired for this purpose," said another official.

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Punjab only for Punjabis, AAP will unleash anarchy: Amarinder

"What the Akalis have done to Punjab in 10 years, Kejriwal has done to Delhi in just a year"

BANGA: Mounting an attack on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Congress leader Amarinder Singh on Sunday said: "Punjab is only for Punjabis" and warned the people that the AAP leader would "unleash chaos and disorder" in the State too "as he had done in Delhi".

"What the Akalis have done to Punjab in 10 years, Kejriwal has done to Delhi in just a year," he said, referring to "chaos and disorder prevailing" in the national Capital.

His remarks came as the AAP supremo arrived in the State for the second time in less than three weeks to steer the party's campaign for the 2017 Punjab Assembly polls.

"Large-scale bungling"

Capt. Singh said he firmly believes that "Punjab is only for Punjabis", to whichever party or group they belong, adding that he will "fight against" Kejriwal from whichever seat he decides to contest in the upcoming polls.

The State Congress chief said as he feared "large-scale bungling" by the ruling combine in Punjab in the upcoming polls, he had already approached the Election Commission (EC) for deployment of Central forces and arranging for EVMs from outside the State.

The former Chief Minister said if his party comes to power in the state, it would take "all the required legislative and executive steps" to create more jobs for the unemployed youth and stressed on the need for industrialisation of the state.

Speaking at his 'Halkie Vich Captain' programme, the Amarinder Singh said industrialisation was the "only solution" to provide jobs to the nearly 90 lakh unemployed youth in the 18-40 age group in the State.

Capt. Singh said he would take all the measures to provide a "conducive environment" to the industries, including providing "cheap" electricity and land.

Ropar-Gurdaspur would

be developed as an "industrial belt" on a priority basis, he added.

The Congress leader cautioned the people against the "alluring promises" of the Aam Aadmi Party and Kejriwal who, he said, had "adopted confrontation as a way of life". He alleged that while Delhi was fighting dengue and chikungunya, Kejriwal "hospitalised himself" in Bengaluru and his deputy chief minister and other ministers were "hollydaying in Europe".

Amarinder Singh urged the people to recall his tenure as chief minister of Punjab between 2002 and 2007 and compare it with that of the Akalis in the state and the AAP in Delhi.

He cautioned the people to vote carefully lest they ended up "pushing Punjab into chaos and anarchy again".

The Congress leader alleged that the Akalis had "destroyed Punjab beyond redemption". Their main achievement has been pushing an entire generation into

drugs," he alleged, adding, "Beware, lest they destroy another generation as well."

"Cheer on the faces"

Amarinder Singh said his "only cherished dream" now was to "bring back the cheer on the faces of Punjabis" which has gone "missing" over the last nine years of the SAD-BJP rule.

He criticised the Parkash Singh Badal government's policy of hiring employees on a contractual basis.

"My government will ensure that employees are recruited on a regular basis and on proper pay scales," he said, while criticising the State government for hiring teachers and doctors "on very low wages".

Later, talking to reporters, Capt. Singh slammed Mr. Badal for the alleged sacrilege incidents in the State over the last few months.

Holding the chief minister squarely responsible for such incidents, he said adoption of such tactics before the polls was the "hallmark" of Mr. Badal

whenever he saw his "throne in danger".

"Parkash Singh Badal often tries to polarise the society to garner votes whenever he sees his chair in danger," the State Congress chief said.

He claimed that the Badal government was "ill-equipped" for the ensuing paddy procurement season. "It has absolutely no arrangements in place, including money for procuring paddy," he said.

On reservation for the "poor among the general category", the State Congress chief said he would ensure that the "downtrodden" sections in the category got "some sort of a relief" by reserving "some percentage of the quota available to it".

Amarinder Singh promised to find a solution to the "ever increasing menace of stray animals" in the State by increasing the size of 'gaushalas' (cow sheds) and undertaking the fencing of the "existing breeds" (areas with a thick vegetation). - PTI

Sacrilege handiwork of forces bent to disturb peace, says Badal

FATEHGHAR CHURIAN: Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal on Sunday claimed that the incidents of desecration of Guru Granth Sahib in the state were "handiwork of those forces which wanted to disturb its hard-earned peace".

"nefarious designs of these fissiparous forces" would be thwarted at any cost.

Replies to a query, he said his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal's visit to the State would "hardly have any effect on the State politics".

People wise enough

He said the people of the State were wise enough to judge friends and foes, adding that they would only support the ruling SAD-BJP alliance, which was the "true custodian of the interests of Punjab and its people".

Duty-bound

He said the State government was "duty-bound" to nab the culprits and put them behind the bars.

Mr. Badal said his government was committed to promoting the "ethos of peace, communal harmony and brotherhood" and the

Replying to another query, he said Punjab was the "only rightful owner" of Chandigarh and the river waters of the State, adding that as per "universally accepted principles", Haryana had no right over either.

Own Capital

Mr. Badal said every new State, carved out of another, had developed its own Capital. So, Haryana had no right over Chandigarh, adding that as per riparian principles, it could not even claim "a drop of river water" from Punjab.

Seat-sharing

Describing the SAD-BJP alliance as "firm and everlasting", he said it would contest the 2017 Assembly polls together, adding that any meeting on seat-sharing was yet to take place and the two alliance partners would take a call on it at "an appropriate time".

Mr. Badal said the poll plank of the combine in the Assembly polls would be "communal harmony, peace and development". - PTI

'Harassed' by money lender, four of family commit suicide

CHANDIGARH: Four members of a family allegedly committed suicide by consuming some poisonous substance in Kishangarh in Punjab after being "harassed" by a money lender, the police said on Sunday.

The bodies of the four were found near the fields in Kishangarh along the Jalandhar-Patankot Highway today.

The deceased included a couple in their fifties and their children - a 20-year-old daughter and 25-year-old son, SHO Bhogpur Inspector Lakhbir Singh said.

The police said the family took the extreme step as they were allegedly harassed by a money lender.

A suicide note was recovered from the pocket of the 55-year-old deceased man, stating that he had taken a loan and repaid it, but still the money lender had been threatening and harassing the family. - PTI

Farmers stop train



Farmers stop a Delhi-bound train in Amritsar on Sunday during a protest over their various demands including waiver of loans. PHOTO: PTI

Five policemen suspended

BULANDSHAH: Five constables were on Sunday suspended after they were found guilty of dereliction of duty following escape of six undertrials from police custody.

The five cops were suspended by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Anis Ansari.

The incident took place on

September 23 when six undertrials escaped from a court premises by throwing red chilli powder on policemen escorting them to the jail van after a hearing in Anoopshahr.

Nine undertrials were presented at the ACJM court of whom six had managed to escape. - PTI

BJD, Cong. sound poll bugle

STAFF REPORTER

BHUBANESWAR: The ruling Biju Janata Dal and the Opposition Congress on Sunday virtually sounded bugle for the forthcoming panchayat elections by announcing to reach out to every household of Odisha in the month ahead.

While the BJD workers would undertake a month-long 'Jana Sampark Padayatra' (Mass Contact March) starting from October 2, the Congress will set up village-level task force with an objective to get in touch with every family in the State.

Addressing the workers' meet here on Sunday, Chief Minister and BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik said, "neither the UPA government nor the NDA government has paid any attention to Odisha, let alone giving priority in implementation of development programme. We will continue to fight on the issue of Mahanadi as well as Polavaram project. Party cadres should go to people and inform them about

"If needed, Congress may make seat adjustments with like-minded parties, individuals"

central negligence and welfare programmes taken up by State government."

"Our party's only mantra is development. We are making consistent efforts for development of State's 4.5 crore population. Several programmes such as Kalinga Siksha Sathi Yojana, Biju Kanyaratna Yojana, Biju Puccaghra Yojana, Welfare of Construction Workers, Biju Setu, Odisha Adarsha Bidyayala and slash in stamp duty for land registration in the name of women are some of the programmes which reflect the party's commitment," said Mr. Patnaik.

Similarly, the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) organised an election preparedness camp for party's block presidents and advised them to start work-

ing for a good show in the panchayat elections.

"We will go to every household by strengthening our organisational set up in the next couple of months. There will be block, gram panchayat and ward level task forces. We intend to field candidates in all 87,000 wards across the State," announced OPCC president Prasad Harichandan.

Mr. Harichandan said if local level leaders feel that there is need to make seat adjustment with like-minded parties or individuals, the party would give it a thought.

Party's panchayat election campaign will be supervised by 30 senior leaders in 30 districts of the State. Besides, the party would select 314 observers for all blocks of the State. "Massive corruption by the BJD, irregularities in selection of beneficiaries of the National Food Security Act, non-distribution of crop insurance and growing unemployment would be highlighted by the Congress," said Mr. Harichandan.

The police said the victim had earlier said in her complaint that five persons, including the accused known to her, had kidnapped her from near her house in Kalanaur when she had gone out to ease herself on Friday night, but later changed the statement.

They said she had told them five persons, including Sunil, who has been arrested, had bundled her into a car and then taken her to the fields where they gang-raped her and later abandoned her by the roadside.

The victim said she made the earlier statement because she feared wrath of her family, the police said.

In her last statement made before she took the ex-

treme step, the victim said that Sunil had taken her on a motorcycle on Friday night when she ventured outside her house. She was taken to fields by the accused where he raped her. Later, when some passers-by noticed her, she was rushed to a hospital, they said.

The police said the woman cooked up a story that she had been kidnapped and raped by five

accused.

However, during counselling yesterday, the victim told a woman police officer that only Sunil was involved in the incident.

The victim took the extreme step by hanging herself in her house today," Rohtak DSP Pushpa Khatri said, adding that 26-year-old Sunil of Katesra village was arrested and taken in one-day's police remand. - PTI

Woman commits suicide after being raped

CHANDIGARH: A married woman, who was raped allegedly by a man known to her, committed suicide on Sunday in her home in a village in Rohtak district, the police said.

The woman took the extreme step when only her visually impaired mother-in-law was at home, they said.

The police said the victim had earlier said in her complaint that five persons, including the accused known to her, had kidnapped her from near her house in Kalanaur when she had gone out to ease herself on Friday night, but later changed the statement.

They said she had told them five persons, including Sunil, who has been arrested, had bundled her into a car and then taken her to the fields where they gang-raped her and later abandoned her by the roadside.

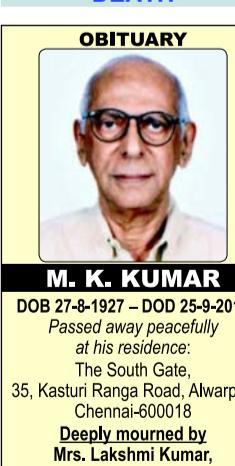
The victim said she made the earlier statement because she feared wrath of her family, the police said.

In her last statement made before she took the ex-

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DEATH

OBITUARY



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Deeply mourned by

Mrs. Lakshmi Kumar,

Anand & Teresa Kumar,

Anita & Prithvi Narayan

Grandchildren

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ASHOK KUMAR

GURGAON: Hundreds of cyclists participated in a rally to spread awareness about road safety in the Millennium City on Sunday morning as part of Cyclothon 2016.

Around 300 cyclists gathered at HUDA City Centre early in the morning to participate in the 30-km and

10-km rides. The theme of the event was to acknowledge the World Car Free Day and also create awareness and seriousness about road safety.

The event began with a flash mob welcoming of the dignitaries. The riders then began the rally, which passed through the Raahgiri route. The 10-km ride returned from Kachra Chowk on Gurgaon-Faridabad Road.

Along the stretch, school children displayed posters,

paintings and performed

IAF choppers rescue stranded labourers

Workers from Odisha and Bihar are in temporary shelter; water in Manjeera boosts rabi hopes

R. AVADHANI
P. RAM MOHAN

SANGAREDDY/NIZAMSGAR: All 24 labourers stranded at Tekulagadda in the fast-swelling Manjeera river since Friday evening were airlifted by two Indian Air Force helicopters on Sunday morning. Rains have, meanwhile, boosted prospects of the rabi crop here.

Wing Commander Sukhinder and his colleagues from Air Force Station, Hakimpet, in Ranga Reddy district flew four helicopter sorties to airlift the labourers from Odisha and Bihar near Tekulagadda near Yedupayala in Papannapet mandal. The rescue operation lasted 40 minutes. It started at 7.40 a.m. and ended at 8.20 a.m. The airlifted labourers were dropped near Vanadurga Bhavani temple, where they were provided temporary shelter.

Deputy Speaker M. Padma Devender Reddy, Collector D. Ronald Rose and Revenue Divisional Officer M. Nagesh supervised the rescue operation on the site.

Sukhchand Mandal, a labourer from Odisha who was rescued said, "In the middle of the night water started reaching the camp site where we have temporary huts. We



SAFE AT LAST: Labourers after being airlifted by a helicopter from Yedupayala. — PHOTO: MOHD ARIF

were terrified and spent the night in fear. We were relieved after seeing the efforts made by the authorities and became confident that we would be saved. Once helicopters arrived, we were rescued in 40 minutes."

The Deputy Speaker added, "Despite heavy flooding and rain, Air Force officials led by Wing Commander Sukhinder took the risk and rescued the labourers. The

rescued labourers are being offered food and shelter and if they wish they would be sent home after a medical check."

Mr. Nagesh said doctors from Papannapet primary health centre had reached Yedupayala to examine those rescued.

With heavy flows continuing, roads connecting Medak town are almost disconnected. At several places

water was overflowing bridges hampering movement of traffic.

Nizamsagar water

A festive mood permeated the air as people made a beeline to the historic Nizamsagar dam to cheer Minister for Agriculture Pocharam Srinivas Reddy as he opened 12 out of its 48 gates to let out 60,000 cusecs of water into the Manjeera

river on Sunday evening.

With the project receiving heavy inflows after 10 years farmers are very happy as it created hope on solving the water problem for cultivation in the forthcoming rabi season.

The water from the reservoir was spared for drinking purposes only in the last three years as it had no surplus to cater to agriculture.

With over 2 lakh cusecs flowing into the Nizamsagar Project from Singur project it is likely to get filled to its capacity at 17.80 tmcft in a day or two.

As of now, the dam contains 12 tmcft. In the current kharif season, farmers transplanted paddy only in 10 per cent of its 2.75 lakh acre area that too where borewell water was available.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Srinivas Reddy said that except Nagarjunasagar, all 78 major and medium irrigation projects in the State touched the full level of water welcoming good days to people.

Farmers were jubilant as this water would be of great help to the rabi.

Agriculture which was in crisis following the long dry spell would get revived henceforth, he said.

North Karnataka reels under floods

KARNATAKA BUREAU

KALABURAGI/BIDAR: With forecast for more rain till September 28, North Karnataka continues to reel under severe floods. Five lives have been lost so far and damage caused to nearly 1,260 houses in Bidar and 1,331 houses in Kalaburagi in the last three days.

Although there was some respite from rain on Sunday, the danger of additional release of water from Dhanegaoon barrage in Maharashtra into the Manjira river loomed large as farmers on both banks of the river were in fear of their fields being flooded or cattle being washed away.

Three rescue teams of NDRF comprising 84 personnel have been deployed in flood-prone areas. The team deployed at Kalaburagi evacuated 21 marooned persons.

The legal team, which held detailed discussions with Chief Secretary Aravind Jadhav on Sunday, will move the Supreme Court and seek a modification of the interim order passed on September 20.

It hopes that submitting the resolution before the court, ahead of the date of hearing on Tuesday, could negate an impression of being

Cauvery: Karnataka team makes all efforts to avoid confrontation

NAGESH PRABHU

BENGALURU: With the Karnataka State legislature passing an unanimous resolution expressing inability to release water except for drinking purposes in Bengaluru and other towns, the legal team is making all-out efforts to avert an impression of confrontation with the Supreme Court by submitting an application along with the resolution on Monday.

Official sources in the State government said that the legal team headed by Fali S. Nariman will convince the court that there was no wilful disobedience on the part of the government, but that the prevailing circumstances were beyond its control and forced the legislature to pass the resolution.

The legal team, which held detailed discussions with Chief Secretary Aravind Jadhav on Sunday, will move the Supreme Court and seek a modification of the interim order passed on September 20.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah dashed off another letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi stating that the "government had no intention to disregard any of the Supreme Court orders."

WHAT NEXT

• Legal team to submit application along with resolution passed by State legislature

• Karnataka to seek time till January 2017 to release Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu

• To ask for modification of the interim order passed on Sept. 20

• Legal team to convince SC that there is no wilful disobedience of order, and that govt. has gone by prevailing circumstances

• To seek change in water release schedule during monsoon, and application of principle 'live and let live' to Karnataka

ing "confrontationist with the judiciary", according to a legal expert and political leader.

The legal team, which held detailed discussions with Chief Secretary Aravind Jadhav on Sunday, will move the Supreme Court and seek a modification of the interim order passed on September 20.

It hopes that submitting the resolution before the court, ahead of the date of hearing on Tuesday, could negate an impression of being

Close shave for A.P. bus passengers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ONGOLE: Three passengers were injured while 45 others had a miraculous escape when a Vijayawada-bound private bus from Anantapur overturned at the Mynampadu crossroads within Santhanthalapadu police station limits in Prakasam district on Sunday.

S.N.Padu sub-inspector Kishore led a team of police personnel, who along with the bus driver and the cleaner, pulled out the passengers from the bus which fell on the wayside after hitting an electric pole.

The mishap occurred when the bus driver tried to avoid hitting a lorry coming in the opposite direction.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Former Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy and his supporters continued to sulk over Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president V.M. Sudheeran's refusal to go all out to defend former Minister K. Babu, who is currently facing a Vigilance probe.

The issue had figured in the Political Affairs Committee (PAC) meeting on Saturday and on the basis of its decision, Mr. Sudheeran made an official statement terming the Vigilance inquiry a political vendetta against Mr. Babu.

"The party usually expresses its opinion on corruption inquiries at the national and State levels based on its merits. In the case of Mr. Babu, the Vigilance

probe has not succeeded in coming up with convincing evidence. The PAC meeting assessment is that the current probe against Mr. Babu is political vendetta," Mr. Sudheeran said. When asked the reasons for the delay in giving his reactions, Mr. Sudheeran said that it had become clear only now that the probe was vendetta.

Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala also defended Mr. Sudheeran stating that it was only a democratic principle to discuss an issue in party forums before making a public statement.

However, Mr. Chandy and his supporters were not impressed by Mr. Sudheeran's amended positions. They still feel that Mr. Sudheeran had failed to clear the air. His position itself reeked of political vendetta as he had not gone all out to defend the former Minister.

The PAC might have promised to usher in unity, but its meeting has succeeded in leaving behind an uneasy calm. Mr. Chandy and his supporters were conspicuously absent from continued parleys by PAC members on Sunday morning. Neither were any of his representatives present at the press conference Mr.

Sudheeran convened or to see off AICC general secretary Mukul Wasnik, who returned to Delhi on Sunday.

"We were not asked to be present," said a senior Chandy supporter.

On Saturday, Mr. Chandy broke his usual practice and did not sit through the PAC meeting. Several of his supporters too left the meeting early.

Sudheeran finally backs ex-Minister facing vigilance probe

the microfinance initiative was sourced) after his retirement was clear proof for this, he said.

In a statement here on Sunday, Mr. Achuthanandan said the case involved duping of several poor women belonging to the Ezhava community. The scam itself was the outcome of a conspiracy hatched by the last UDF government and Mr. Natesan.

The reappointment granted to the managing director of the Kerala State Backward Classes Development Corporation (from where the money for

Achuthanandan to implead in case against Vellappally

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Former Kerala Chief Minister V.S. Achuthanandan has said that he will implead in the petition filed by SNDP Yogam general secretary Velappally Natesan seeking to quash the FIR listing him as the first accused in the microfinance scam.

In a statement here on Sunday, Mr. Achuthanandan said the case involved duping of several poor women belonging to the Ezhava community.

The scam involved duping of several poor women belonging to the Ezhava community'

the microfinance initiative was sourced) after his retirement was clear proof for this, he said.

In a veiled reference to Mr. Natesan's meeting with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, the former Chief Minister said the tricks being played by Mr. Natesan would not bear fruit.

He would submit before the court evidence for the illegitimate intervention made by former Backward Classes Development Minister A.P. Anil Kumar.

He urged the government to maintain a vigil against persons who exploited poor Ezhava women in the case.

Wild elephant tramples farmer to death in Chittoor

K. UMASHANKER

CHITTOOR: A wild elephant from the forests of Kolar district in Karnataka strayed into the villages of the adjoining Ramasamudram mandal in Chittoor district on Sunday evening, close to dusk, and trampled a 70-year-old farmer to death.

About a dozen villages on the border area are in the grip of fear, with the adult tusker playing hide and seek in the fields. The forest officials and police rushed to the village to prevent further raids.

A huge male elephant, which turned a loner since two weeks, kept frequenting the fields in Ramasamudram mandal.

The farmers did not take it seriously, as it used to return to the forests by dusk.

On Sunday morning, the

elephant found its way into Chokkavandlapalle village, a kilometre away from the border forest, and started moving towards human habitations. At first, a group of 50 villagers pelted stones at the animal in a bid to scare it away. From 11.00 am till 5.45 pm, the elephant faced the wrath of over one thousand villagers and it was made to run from one village to another.

Exhausted and trumpeting hysterically, the elephant entered a water body at Olapadu village when it was getting dark.

At this juncture, a gathering of about 200 tried to enter the tank armed with sticks and big stones. All of a sudden, the elephant turned towards the crowds and started chasing them. The animal caught hold of the farmer and trampled him.

Painting for a cause



FACE-TO-FACE: Participants at an awareness programme organised on Alzheimer's disease at Cubbon Park in Bengaluru on Sunday. — PHOTO: SUDHAKARA JAIN

Debris, mud dam Bengaluru drains

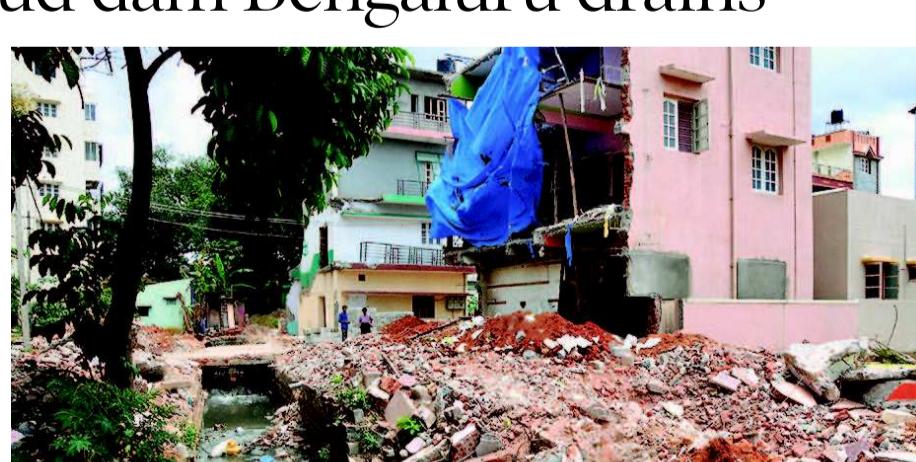
K.V. ADITYA BHARADWAJ

BENGALURU: After a rainy spell last week, areas that were part of an encroachment removal drive to clear drains here now resemble a cesspool. The Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) demolished the obstructing structures over the drains in August, but weeks later, most lie filled with rubble.

The BBMP has taken up drain construction in Avani, Sringeri Nagar but has not cleared debris in Doddabommastanamandra, Halagevaderahalli and Kasavanahalli, where demolitions were carried out.

Thus, a brief rain spell only added to the problem. S. Rajendra Kumar, a Doddabommastanamandra resident said, initially the BBMP dug a narrow trench to create a drain after demolitions. But debris and the mud lay untouched. The trenches are now filled with rain water.

BBMP's demolition was supposedly born out of an emergency to prevent floods. But even after two months if it has not bothered to clear debris, why demolish it all," asks Narasamma,



another resident, who lost part of her building. The scenario is the same at Shubh Enclave, Kasavanahalli, where big bungalows were brought down.

"They partially dug a narrow trench, which is not connected to Kaikondrahalli lake downstream, and did not clear debris. The gradient is such that this trench is now getting water from the upstream drain on Haralur Road but, because it is partial, has become a pool that is breeding mosquitoes. Residents are forced to pour kerosene to control the menace," said a Shubh Enclave resident.

BBMP Commissioner N. Manjunath Prasad said Rs. 140 crore worth tenders had been sanctioned. Work would be speeded up.

A library Kindles students' interest in e-readers

Visitors to Vizianagaram library get to use 20 of the gadgets funded by MP

K.SRINIVASA RAO

VIZIANAGARAM: Libraries in Vizianagaram and Srikrishna districts are attracting visitors in droves, as job-hunting candidates prepare for tests and interviews advertised by government, banks and public sector organisations.

At Gurajada Library in Vizianagaram, there is an added attraction for those doing such intensive preparation: Kindle e-readers with downloaded books and resource material.

The Andhra Pradesh government recently supplied 20 Kindle e-readers to Gurajada Library to help candidates prepare for job requirements using books and other literature. Union Minister for Civil Aviation P. Ashok Gajapati Raju sponsored the devices using his MP Local Area Development Fund. E-readers can store a large number of books, offering a wide choice.



E-GENERATION: Students read on the devices at the Vizianagaram library. — PHOTO: BASHEER

The e-readers have become popular with candidates who aspire to become constables and Sub-Inspectors, with the Andhra Pradesh government recently launching a recruitment drive for 1,300 of these posts.

Traditional books are already in demand, as banks have announced recruitment to fill 16,700 posts. Some candidates are also preparing for 1,032 Group-2 posts in the Telangana government.

Pre-downloaded books

In the normal course, the aspirants would spend considerable time on the Internet to locate and collect the literature. That task has already been handled by the library, and they have taken to the e-readers readily. The gadgets also make reading easier since the display is in black and white.

Looking at the response, the authorities say they plan to supply e-readers to all libraries in a phased manner.

"We may get a concession for bulk orders, as each gadget costs around Rs. 6,000," said Gurajada Memorial Vizianagaram District Library secretary K. Kumar Raja.

The candidates and students are thrilled. "Normally, we would have to depend on the Internet for information. But it is not possible for all of us to use computers at the same time, given the limited number of systems available to the public. The e-readers are handy and help us study in a smart way," said Y. Rajkumar, a degree student.

Kannur's killing fields reflect running political feuds

Violent BJP, CPI(M) confrontation has turned the district into a tinderbox

MOHAMED NAZER

KANNUR: Two murders near Payyannur here in a short span of two hours late one July night capture the essential features of the retaliatory violence that has gripped the politically volatile parts of this district over the past several decades.

On July 11, Communist Party of India (Marxist) worker C.V. Dhanaraj was hacked to death in the courtyard of his house at Karanthan in the Ramanthang panchayat near Payyannur. Around 10 p.m., the assailants who came on motorcycles swooped on him as he entered the courtyard. His wife and two children were inside the house.

Within hours a mob surrounded the house of autorickshaw driver and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) worker C.K. Ramachandran at nearby Annoor in the Payyannur municipality.

Armed killers barged into his house and stabbed him to death even as his wife and children watched. A couple

of days later a reporter of a TV channel here received a phone call from a local BJP worker at Payyannur. "He told me that I saved his life because if I had not rung him up after the first murder to get a sense of the outbreak of tension in the area, he would not have known about the murder," says the reporter who did not want to be identified. It was this chance phone call to the local party worker that alerted the latter to the danger and prompted him to immediately leave his house for a safer place.

Urge for vengeance

This is the usual story in the killing fields of Kannur, an urge for vengeance driving rival groups. Crude bombs and swords are the weapons mostly used by them; bombs to overpower the target and scare away people before the attack.

There have been incidents of accidental explosions while making the country-made bombs, killing and maiming young workers. In recent raids, the police re-

covered over 15 bombs and a dozen swords from tension-prone areas.

"The violence continues here as there exists a gap between how each side sees its strikes as justified and those of the other as unprovoked," T.P.R. Nath, a peace activist explains. A deep sense of pain and distress experienced by relatives and friends of those slain or injured often triggers the urge for reprisal, he said.

Mr. Nath, who is general secretary of the Kannur Peace Forum, recalls how peace activists led by the late V.R. Krishna Iyer had faced an angry outbreak from a close relative of slain Bharatiya Jana Yuva Morcha leader and school teacher K.T. Jayakrishnan when they visited the bereaved family after his murder in front of his students in a local school near Panur on December 31, 1999. The deceased leader's grieving brother initially did not allow the former Supreme Court judge and other peace activists to enter the house, Mr. Nath said.

The fact that both the CPI (M) and the BJP are ruling parties in the State and at the Centre respectively has em-



The damaged autorickshaw belonging to slain BJP worker C.K. Ramachandran, who was hacked to death in front of his wife and children at their house near Payyannur. — FILE PHOTO

boldened their cadres to be equally combative in political activities. This district, with its legacy of Communist-inspired agrarian struggles, is viewed as the bedrock of the CPI(M) in the State.

Peasant uprising

In many rural areas of Kannur, Communists had been in the forefront of the uprising of peasants against local feudal chieftains and colonial rulers. The history

rival parties," says T. Sasidharan, Associate Professor and head of the Department of Political Science at the Sree Narayana College here.

The author of *Idathupakshavum Kannur Rashtriayavum* (The Left and Kannur politics), Dr. Sasidharan, says that the efforts of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to expand its activities, including 'shakhas', in the 1960s and later during the Emergency led to violent confrontation between the rival parties. The psychology of violent confrontation has already turned many parts of the district into a tinderbox.

Most victims were Ezhavas

In his book Dr. Sasidharan says that 166 people had been murdered in the clashes between workers of rival parties during 1968 and 2006. The District Crime Records Bureau figures show that at least 45 people had been murdered in the political turf wars in the district since 2007.

The book shows that 80 per cent of those killed in political violence belonged to the backward castes, especially the Thiyas (Ezhavas),

who form the substratum of the CPI(M)'s support base in the district.

Hence, the party's struggle against the Sangh Parivar's incursion of late draws on religious and cultural motifs to counter it.

The CPI(M)'s organisation of pageantry to celebrate the renaissance leaders such as Sree Narayana Guru and Ayyankali on the same day as 'shobha yatra' organised by the Sangh Parivar organisations to mark the Sree Krishna Jayanti has been perceived as the party's new strategy to counter the Sangh Parivar.

Sree Narayana Guru (1856-1928), born into an Ezhava family, was the prominent social reformer who fought against casteism and upheld values of humanism. Ayyankali (1863-1941) hailed from a caste that was treated as untouchable in those days. He rebelled against untouchability and fought for civil rights of the downtrodden.

The CPI(M) wants to portray itself as natural claimant to the legacy of these social reformers and renaissance leaders. The party is also promoting yoga, now in vogue, but with a secular tag. The BJP's efforts to gain a foothold in the CPI(M)'s pocket boroughs here are reflected in the increase in the BJP's vote share in the last civic and Assembly elections.

BJP makes inroads
The BJP's tally in the civic bodies has increased from 14 wards in the entire district to 31 wards. The BJP's share of seats in the local body elections here is not a big deal as the district has a total of 116 gram panchayat wards and 289 municipal wards. What irks the CPI(M), however, is that the BJP has pockets inside its traditional strongholds. The Sangh Parivar has also improved its vote share in all the Assembly constituencies in the district, including in those constituencies where the CPI(M) has won with spectacular margins.

Both the police and the district administration are concerned about the escalation of tension. District Collector Mir Mohammed Ali has mooted the idea of holding regular peace meetings at the grassroots to bring to an end the culture of political violence here. Peace, however, remains elusive.

In the groove



RIOT OF COLOURS: Ahmedabad-based 'Panghat Garba Group' rehearsing on Sunday for a dance festival to be held during Navratri. The festival will be celebrated across Gujarat from October 1 to 10. — PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

ISRO to put 8 satellites in two orbits today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch a PSLV rocket from Sriharikota at 9.12 a.m. on Monday to put eight satellites into two different orbits.

Besides SCATSAT-1, a 371-kg satellite for weather studies, the ISRO would launch two satellites designed by Indian educational institutions (PISAT and PRATHAM), three commercial ones from Algeria (ALSAT-1B, 2B and IN) and one each for Canada (NLS-19) and the United States (Pathfinder-1).

The ISRO said on Sunday that the countdown for the launch from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota was progressing smoothly. This would be the first mission of the PSLV to launch its payloads into two different orbits, it said.

Weather forecasting

Soon after the launch, SCATSAT-1 would be positioned at an altitude of 730 km in the polar sun synchronous orbit. The satellite with a life of five years, would provide weather forecasting services through wind-vector products.

The 10-kg PRATHAM, designed by the IIT-Bombay, would estimate the total electron count with a resolution of 1km x 1km location grid.

The PISAT (5.25 kg), from PES University in Bengaluru, would explore remote sensing applications.

ALSAT-1B is an earth-observation satellite (103 kg), ALSAT-2B is a remote-sensing satellite (117 kg) and ALSAT-IN (7 kg) is a technology demonstrator.

The study covers 19 States which account for 96 per cent of the population, for which requisite data was available from 2001-02 to 2011-12.

When Narendra Modi took over as Gujarat Chief Minister in 2001, the State had already been at the top and it continued to occupy the slot in 2011. In 2011, Gujarat was placed at the top for infrastructure delivery, justice, law and order, and legislature quality. The study covers 19 States which account for 96 per cent of the population, for which requisite data was available from 2001-02 to 2011-12.

Some of the less developed States like Bihar and Madhya Pradesh moved up significantly in the modified ranking. Bihar jumped eight positions from the 18th in standard ranking to the 10th in development-adjusted ranking. Madhya Pradesh jumped from the 13th to second position. Chhattisgarh, placed at the eighth position, was the top performer in the modified ranking.

(For detailed data and interactive graphics, visit www.thehindu.com/data/)

Kadawala murder case: FIR against Chhota Rajan

NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation has taken over the probe into the murder of Hanif Kadawala, an accused in the 1993 Mumbai blasts case who gave an AK-56 rifle to actor Sanjay Dutt.

The bureau has registered a case against gangster Chhota Rajan and his accomplices in the case.

Sources said the CBI took over the probe after a reference from the Maharashtra government.

They said a case has been registered against Chhota Rajan, his gang member Guru Satam and others under relevant sections of the IPC and Arms Act in connection with Kadawala's murder.

Kadawala, who transported weapons to Mumbai on the instructions of Tiger Memon, was killed on February 7, 2001, in his office by three men. — PTI

Pregnant Dalit woman beaten up for not disposing of cow carcass

MAHESH LANGA

AHMEDABAD: A five-month pregnant Dalit woman was beaten up by a group of upper caste men for refusing to dispose of the carcass of a cow in a village in North Gujarat. The incident occurred late on September 23 night.

The woman, Sangeeta Ranawasia, her husband and others who were also injured in the attack were treated at the civil hospital in Palanpur. Six persons have been arrested in connection with the assault.

Those arrested belong to the Kshatriya community and they have been booked under the Prevention of Atrocities Act, rioting, intimidation and other charges.

"The condition of the woman is good as per the reports of the civil hospital doctors but she is under observation," a State Government press release said, add-

rested all persons named in the FIR. The Banaskantha Superintendent of Police visited the village and assured the victim's family of full protection, the release stated. The District Collector visited the woman and her family in hospital.

Ever since the flogging of four Dalits by cow vigilantes in Saurashtra in July, community members have refused to dispose of the remains of dead animals in the villages. Around 2,500 animals die per day in the State and most of them are disposed of by Dalits.

Following the flogging incident, Dalits carried out month-long protests against rising atrocities and demanded land from the government for farming. There have been half a dozen incidents of violence and clashes when Dalits refused to clear bovine hides in villages in the last two months.

project investigators) from Indian research institutes and universities are working on MOM (Mars Orbiter Mission) projects.

MOM set out from Sriharikota on November 5, 2013, travelled 300 days across hundreds of million kilometres, halfway across Sun, to meet Mars. The extended life has helped scientists make more observations of Mars from its five instruments and study the seasons better.

The orbiter has survived solar eclipses and loss of contact with Earth for several days last year. It underwent a whiteout in May on the sunny side of the planet.

Kejriwal shown black flags

AMRITSAR: Heckled by BJP and Congress workers during his last visit to Punjab by train, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday chose to fly in to the State but was again shown black flags by Congress women workers as his convoy came out of the airport here.

A large group of Punjab Mahila Congress members led by its president Mamtaz Dutta protested against the alleged misgovernance by Mr. Kejriwal's government in the capital as the Aam Aadmi Party chief reached here to campaign for the Assembly polls. — PTI

STATES AND STATUS

State	Rank in 2001	Rank in 2011	Criteria
Gujarat	1	1	The criteria used to rank States: infrastructure, social services, fiscal performance, justice, law and order, and legislature quality. The study covers 19 major States
Tamil Nadu	2	2	
Andhra Pradesh	6	3	Less developed States like Bihar (18th in standard to 10th in development-adjusted), MP (13th to 2nd) and Chhattisgarh (8th to 1st) moved up significantly in the rankings
Kerala	4	4	
Punjab	3	5	
Karnataka	7	6	
Uttarakhand	14	7	
Chhattisgarh	10	8	
Haryana	5	9	
Maharashtra	8	10	
Himachal Pradesh	9	11	
Rajasthan	16	12	

The study covers 19 States which account for 96 per cent of the population, for which requisite data was available from 2001-02 to 2011-12.

When Narendra Modi took over as Gujarat Chief Minister in 2001, the State had already been at the top and it continued to occupy the slot in 2011. In 2011, Gujarat was placed at the top for infrastructure delivery, justice, law and order, and legislature quality.

While there are various approaches to evaluating performance of the State governments, the researchers use "output" — the measure of governance quality. Five sets of criteria were used to rank the States: infrastructure, social services, fiscal performance, justice, law and order, and quality of the legislature. Only official government data were used.

The study shows that development legacy seems to have a strong impact on the

quality of governance (when measured as service delivery). Hence, another set of rankings was devised factoring in the impact of development on governance outputs.

Some of the less developed States like Bihar and Madhya Pradesh moved up significantly in the modified ranking. Bihar jumped eight positions from the 18th in standard ranking to the 10th in development-adjusted ranking. Madhya Pradesh jumped from the 13th to second position. Chhattisgarh, placed at the eighth position, was the top performer in the modified ranking.

(For detailed data and interactive graphics, visit www.thehindu.com/data/)

Two years on, Mars orbiter remains a data trove

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU: The Mars Orbiter that catapulted India to space history has marked its second birthday in orbit around the Red Planet. On September 24, 2014, India became the only nation to date to put a spacecraft around Mars in its very first attempt.

"The Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) completed two years around Mars on September 24, 2016 and has accomplished its planned mission objectives. MOM and all its scientific payloads are in good health and it continues to provide valuable data of the Mars surface and its atmosphere," In-



A scaled-down model of the ISRO Mars Orbiter Spacecraft. — FILE PHOTO

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said it was still sending interesting photos and information. To mark the two years, ISRO released archive data sets up to September 2015 for collaborators and public, who responded to its earlier announcement. "Rest of the data sets will be released every six months" the space organisation said.

279 users

Until Sunday, the Indian Space Science Data Centre in Bengaluru counts 279 users of Mars data, who have made a total of 976 downloads, said an ISRO spokesman. As many as 32 teams (apart from

project investigators) from Indian research institutes and universities are working on MOM (Mars Orbiter Mission) projects.

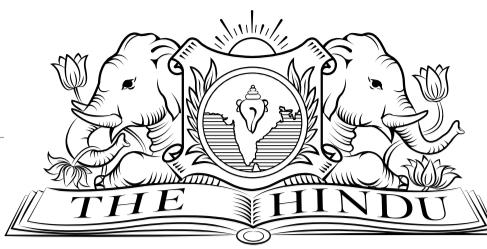
MOM set out from Sriharikota on November 5, 2013, travelled 300 days across hundreds of million kilometres, halfway across Sun, to meet Mars. The extended life has helped scientists make more observations of Mars from its five instruments and study the seasons better.

The orbiter has survived solar eclipses and loss of contact with Earth for several days last year. It underwent a whiteout in May on the sunny side of the planet.

Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University

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DIRECT RECRUITMENT (General including backlog for SC/ST)



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

Rafale takes flight at last

The signing of the Inter-Governmental Agreement between India and France for 36 Rafale multirole fighter jets brings to an end 17 months of hard bargaining, following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to dump the Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) tender and the announcement during his visit to Paris last year of direct purchases. The first such major acquisition in almost two decades, it comes as a breather for the Indian Air Force, which has been facing depleting fighter strength. As Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar pointed out, given its technological superiority the Rafale will augment the IAF's capability. The weapons package, which includes the Meteor radar-guided Beyond Visual Range air-to-air missile, considered best-in-class with a range of over 150 km, and the Scalp long-range air-to-ground missiles with a range of 300 km, will help maintain the IAF's air superiority as they have no equivalents in the region. Given the technological sophistication and the long range, the Rafales are expected to play a lead role as nuclear delivery platforms in India's second-strike capability, replacing the Mirage 2000 fighters.

The acquisition will cost the exchequer ₹7.87 billion, or about Rs.59,000 crore, which is a high price compared to \$10.5 billion approved for 126 fighter jets under the original MMRCA deal in 2007. The basic aircraft costs about €91 million, which is high in comparison to other contemporary four-plus generation aircraft. The Centre has claimed savings of several million in the hard bargain, but the Defence Ministry would do well to share more information in Parliament. It is unclear why the government decided to buy just 36 fighters, which creates logistical and operational complications and pushes up the overall cost for reasons of economies of scale. In fact, India's is now one of the most diverse air forces, with Western and Russian-origin aircraft with Indian and other systems incorporated in them. The IAF has been attempting to narrow the diversity to optimise utilisation and bring down the cost of operations. The current trajectory of procurement indicates that those plans may be on hold. The government is scouting for another fighter to be inducted in large numbers and produced in India under the 'Make in India' initiative. In the years to come, the indigenously built Light Combat Aircraft Tejas and the Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft from Russia will join the force, adding to the diversity. While the Rafale deal is a welcome step, it is high time India made procurements based on a long-term integrated plan.

Falling behind schedule

Current educational attainments remain far from adequate for the enhancement of personal well-being and social progress, according to a report of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Immigrant populations are especially disadvantaged, an area that deserves particular attention given the recent scramble for shelter and succour among millions of refugees. The findings in the OECD's *Education at a Glance 2016* report make for sober reading all round, viewed against data on the many rewards individuals and societies are able to reap when endowed with higher qualifications. For instance, people with a master's degree stand a close to 90 per cent wage advantage in the 35 countries of the OECD. Correspondingly, their governments receive over a lifetime about €100,000 in taxes and social contributions more than they invest on a graduate. There has been a 4 percentage point increase in the rate of enrolment in tertiary education in the decade ended 2014. These are encouraging facts; the logical case therefore should be for greater public investment in this sector. But across the spectrum the trend is clearly in the opposite direction. While the report shows an 8 per cent rise in real-term spending per child in the five years up to 2013, it also notes a 14 per cent increase in private expenditure in the region in the same period. Private spending by students and households is estimated at some 30 per cent in the tertiary education sector alone. This has to be viewed against the backdrop of the relentless regime of economic austerity in the years following the financial crisis, with serious implications for equity and the knowledge economies of the future.

A broader issue mentioned in the report, which covers besides OECD members, partner-countries including India, is the likelihood that states may not be able to realise the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal pertaining to the provision of quality education. This concern is echoed in the Unesco 2016 report. The need to achieve the targets relating to SDG 4, to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, cannot be overstated, given that it is the pivot on which the realisation of several other fundamentally important developmental objectives remains. Indeed, almost the entire success of the 2030 agenda rests squarely on the education target. The objectives of reduction of poverty, alleviation of hunger, expansion of employment, empowerment of women and gender equality are all influenced by the qualifications and skills that men and women possess. And of course at another level, without an educated and empowered populace, the dream of an enlightened, more tolerant and peaceful world would forever remain elusive.

Solving the Pakistan puzzle

The confusion that characterises the aftermath of the Uri attack is a reminder that India needs more nuance and guile in engaging stakeholders in Pakistan's power structure



HAPPYMON JACOB

The terrorist attack on an Indian Army base in north Kashmir's Uri by Pakistan-based terror groups has rekindled a long-standing debate in the country on how to deal with its troublesome neighbour, Pakistan. At the same time, it has called into serious question the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's incoherent policy towards Pakistan, characterised by a consistent lack of nuanced understanding of the art of diplomacy, and the costs of war.

A cursory analysis of the BJP-led government's Pakistan policy reveals an inherent desire for quick returns from what is arguably India's most difficult bilateral challenge which goes to indicate how historically unsound the thinking behind the BJP's Pakistan policy has so far been. After the initial reach out during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing in, the year-long military stand-off on the international border in Jammu stalled progress between the two sides. The quiet parleys thereafter brought some semblance of normalcy back into the relationship, which was further cemented by Mr. Modi's surprise visit to Lahore in December, something that has apparently become a millstone around his neck today.

Pakistan's inability to keep promises

Surprisingly, the Pathankot terror attack in January did not damage the relationship beyond repair as the political management of its aftermath was exceptionally tactful. Then came Uri. The key reason why the Uri attack mauled the relationship so badly is because it took place in the backdrop of the Kashmir unrest which was proving to be awkward for the Central government. Thanks to Pakistan's 'not-so-diplomatic' support to Kashmir, BJP spin doctors managed to cleverly use the Uri shocker to divert attention from the persistent unrest in the Valley. When the nation is busy preparing for a war with Pakistan to pay back for the Uri massacre, how could anyone be bothered about Kashmir!

While New Delhi does not have an imaginative Pakistan policy, Islamabad is clearly an unreliable neighbour. Islamabad continues to be unwilling to rein in its anti-India rhetoric, keep its promises on basic bilateral courtesies, and stop the terror mas-



It's worrying that New Delhi's language and tactics have already started resembling those of Pakistan, which is a result of not keeping the big picture in mind

termines from plotting and waging their covert wars against India. In the wake of the deplorable Uri attacks, Pakistan must answer some hard questions. Why did it not allow the National Investigation Agency team to visit Pakistan after India allowed Pakistani investigators to visit Pathankot? Why did it not bring Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) leader Masood Azhar to book post-Pathankot? Given that the JeM is reportedly behind the Uri attack, it 'indirectly' implicates Pakistan for letting Masood Azhar walk free after Pathankot. There is no evidence yet of the Pakistani state's direct complicity in the attack. If such evidence indeed emerges, Pakistan will need to answer many more hard questions. Pakistan needs to show some seriousness if it is keen on improving the relationship — it can't be a one-way street.

Thinking beyond the military option

Despite the relentless clamour for a military reprisal against Pakistan, the understated, but well-thought-out, view within the Indian strategic community, including retired commanders of the Indian military, is that coercion may not be a feasible option vis-à-vis Pakistan, for a variety of reasons. A step-by-step cost-benefit analysis of using a

military response to Pakistan would show that we are likely to be worse off after carrying out a military mission, of any intensity, against Pakistan, including on the terrorism front. The point here is not that the Indian military can't fight and win a war of attrition with Pakistan: it can, even under nuclear conditions, albeit not without inviting massive damage on the country. But the policy-makers need to carefully consider if they want to risk potential nuclear exchange in response to a terror strike. Hence the unacceptable costs of winning a war with Pakistan should persuade us to look for other strategies of dealing with it. "War," after all, as Clausewitz put it, "is not an act of senseless passion."

If we rule out the coercive options using simulated scenarios, how do we then deal with a Pakistan that is seemingly uninterested in winding down its terror machinery against India? Doing nothing can't be a policy either, although that has been the preferred option all this while.

First of all, New Delhi needs to view and deal with Pakistan within its larger grand strategic scheme. Quick-fix solutions and like-responses will only get us into an ugly dogfight with Pakistan which are not in consonance with India's global ambitions and developmental goals. It's worrying that New Delhi's language and tactics have already started resembling those of Pakistan, which is a direct result of not keeping the big picture in mind. In the grand strategic scheme of things, Pakistan is an irritant, not a strategic threat: so treat it like it, and focus on the real strategic threats.

The 'India can survive' reality

Second, however unpopular it might sound and however painful they are, the reality is that we can, as a nation and state, survive these attacks. Successive governments in New Delhi have intuitively recognised this. If anything, every terrorist attack directed against India continues to weaken the Pakistani state and nation: its sovereignty, economy and character. Pakistan's 28-year-long Kashmir campaign has not only not managed to wrest Kashmir from India, it is today on the verge of self-destruction primarily due to its misguided Kashmir policy.

Third, it is time we learnt to defend ourselves better, with better equipment for our forces, a better fence on the Line of Control and the International Border, more army-Border Security Force deployment on the vulnerable areas of the fence, and by adopting more efficient and technologically

sophisticated border management practices. Moreover, it is important to ask hard questions on the security lapses which led to 18 soldiers being killed by terrorists. Clearly, in the self-generated commotion surrounding "teaching Pakistan a lesson", we forgot to ask the government as to how and why this attack took place in the first place. Kashmir was on fire, Uri is a traditional infiltration route and there was intelligence about a possible strike. Who then is responsible for the shocking lapses that led to the death of our soldiers? The government has not yet given a comprehensive assessment of the attack. The BJP leadership cannot be allowed to deflect these crucial questions concerning our national security by issuing statements such as "we should not discredit the sacrifices of our soldiers".

Dealing with Rawalpindi

Fourth, engaging a hydra-headed Pakistan requires creative statecraft, and for this New Delhi needs to think outside the traditional modes of diplomacy. While riding high on his birthday tête-à-tête with Mr. Sharif, Mr. Modi and his advisers forgot to keep in mind the most important actor that matters in Pakistan's policy towards India: the Pakistan Army. It is important to note that Pakistan's Army is driven by strategic choices and politico-economic rationale which the decision-makers in New Delhi need to analyse and understand, and then reach out to the generals in Rawalpindi accordingly. Repeating that 'Army runs Pakistan, civilian government has no power there' is a lazy complaint; looking for ways to work around its complex rational calculus is smart statecraft. If New Delhi wishes to choose the latter, it needs to engage the 'enemy', the Pakistan Army, by perhaps opening discreet negotiations with it. When New Delhi engages Pakistan Army's rational calculus through the Islamabad's political establishment, the message seems to get lost in translation. It's time to convey the message directly and address Rawalpindi's pay-off structure.

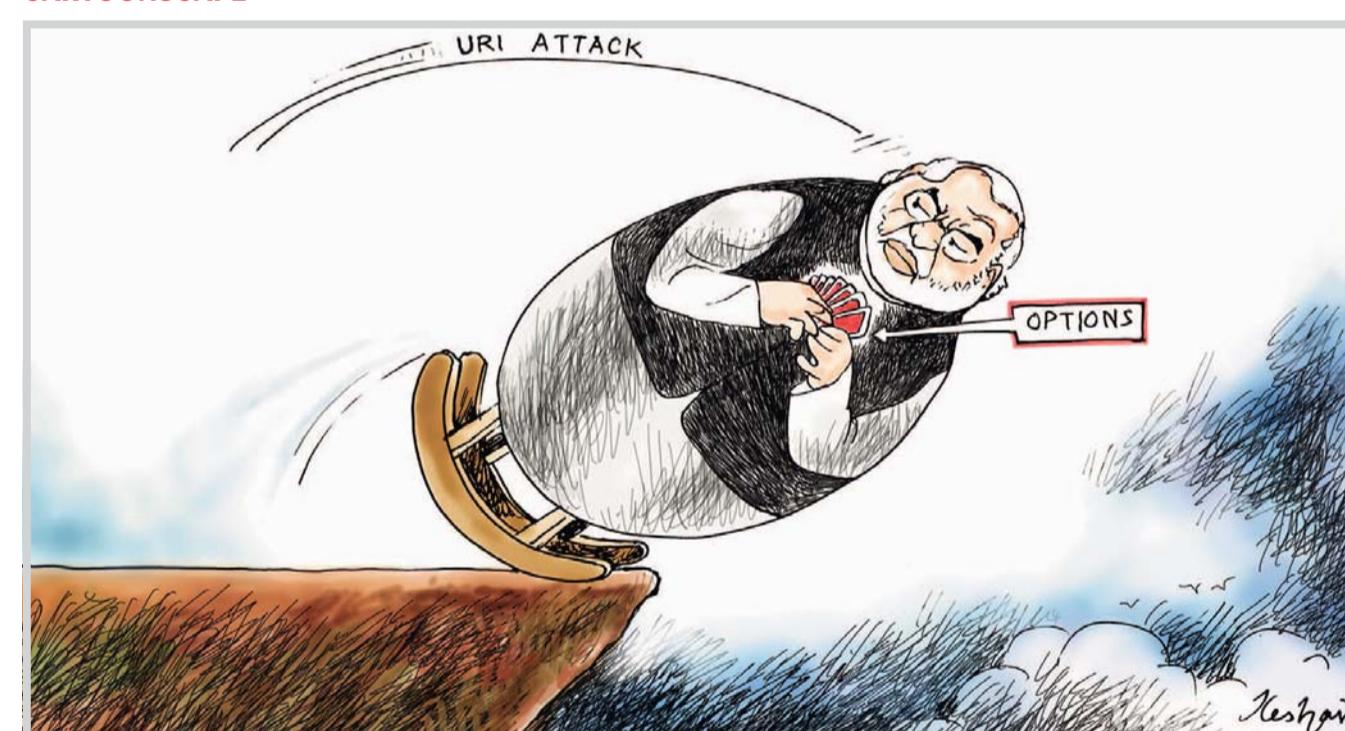
Finally, if Kashmir is what forms the raison d'être of Pakistan's proxy war against India, India can successfully deal with Pakistan and its rationale by addressing Kashmir in the first place. In so far as Kashmir is on the boil, Pakistan, till it is persuaded to give up its claim on it — which is hard to happen — will inevitably try and take advantage of the situation there. Hence, even if India is unable to deal with Pakistan's absolutist claims on Kashmir, it can and should effectively deal with Kashmir which will necessarily weaken Pakistan's Kashmir claims.

Going by that logic, blaming the Kashmir unrest on Pakistan instead of pacifying the rage in the Valley can only make things difficult for our ability to deal with Pakistan. So far, New Delhi's policies have been a failure on both fronts. Every time we link Pakistan to Kashmir by blaming Islamabad for the protests in the Valley, we are only helping Pakistan's Kashmir cause. The argument here is not that Pakistan is not engaged in a proxy war in Kashmir, but that the government's intellectual and political inability to pacify Kashmir should not be excused using the Pakistan bogey. It would be useful for the BJP to take on board Chanakya's perceptive advice in *Arthashastra*: "A ruler with loyal people accomplishes his task even with a little help because of their cooperation."

Mr. Modi in his speech at the ongoing BJP conclave in Kozhikode de-emphasised the military option as a response to the Uri attack and instead called "upon people of Pakistan to come forward, fight a war on who defeats unemployment, poverty, illiteracy first". His invocation to the Pakistani people to ask uncomfortable questions of their government on terror, and focus on development is indeed a good beginning.

Happymon Jacob is an Associate Professor of Diplomacy and Disarmament Studies at the Jawaharlal Nehru University.

CARTOONSCAPE



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

The Kozhikode speech

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's strong condemnation of the Uri attack and his tough talking to his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif is all very well but the barrage of attacks from across the border make it imperative that India can hardly afford to indulge in rhetoric at this stage. A much stiffer response is warranted as terrorist strikes have to be stopped at any cost ("Modi talks tough to Sharif, reaches out to Pak people", Sept.25). Mr. Modi's reaching out to the people of Pakistan could meet with no positive response as it is an open secret that it is the army that calls the shots in Pakistan. Our patience is being exploited.

C.V. Aravind,
Bengaluru

Can we say that we have enough support to isolate Pakistan as it is an exporter of terrorism? How many lives will it take to show up Pakistan as a terrorist nation? Even our so-called closest friend Russia is now conducting joint military operations with a terrorist nation. If this has happened, it should set us thinking about where we have failed in changing perceptions. Is it a result of our failure, diplomatically, to expose Pakistan? The time has also come to question the drift in the India-Russia relationship.

C.H. Rajalingu,
Hyderabad

There is a big hiatus between words and actions on the part of the present dispensation at the Centre. We have been hearing such utterances and assurances ever since Mr. Modi began campaigning for the Lok Sabha election in 2014. Whenever India is attacked, we come up with a number of forceful debates, attempts at initiating dialogue, powerful speeches, utterances and even assurances, but do not act. Stern action will send out a strong message to terrorists and their powerful handlers that no attack, big or small, will be tolerated. Our soldiers cannot continue to lose their lives this way.

Rui Pereira,
Salcete, Goa

It is clear that the Centre's strategy is to take on Pakistan diplomatically, try and isolate it and get it labelled as a "terror sponsoring state". However, to what extent such a direct reference to Pakistan's internal problems would help in controlling cross-border violations remains to be seen. On the contrary, Pakistan may intensify its efforts to create more problems in J&K. There is no substitute to having a meaningful dialogue with Pakistan on all outstanding issues.

D.B.N. Murthy,
Bengaluru

Repeated border incursions show that Pakistan is a divided house and that it is its army which foments this

slow, painful war against India. As a result, terror outfits have carved out their own spheres of influence in Pakistan, and India is in no position to eliminate them through overt or covert operations. Nor would other countries, including the U.S., take sides in this low-level conflict between India and Pakistan. Is there any guarantee that terror attacks will cease if India retaliates strongly? The best option for India is to beef up its counter-intelligence operations and border defences so that it could eliminate terrorists ruthlessly and efficiently.

Kangayam R. Narasimhan,
Chennai

Rafale deal

Though the Rafale deal represents a considerable climbdown from the original requirement of 126, the fact that it has been customised to suit the IAF's requirements and can be used for nuclear warhead delivery makes up for it to some extent. There might be an offset clause, but there is no mention of technology transfer which strikes a blow against India's 'Make in India' defence initiative. The biggest fallout is that the deal could cast a shadow over otherwise robust India-Russia ties. The Russia-Pakistan joint military exercise is a reflection of New Delhi's souring relationship with Moscow.

Nalini Vijayaraghavan,
Thiruvananthapuram

The recently concluded deal results in two contradictory sets of emotions. The clause "fly away condition" will give the IAF the required boost to effectively guard our border. On the other hand is the emotion of an inferiority complex associated with the tag "largest importer of arms in the world" and the thwarting of Hindustan Aerodynamics Limited's prestige that came as a byproduct of the deal. If we are to aspire to sit at the global high table, we need to increase our domestic competencies. The way forward is to develop the defence industry on the lines of the space industry, taking note of ISRO's achievements.

Surendra Singh Acharya,
New Delhi

It faces erasure

Though sidelined by emerging forensic tools of identification, the dependence on fingerprints still has relevance ("Neglect may wipe out oldest finger print bureau", Sept.25). A textbook case is when the culpability of monozygotic twins is in question. Even DNA testing can go wrong and it is only dactylography that comes to the rescue. Forensic laboratories in India are facing a severe crisis of manpower and infrastructure. It is time we strengthen our science laboratories.

Dr. Manoj Kumar Gaddam,
Kakinada, Telangana

It is a fact that no two fingerprints have ever been found to be alike. Even in the era of growing computerisation, research into fingerprint science continues under the banner of the International Fingerprint Research Group, to cite one example. New methods and techniques are being evolved to enhance forensic science as crime methodology becomes more sophisticated. If the West Bengal government is unable to run the bureau, it should appeal for international aid.

C.R. Ananthanarayanan,
Bengaluru

Kalahandi mirror

We claim to be the fastest growing economy in the world in terms of GDP, one of the highest FDI receiving destinations of the world, and home to entrepreneurs who are among the world's richest. We have also attempted a space mission to Mars successfully. However, incidents such as the one reported from Kalahandi ("Women dismantle roof for mother's funeral in Odisha", Sept.25) leave me confused, reminding me of Amartya Sen's view of our Indian "glory" as "an uncertain glory". What is the use of this glory if many Indians such as Kanak Satpathy live and die a life as "less than a human being"?

Abhilash Thimmaiah,
New Delhi

FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

Should news give way for views?



I invite readers to actively take part in the consultation I am holding on what the ideal content mix for a newspaper should be in the present digital information ecology which seems to be breaking news by the second. There was an in-house suggestion that I find out readers' expectations on how they would like the newspaper to balance news with views, opinion, and analysis. The idea of a deadline is no longer associated with putting the paper to bed; it is about publishing developments as they unfold.

In the age of instant news, it seems that a lot of information that one reads in the newspaper in the morning has already been read, seen, or heard elsewhere. While conceding space for some news stories that require verification and fact-checking, I was asked whether it is possible to do a clinical analysis of the daily copy, keeping in view the readers' requirements, and find out what was redundant. If this is indeed possible, would it be beneficial to skew more towards views than news in the daily newspaper? This query comes from a position where news is almost omnipresent and hence context is the new requirement.

A daunting exercise

I recognise that this exercise is daunting in more than one sense. First, I have my own idea about what constitutes a newspaper, an idea which is a product of being in the profession for more than three decades. Second, the views of the readers we have received in the last four years are like pieces in a jigsaw puzzle, and I need time to collate them in a meaningful narrative to understand the expectations on the content mix. Third, I need to develop tools to handle this analysis. Fourth, it has to be a judicious mix of both qualitative and quantitative attributes for three specific reasons: a newspaper is a public good; it should, at any point of time, balance what the public is interested in with what is in their interest; and it should be sustainable in order to retain its independence. Fifth, a person making any suggestion should realise the newspaper's need to retain space both for innovation as well as for elements that are tried and tested. Sixth, the exercise should inform about some innovations that have failed. Seventh, it should also draw from the experiences of others in dealing with this challenge that confronts every media organisation. And eighth, I need to develop better listening skills to decipher the expectations of the readers.

I am acutely aware that some may term my own idea of journalism and what constitutes a newspaper as an intransigent position. Intransigence is a strange word that means many things to many people depending on which side of the wall they are on: for those who disagree, it is a pejorative, and for those who concur, it is a testimony to adhering to principles. I believe that a responsible media mediates the public sphere in such a way that it remains the site for multiple negotiations and democratic engagement.

In this context, I am seeking responses from the readers about what news they get before they get their newspaper in the morning. May I request the readers to be specific in their observations and refrain from commonsensical comments? Italian scholar Antonio Gramsci has already effectively argued against 'common sense', which for him is not a single unique conception, identical in time and space. He has elaborated how common sense takes countless different forms. In this exercise, it would be mutually beneficial if we stick to particulars and elaborate on details.

Spatial and temporal realities

In the huge information overload that is generated by 24x7 digital platforms, do readers feel that news is curated for their consumption, or do they feel that it is a mere information pipe that functions like a faucet? As I mentioned a few years ago, *The Hindu* weaves five different spatial realities for every reader: international, regional, national, local, and hyperlocal. Temporally, it covers both the past and the present and tries to provide hints about the future, with a pre-occupation to make sense of the present. In this interplay between space and time, *The Hindu* gains gravitas as long as it helps people make choices. It loses its significance if it fails to address any of the issues that concern them.

I would like the readers to share their opinions on which sections they would like to be filled with more news and which sections they believe they get the information much before the newspaper arrives at their doorstep. Do they believe that they can make sense of opinion articles in the absence of news in the newspaper? How comprehensive is the news in *The Hindu* compared to other platforms?

In our continued efforts to listen to readers, we are hosting our next Open House in November to mark the first anniversary of our Mumbai edition. The Mumbai meet should provide an added opportunity to listen to readers in person on this rather contentious idea. I hope to complete this analysis and share it with readers in the last couple of weeks of this year.

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

What is the ideal balance between news and opinion in the digital era?

S. SIVAKUMAR **LISA P. LUKOSE**

On September 16, the Delhi High Court dismissed the copyright infringement petition filed by three international publishers against a photocopy shop located in the Delhi University premises (*The Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Oxford v. Rameshwari Photocopy Services*). The court ruled that making course packs for suggested reading for students by photocopying portions of various prescribed reference books does not violate the copyright of the publishers.

Right to reproduction

Section 14 of the Copyright Act, 1957, grants a bundle of exclusive rights such as the right to reproduction on copyright owners for commercial exploitation of the work. Making photocopies amounts to reproduction. Photocopies made in violation of Section 14 thus constitute infringement unless it is listed under Section 52 as an act not constituting infringement. The judgment holds that if any provision of the Act permits any person other than the owner to reproduce any work or substantial part thereof, such reproduction will not amount to infringement (Para 27).

The Copyright Act, to prevent stagnation of the growth of creativity, seeks to maintain a balance between the competing interests of the copyright owners on the one hand and the interests of the public to have access to works on the other. Copyright's basic rationale is that there should be promotion of creativity through sufficient protection; and at the same time it also caters for dissemination of knowledge and access to copyright material through the doctrine of fair dealing. This doctrine, which is essential for research and academic purposes, is an exception to copyright holders' exclusive rights. The Indian copyright law uses the term 'fair deal' (where listed purposes are statutorily embedded) whereas the U.S.'s copyright law adopts 'fair use' (which is merely illustrative). As per Article 13 of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement, these exceptions must confine to "special cases which do not conflict with a normal exploitation of the work



BREAKTHROUGH: "The judgment will have a far-reaching impact in academic circles as well as on the copyright industry." File photo of the Rameshwari photocopy shop in New Delhi. PHOTO: AFP

and do not unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of the right holder". Since the term 'fair dealing' is not defined in the Act, the judiciary determines its scope on a case by case basis.

Fair dealing

Section 52(1)(i) of the Copyright Act treats as fair dealing "the reproduction of any work (i) by a teacher or a pupil in the course of instruction; or (ii) as part of the questions to be answered in an exam; or (iii) in answers to such question. Section 52(1)(j) uses terms such as "staff and students of an educational institution" whereas Section 52(1)(i) uses "teacher or a pupil in the course of instruction." On analysing this difference, the judgment holds that "there is no reason to interpret Section 52 (1)(i) as providing for an individual teacher and an individual pupil." The word 'instruction' is not defined in the Act. According to Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw, the words "in the course of instruction" would include "reproduction of any work while the process of imparting instruction by the teacher and receiving instruction by the pupil continues dur-

ing the entire academic session... imparting and receiving of instruction is not limited to personal interface between teacher and pupil but is a process commencing from the teacher readying herself/himself for imparting instruction, setting syllabus, prescribing text books, readings and ensuring, whether by interface in classroom/tutorials or otherwise..." Hence it would be fair dealing if the students click photographs of each page of portions of the prescribed book.

Limitations

Copyright must increase and not impede the harvest of knowledge. When the judgment reads, "Copyright is to motivate the creative activity of authors in order to benefit the public", what is left for the copyright owners? The judgment places no limitation on photocopy

if the material is prescribed in the course of instruction. Copyright holders invest considerably in creating works. Can this be ignored while interpreting Section 52(1)(i) as a license for reproducing unlimitedly everything prescribed in the suggested reading? If the legislature had intended to give such a wide interpretation to the words "in the course of instruction", why does it add, "as part of the questions to be answered in an exam or in answers to such question" which should also be covered automatically? If the suggested reading provides for the whole book, does Section 52(1)(i) permit reproduction of the whole book or only reasonable excerpts? The judgment has conveniently avoided any direct reference to this aspect. The Court Commissioner had reported that "8 books were found being photocopied cover to cover". Was the court successful in balancing the competing interests of the academic community and the copyright holders? When the university is entitled to free photocopy of 3,000 pages every month (Para 4), can the possibility of commercial interest be overruled? In that context, does it comply with Article 13 of TRIPS? Is it justified to cover the private photocopy shop in the university premises within the expression "in the course of instruction"? Doesn't the judgment provide blanket immunity to the university to meet the demands of all the students by purchasing a single book?

Undoubtedly, the judgment, which is a breakthrough in the Indian copyright jurisprudence, is a major victory to access to education in a developing country like India. It will certainly have a far-reaching impact in academic circles as well as on the copyright industry. When access to education itself is a challenge, none of the students can be expected to purchase expensive textbooks, especially when syllabi prescribe certain portions from various books. Universities are expected to cater to students' reading requirement without prejudicing copyright holders' legitimate economic interests. Are the Indian universities honestly utilising funds earmarked for libraries for that purpose? The students' demands can be met reasonably by permitting reproduction of reasonable excerpts.

S. Sivakumar is Professor at the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, and former member, Copyright Board. Lisa P. Lukose is Associate Professor of Law, GGS Indraprastha University, Delhi. They are the authors of the book 'Broadcasting Reproduction Right in India: Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Issues'.

Politicians were the heroes of 1991'

Sanjaya Baru on the legacy of Narasimha Rao, the 'what ifs' of 1991, and the vacuum in the Congress

In the 25th year of economic reforms in India, former Prime Minister PV. Narasimha Rao's legacy has come into the spotlight. Sanjaya Baru, who was former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's media advisor and who had tracked the reforms process closely as a journalist, speaks to Nistulia Hebbal about his new book 1991: How PV. Narasimha Rao Made History (Aleph Book Company).

There have been several books on P.V. Narasimha Rao. Is this book part of a campaign to rehabilitate him historically?

In a sense, the rehabilitation of Narasimha Rao has already started, given the fact that Jairam Ramesh, considered close to the current leadership of the Congress, brought out a book that has words of praise for Rao. This suggests that within the Congress there are some who feel that it is time to 'own up' Narasimha Rao. The reason for this is that Prime Minister Modi has shocked the Congress party by owning the leaders they had abandoned. He took ownership of Sardar Patel, of Subhas Chandra Bose, so I think the Congress was mindful of the fact that the BJP might own Narasimha Rao and even Manmohan Singh. In some ways, Mr. Modi's foreign policy is a continuation of Dr. Manmohan Singh's, and in some ways it could be that Mr. Modi was repossessing all the non-Nehru-Gandhi leaders of the Congress. Vinay Sitapati has written a biography, based on family papers of Rao, and it is an excellent book. My book is just about 1991. I have been observing economists re-collecting 1991 as if they were the heroes of 1991. I thought it was necessary to remind economists that it was not them but the politicians — Rao and Chandra Shekhar — who were the heroes. This book is titled *How PV. Narasimha Rao Made History* but Chandra Shekhar, had he been allowed, could well have been the hero of this story.

A very interesting bit that you have written about is on the 'what ifs' of the 1991 elections. What if Rajiv Gandhi had attempted to form a government in 1990 and not been assassinated during the 1991 elections? What would have been the nature of a Congress government headed by him?

Rajiv Gandhi could have certainly attempted to form a Congress-led coalition government in 1990. That could



Sanjaya Baru in New Delhi. PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Rao showed the ability to use the Nehruvian style to address his lack of numbers, which is why he survived five years unlike Morarji Desai, V.P. Singh, or Deve Gowda

there was a glimmer of hope of a non-Gandhi leader for the Congress and inner party elections. Why did that fizzle out?

When you read M.L. Fodder's autobiography and the sections about Indira Gandhi's tenure at the helm of government, it suggests that she recognised that there were several potential prime ministerial candidates in the Congress. Fodder mentions Pranab Mukherjee, Sharad Pawar, and Rao. The problem today is in part due to the untimely deaths of leaders like Madhavrao Scindia and Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, the decision by Sharad Pawar not to fight for space in the party, the decline of provincial strongmen like Digvijaya Singh, and the inability of the younger lot of Congressmen to emerge as national leaders. There is a huge vacuum in the party that no one is in a position to fill, not even Rahul Gandhi. The reason why Sonia Gandhi continues as party president is because there is no one today in the party who can be projected as a potential prime minister.

You have spoken of Rao's legacy being threefold: economic reforms, foreign policy reset, and the possibility he dangled in front of Congressmen that a non-Nehru-Gandhi could run the party and the government. Which among these is his most lasting legacy?

The essence of the book is to say that each of these three contributions was important. His economic policy and foreign policy work have seen continuity, whichever government has been in power, including the current

one. On the political front, a point that is not adequately understood even now is that by calling for party elections in 1992, he showed the way for a revival of the Congress — that it's only by democratising itself, by allowing new leadership to come up, that this can happen. The assassination of Indira Gandhi and then Rajiv Gandhi in a space of seven years was catastrophic for the Congress. He filled a space and showed the way that it could be done.

Narasimha Rao and successive prime ministers till 2014 managed to achieve quite a bit despite their parties not having a Lok Sabha majority. Does a consensual style help in achieving goals more than a secure majority may, because the latter allows unilateralism?

Prime ministers with full majority have behaved differently from each other. Jawaharlal Nehru was a leader who ruled by consensus while Indira Gandhi was considered more unilateral in her approach. Rajiv Gandhi, who had more than 400 MPs in Lok Sabha, couldn't do much with them. The several non-Nehru-Gandhi prime ministers from the Congress fold also couldn't quite grasp that what Rao showed was the ability to use the Nehruvian style to address his lack of numbers, which is why he survived five years unlike former Prime Ministers Morarji (Desai), V.P. Singh, Deve Gowda etc. He succeeded because he carried the party with him.

Will the crisis in the Congress force it to go back to a more consensual, what you term Nehruvian style of politics?

I had written a column recently where I said that the only hope for the Congress is for Sonia Gandhi to give a call to all Congressmen to come back and elect Mamata Banerjee as their president. Thanks to that column I was invited to Ms. Banerjee's swearing-in ceremony which I couldn't attend. But frankly she is the only Congressperson (current or ex) who has a mass base. Sharad Pawar has wasted his political capital as Digvijaya Singh in Madhya Pradesh. Jagannath Reddy has failed to capture his father's charisma, and in State after State we see there are no provincial leaders who can step into the leadership vacuum that Rahul Gandhi appears unable to fill.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

(dated September 26, 1966)

Call to rejuvenate cricket

A call to rejuvenate cricket was made by the Maharaja of Baroda, the outgoing President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, at the annual general meeting of the Board here [Baroda] to-day [September 25]. The Maharaja said that in the last two decades a big change had come over in the approach to cricket, which except when the West Indies were at it, did not seem to be played as a sport to be enjoyed. "The responsibility of

rejuvenating it falls equally on players, the spectators, the Press and the administrators. Let us at least in India strive towards this goal. If we achieve it, others will gladly follow us, and we will have done the greatest service to the game in modern times."

The Maharaja, who was laying down his office after a three-year term, traced succinctly the progress the game had made in the country during his term and laid particular stress on the role the Board had played in promoting exchange visits, on an international level, of school boy players.

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

>> An error in the surname. The first and last paragraph of a report, "Soumya case: Kerala files review petition in SC" (September 24, 2016) mentioned the victim's name as Soumya Viswanathan instead of just Soumya.

>> The second paragraph of a report, "India, France ink €7.87 bn agreement for 36 Rafales" (Front Page, September 24, 2016), said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the decision for direct purchase in April 2014. It should have been April 2015.

>> The Economic Survey is not prepared by the Reserve Bank of India as mentioned in the Perspective page article, "Railway Budget, a vanishing trick" (September 22, 2016). It is prepared by the Chief Economic Advisor under the Ministry of Finance.

>> The interview with S. Abid Ali — "I was fortunate to be part of a famous win" (Sport, September 22, 2016) — had two errors. The substitute fielder in the 1971 Oval Test was Kenia Jayantilal, not Kenny, as given in the report. Also, the name of the English batsman run out by Chandra in the same Test was John Jameson, not Jamie Johnson.

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FROM PAGE ONE

Don't view Muslims as vote banks: Modi

"According to Deendayalji's philosophy of integral humanism, he looked at the body politic as one, Bharat Mata as being one entity. Thus, how can we believe in a version of development where the western zone of the nation develops, but the eastern lags behind. The goal of development would be fulfilled when everyone reaps the benefit of development. No one can be considered as stranger for us. Bharat Mata encompasses all of us. No one can be left behind," the Prime Minister said.

BJP best-equipped

He told partymen that the BJP was one of the few parties free of the "illnesses of other parties" and best equipped to take on the task.

"We are a cadre-based mass-based party, both. It should not be that as the mass base grows, the cadre shrinks. We must train our

11 crore members to be like our cadre, to take forward the work of welfare," he said.

The political resolution of the party, cleared at the meeting of the National Council, accused the Congress of failing to end the economic disparity even after 70 years of independence and said the BJP will promote social harmony to ensure that social justice is rendered to the marginalised sections.

"During the long years of Congress rule, the weaker and the deprived sections have been denied transparent allocation of basic amenities. Thus the poor have become poorer in the rural areas and urban Dalits got confined to slums," the resolution said.

It also sought to establish co-ordination in the poverty alleviation programmes of the Central government and State governments ruled by the BJP.

Debate electoral reforms, says Prime Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOZHIKODE: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday asked for a widespread debate on the issue of electoral reforms.

Addressing the BJP's National Council meet here, Mr. Modi said: "There is a need for a wider debate on electoral reforms. In a large democracy such as ours, it is imperative that issues like money power in elections, or holding of simultaneous elections to the Centre and State legislatures, as well as bringing practices up to date with the times be debated," he said.

Conduct seminars

He requested the BJP to hold seminars to widen the scope of this debate in its celebration of Deendayal Upadhyaya's centenary year, which was flagged off on Sunday.

Mr. Modi has spoken of the need to explore the possibility of holding simultaneous polls on earlier occasions.

U.S. denies trade-off on climate pact

Official says that India's decision on ratification is not tied to its ambition to enter NSG

SUHASINI HAIDAR

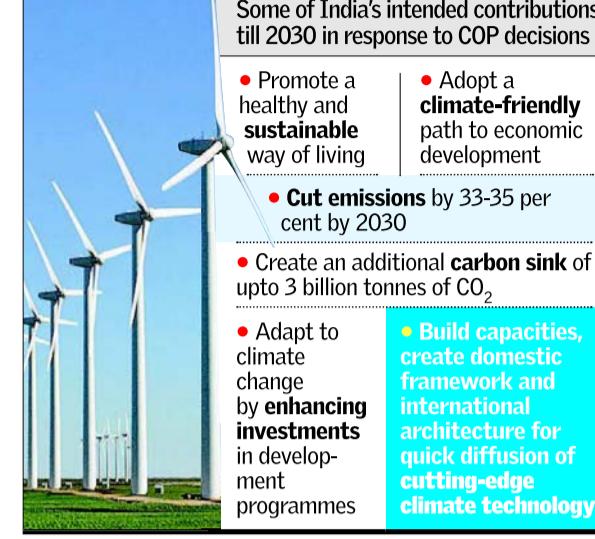
NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON: While the U.S. welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement that India would ratify the Paris Climate Change agreement on October 2, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Nisha Biswal denied that India's ratification to the COP 21 protocol implied movement on India's membership to the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

Speaking exclusively to *The Hindu*, Ms. Biswal said, "I don't think the two are linked but nonetheless, the United States is very clear and emphatic that India is ready for membership in the NSG," adding that the U.S. is in "discussions with India and with the NSG members on the way forward".

Bargaining chip?

The Climate Change ratification was also seen as a possible bargaining chip in

ON AN ECO-FRIENDLY PATH



Some of India's intended contributions till 2030 in response to COP decisions

- Promote a healthy and sustainable way of living
- Adopt a climate-friendly path to economic development
- Cut emissions by 33-35 per cent by 2030
- Create an additional carbon sink of upto 3 billion tonnes of CO₂
- Adapt to climate change by enhancing investments in development programmes
- Build capacities, create domestic framework and international architecture for quick diffusion of cutting-edge climate technology

exchange for India's membership to the Nuclear Suppliers Group. In a statement in June after the Seoul session, the External Affairs Ministry said that "an early positive decision by the NSG would have allowed us to move for-

ward on the Paris Agreement".

India's announcement comes just three weeks after the government said it could not commit to the ratification by year-end because of "domestic procedures", and

is believed to be the result of several rounds of Indo-U.S. negotiations, including between Prime Minister Modi and U.S. President Obama in Laos this year and earlier in June in Washington. The U.S. has been keen to see the treaty brought into force by the end of President Obama's tenure as his "legacy", a senior official privy to those meetings said.

Welcoming Mr. Modi's announcement, Congress leader and MP Jairam Ramesh said the earlier statement had been "needless and thoughtless posturing".

"India should have ratified proactively and gracefully, not [have] to be told to fall in line," he told *The Hindu* alleging that the U.S. was responsible for the PM's announcement.

Ahead of Marrakesh meet

The U.N. Climate Change treaty agreed to at the Paris summit in November 2015, enters into force only after 55

countries, accounting in total for 55 per cent of the total global greenhouse gas emissions, ratify it.

India accounts for about 6 per cent of global emissions, and is expected to join a group of countries that will ratify the agreement by the next U.N. Climate Conference in Marrakesh on November 7.

Welcoming the ratification announcement, climate change experts said it was the government's "finest hour" on the issue. "India has preserved sufficient space to grow conventional energy while being ambitious in its renewable energy targets."

It was unnecessary to link climate agreement to either NSG or to U.S. support on any other matter," Samir Saran, vice-president of Observer Research Foundation and climate change consultant, said.

(With Varghese K. George in Washington & Nistula Hebbar in Kozhikode)

Two rallies held in Vidarbha

PAVAN DAHAT

NAGPUR: Two more Maratha Kranti Muk Morcha (silent protest rallies) were organised in Yavatmal and Washim districts of Vidarbha region on Sunday as part of the community's State-wide agitation triggered by the gang-rape and murder of a minor Maratha girl in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra.

Over one lakh people participated in the rally in Yavatmal, a district infamous for farmers' suicides, and around 80,000 people were part of the silent protest in Washim. Farmers formed a big chunk at both rallies.

Senior Congress leader Manikrao Thakare participated in the Yavatmal protest and Washim MP and Shiv Sena leader Bhawana Gawali was present at the Washim rally.

Both rallies were led by young girls, who submitted their memorandum of demands to the district officials. The demands included reservation for the Marathas.

In Pune, Marathas march in silence

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE



SHOW OF STRENGTH: Members of the Maratha community take part in a protest in Pune on Sunday.—PHOTO: DATTATRAYA ADHALGE

Apart from justice in the Kopardi case, protesters also sought an end to the misuse of the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. They also highlighted the plight of farmers and lack of job opportunities for the Maratha youth. "In many instances, we find that students with no merit get ahead taking advantage of reservation while we lag behind despite working hard," said Shobha Mhaske, a student.

The Pune event saw the participation of several notables, including steeple-

chase specialist Lalita Babar. "I strongly identify with the issue of women's safety," she said.

Politicians were clearly relegated to the rear of the rally — an indicator that the

Let's talk, CM tells protesters

MUMBAI: Faced with an intensifying Maratha agitation, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday announced his government's commitment to provide reservation for the community, and asked protest organisers to join negotiations to ensure smooth passage for the rest of their demands.

Addressing a convention of Mathadi labourers in Navi Mumbai, Mr. Fadnavis said, "The government is of the clear opinion that the Maratha community should get reservation. Unfortunately, the decision is stuck in a court battle. We are prepared to go to any extent to ensure reservation [for Marathas]."

Acknowledging the community's show of strength, Mr. Fadnavis commended protesters for their restraint and discipline. — Alok Deshpande

agitation) sign when asked for his comments.

The rally concluded in three hours, with women marchers presenting their demands to the Pune District Collector.

He kept his promise, but in a different way

SATYASUNDAR BARIK

BHUBANESWAR: Pitabasa Majhi had promised his pregnant wife, Bedamati Majhi, to come home on September 25. The gunner in the Army's Elite Counter Insurgency Unit of Rastriya Rifles did keep his promise, but in a different way.

Casket of Pitabasa, who had succumbed to injuries sustained during the combing operation in the immediate aftermath of the Uri terror attack, reached village Danujhola of Odisha's Nuapada district on Sunday. The excitement over arrival first baby for the couple in the family was replaced by heart rending wailing.

"I had talked to him over telephone on September 22 last. Although he was tense over the Uri terrorist attack, he was very excited of the fact he would be at home on September 25. My world collapsed when I heard the news of his demise," said weeping Ms. Bedamati.

Body of Pitabasa was flown in to Raipur, capital city of Chhattisgarh, by an Indian Air Force helicopter. From there, the casket was brought to his village by road. The gunner was bid

farewell amid chants of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Pitabasa Amar Rahe' by grief-stricken villagers as his mortal remains were cremated with full military honours. Over More than 5,000 people thronged the non-descript remote village to pay their last respect to him.

The Nuapada administration led by Collector Sadique Alam and Superintendent of Police Madkar Sandeep Sampat offered tribute to martyred gunner.

Pitabasa would have been a proud father as his wife is scheduled to deliver their first baby next month. But the fate had different plans. In fact, he had already been transferred to Rajasthan from Kashmir. Before joining duty in Rajasthan, he would have come to the village, said Bhurban Singh Majhi, Pitabasa's uncle.

Pitabasa had joined the BSF in 2008 after completion of Plus Two.

Born in a farmer's family, he had seven siblings — five brothers and two sisters. He was the only earning member of the family.

Although the family has seven acres of land, the yield is not enough to help lead comfortable life.

'Modi using Pakistan bogey to mislead people'

OMAR RASHID

LUCKNOW: Before counselling Pakistan on the welfare of its people, Prime Minister Narendra Modi should introspect his "own record" in this aspect in the last two-and-a-half years, BSP supremo Mayawati said on Sunday even as she criticised lashed out at the government for failing to prevent "terrorist attacks" in border areas.

Ms. Mayawati said Mr. Modi's reach-out to the Pakistani people during his speech in Kerala on the Uri attack on Saturday was merely an attempt to "mislead the people [of India] and divert their attention" instead of looking for a "concrete and long-term" Pakistan policy.

She saw a "political attempt" to influence the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand behind the "emotional blackmail."

Ms. Mayawati urged Mr. Modi to not make populist speeches but fulfil the promises made to people by his party, as she attacked the government on issues of poverty, unemployment, inflation and illiteracy.

Will 'PK' pull a rabbit out of the hat for Congress?

SMITA GUPTA

RAE BARELI: Poll strategist Prashant Kishor — or PK as he is known — may have ruffled many feathers in the upper echelons of the Congress leadership, but on the ground in Uttar Pradesh, where the party has been out of power for 27 years, he is seen as a harbinger of hope.

In Rae Bareli, which, along with neighbouring Amethi, is seen as the party's last citadel in the State, Dinesh Singh, the solitary Congress member in the Legislative Council, explains why: "PK's management is better than the Congress's management. He is working to make the party more broad-based. For instance, when he organised a programme for Rahul Gandhi in Lucknow, he didn't ask a few leaders to bring their supporters — in-

stead, he ensured a minimum of 15 persons from every Assembly segment."

PK, Mr. Singh says, has ensured that the Congress has entered political conversations across the State, especially in the rural hinterland — and this is not merely because two cavalcades of senior leaders have already barnstormed across the State, even as party vice-president Rahul Gandhi undertook his Kisan Yatra.

Promise of waiver
Rather, the party campaign's centrepiece addresses the distressed farming community, and is linked to a key slogan, "Karza maaf, bijli bill half, samarthan mulya ka karo hisab" (loans will be waived, electricity bills will be halved, and a reasonable minimum support price will be ensured)."

Indeed, at the conclusion of his roadshow in Lucknow on September 23, Mr. Gandhi made a sharp focussed speech on agrarian distress in the State, explained what measures the previous Congress-led UPA government had taken and ended with saying that if elected, loans would be waived in 10 days.

Thousands of Kisan Mang Patras (farmers' demand forms) are now being distributed in the villages, with respondents asked to fill in their names, addresses and telephone numbers, along with the loan amount they owe the banks.



Prashant Kishor

"If this had been done through the Congress system," Mr. Singh says, "these forms would have been only distributed where the party has some support. But PK has ensured that they will reach all 901 blocks and a Sonia Gandhi sticker is stuck on every door."

Even ticket aspirants utter PK's name with enthusiasm.

In Faizabad's Rudauli segment, outside the Saidham

Mandir at Chaitapur, a group of locals are sitting chatting after a temple feast: among them is Sushil Kumar Trivedi, who has been in the party since 1984. He says, "PK's people came here and asked aspirants to give names of five people from each booth, and then assessed what kind of support they have."

Good tidings

In far-flung villages in Bhadohi, Allahabad, Azamgarh and Khalilabad, villagers had not heard of PK, but they knew about the loan waiver promise. Many even recalled that the Congress had waived loans in 2008 — and so it was a possibility, that they would do it again if voted to power.

Of course, though the Congress is being talked of — more where there is a

credible candidate — no one is yet saying it has a chance of winning the election.

But everyone agrees that its vote percentage will increase and that it will get more than the 28 seats it won in 2012. And if it doesn't help the party in 2017, there will be a party organisation for the battle of 2019, the next Lok Sabha elections, is the consensus.

Even senior Congress leaders who insist that political planning, concept and strategy has been left to them, are reluctantly admitting that PK has made an impact: a former MP tells me: "He is not doing anything that we could not have done — but we were not doing it. There is so much factionalism and rivalry that we needed an outsider to state the obvious and carry it through."

To lead the process, she has depoted her trusted lieutenant Satish Chandra Mishra, the fulcrum of her social engineering project in 2007. Even as she has been hit by a spate of desertions and rebellions, Ms. Mayawati believes the support of the three communities is enough to bring her to power — the "DBM" formula, as Mr. Mishra terms it. Dalits, Brahmins and Muslims together form 49 per cent of Uttar Pradesh's electorate.

Over the next two months, Mr. Mishra, who recently returned to the Rajya Sabha for the third time, will address 45 sabbas across the State to draw in his community. All the 'sarvajan hitay, sarvajan sukhay bhaichara sabhas' or (brotherhood meetings) will

takes, and the CEO's desire to push the policy in a hurry, I would urge Mr. Prakash to convene a meeting of the Board as soon as possible to sort out the matter."

The Prasar Bharati Corporation is funded by the I&B Ministry. Only 15 per cent of the budget is spent on the first two rounds and till all necessary remedial measures have been put in place to make our policy a foolproof instrument for betterment of the public service broadcaster."

Mr. Tandon told *The Hindu*, "In view of the fact that the DD establishment wants to rectify its past mis-

ANURADHA RAMAN

NEW DELHI: The slot sale policy announced by Doordarshan a few months ago has not only producers arraigned against one another but the CEO of the Prasar Bharati Corporation, Jawhar Sircar, also faces problems as he hurries to push through the scheme before he demits office in February.

A series of exchanges between Mr. Sircar, a former IAS officer, and members of the Prasar Bharati Board shows not only the positions taken by the members on the issue but also the impatience of Mr. Sircar as he lashes out

at people for not standing up for him. "In 2012, I was thrown into a hostile atmosphere from Day One, and I can't remember any support ... but my support is wearing thin," Mr. Sircar writes.

The *Hindu* has been able to access the series of e-mails exchanged in May when DD faced resistance to the proposed switch to a new regime in which prime slots are to be auctioned, fetching the

TERROR THREAT

We have faith in our Army, says PM

Modi says soldiers will exhibit their valour and perpetrators of the Uri attack will be punished

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that the perpetrators of the Uri terror attack would be punished and the Army did not speak but exhibited its valour.

"I pay tributes to our 18 soldiers who lost their lives in the Uri attack. This cowardly act was enough to shake the country. It has not only left the people mourning but has also infuriated them. The loss of our soldiers is a national loss, and therefore I would like to reiterate that the guilty would be punished," he said in his *Mann Ki Baat* radio programme.

Mr. Modi said he reposed faith in the Army. "We have faith in our Army. With their courage, they will defeat any attempt at such conspiracies. Our Army doesn't speak but with their actions they show their valour," he said.

He said the Kashmiri people started moving on the path of peace and wanted normality to return as they identified the anti-national forces.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi used his *Mann ki Baat* radio address on Sunday to speak on the Uri attack.—PHOTO: PTI

"Today, I specifically want to talk to the Kashmiris. The Kashmiris have started recognising the anti-national elements and are distancing themselves from them to move forward on the path of peace. Parents want school and colleges to open. Farmers want their crop to reach markets

across the country. Trade has picked up in the past few days," he said.

Peace, unity and harmony were the ways to resolve problems and all issues could be resolved through dialogue, he said.

Referring to a Class 11 student named Harshvardhan, who was disturbed by

Pak. alleges vilification

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "irresponsible behaviour" by making provocative statements that it was exporting terror, saying his remarks were part of a "well thought out vilification campaign" to distract attention from Kashmir.

Pakistan Foreign Office, in a statement, said Prime Minister Modi in a public meeting in Kerala "tried to malign Pakistan."

"It is unfortunate that Indian leadership continues to indulge in a well-thought-out vilification campaign against Pakistan by making provocative statements and baseless accusations," the Foreign Office said. —PTI

the Uri attack, Mr. Modi said: "He was angry and wrote to me saying that he wanted to do something for the country. Despite his anger, he pledged to study three more hours daily and become a good citizen. The constructive thinking of this boy is inspiring for all of us." Congratulating Indian

medallists at the Rio Paralympics, Mr. Modi said the government was working towards development of para-athletes.

"We are proud of our sportspersons and after their performance in the Paralympics, every citizen has developed an emotional attachment to them." "The performance of our players at the Paralympics has changed our point of view of *Divyans* [physically challenged]," he said.

He would never forget the words of Deepa Malik, who after winning the medal said: "With this medal I have defeated my disability."

Cleanliness drive

Stressing the cleanliness drive under Swachh Bharat Mission ahead of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary on October 2, Mr. Modi said: "Swachh Bharat Mission was started two years ago this day, and today I can confidently say the people are more cautious about cleanliness." He appealed to the people to join the drive by devoting two or four hours to it on October 2.

23 fidayeen attacks under NDA watch

VIJAYA SINGH

NEW DELHI: The terror attack at an Army camp in Kashmir's Uri district is only the latest in the long line of attacks on India's western border since the BJP-led NDA government came to power. Since May 2014, there have been 23 fidayeen (suicide) attacks along the Pakistan border, most of them in Jammu and Kashmir.

In the current year, 65 security personnel, including Army men, lost their lives, the highest in the past six years. Security forces gunned down 26 terrorists on suicide missions this year.

In the last two years of the United Progressive Alliance rule, eight fidayeen attacks were reported.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), which has been asked to investigate the Uri terror attack, is examining the leads that point towards Pakistan, a senior official said.

Though the Army had said that the attack was carried out by terrorists belonging to the Jaish-e-Mohammed, a Pakistan-based terrorist outfit, senior NIA officials said they were yet to come to a conclusion.

DEATH GRAPH

Security forces killed in the past three years

2014	47
2015	39
2016	65

Year wise break up of fidayeen attacks since the NDA came to power	2014	2015	2016
2	2	9	12

The name of the terrorist outfit is immaterial, whether its Jaish or Lashkar-e-Taiba, the fact is that it has tell-tale signs of an ISI-backed plan.

The ISI might have changed its strategy and would have sent a team comprising members of more than one terrorist outfit," a senior Union Home Ministry official said.

Post-Uri attacks, the security has been heightened in the border.

The Indian consulates in Afghanistan also became a target of suicide attacks by terrorists.

Curfew lifted in entire Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Markets across Kashmir opened on Sunday and there was heavy rush of customers thronging shops as curfew was lifted from all parts of Kashmir.

Shops and business establishments which had remained closed for 79 days due to separatist call for shut down opened after 2 p.m.

There was heavy rush of customers thronging shops as markets opened. Traffic jams were witnessed in the commercial hub of Lal Chowk here and in adjoining areas of the city, while other districts also witnessed movement of large number of vehicles.

The separatist groups have announced a 16-hour relaxation in the shut down till 6 a.m. on Monday.

Stone throwing

However, miscreants attempted to create disturbances in Anantnag and Sopore, the police said. At Sopore chowk and KP Road in Anantnag, miscreants threw stones at shopkeepers when they were opening their shops, the spokesman said. —PTI

Script changes for Pakistani artistes

STAFF REPORTER

MUMBAI: Forty-eight hours after issuing a threat to actors from Pakistan, asking them to leave the country, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) said here on Sunday that film and television channel producers had followed the party's diktat.

MNS says film and TV producers have obeyed the party diktat to keep them away

and managements of channels that any attempt to cast Pakistani actors in their shows would lead to MNS style agitation and her party should not be held responsible for the consequences..

No solution: Johar

Responding to the ban, film maker Karan Johar, whose upcoming directorial venture *Ae Dil Hai Mushkil* stars Pakistani actor Fawad Khan, said his heart bleeds for the lives lost in the Uri terror attack and he understands the anger in the country but boycotting artistes from the neighbouring country is no solution to terrorism.

"If this was truly a solution, one would take it," the director told a news channel. "But this is not a solution. I don't believe it is. The larger forces have to come together and sort the situation and this cannot be banning talent or art."

Comedian Raju Srivastava cancelled his upcoming show in Karachi, saying he can't be making jokes and be funny when Indian soldiers are killed.

(With inputs from PTI)

Terror as state policy is war crime, Shah tells Pakistan

NISTULA HEBBAR

KOZHIKODE: The BJP on Sunday reinforced Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message to Pakistan, with party president tabling a statement on the terrorist attack on Uri, positing it as one in a decade-and-a-half of terror strikes against India by Pakistan.

BJP president Amit Shah described Pakistan as a country that follows terrorism as "state policy" which he said should be treated as a war crime.

The statement was put before the National Council of the BJP, where it was endorsed by the 1700 delegates present, without discussion and with a show of hands.

Strategic response

Mr. Shah's statement has set the political line to be followed by the BJP, that has been feeling the heat of popular anger after 18 Army men were killed in Uri in a terror



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah arriving for the flag-hoisting ceremony at the BJP national council meeting in Kozhikode on Sunday.—PHOTO: PTI

strike. The statement is also significant for it places the attack in Uri in a continuum of terror strikes that require a long-term strategic response rather than a precipitate one.

"This is a long fight that

has been thrust on us by Pakistan. But those who think that the attack on Uri is in any way a decisive one, are mistaken," he said. The party had "zero tolerance" for terrorism, and so did the BJP-ruled Central government.

"Pakistan is today openly supporting and sponsoring terrorism as state policy. India has been a long-time victim of this policy. In the last decade and a half we have endured several major and minor terrorist attacks, the

latest being Uri," he said.

If terrorism becomes the instrument of state policy then it needs to be described as no less than a war crime. Pakistan is today openly supporting and sponsoring terrorism as state policy," he said. "The speech of Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan at the UNO is a testimony to the fact that Pakistan is openly advocating terrorism in the world," Mr. Shah said in his statement.

Grim situation

Earlier, in his president address to the BJP National Council he referred to the unrest in Jammu and Kashmir. "The situation in Jammu and Kashmir has been grim, for the past couple of months. Separatists have organised an agitation in the State. I want to repeat that Kashmir is an integral part of India. We believe in dialogue and peace. But dialogue will happen only with those who

work within the confines of the Indian Constitution. There will be no dialogue with those who do not believe in the Constitution of India," he said.

He said combating terror is an ongoing process. "As a result of the strategic and aggressive response from the Central government II7 terrorists have been neutralised in the last 8 months. It is comparatively very high in the recent past. In the last 8 months terrorists have attempted 17 times to violate our borders and infiltrate into India which was successfully foiled by our security forces. The Uri attack is a result of their frustration only. It is a long-drawn battle thrust on us by our neighbour. Uri is a temporary setback, the final victory will be ours. The Prime Minister has promised that the perpetrators shall not go unpunished," Mr. Shah said.

Will Modi fight the next elections in Pak., asks Cong.

NEW DELHI: Congress on Sunday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "playing politics" with national security, and said he had been offering "platitudes" to Pakistan as if he is going to fight elections in that country instead of understanding the anger of people in India.

Congress leader Manish Tewari said "Prime Minister has suddenly started lecturing the people of Pakistan about its new developmental imperatives. It seems Narendra

Modi would be fighting the next elections in Pakistan rather than understanding the depth of anger which is there in the people of India."

"...He has tried to change the goalpost by talking about malnutrition and other development indices like poverty and unemployment. These are battles India won't back."

"...I want to call out to the children in Pakistan, let's declare war on illiteracy. Let's see who wins. Let's declare war on infant mortality and maternal deaths." —PTI

Addressing a massive gathering at a Bharatiya Janata Party meet on Saturday in Kochi, Mr. Modi challenged Pakistan to

go to war against poverty and unemployment.

He said, "I want to say that India is ready for a war...India is a ready for a war on poverty. Let both countries fight to see who would eradicate poverty first...I want to tell the youth of Pakistan, let's have a war on ending unemployment.

"...I want to call out to the children in Pakistan, let's declare war on illiteracy. Let's see who wins. Let's declare war on infant mortality and maternal deaths." —PTI

"...I want to call out to the children in Pakistan, let's declare war on illiteracy. Let's see who wins. Let's declare war on infant mortality and maternal deaths." —PTI

Govt. cites security threat, bans all photography in Parliament

B. MURALIDHAR REDDY

NEW DELHI: Citing security reasons, the Security Division of Parliament House has informed all the officers and staff posted inside the Parliament premises that photography/video shooting in the complex is prohibited.

A recent circular issued by Yogesh Deshmukh, Joint Secretary (Security), Parliament House, has said the Parliament complex is the 'most threatened places in India' and prohibition of

photography/video shooting in Parliament complex is part of the planned strategy security arrangements.'

Technological threat

Addressed to all the officers and staff posted in the Parliament House, the circular said the technological aids like cameras, spy-cameras and smart phones pose a direct threat to security of the complex.

"Protection of Parliament, the parliamentarians and other high dignitaries and its staff is one of the top priorities of the Parliament Security System", the circular said.

The PSS is responsible for the security set up in the Indian Parliament House complex. Parliament Security Service is the in-house system to provide proactive, preventive and protective security to the VIPs/VVIPs, building and its incumbents. The task of PSS is very delicate given the sensibilities of the VVIPs and VIPs who visit the complex.

Supreme Court finds govt. defying its order on Aadhaar

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI: The Centre was caught red-handed defying a Supreme Court order directing that no citizen will be denied benefits under a government scheme for want of an Aadhaar card.

A Bench of Justices Gopal V. Gowda and A.K. Goel discovered that the Centre had been insisting that students submit their Aadhaar number for applying for government scholarship schemes.

On October 15, 2015, a Constitution Bench led by then Chief Justice of India H.L. Dattu had held that citizens cannot be forced to produce his Aadhaar to avail themselves of government welfare schemes and benefits.

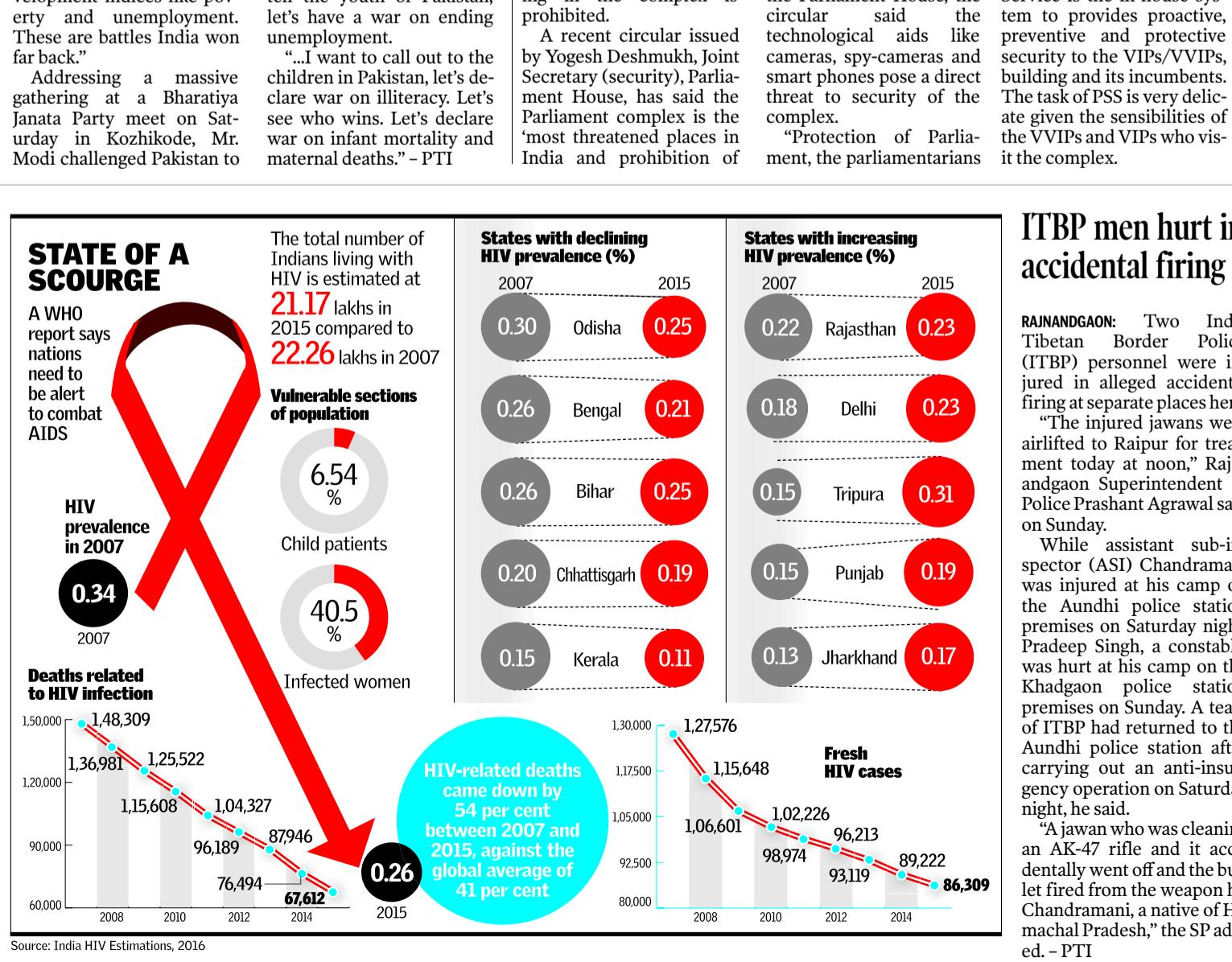
It had even hinted that the government risked contempt of court if it chooses to continue to make the Aadhaar number a mandatory

Bench discovered students are made to submit Aadhaar for applying for scholarship schemes

ory condition. But the government seemed to have ignored the court's warning in this case. A petition filed by the All-Bengal Minority Students Council sharply exposed the defiance.

The petition pointed to a letter addressed by the Centre to States and Union Territories to make Aadhaar a mandatory condition for applying for pre-matric, post-matric and merit-cum-means scholarship schemes. The letter, dated July 14, 2016, plainly directed that "submission of Aadhaar is mandatory" for students.

Staying the implementation of the letter recently, the court directed the Ministry



Charlotte videos inconclusive on gun

The clips, released by the police, fail to prove that the black victim possessed a weapon

CHARLOTTE (NORTH CAROLINA): Nearly a week of recurring protests over the police killing of a black man in Charlotte, North Carolina, showed no signs of abating on Sunday after police released videos of the shooting that did not resolve the question of whether the victim had a gun.

Hundreds marched through the centre of Charlotte on a fifth night of demonstrations that stretched into Sunday morning, including white and black families protesting police violence.

One sign read "Stop police brutality" and another showed a picture of a bloody hand-print with the phrase #AMINEXT, a social media tag about the fear of becoming a victim of police.

Curfew imposed

For the first time in three nights, police enforced a curfew, saying they would arrest violators. A crowd gathered outside police headquarters dispersed without any violence shortly after midnight. The streets were quiet on Sunday morning.

Charlotte police released two videos on Saturday showing the fatal shooting on Tuesday of Keith Scott (43).

The death has made Char-



OUR LIVES COUNT: Hundreds marched through the centre of Charlotte, North Carolina, on Saturday for a fifth night of demonstrations that stretched into Sunday. — PHOTO: REUTERS

lotte the latest flashpoint in two years of tense protests over U.S. police killings of black men, most of them unarmed.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Kerr Putney acknowledged that the videos themselves were "insufficient" to prove that Scott held a gun but said other

evidence completed the picture.

"There is no definitive visual evidence that he had a gun in his hand," Mr. Putney said. "But what we do see is compelling evidence that, when you put all the pieces together, supports that."

Police said officers trying to serve an arrest warrant for

a different person caught site of Scott with marijuana and a gun, sitting in a car in a parking lot.

Both Scott's family and protesters have disputed the police statements that Scott was carrying a gun.

Photos of weapon

Police released photos of a marijuana cigarette, an ankle holster they said Scott was wearing, and a handgun, which they said was loaded and had Scott's fingerprints and DNA.

But Scott's family, which released its own video of the encounter on Friday, said the police footage showed he was not acting aggressively and that the police shooting made no sense, with no attempt to de-escalate the situation.

The family video, shot by Scott's wife, was also inconclusive on the question of a gun.

In one of the police videos, a dashboard-mounted camera from a squad car showed Scott exiting his vehicle and then backing away from it. Police shout to him to drop a gun, but it is not clear that Scott is holding anything. Four shots then ring out and Scott drops to the ground. A second video, taken with an officer's body camera, fails to capture the shooting. — Reuters

8 injured after shooting in Baltimore

BALTIMORE (MARYLAND): Three gunmen shot and wounded eight people including a 3-year-old girl on an east Baltimore street on Saturday night, police said, adding the suspects fled and the victims were all expected to survive.

The shooting erupted outside some row-houses about 8:30 p.m. after the three armed men converged on the group from different points, Baltimore Police Commissioner Kevin Davis said at a news conference.

Mr. Davis, who went to the scene, said the shooting was a premeditated act of retaliatory violence in response to a Labor Day weekend shooting in which a man was fatally shot and two women were wounded, one of them pregnant. He did not immediately explain how investigators believed the shootings were linked. Mr. Davis said the victims could have recognised the gunmen but authorities haven't immediately been able to identify the suspects and were still searching for them hours afterwards.

According to the commissioner, one of the armed men emerged from an alley and two others ran down the street, stopping just short of the victims before they opened fire. — AP

China sees Kashmir dispute as an obstacle to Silk Road

ATUL ANEJA

BEIJING: Growing tensions between India and Pakistan is persuading the Chinese establishment to look at the Kashmir issue as an impediment to Beijing's One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative, with the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) at its core.

The Uri incident and Islamabad's re-energised drive to internationalise Kashmir have fuelled considerable anxiety in Beijing. The Chinese foreign ministry has on two occasions since the Uri incident, called upon India and Pakistan to exercise restraint and resume their stalled dialogue.

The CPEC links the Pakistani port of Gwadar with Kashgar in Xinjiang. It is part of China's high-stake OBOR connectivity initiative in Eurasia, which would allow China to gate-crash as an indispensable rule-maker of international trade and commerce. Coupled with its aspiration to develop a string of ports and coastal economic hubs along its maritime trading routes, China's Maritime Silk Road (MSR) would also be central to Beijing's rise as a mature global power.

Li-Sharif talks at UN

China hopes to replicate its dramatic success in developing coastal hubs such as Shanghai and Shenzhen along the Indian Ocean coastline.

Unsurprisingly, CPEC, which passes through a section of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), was the primary focus of talks between Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif at their meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). A note on the September 21 talks on the Chinese foreign ministry website underscored that



CONNECTIVITY QUESTION: A Pakistani soldier at the Gwadar port, Balochistan. — FILE PHOTO: AP

Mr. Li had "pointed out that at present, bilateral practical cooperation, with China-Pakistan economic corridor as the priority, has achieved positive progress". Yet, Mr. Li did not hide Beijing's security concerns, when he stressed that, "It is hoped that Pakistan can reinforce prevention on the security risk of the projects and continue to provide safety protection to the programme construction and Chinese personnel in Pakistan."

Bringing stability to Pak.

Chinese academics have also begun to debate the regional fall-out of the Kashmir issue, and the benefits to the CPEC, in case a *modus vivendi* is achieved to address this thorny dispute. "If India and Pakistan can resolve the Kashmir problem, CPEC would not be an obstacle among China, India and Pakistan," Professor Long Xingchun, Director of Center of India Studies, at China West Normal University, told *The Hindu*. He added: "The CPEC can then be renamed as China-South Asia corridor benefiting all participants." Nevertheless, Professor Long noted that though the CPEC is a link between the land corridor of the Silk Road and the MSR, "its emergence was more important to Pakistan than to China".

'Blasphemous' Jordanian writer killed



AMMAN: A gunman shot dead Jordanian writer Nahed Hattar on Sunday outside the court where he was to stand trial on charges of contempt of religion after sharing on social media a caricature seen as insulting Islam, witnesses and state media said.

The gunman was arrested at the scene, state news agency Petra said. A security source said he was a 39-year-old Muslim preacher in a mosque in the capital.

Mr. Hattar, a Christian and a anti-Islamist activist who was a supporter of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, was arrested last month after he shared a caricature.

Many conservative Muslim Jordanians con-

sidered it offensive and against their religion. The authorities said he violated the law by sharing the caricature. The state news agency quoted a security source as saying Mr. Hattar was killed by a man who fired three shots at him on the steps of the palace of justice in the Jordanian capital.

Mr. Hattar was charged

with contempt of religion and sowing sectarian tensions. He had apologised on social media and said he did not mean to insult God but had shared the cartoon to mock fundamentalist Sunni radicals and what he said was their vision of God and heaven. He had accused his Islamist opponents of using the cartoon to settle scores with him.

The Jordanian government condemned the attack.

"The law will be strictly enforced on the culprit who did this criminal act and will hit with an iron fist anyone who tries to harm state of law," government spokesman Mohammad Momani said. — Reuters

Police arrest Washington shooting suspect



Arcan Cetin.

LOS ANGELES: Authorities have arrested a Turkish-born man suspected of shooting five people dead, including a teenage cancer survivor, at a shopping mall in the U.S. State of Washington. Police named the suspect as Arcan Cetin (20), a resident of the nearby town of Oak Harbor, saying he was arrested late on Saturday about 24 hours after the killings.

The FBI office in Seattle said it had no evidence the shooting was terror-related.

Police are still trying to establish a motive.

Authorities had initially described the suspect as a Hispanic man in his late teens or early 20s. — AFP

Indian-origin doctor offers 'daddy' app



LONDON: An Indian-origin doctor from a U.K. sperm bank has launched a new mobile app for women who can browse and pick the right candidate online to father her child. Dr. Kamal Ahuja, scientific director of the London Sperm Bank, believes

the app is the first-of-its-kind in the world.

The London Sperm Bank's app — dubbed "order-a-daddy" app by the newspaper — allows women to order sperm just as they would carry out any other online transaction.

It allows women to browse for potential fathers by choosing a donor with desired characteristics such as hair and eye colour or height. — PTI

Boko Haram leader appears on video



KANO (NIGERIA): The embattled leader of *jihadist* group Boko Haram, Abubakar Shekau, resurfaced in a video posted online on Sunday, rejecting assertions by the Nigerian Army that he had been seriously wounded. "Oh tyrants, I'm in a happy state, in good health and in safety," he said in a 40-minuted video released on YouTube and dated September 25. The

Nigerian Army said on August 23 that the Shekau had been seriously wounded in the shoulder in an air raid in which several commanders were killed. — AFP

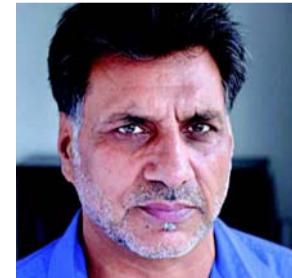
Aged Canadian couple reunited

TORONTO: An elderly Canadian couple who gained international sympathy when they were forced to live in two different nursing homes after 62 years of marriage has been reunited after a heart-breaking photo went viral.

Wolfram and Anita Gottschalk (83 and 81) were

sent to live in different nursing homes in late August after space ran out at the home where Wolfram was being treated for lymphoma. Now the two have been brought together in the same Surrey, British Columbia nursing home, their granddaughter, Ashley Bartky said. — AFP

Pak.-origin actor sacked from U.K. television series



Marc Anwar

LONDON: A Pakistan-born actor has been sacked from Britain's most popular television soap after posting what broadcaster ITV called Sunday "entirely unacceptable, racially offensive" comments about Indians on social media. Marc Anwar (45) joined *Coronation Street*, the world's longest-running TV soap opera, in 2014 as a member of the show's first Muslim family.

His posts reportedly hit out at India over the Kashmir dispute and suggested Pakistani actors should refuse to work in the country.

An ITV spokeswoman said: "We are deeply shocked by the entirely unacceptable, racially offensive comments made on Twitter by Marc Anwar. "We have talked to Marc and, as a consequence of his comments, he will not be returning to *Coronation Street* with immediate effect." — AFP

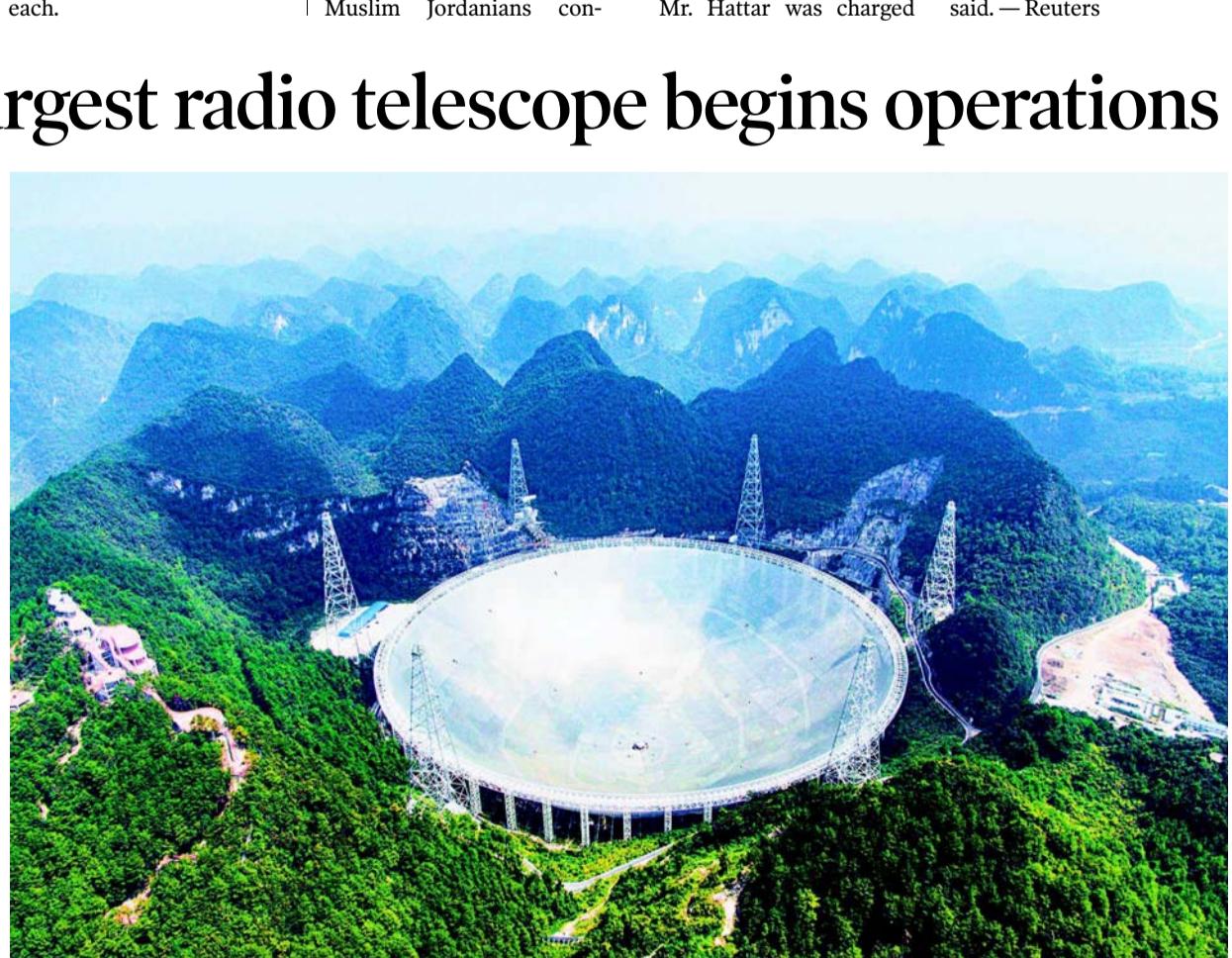
BEIJING: The world's largest radio telescope began searching for signals from stars and galaxies and, perhaps, extraterrestrial life on Sunday in a project demonstrating China's rising ambitions in space and its pursuit of international scientific prestige.

Beijing has poured billions into such ambitious scientific projects as well as its military-backed space programme, which saw the launch of China's second space station earlier this month.

Measuring 500-meters in diameter, the radio telescope is nestled in a natural basin within a stunning landscape of lush green karst formations in southern Guizhou Province.

It took five years and \$180 million to complete and surpasses that of the 300-meter Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico, a dish used in research on stars that led to a Nobel Prize. The official Xinhua News Agency said hundreds of astronomers and enthusiasts watched the launch of the Aperture Spherical Telescope, or FAST, in the county of Pingtang.

Researchers quoted by state media said FAST would search for gravitational waves, detect radio emissions from stars and galaxies and listen for signs of intelligent extraterrestrial life. The ultimate goal of FAST



EXTRATERRESTRIAL VIEW: An aerial view of the Aperture Spherical Telescope, which has a diameter of 500 m, in the remote Pingtang county in southwest China's Guizhou Province. — PHOTO: AP

is to discover the laws of the development of the universe, Qian Lei, an associate researcher with the National Astronomical Observatories of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, told state broadcaster CCTV.

In theory, if there is civilisation in outer space, the radio signal it sends will be

similar to the signal we can receive when a pulsar [spinning neutron star] is approaching us," Mr. Qian said.

Installation of the 4,450-panel structure, nicknamed Tianyan, or the Eye of Heaven, started in 2011 and was completed in July.

The telescope requires a radio silence within a five-km radius, resulting in the relocation of more than 8,000 people from their homes in eight villages to make way for the facility, state media said. Reports in August said the villagers would be compensated with cash or new homes from a budget of about \$269 million from a poverty relief fund

and bank loans.

China has also completed the construction of tourist facilities such as an observation deck on a nearby mountain, reports said.

Such facilities can be a draw for visitors — the one in Puerto Rico draws about 90,000 visitors and some 200 scientists each year. — AP

**Centre plans 3 more sub-funds under NIIF**

The Centre plans three more sector specific sub-funds under the Rs.40,000-crore National Investment and Infrastructure Fund. — PTI

**GDP growth to top 8% on rains, reforms**

A good monsoon and reforms will push growth beyond 8 per cent in this fiscal, NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Arvind Panagariya said. — PTI

**Voice software to drive ICICI transactions**

ICICI Bank aims to conduct 50 lakh transactions through voice recognition by the year ending March 2017. — PTI

BRIEFLY**'Seventh Pay panel award to spur savings'**

NEW DELHI: Global brokerage UBS has taken a contrarian line to the general view that the Seventh Pay panel award would boost demand, saying the move is expected to drive savings more than consumption. According to a UBS Evidence Lab report, the Central Pay Commission (CPC) may not help an urban demand recovery in the second half of this financial year. The 2016 UBS Evidence Lab survey, which offers insights into the outlook for the second half of this fiscal year, noted that the urban demand recovery would be slower than the market consensus expectations. Though survey respondents are hopeful of improved household income, most plan to save rather than spend any increase. — PTI

ONGC nod to buy stake in GSPC gas block

NEW DELHI: The Board of state-owned ONGC has approved signing of a preliminary agreement for buying a stake in Gujarat government firm GSPC's KG basin gas block. The Board of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) at its meeting earlier this month approved signing of a memorandum of understanding for acquiring a stake in Gujarat Petroleum Corporation Ltd's (GSPC) difficult gas block, sources privy to the development said. The memorandum of understanding also incorporates a dispute resolution clause wherein any differences over issues like valuation or natural gas reserves would be referred to a three-member committee of outside experts. — PTI

India's gen-next leaders join crorepati club

NEW DELHI: Several generation-next leaders of India's leading family-run businesses have joined crorepati club when it comes to their salaries and other perks. With a number of corporate houses promoting sons and daughters of their promoters to leadership positions, many of these companies have begun giving hefty remuneration packages to them for their "increased responsibilities" and "active involvement" in exploring new business opportunities. Still, the annual pay of these next-generation leaders remains relatively low, as against the overall average payout of over Rs.20 crore for CEOs of India's top-listed companies forming part of Sensex. — PTI

Patanjali plans food park in U.P. for Rs.1,600 crore

NEW DELHI: Patanjali Ayurved, promoted by yoga guru Ramdev, may announce an investment of Rs.1,600 crore shortly for setting up a herbal food park in Noida in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh to meet its domestic as well as global demand. "It is almost finalised now. You may see an announcement by Patanjali Ayurved for an investment of around Rs.1,600 crore in Noida for setting up a food processing plant around Diwali," a senior U.P. government official said. "As far as investments in the state are concerned, the Uttar Pradesh government is fair and transparent for promoting industrialisation which will create jobs." There were speculations that Patanjali will announce its investment in U.P. after the polls in March. — PTI

Indian drug formulation market grows 15.3%

MUMBAI: The domestic formulation drug market grew by 15.3 per cent in August to Rs.9,643 crore over the corresponding month last year. The growth was driven by 9.1 per cent expansion in volumes, 2.9 per cent rise in prices and 3.3 per cent in new launches, according to the data compiled by pharma market research company AICOD AWACS. Indian companies grew by 17.1 per cent against 9 per cent growth for MNC pharma companies during the month. Amongst the top 50 MNCs, Janssen grew by 23.2 per cent followed by Sanofi at 13.4 per cent and Abbott at 12.6 per cent over the same month last year. Among the top 50 Indian corporates, Centaur had the highest growth rate at 42.5 per cent. — PTI

**Tourism meet sees pacts worth Rs.15,000 cr.**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Five states — Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh — signed 86 MoUs worth close to Rs.15,000 crore during the recently concluded Incredible India Investors' Summit.

Gujarat leads the tally with signed pacts worth nearly Rs.9,000 crore, followed by Karnataka (Rs.2,600 crore), Rajasthan (Rs.1,000 crore), Uttarakhand (Rs.500 crore) and Chhattisgarh (Rs.12 crore), according to an official statement.

"With many more projects in the pipeline... ITIS-2016 met the desired objectives and highlighted tourism in-

vestment potential in the country," said Minister for Tourism and Culture Mahesh Sharma while assuring investors that his ministry would assist and support them in making India the tourist destination of choice.

The B.R. Shetty Group has shown keen interest in investing Rs.450 crore, while Costa Cruise and Triveni Singapore will be investing close to Rs.750 crore and Rs.800 crore, respectively, in India, according to the official statement.

The summit was organised by the Ministry of Tourism in partnership with industry body CII and the Tourism Finance Corporation of India. The three-day

summit was aimed at inviting investments from foreign and domestic players to fund 700 tourism-related projects from 29 states requiring over Rs.50,000 crore.

Annual event

While stating that the summit will now be an annual event, Tourism Secretary Vinod Zutshi said the ministry has decided to set up a task force, with representations from the states and other stakeholders, to take forward certain policy measures and attract more investment. The ministry will be setting up an investor facilitation desk to handhold investors and facilitate projects, Mr. Zutshi said.

Invest India, which is a not-for-profit joint venture between the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, state governments and industry body FICCI, has shown interest in setting up the investment desk, which will be a unit under Ministry of Tourism.

Foreign tourist arrivals in June 2016, grew 7.3 per cent to 5.50 lakh as compared with 5.12 lakh during the month of June, 2015.

For the January-June period of 2016, 41.86 lakh visited India registering a growth of 8.9 per cent compared with the same period the previous year.

Govt. officials can hire Uber, Ola cabs without surge pricing

NEW DELHI: Cab aggregators Uber and Ola are breaking new ground as they have started providing taxi services to government departments at special rates.

They have registered at the portal of the government e-marketplace, which was unveiled last month for buying goods and services by central ministries and departments with a view

to bringing transparency in government procurement, which is estimated at Rs.10,000 crore a year. The Centre will be able to see significant savings as, currently, departments shell out as much as Rs.40,000 for one taxi per month. "What has been agreed is that they will give a monthly bill to us, something they have never done. Second, for

the government, there is no surge pricing," an official said, adding: "There is a growing demand for taxi services in government departments. Everyday, we are looking for cars. If you get Uber or Ola, it is economical and efficient. You also get a complete tracking of distance and billing." To provide the services, Uber has created a separate mobile app for officials. — PTI

COAI voting norms favour three telecom operators, says Reliance Jio

NEW DELHI: Reliance Jio fired a fresh salvo at the cellular operators body Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) alleging that its rules including voting norms are "overwhelmingly biased and lopsided" and framed to serve the "vested" interests of three operators — Bharti Airtel, Vodafone and Idea.

Jio — currently engaged in a bitter war of words with incumbent players over the interconnect issue — has also sought an overhaul of COAI norms claiming that the "current voting mechanism does not accommodate the

democratic principles of reasonableness, fairness, accountability and transparency".

Jio alleged that the body's voting rights are "skewed" in favour of dominant operators "giving them the absolute control to influence any or all of the decisions of the association". The voting norms of the COAI would always fall foul of the Competition Law for perpetrating anti-competitive activities, it added.

Reliance Jio attacked the voting rules of COAI saying that the incumbent dominant operators or IDOs command 68 per cent of the total votes in COAI. — PTI

"RJIL seeks a thorough overhaul and amendment of COAI regulations and COAI processes by appointing a committee consisting of three retired Judges of the Supreme Court of India to make sure that both fall in line with fundamental democratic principles of reasonableness, fairness, accountability and transparency including with provisions for adequate measures to prevent any abuse in future," Jio said in a letter to COAI.

Reliance Jio attacked the voting rules of COAI saying that the incumbent dominant operators or IDOs command 68 per cent of the total votes in COAI. — PTI

CENTRE FOR MATERIALS FOR ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY (C-MET)
(A Scientific Society, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), GOI)
IDA Phase - III, Cherlapally, HCL (PO), HYDERABAD – 500 051
Telangana State, INDIA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed Tenders are invited under Two Bid System (Part I - TECHNO-COMMERCIAL BID & Part II - PRICE BID) at C-MET, Hyderabad for the supply, installation, commissioning and demonstration of the following item/equipment:

Name of the Item: Portable Helium Leak Detector
Tender No.: HD/PUR/SP-35/PLD/03/2016-17

Last Date for Receipt of Tenders: 07.11.2016 upto 13:00 Hrs IST

For details and Tender Document, please visit our website <http://www.cmet.gov.in> & also CPPP portal.

Sd/- DIRECTOR (A)

BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)

NIT No. CGM/STR/MM CNI/921/
2016-17 dated at Chennai
the 24.09.2016

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-Tenders are invited for
"Procurement of VRLA Batteries for STR Chennai" for details visit <http://str.bnsl.co.in> (and select tenders-etcetera) and follow the link.

D.E (MM), STR, Chennai-32
Tele No.: 044-22508550

विज्ञापन सं. वीएसएससी/पी/विज्ञापन/201/2016 दिनांक 23.09.2016

ADVT. NO. VSSC/P/ADVT/201/2016 DT. 23.09.2016

भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिए तथा उनको आर से प्रधान, क्रय एवं भंडार, विक्रम सारभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र (वीएसएससी), तिरुवनंतपुरम्, नियन्त्रित करते हैं।

For & on behalf of the President of India, the Head, Purchase & Stores, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram invites Tenders through e-procurement for the following :-

क्रम सं/ SI No. निविदा सं/ Tender No. वर्गन/Description मात्रा निविदा शुल्क Tender Fee

01. VSSC/AVN-PUR/2016E0490201 [दो भाग/ TWO PART] बैंड सॉ कटिंग मशीन Band Saw Cutting Machine 8 मैट/Items लाग नहीं/ NA

02. VSSC/AVN-PUR/2016E0494401 [दो भाग/ TWO PART] केलीपम स्विच KVM Switch 4 सं./Nos.

विज्ञापन इंग्रजी पोर्टल <http://eprocure.isro.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

Details are available on ISRO e-procurement portal <http://eprocure.isro.gov.in>

दिनांक 25.07.2016 के विज्ञापन सं. वीएसएससी/पी/विज्ञापन/195/2016 का शुद्धि-पत्र III CORRIGENDUM III TO ADVT. NO. VSSC/P/ADVT/195/2016 DT. 25.07.2016

नियन्त्रित निविदा की प्राप्ति तथा खोलने के लिए एप्स ड्राइव दो जारी हैं:-

The receipt and opening date of following tender is hereby extended:-

क्र. सं./SI. No. निविदा सं./Tender No. वर्गन/Description

04. 6043-2016-1820 [दो भाग/ TWO PART] घण्टी फेरा टेबल सहित 5-अक्ष सीएनसी गार्नी मिलिंग मशीन (सी-अक्ष) 5-axis CNC Gantry Milling Machine with Rotary Turn table (C-axis)

मूल निविदा सूचना की समी सच्च निवेदन एवं शर्त अपरिवर्तित रहेंगी।

All other terms and conditions of the original tender notice shall remain unchanged

Websites: www.vssc.gov.in / www.isro.gov.in

प्रधान, क्रय एवं भंडार/Head, Purchase & Stores

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (NH) PWD
RAJASTHAN JAIPUR**

NO.SE/NH/NIT/42/2016-17/D-1328 Date: 23-09-2016

NIT No. 12/(2016-17)

The Chief Engineer (NH), PWD, Rajasthan, Jaipur on behalf of Governor of Rajasthan, invites online bids for consultancy services through e-tendering process from Competent Consultants for work at S. No. 1 to 4 mentioned in tender documents as per Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Govt. New Delhi letter No. RW/NH/15017/2016-PDM (SPZ) dated 15-07-2016.

Total number of works in NIT : Four Works

Total estimated cost of NIT : 160.45 lacs

Online tender downloading date : 07-10-2016 to 06-11-2016 Upto 6-00 p.m.

Online tender Uploading date : 07-11-2016 Upto 11-00 a.m.

Online tender opening date in the office of Concerned Additional Chief Engineer/SE PWD NH Circle : 07-11-2016 at 4-00 p.m.

Deposit of earnest money in the office of CE(NH)/ SE (NH) : 04-11-2016 Upto 11-00 a.m.

Deposit of earnest money in the office of Concerned Additional Chief Engineer/SE PWD NH Circle : 07-11-2016 Upto 11-00 a.m.

Pre-Bid meeting in the office of Concerned Additional Chief Engineer PWD : 18-10-2016

Defect liability period as per rules : As per Rule

Bid validity : 150 Days

The complete details related to NIT may be seen/visit on Ministry of Road Transport & Highways website <https://morth.eprocure.in>.

(Anil Kumar Garg)
Chief Engineer (NH),
PWD, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

General Manager (Civil Contracts),
HPPCL, Chakkar, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India-171005

Telephone No. : +91 177 2832513, Telefax No. : +91 177 2832307

E-mail address : hpccl.contracts@gmail.com,
[Website : www.hpccl.gov.in](http://www.hpccl.gov.in)

The looming crisis in airport capacity

India needs to build 50 new airports with investments of Rs.2.72 lakh crore, to handle air traffic in the next 5-7 years

SOMESH JHA

For the last one-and-a-half years, India has been the fastest growing air traffic market in the world.

In July, domestic air travel in India grew 20.2 per cent with China being the second-fastest growing domestic market (10.2 per cent traffic growth), according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Last year, the number of passengers travelling by air equalled the number of passengers that travelled in the air-conditioned coaches of the Indian Railways, according to GMR Group Chairman Airports Srinivas Bommidala.

So much for the good news. Here is the grim picture: the robust growth in air traffic has led to capacity constraints and increasing congestions at the Indian airports and a capacity shortage looms large, in terms of runway slots, parking bays or terminals, in the years to come.

As India is set to become the third-largest aviation market in the world in the next five to seven years, according to consultancy firm CAPA, it needs to come up with a firm plan to build 50 new airports at an investment of Rs.2.72 lakh crore to handle the growing air traffic.

And it has to start planning now as the airport capacity constraint cannot be resolved overnight as it involves land acquisition, approvals and clearances, design, construction and urban planning, among others. At present, out of 125 airports managed by Airports Authority of India (AAI), 69 airports receive commercial flights. Let's take the case of metro airports first.

Metro airports

Around 66.5 per cent of India's total air traffic comes from Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad airports. These six cities would require new airports by 2025-26 and in some cases, much earlier, CAPA said in its report titled 'India's Airport Capacity Crisis' released early this year.

The fact that both Mumbai and Bangalore airports could be shut for operations simultaneously during much of the day-time early next year reflects the poor planning in terms of airport infrastructure.

"Major runway upgrades need to be planned more efficiently with less impact on traffic disruption," said Kapil Kaul, CEO and Director, CAPA South Asia. "It is a systemic issue, reflecting the structural problems to do with airport planning," according to him.

Domestic airlines have opposed the simultaneous closure of runways at these two airports concerned with the business impact of the move at a time when demand for air travel is soaring.



NOT ENOUGH: With growth in air traffic leading to increasing congestion at Indian airports, a capacity shortage is imminent, in terms of runway slots, parking bays and terminals.

"There are limited time slots available at Delhi and Bangalore," an airline executive said requesting not to be identified.

"During peak time, slots are saturated at Kolkata and Hyderabad airports. No new flights can be added at Mumbai. It's a big worry for the industry. We don't know where the capacity will be deployed once the ordered aircraft starts coming in," he said.

At present, India has over 430 aircraft in service and the airlines are expected to add 100 aircraft in the next 18-24 months.

"Airports like Mumbai, Chennai and Goa are fast approaching saturation," said Amber Dubey, partner and India head of aerospace and defence at global consultancy KPMG. "Other leading metro airports may reach saturation in the next 15-25 years. It's time for the government to start planning for second airports in metros."

The Centre hasn't yet talked about building a second airport at Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad. The second airport for Mumbai, proposed to be developed at Navi Mumbai under the public-private partnership model, was approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2007.

However, it was only this year that the project has received all the major approvals required to commence the work on site. Now, it is highly unlikely that the airport will meet its operational deadline of December 2019.

The master plan for the expansion of Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport is ready and will involve building the fourth runway,

construction of a new terminal and expansion of the existing ones. However, the airport is expected to be saturated by 2022-23 as it is expected to handle up to nine crore passengers by then, according to CAPA.

Last year, Bhiwadi in Rajasthan was given site clearance for a second airport in the national capital region and the Uttar Pradesh government has also proposed an alternative airport at Jawar.

Low-cost airports

The Centre has proposed a regional connectivity scheme (RCS) under which it plans to develop 50 un-served and under-served airstrips as low-cost airports in tier-II and tier-III cities. The cost of building each airport is estimated to be between Rs.100 crore and Rs.150 crore.

However, the work sanctioned for development of five no-frills airports in 2014 at Hubballi and Belagavi in Karnataka, Kishangarh in Rajasthan, Jharsuguda in Odisha and Tezu in Arunachal Pradesh is still under progress. AAI Chairman Guruprasad Mohapatra had recently said that 22 airports are ready to receive flight operations under the RCS.

The next phase of air traffic growth will come from India's interiors, many of whose customers will be highly cost-conscious, first-time flyers. Future airport projects therefore will have to be functional and cost-effective, with low-frills...We believe that around 30-50 RCS airports may come up in the next 8-10 years," Mr. Dubey said.

While commanding the govern-

ment's plans to improve regional connectivity, another airline executive said metro airports should remain the focus area for the success of its proposed scheme.

"People from smaller airports will fly to big cities. Airlines will connect smaller towns with cities following the hub-and-spoke model. For smaller airports to remain viable, capacity at metro airports needs to be sustainable," the airline official said.

Airport privatisation

Airports under the public-private partnership model have helped AAI develop and modernise airports across the country, said Satyan Nayak, secretary general at Association of Private Airport Operators.

After a long, dry spell in terms of privatisation, GMR Infrastructure recently won a bid to develop and operate Goa's second airport at Mopa on land belonging to the state government. However, the AAI Chairman made it clear in a press conference recently that it had no fresh plans to privatise any of its airports as of now, apart from giving operational and management contracts to handle the Jaipur and Ahmedabad airport terminals to private developers.

It's time for the government to start planning for second airports in metros

Amber Dubey
India head, Aerospace & Defence, KPMG

Though privatisation of the Mumbai and Delhi airports helped AAI's revenues, it has no fresh plans to privatise other airports

"It's unfortunate that the airport PPP program has been grounded after Delhi and Mumbai. Airport development and operations are a commercial activity and should not be in the government's domain," Mr. Dubey said. He said the top 10 AAI airports should be leased out to private operators through competitive bidding.

The privatisation of airports, which began with Delhi and Mumbai in 2005, has helped improve AAI's revenue-flow over the years. It has received over Rs.13,000 crore in the form of revenue share from the airport operators at Delhi and Mumbai in the last six years. The revenues from PPP airports constituted almost one-third of a record Rs 10,824 crore revenues earned by AAI in 2015-16.

These funds have helped AAI in developing and modernising other tier-II and tier-III airports along with supporting large unviable airports managed by AAI. In 2014-15, 96 AAI airports registered losses of around Rs.1,200 crore and it spent more than Rs.14 crore in maintaining 32 airports where there was no aircraft movement.

Although foreign airport operators have shown limited interest in recent airport tenders, Singapore's Changi airport was keen on modernising Jaipur and Ahmedabad airports.

However, Changi Airports International's proposal was rejected by the AAI as the latter only wanted to hand out the operations and management (O&M) of the terminal buildings. Mr. Kaul said he saw limited interest in O&M contracts from global players.

Infrastructure status

Mark D Martin, Founder and CEO of Martin Consulting called for infrastructure status for air routes, air navigation and airways - a move that will help players avail of cheaper financing.

He also advocated hiving off the air navigation services, which handle the air traffic control operations from the AAI.

He said the move would help create a corporate body to help generate its own revenue from air navigation charges in return for aeronautical services.

The government had earlier this year set up a panel to explore ways to hive off ANS into a separate entity - an idea first mooted in the 1970s. More than a third of AAI's revenues flow from air navigation services.

global round-up

Facebook apologises for inflating average time users spent on videos

Facebook Inc apologised for an error in the way it measured a key metric of video viewer-ship that significantly amplified users' viewing times on its platform. The social media giant had said a few weeks ago that a metric for average user time on videos was artificially inflated as it only counted videos viewed for over three seconds. At the time, Facebook had said that the "discrepancy" did not impact advertising billings and introduced newer metrics to replace the previous method. Facebook has made significant strides into video, which has attracted significant advertising interest and has benefited from the shift in advertising spending toward the Internet and other mobile platforms. "This could pose a serious blow to Facebook's video proposition, which has had so much of momentum over the last two years," said Sarah Wood, co-CEO of ad tech company Unruly, which is owned by News Corp. — Reuters

Two former employees file class action against Wells Fargo

Two former Wells Fargo & Co employees have filed a class action in California seeking \$2.6 billion or more for workers who tried to meet aggressive sales quotas without engaging in fraud and were later demoted, forced to resign or fired. The lawsuit on behalf of people who worked for Wells Fargo in California over the past 10 years, including current employees, focuses on those who followed the rules and were penalized for not meeting sales quotas. "Wells Fargo fired or demoted employees who failed to meet unrealistic quotas while at the same time providing promotions to employees who met these quotas by opening fraudulent accounts," the lawsuit filed on Thursday in California Superior Court in Los Angeles County said. Wells Fargo has fired some 5,300 employees for opening as many as 2 million accounts in customers' names without their authorisation. On Sept. 8, a federal regulator and Los Angeles prosecutor announced a \$190 million settlement with Wells. The revelations are a severe hit to Wells Fargo's reputation. — Reuters

Year's busiest week for U.S. IPOs offers little comfort to banks

Friday last capped the busiest week for the U.S. IPO market this year, but the country's 6 largest banks have little reason to cheer. Combined fees from advising on deals and from equity and debt underwriting have dropped 18.5 per cent this year at J.P. Morgan Chase & Co, Wells Fargo & Co, Bank of America Corp, Citigroup Inc, Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs Group Inc, Thomson Reuters data shows. Despite an up-tick in IPOs since June, activity remains below 2015 levels, largely due to low U.S. interest rates that have made it easy for companies to borrow cheaply and made it more attractive for them to raise funds through debt offerings. Fees for debt issues are typically lower than those on equity offerings. Eight companies made their market debut this week, raising a total of \$1.22 billion. Five listed one or more of the six big banks as a lead manager, according to Renaissance Capital, a manager of IPO-focused ETFs. Just 70 companies have gone public this year through Friday, down from 122 in the same period last year - the lowest since 2009.

Regulatory changes make a 'healthy' turn to innovation in insurance

AARTHI SIVANANDH
A.BALASUBRAMANIAN

Insurance companies deal with risk. And, as new forms of risk constantly emerge — from driver-less cars to activity-monitoring gadgets that judge health to millennials interacting only on the digital platform — insurance players have had to evolve. Interestingly, so too, the regulator.

In July 2016, the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority introduced several regulatory changes to health insurance.

Such regulation has the potential to change the way risk, indemnity and other insurance products have been traditionally covered.

We take a look here at the top five changes. Note that the regulator has allowed for innovation and experimentation while protecting the interests of the insured.

New products

Previously, insurers required prior IRDA approval to withdraw products in the market and were therefore reluctant to introduce new products.

The structure of health insurance policies was thus kept as predictable as possible and innovation in the range of products that could be offered was stymied.

The new regulations allow insurers to roll out products on a pilot basis and allow them the flexibility to even withdraw them after 5 years, without procedural hassles.

While insurers still need a valid reason to withdraw the product, it allows them far more flexibility than afforded earlier and to attempt to cover risks that had not been addressed until now.

The regulatory changes, however, mandate that when pilot products are withdrawn from the market, insurers should ensure that such customers can port to an existing health



insurance product of a different provider.

The regulator has also brought in transparency in mandating minimum pay-outs and product information, enabling a menu of offerings across health insurance products, portability and easy withdrawal of pilot products through the new regulations.

Wellness credit

To promote wellness and preventive health care, insurers can now offer a discount on the renewal premium in case of demonstrated improvement in health. However, parameters that qualify for improvement have to be disclosed upfront in the product prospectus.

Insurers can now promote and cross-sell outpatient consultations or treatment, pharmaceuticals or health check-ups offered by the insurer's network providers (hospitals and clinical establishments) and offer discounts in cashless transactions.

While some insurers have been providing wellness offerings and discounts, the regulator now requires

them to be mentioned in the product filing. Having mentioned it in the filing, the company cannot withdraw offers without a valid reason.

Although the 2013 regulations brought in access to the insured availing of non-allopathic treatment or AYUSH (Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy), the move towards wellness and well-being has set the regulator on par with insurance regulators in the U.S. and the U.K.

Health vs finance

Life insurers can no longer offer pure indemnity-based products which assure a sum at the end of tenure. This used to resemble a financial protection plan rather than health risk cover.

The aim of the new regulations seems to be to de-link financial protection-type plans from health insurance products and restore the primary objective of providing pure health cover under health insurance.

It allows the health-life product

players to compete on annual pricing, product packaging and rewarding good behaviour of the insured such as early subscription to a plan

Renewal norms

The renewal norms have also been made less stringent. An insurer shall not resort to fresh underwriting of his risk by calling for a medical examination or a fresh proposal form at the renewal stage of policies. (Earlier, such a possibility existed. If the insured had made a claim the previous year, renewal procedures could change.)

Insurers are now encouraged to reduce loading the premium with a risk element, in case of improvement in the risk profile of the insured. In sum, the new health insurance regulations, cognisant of dynamic market realities, enable players to innovate and compete in the health insurance ecosystem. It admirably balances customer protection and the commercial interests of the insurers.

Aarthi Sivanand, Partner and A.Balasubramanian are lawyers in the Chennai office of J. Sagar Associates, a national law firm. The views expressed are personal.

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players to compete on annual pricing, product packaging and rewarding good behaviour of the insured such as early subscription to a plan

Courting them to seek compensation through the courts until a reform is put forward.

'Group' definition

Prior regulations stipulated that there should be a commonality of purpose as well as an economic or non-economic relationship among group members.

Separate guidelines governed the group, group agent and the group insurer. The new regulations mandate that the minimum size of the group be fixed at 7 as compared with the arbitrary decision left to the discretion of the insurer, earlier. This is a significant step towards sanitising the competitive group insurance market.

Earlier, any collection of individuals could form a group but if they did not all have a similar risk profile then, logically, the same risk cover may not hold for each of them.

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Cheaper

Short-term workers are

cheaper to fire than permanent ones and have

bore the brunt of job losses

in bad times, but previous Spanish reforms have

struggled to eradicate the

two-tier labour system.

The European Court of Justice

blew open the issue

after it argued in a September 14 ruling that a Spanish woman who was employed as a temporary substitute for a civil servant over seven years was entitled to the same severance pay as a permanent employee when she was let go.

Worker unions have wel-

**Telecast schedule**

Cricket: India v New Zealand: 1st Test, STAR Sports 1 & HD1, 9.30 a.m. **KPL:** Sony ESPN & Sony ESPN HD, 1.30 & 5.30 p.m.
Football: La Liga: Sony Six & Six HD, 12 a.m. (Tuesday); EPL: STAR Sports 4 & STAR Sports Select HD 1, 12.20 a.m. (Tuesday); Serie A: ESPN & Sony ESPN HD, 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

**Keep people happy**

"I'm hungrier because I know I have not got 20 more years in front of me. I'm more conscious about what Arsenal is all about and I feel the weight of keeping people happy, and making people happy." — **Arsene Wenger**

**Six and counting**

Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei on Sunday won his sixth Yonex Open Japan title, defeating third seed Jan O Jorgensen of Denmark. In women's singles, He Bingjiao of China triumphed after defeating compatriot Sun Yu

**Zverev stuns Wawrinka**

The 19-year-old Alexander Zverev won his first ATP Tour title on Sunday, beating U.S. Open champion Stan Wawrinka 6-2, 3-6, 7-5 in a close final at the St. Petersburg Open

With India six wickets away, New Zealand on the brink

CRICKET / Milestone man Ashwin continues to torment the visiting batsmen; Rohit Sharma comes up with a neat knock

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

KANPUR: Not really a dust bowl but the pitch at the Green Park rekindled memories of India's dominance at home.

It is all about winning. And why not? Winning is a habit, and this Indian team is determined to not embarrass itself in conditions conducive, if not tailor-made, to its game.

The spinners, R. Ashwin



and Ravindra Jadeja, drove home the point that in sub-continent conditions they are a lethal pair to deal with.

India was within sniffing distance of victory in the first Test when New Zealand, set 434 runs to win, was reduced to 93 for four — the cream of the batting succumbing to the guile of Ashwin this time after Jadeja had wreaked havoc in the first innings with five wickets.

India, resuming at 159 for one, may have stretched its batting but the plan was clearly to create pressure of a magnitude where a victory was beyond the imagination of the visiting side.

New Zealand's lack of temperament to survive on such a



SUPERB TIMING: Rohit Sharma read the pitch well and wasted little time in scattering the field playing his natural game. — PHOTO: V.V. KRISHNAN

surface was apparent in the lack of footwork from its batsmen. It was not hard to understand the Kiwis' predicament since they hardly have any experience of playing on such slow and spinner-friendly pitches.

That India meant business was evident in the furious pace that the batsmen set when play resumed against the backdrop of clouds in the distance. The

urgency did not mean they were going to throw their bats around but New Zealand failed to make an impact with its inexperienced slow bowlers.

To bowl well on an over-friendly pitch can be a challenge too. And all the more when you have a batsman like Rohit Sharma to contend with.

M. Vijay and Cheteshwar Pujara, the overnight batsmen,

did not get the centuries they would have dreamt of. Their

HISTORIC 500

133-run second wicket partnership set the stage for Virat Kohli and Rohit to plunder runs, given their penchant to create scoring chances at will.

In the event, Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane perished, the former to a ball that ought to

have landed in the galleries but the batsman paid for the extra elevation.

Rohit, under intense pressure to make amends for the casual dismissal in the first innings, wasted little time in scattering the field and playing his natural game.

He spent a busy period at the crease and produced a neat knock in the company of Jadeja, who seems incapable of

doing anything wrong.

Rohit timed his shots superbly in the afternoon, having read the pitch the best. He came to the middle with the firm backing of his coach and captain and decimated the bowlers with his wide range of shots.

He was able to pick the ball early, and that gave him enough time to place his shots. Jadeja, playing his part well,

helped himself to a half century that must enhance his credentials as an all-rounder. At this level, on such pitches, and against such opposition, he does qualify as one.

With Ashwin finding his rhythm early, there was bound to be action with the off-spinner calling the shots when the Kiwis batted. He explored different angles even at the expense of bowling short at times.

Jadeja too bowled a few loose deliveries on the responsive track.

The batsmen stayed rooted to the crease and allowed India to make regular breakthroughs.

Martin Guptill failed to read

1ST TEST (DAY 4) GREEN PARK, KANPUR					
INDIA — 1ST INNINGS		318			
NEW ZEALAND — 1ST INNINGS		262			
INDIA — 2ND INNINGS		Runs	Balls	4s	6s
K.L. Rahul	c Taylor b Sodhi	38	50	8	
M. Vijay	lbw b Santner	76	170	8	1
Cheteshwar Pujara	c Taylor b Sodhi	78	152	10	
Virat Kohli	c Sodhi b Craig	18	40	3	
Ajinkya Rahane	c Taylor b Santner	40	81	4	
Rohit Sharma	(not out)	68	93	8	
Ravindra Jadeja	(not out)	50	58	2	3
Extras (b-1, lb-8)		9			
Total (for four wkts. dec'd. in 107.2 overs)		377			
Fall of wickets:	1-52 (Rahul), 2-185 (Vijay), 3-214 (Kohli), 4-228 (Pujara), 5-277 (Rahane).				
New Zealand bowling:	Boult 9-0-34-0, Santner 32.2-11-79-2, Craig 23-3-80-1, Wagner 16-5-52-0, Sodhi 20-2-99-2, Guptill 4-0-17-0, Williamson 3-0-7-0.				
NEW ZEALAND — 2ND INNINGS		Runs	Balls	4s	6s
Tom Latham	lbw b Ashwin	2	15		
Martin Guptill	c Vijay b Ashwin	0	5		
Kane Williamson	lbw b Ashwin	25	59	3	
Ross Taylor	run out	17	36	2	
Luke Ronchi	(batting)	38	58	4	1
Mitchell Santner	(batting)	8	50		
Extras (lb-2, nb-1)		3			
Total (for four wkts. in 37 overs)		93			
Fall of wickets:	1-2 (Guptill), 2-3 (Latham), 3-43 (Williamson), 4-56 (Taylor).				
India bowling:	Shami 4-2-6-0, Ashwin 16-1-68-3, Jadeja 14-10-8-0, Umesh 3-0-9-0.				

'Not a bad one for No. 200'



ANOTHER ONE TO THE KITTY: R. Ashwin celebrates Tom Latham's dismissal. — PHOTO: V.V. KRISHNAN

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KANPUR: Two hundred wickets is a landmark to be proud of and R. Ashwin achieved the feat in his 37th Test, only one more than the legendary Clarrie Grimmett.

Ashwin reached the milestone when he snared Kane Williamson for the second time in the match.

"Maybe Clarrie Grimmett was a nicer man than I am! I think it just had to be that way I guess. It's fine, honestly," Ashwin said, indicating that he was at peace with being second to the wily leg-spinner from Australia.

"There are a lot of positives to look at and lots of good memories that I've created over the last five-six years of international cricket, and to look back and feel sore about it is not the right way to go about my career. So I'm just happy when I am right now."

On the thought process behind bowling round the wicket, Ashwin said, "Just avoid target-practice, maybe. I mean, we need to make our plans and try to see what technical difficulties the batsmen face."

"To start off with, the way the New Zealand left-hand batsmen play is very different to the other left-handers. They

don't plonk their foot across, they plonk it right down the wicket, try to play inside-out a lot. It will work on this wicket because it doesn't have enough bounce, turn and carry. Just trying to change a bit of angles, and our targets were better today."

Why not turning tracks? Asked to comment on Harbhajan Singh's views that India ought to avoid playing on rank-turners, Ashwin, while being wary about sounding confrontational, said: "To be very honest, what kind of wickets that we are playing is not something that [Anil] Kumble or [Vijat] Kohli can go and roll wickets or water it. What we get is what we play on. (sic)"

"Obviously, we are looking to play good cricket and it is not going to take the sheen off."

"It is very unfortunate that people don't realise it. But it is very important that we enjoy the brand of cricket that we play and a win is a win. Savour it. If a Test match in England gets over in two days, nobody talks about it. Why in India though?"

Special ones
 Reflecting on his 200-wicket journey, Ashwin said, "Definitely the 200th has to be

the special one so far. Kane Williamson is not a bad 200th scalp!"
QUICKEST TO 200
OVERALL
 • Clarrie Grimmett (Aus) 36 Tests
 • R. Ashwin (Ind) 37
 • Dennis Lillee (Aus) 38
 • Waqar Younis (Pak) 38
 • Dale Steyn (SA) 39
INDIA
 • R. Ashwin 37
 • Harbhajan Singh 46
 • Anil Kumble 47
 • B.S. Chandrasekhar 48
 • Kapil Dev 50

Kapil and Gavaskar bat for the game

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

KANPUR: Former India skippers Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil Dev on Sunday batted for cricket, which stands at a crossroads due to the ongoing issues between the Justice Lodha Committee and the BCCI.

"Forget ego," said Kapil in a chat with *The Hindu*. "How can you discount the good work done by the BCCI? I am not saying everything is perfect but one can always find a way out that would benefit Indian cricket. I would say all those who love Indian cricket should sit and sort out the issues. BCCI and the Lodha Committee both want cricket to do well after all."

Describing the BCCI as a role model in sports administrations, Gavaskar said: "The BCCI is the only sports federation that I know where the term of the official is being limited. It is not the case in other sports federations."

Gavaskar wanted a vote for every First Class player in his respective association.

Kapil agreed. "Now is the time to improve. But then you can't change the working of the BCCI overnight. There are certain things which can be reconsidered. Like the three-year term," he said.

Kapil, like Gavaskar, did not appreciate the idea of having more teams in First Class cricket.

"Let the team first excel in junior cricket and then graduate to play at the next level. Even the ICC will not give Test status to Italy or Argentina unless they deserve it. Even Bangladesh took time to gain Test status," said Kapil.

Gavaskar said, "Having new states without proper qualifying process would dilute the quality of First Class cricket. Those who excel against the weak teams would create scoreboard pressure for

"At the state level, apart from clubs that have a vote, all those who have played for the state should be allowed to vote. Even First Class umpires should have a vote. There can be cases of clubs outnumbering the players' votes but they will have some sort of a say in who should be in charge of the administration," he said.

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Gavaskar said, "Having new states without proper qualifying process would dilute the quality of First Class cricket. Those who excel against the weak teams would create scoreboard pressure for

selection to the national team. Which means your performance would suffer at the international level too. It will certainly impact the strength of the team and the quality of First Class cricket would come down."

"What I would like is the recommendations should not be restricted to just the BCCI. They should apply to all other sports federations.

"The BCCI is accepted as the best-run sports federation in the country. Are the other sports federations run as efficiently?" he asked. "Like any organisation, there will be good parts and bad parts. The same applies to the BCCI. There will be some politics but the BCCI has got more pluses than minuses. Like all of us individuals there is always scope for improvement in the BCCI too."

Kapil said the players need to be involved more by the BCCI. "It is good that the BCCI leaves cricket to the cricketers. But then in our system you need politicians and civil servants because they can get the clearances needed from the government quicker than the rest."

"The roles of the players is well spaced now. Some are fit to coach, some to administer, some to commentate on radio and TV and some to work in the media. The BCCI has done a very good job of looking after the players. But I would welcome new ideas and fresh people too."

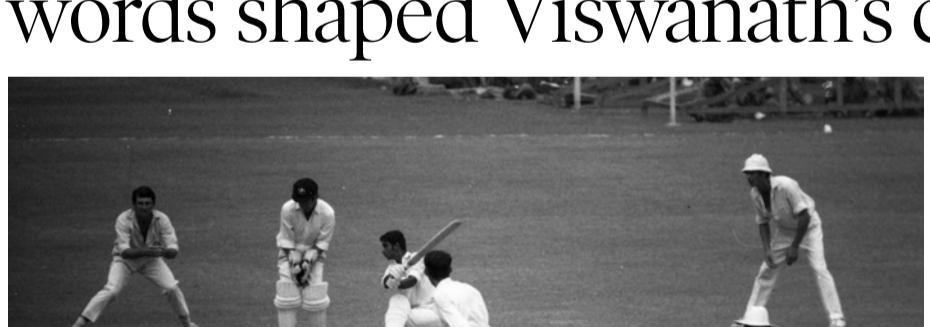
Viswanath was a touch artist who deserved his best for the most challenging situations. When he scored a century, India never lost. He scored when the rest failed. A package of the most aesthetic strokes you can enjoy, the Karnataka batsman later played an innings that ranks alongside V.V.S. Laxman's 281 against Australia at Kolkata. His unbeaten 97 against West Indies at Madras in 1974-75 is a timeless classic. "I still get calls from people who saw that," he literally whispers.

Which knock is closer to his heart?

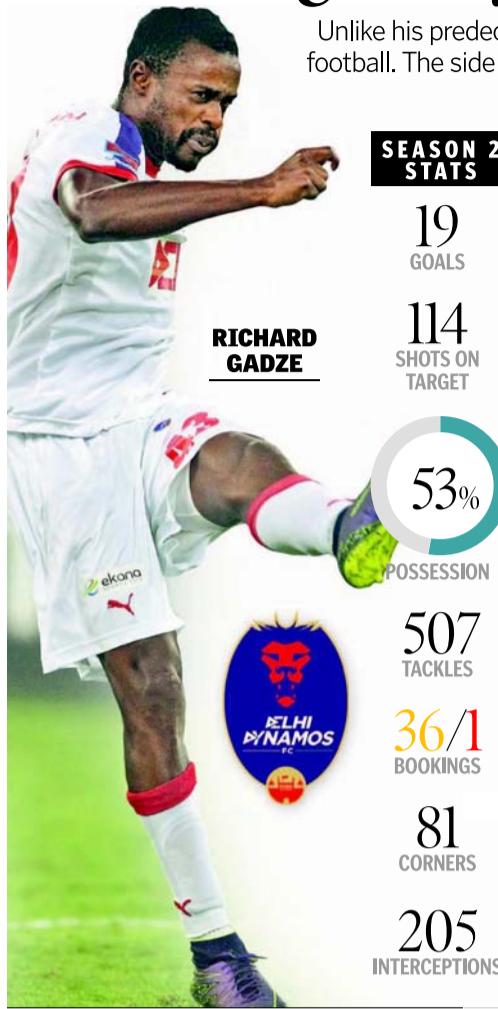
"The Madras innings because the pitch had tremendous bounce and the attack was menacing. The 137 defined my career. It will always be special."

Any abiding memory of the 137? "Being able to pick (mystery spinner) John Gleeson quickly. A few cuts and square drives are well etched," said Viswanath.

But even now what he remembers the most are those magical words from Pataudi that propelled his career. Indian cricket owes it to Pataudi for ensuring the genius of Viswanath was not lost under the shadow of insecurity.



Recharged Dynamos hope to shine brighter


SEASON 2 STATS

19 GOALS

114 SHOTS ON TARGET

53% POSSESSION

507 TACKLES

36/1 BOOKINGS

81 CORNERS

205 INTERCEPTIONS

UTHRA GANESAN

What the team lacked last season

The biggest drawback was its relatively weak attack. Richard Gadze scored four goals - the maximum for the side through the 2015 season - it also scored the least of the four semifinalists. Gadze almost ploughed a lone furrow with Robin Singh providing support upfront, but the latter would be turning out for FC Goa this season. The team faltered towards the end of the league stage and just about managed to edge through to the last four, which also affected its morale and performance in the knockout stage.

What's better this season

This time, though, new coach Gianluca Zambrotta has made it clear



STARTS OCT. 1

NEW SIGNINGS


that the team will be focused on playing an attacking brand of football. The new players on the roster reflect this - of the 17 signings by the club, 11 are midfielders/strikers. At the same time, many of these are players who can switch flanks when needed as the new team management has signed a clutch of utility players who can play at multiple positions, giving Zambrotta more options in his plans. The team has strengthened its compact defence to develop a well-balanced side.

What's in store

An impressive pre-season training schedule has given hope. Delhi Dynamos lost 1-0 to Premier League side West Brom but gave a good account of

itself. With three new players joining the side in the later stages of its European sojourn, the team remained undefeated in its three games against Swedish clubs, drawing one and winning two. The team also has a good mix of Indian and foreign players, senior and development recruits. As such, the team remains high on confidence.

POSSIBLE FORMATION

4-2-4

Last year, we lost in the semifinals. This year, we aim to win, take part in the Asian Championships and win there too. I also want to instill a sense of team spirit among the players

— GIANLUCA ZAMBROTTA, Coach

Close shave for Bangladesh

DHAKA: Bangladesh beat Afghanistan by seven runs to take a 1-0 lead in a three-match one-day international series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka on Sunday.

Tamim Iqbal made 80 runs while Mahmudullah added 62 to guide Bangladesh to 265 runs before Taskin Ahmed grabbed four for 59 to help the host dismiss Afghanistan for 258.

Hashmatullah Shahidi (72) and Rahmat Shah (71) put on 144 runs for the third wicket before a dramatic late run collapse saw the visitors lose their way.

The second and third match will be held at the same venue on September 28 and October 1.

The scores: Bangladesh 265 in 50 overs (Tamim 80, I. Kayes 37, Mahmudullah 62, Shakib 48; D. Zadran four for 73) bt Afghanistan 258 in 50 overs (M. Shahzad 31, Rahmat 71, H. Shahid 72, M. Nabi 30; Taskin four for 59). — AFP

Bavuma stars on ODI debut

BENONI: Temba Bavuma made a century on his one-day International debut to set up a comfortable 206-run win for South Africa in a one-off one-day international against Ireland at Willowmoore Park on Sunday.

Bavuma hit 113 in a total of 354 for five after South Africa was sent in to bat. Ireland was bowled out for 148 in reply.

Ireland captain Will Porterfield's gamble did not pay off as Bavuma and Quinton de Kock (82) punished the Irish bowling in an opening partnership of 159.

The scores: South Africa 354 for five in 50 overs (T. Bavuma 113, Q. de Kock 82, J-P. Duminy 52 not out, F. Behardien 50; C. Young three for 81) bt Ireland 148 in 30.5 overs (O'Brien 41; Duminy four for 16). — AFP

Griezmann strike breaks down Deportivo

MADRID: Antoine Griezmann's second-half goal earned Atletico Madrid a 1-0 win against 10-man Deportivo La Coruna on Sunday, but Diego Simeone's side suffered a double injury blow ahead of its Champions League clash against Bayern Munich.

France international Griezmann scored his fifth goal of the season from close range 20 minutes from fulltime after the visitors were reduced to 10 men following midfielder Faycal Fajr's sending off on the stroke of halftime.

The result put Atletico third on 12 points from six games, two behind leaders Real Madrid which was held to a 2-2 draw at Las Palmas on Saturday.

With Wednesday's home game against Bayern Munich looming, however, Atletico midfielder Augusto Fernandez left the pitch on a stretcher with a suspected knee injury before defender Jose Gimenez limped off with a groin problem.

Meanwhile, a substituted Cristiano Ronaldo cut a disconsolate figure as Real Madrid conceded a late equaliser



GO-TO MAN: Atletico Madrid had to once again fall back on Frenchman Antoine Griezmann to deliver the goods. — PHOTO: AFP

AQUATICS

Sajan Prakash rewrites 200m butterfly record

Y.B. SARANGI

RANCHI: Rio Olympian Sajan Prakash continued with his fine run to set a new National record in men's 200m butterfly event on the second day of the National aquatics championship at the V.B.B. Stadium here on Sunday.

Aiming to perform consistently, Sajan swam confidently to clock 1:59.35 and break Aaron D'Souza's three-year-old National mark of 2:00.90 while claiming the top honour. However, Sajan's time was a notch below his best effort of 1:59.27 (the best Indian timing) in the Hong Kong Olympic qualifying meet in June last.

Sajan's Railways teammate Supriyo Mondal gave him a good chase before giving it up in the final 50m to settle for the silver medal with 2:03.42.

Since Sajan had gone under the two minute mark twice this season, in Hong Kong and in the Rio Olympics, he was expected to give another good performance.



COOL EFFORT: Sajan Prakash of the Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) swims his way to the 200m butterfly record. — PHOTO: MANOB CHOWDHURY

ies, this was my last chance of participating in the National championship. After recovering from dengue, only last week I decided to participate here. My coach Subodh Danke's passing away was another setback and I was hardly ready for this competition. I am happy to have done well," said Monique.

Saurabh, who won the 400m freestyle gold on Saturday, recorded another convincing victory to claim the 200m freestyle title with a time of 1:52.83.

The Railways team, comprising Sajan Prakash, Supriyo Mondal, Sandeep Sejwal and Aaron D'Souza, broke the National record for men's 4x100m medley.

The results:

Swimming: Freestyle: Men's 200m: 1. Sajan Prakash (RSPB) 1:59.35 (NR, previous: 2:00.90, Aaron D'Souza, 2013, Thiruvananthapuram); 2. Supriyo Mondal (RSPB) 2:03.42; 3. K. Mitesh Manoj (SSCB) 2:07.04. **Women's 200m:** 1. Damini K. Gowda (Kar) 2:21.99, 2. Trisha Karkhanis (Mah) 2:27.94, 3. Srishi Nag (Ch) 2:28.11.

4x100m Medley: Men: 1. RSPB 3:48.95 (NR, previous 3:50.82, RSPB, 2015, Rajkot); 2. Karnataka 3:52.52, 3. Tamil Nadu 3:59.40.

Diving: 3m spring board: Men: 1. K. Ramananda Sharma (SSCB) 306.35, 2. Siddharth Pardeshi (SSCB) 267.15, 3. Hemant London Singh (Kar) 251.45. **Women:** 1. Krutika Shriram (RSPB) 184.6, 2. Deepali Panwar (RSPB) 170.05, 3. Simran Rajani (Mah) 165.35.

Waterpolo: Men: All India Police bt Delhi 13-0, RSPB bt Karnataka 15-1, SSCB bt Punjab 12-0, Kerala bt Bengal 12-9. **Women:** Kerala bt All India Police 5-2, Maharashtra bt Manipur 12-0.

MOTORSPORTS

APRC: Gill drives to yet another win

Young (Malcolm Read) finished third.

Enjoying an overnight lead of 01:24.9, championship leader Gill maintained a scorching pace to extend his lead by over two minutes, winning the first four of the day's eight Special Stages before cruising home for his 13th win in the championship since his debut in 2007.

"It's great to win. Four out of four is awesome," said Gill.

"Everything worked well. The tyres worked well since Saturday when it was wet on the tarmac and I have to thank the team for the good set-up."

"All of the ruts have a lot of loose gravel and compared to the other events, it's completely new to us and it's very good for us." — PTI

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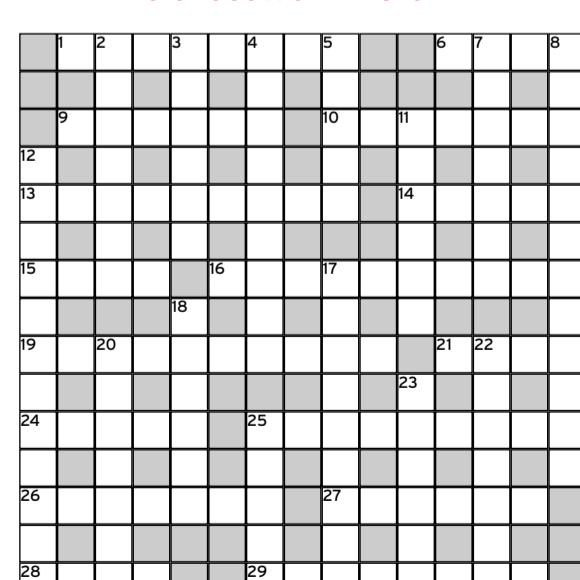
"All of the ruts have a lot of loose gravel and compared to the other events, it's completely new to us and it's very good for us." — PTI



IN THE FAST LANE: APRC leader Gaurav Gill of Team MRF dominated the Rally Hokkaido at Obihiro over the weekend.

VARIETY

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 11810


Across

- 1 Censor in coarse comeback as teacher (8)
- 6 It takes beating by great many. Strange (4)
- 9 Old British administration positioned Hindu warrior (6)
- 10 Ma shaky about face veil (7)
- 13 Male sovereign (not ultimately

noble) corrupt enough to administer badly (9)

- 14 Solemn in final resting place (5)
- 15 Reportedly put down by memory (4)
- 16 Inbred enough not to be on the edge of a chair (4-6)
- 19 Comrade, fellow, worker pass

Over dead officer (10)

21 Girl, on edge, is serious (4)

24 Comes close to bearing appendages (5)

25 Resolve to stop explosive device (9)

26 Lift carries man and graduate with old complaint (7)

27 Order to secure the woman in the closet (6)

28 Girl has suffered deep cut (4)

29 Appropriate, extremely trendy home (8)

Down

2 Late group is quite determined (4,3)

3 Cover, on a hill, one who's taken a prisoner (6)

4 Document establishing ownership? Deleted it by mistake (5,4)

5 Light old and new material (5)

7 Shout about men breaking scrap (7)

8 What tunnellers do to get by financially (4,4,4)

11 Autograph on

paper and seal (6)

12 Uncle Sam's standard (8,4)

17 Joke and muse, taking it up in scrupulous ceremony (9)

18 Revision caused by wicked sena over gold (6)

20 One taken in by double post-graduates in bad atmospheric conditions (7)

22 Rani dances around setter with primarily turquoise clothing (7)

23 Tablet from model healthcare company (6)

25 Department head's poor rise and decline (5)

Solution to puzzle 11809

COLD WELLCOME

A O H O P A H B

R O U E A H O T L I N E

R S R N I E T R

O B E S E G O D A N C I N G

U L U E I T

S W E E P D E A D W R O N G

E N O O F A

L I V I N G L I E R E F E R

S T A Y I N B E D D H O T I

L I B R E G V N S

I L I W I L L A G I T A T O

P E S I M E E I N

H E A T E D W O R D S

Pakistan seals series with win

CRICKET / Tanvir completes 50 wickets in the shortest format



Fruitful outing: It was a double delight for Pakistan skipper Sarfraz Ahmed against West Indies in the second T20I as his team not only registered a win but he also picked up the man-of-the-match award.— PHOTO: AFP

DUBAI: Pakistan outclassed world champion the West Indies by 16 runs in the second Twenty20 match here on Saturday to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-game series.

Pakistan scored 160 for four in its 20 overs after it was sent in to bat with skipper Sarfraz Ahmed (46 not out), Khalid Latif (40) and Shoaib Malik (37) amongst the runs.

It then restricted the West Indies to 144 for nine with left-arm paceman Sohail Tanvir taking three for 13 and medium-pacer Hasan Ali grabbing three for 49.

Tanvir also completed 50 wickets in the shortest format and now has 52 victims in 53 matches. Andre Fletcher made 29 while Sunil Narine topped

SCOREBOARD

Pakistan: Sharjeel Khan b Badree 2, Khalid Latif run out 40, Babar Azam c Pollard b Brathwaite 19, Shoaib Malik c Pollard b Bravo 37, Sarfraz Ahmed (not out) 46, Umar Akmal (not out) 1, Extras: (lb-10, w-5); 15; Total (for four wkt., in 20 overs): 160.

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-58, 3-85, 4-154.

West Indies bowling: Badree 4-0-24, Taylor 4-0-28-0, Narine 4-0-36-0, Bravo 4-0-38-1, Brathwaite 4-0-24.

West Indies: J. Charles c Umar b Wasim 10, E. Lewis c Sharjeel b Tanvir 3, A. Fletcher b Ali 29, M. Samuels c Sarfraz b Tanvir 1, D. Bravo b Nawaz 20.

18, K. Pollard c Sarfraz b Ali 18, C. Brathwaite c Umar b Ali 8, N. Pooran c Nawaz b Tanvir 4, S. Narine c Umar b Riaz 30, J. Taylor (not out) 10, Extras: (nb-6, w-7); 13; Total (for nine wkt., in 20 overs): 144.

Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-15, 3-19, 4-45, 5-82, 6-83, 7-89, 8-119, 9-144.

Pakistan bowling: Wasim 4-0-18-1, Tanvir 4-0-13-3, Nawaz 3-0-19-1, Malik 1-0-3-0, Ali 4-0-49-3, Riaz 4-0-42-1.

Toss: West Indies

Man-of-the-match: Sarfraz Ahmed

Pakistan won by 16 runs and leads the three-match series 2-0.

three in three since taking captaincy.

"The conditions were tough because of the dew. The ball was slipping, but we finished it well. It is a great sign for Pakistan cricket."

Carlos Brathwaite lamented the poor batting by the West Indies.

"We didn't come to the party as we would have liked," said Brathwaite who replaced World Twenty20 winning captain Darren Sammy last month.

"It is what it is. We should have batted well in the first six-seven overs. As a result, Pakistan are the series winners."

The third and final match takes place in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday.— AFP

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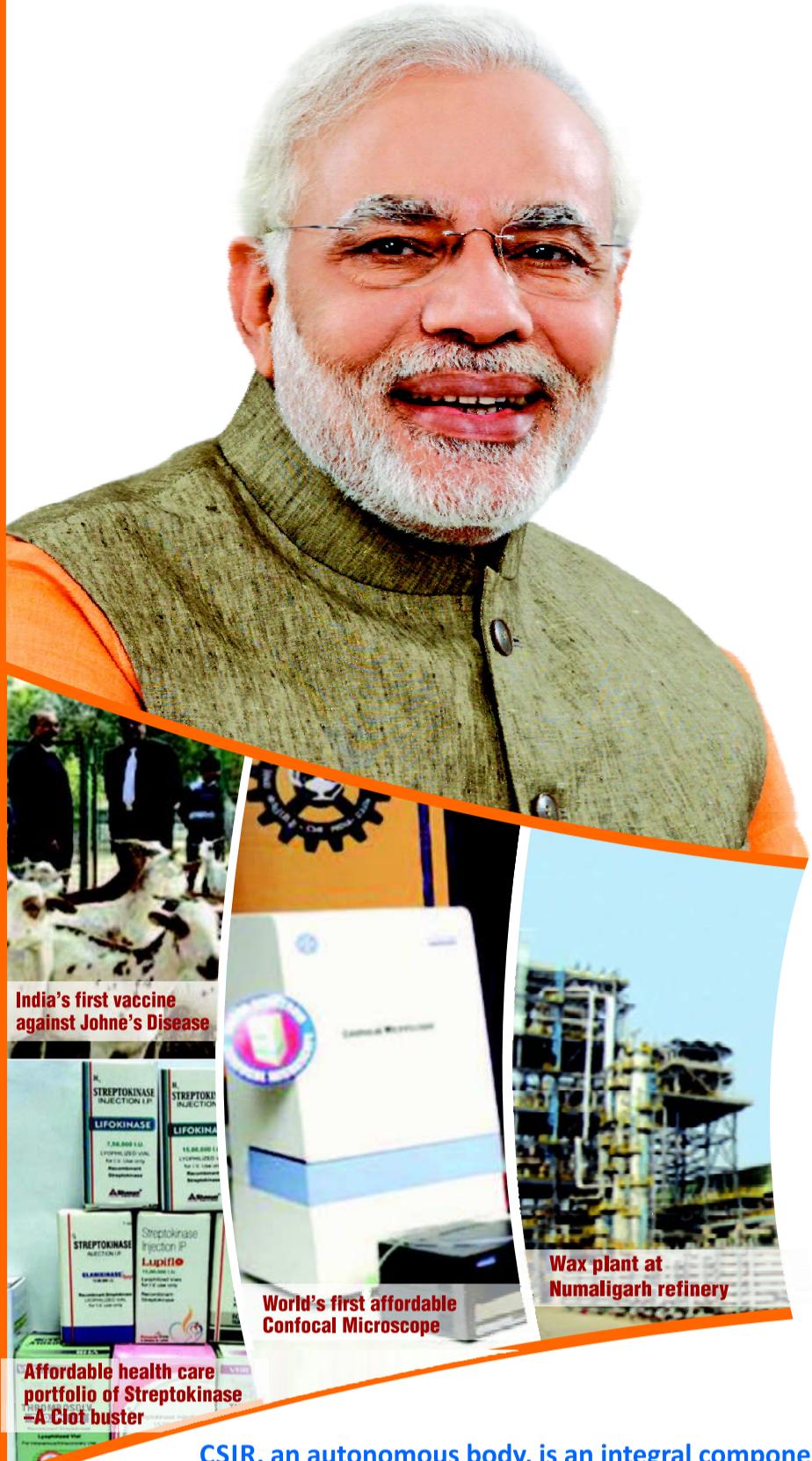
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*"Innovation must not be just the goal of our science
Innovation must also drive the scientific process"*

Shri Narendra Modi

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Monday, 26 September 2016

Venue: Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi Time: 10:00 am

Shri Narendra Modi

Prime Minister of India and President, CSIR

will be the Chief Guest

Dr. Harsh Vardhan

Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences
and Vice-President, CSIR
and

Shri Y S Chowdary

Union Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences

will present

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes 2012-15 and CSIR Awards

CSIR Awards

- CSIR Diamond Jubilee Technology Award 2012-14 • CSIR Award for S&T Innovations for Rural Development 2012-14
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- CSIR Young Scientist Awards 2016 • CSIR Innovation Award for School Children 2016

Announcement of SSB Prizes 2016 by DG, CSIR

CSIR is aligned to the needs of the domestic industry and the common man, exemplified by the national goals and Government Mission Programmes, with a focus on:

- ▶ Leveraging Science, Technology and Innovation for meeting the needs of the country;
- ▶ Creating cutting-edge knowledge base for value generation through stakeholder partnerships;
- ▶ Enhancing S&T led entrepreneurship to add to socio-economic development; and
- ▶ Developing next generation Human Resource to attain and sustain S&T leadership.



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- ▶ **Fast-Track Translation Projects:** Projects aimed at development of over 100 technologies/products/processes/services addressing the societal problems, requirements of the strategic sector and domestic industries.
- ▶ **Mission Mode Projects:** Initiating 12 Mission Projects targeting cutting-edge, internationally benchmarked cost-effective technologies of high national impact.
- ▶ **Technology Incubation Centers:** Setting up of 15 Technology Incubation Centers and create at least 100 Start-Up entrepreneurs and spin-off companies.
- ▶ **Technology Parks:** Setting up of 5 Technology Parks to nurture at least 100 industries in these technology parks.
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Delhi

Monday, September 26, 2016

**PERSONALITY**

P.V. SINDHU SAYS SHE'S LOOKING FORWARD TO OTHER TOURNAMENTS AND MEETING RAJINIKANTH P2

**DOCUMENTARY**

ANIRBAN DUTTA CAPTURES THE GLORIOUS HISTORY OF THE INDIAN POSTAL SYSTEM P3

**ESCAPE**

GET SET FOR A SMOOTH RIDE ON A BAMBOO RAFT IN FIJI P4

Admit two**"Celebrating Hope"**

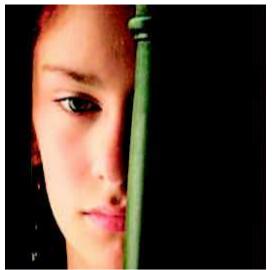
This show at the India Habitat Centre is a solo exhibition of works by Dr. Susmita Lakhani. Date: On till September 29 Time: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Venue: Visual Art Gallery, Lodhi Road, New Delhi

**"Bebe Tigre"**

The Alliance Française de Delhi-Ciné Club will be presenting "Bebe Tigre" the French film with English subtitles directed by Cyprien Vial. Date: September 27 Time: 10 a.m. Venue: M.L. Bhartia Auditorium, 72, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi

Film

As part of the Colombian Film Festival the Spanish film "Love And Other Demons" directed by Hilda Hidalgo will be screened. Date: September 26 Time: 7 p.m. Venue: Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre, 7 p.m.

**Music**

Vidya Rao will present an evening of thumri, dadra and ghazal in her Guru the well known singer Naina Devi's memory. Date: September 26 Time: 7 p.m. Venue: Amaltas Hall, India Habitat Centre,



When Draupadi returns to Delhi...

As Trisha Das gives four definitive female characters of the Mahabharat a modern makeover, the author says mythology needs to be interpreted according to the times we live in

ANUJ KUMAR

In times when flawed is fashionable and free-spirited is the buzz word, the Mahabharat is fueling the imagination of fiction writers who dabble in mythology. Novelist and National Award winning filmmaker, Trisha Das is the latest to revisit the complex mythical tale and dares to bring four timeless female characters of the epic — Draupadi, Kunti, Amba and Gandhari — back to the mortal world with "Ms Draupadi Kuru After The Pandavas" (Harper Collins), a fun journey that dresses them up to take on the modern Indraprastha, where people don't name their daughters as Draupadi or Gandhari any more.

Trisha says, she is not doing anything new. "I am part of a long standing tradition in this country of revisiting and reinterpreting and re-adapting the Mahabharat."

Many moons back, Mahasweta Devi told us her tale of "Draupadi". Now, Trisha identifies with her. "She is my ancestor and what do I see in her is that she is married off to five men. She is stripped in public, sold into slavery as her husbands failed to protect her over and over again. And in her dying moments, they leave her and walk away. Similarly, the other three were disrespected. How am I supposed to react?"

Over the years, Trisha notes, Draupadi has been made into a martyr many times by many writers. "In my point of view, she doesn't fit into the mould of a martyr. She questions, she is extremely intelligent, impetuous and fiery. According to me, she was forced to do things," reflects Trisha.

Her impulsive laughter is held responsible for the war, isn't it? "There is a reference to that in the book where she says how typical is that to put the blame on a woman as if the men had no reason to go to war

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men had no reason to go to war. It was they who were kicked out of their kingdom. It was essentially a political war."

Trisha accepts that the narrative has undergone changes over the years. "When our patriarchal society took shape, these women were fit into moulds that suited a certain male perspective." And that is why, she wants to change

the status quo. "The times we live in are different. So our mythology should also take a new shape. In my mind I have rewritten it is a sequel. Of course, I have taken the divinity and bhakti factor out of it but they are still coming from the same space. I have put them in new times with newer challenges, but also new opportunities. Draupadi has the potential to be our new role model."

Trisha knows so much has changed for women but at the same time so much remains the same. One of the first female filmmakers to enter a dargah, she narrates how the person in charge refused to talk to her. "He would address my male cameraperson while I was standing next to him."

Apart from the four women who form the central narrative, Trisha

has carved a special role for Saraswati, as the caretaker of a government orphanage where the new age foul-mouthed Karan is being brought up. "She comes from a very different place as she is experiencing the human experience for the very first time. I believe Saraswati has never taken an avatar. She is doing it at a time when avatars have no powers and benefits. They have to live, grow old and die like us. She is watching how we are messing it up. She has been through a lifetime of it and it has been a hopeless experience for her. She is a representative of the do gooders, who become disillusioned after a point. In a larger context, she is a metaphor for our education system."

Interestingly, her male characters are not patriarchal. "I really wanted

Zafar Kapoor to come from a humanist place. He doesn't fit into the mould of three men Amba knew. He is somebody who respects her and allows her to make choices. He is not a very manly man so to speak but perhaps he is the kind of man that we need," Trisha chuckles.

Through Zafar, a product of inter-religious marriage, she shows the kind of men we usually come across in the media industry. A fashion designer Gautam Thakur is at the other end of the spectrum. "He is a showman who flaunts his gayness. Perhaps because he had a difficult childhood, where he went to a Delhi school where he was beaten up for being gay. Once he succeeded in life, he plays it up."

These are mortals, among gods, it seems. Trisha finds

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The current debate, she says, is more political than social. "Organised religion still plays a huge role in society. We need organised religion for social order to exist outside and internally our own faith should heal us and guide our conscience."

However, some might feel that this celebration of flaws is getting bit too far in popular culture. "For too long, women have been worshipped as mothers in this country. Let me tell you there are no perfect mothers. We often realise it after marriage. When a girl is born we are told Lakshmi has come home. We don't want to be Lakshmi and mata any more. We are not asking for big things. Just don't attack us when we venture out at night, allow us to wear what we want to and respect our talent," sums up Trisha.

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AN IMAGINATIVE MIND Trisha Das PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

The great Indian culinary democracy

Colleen Taylor Sen on the many facets of Indian food and its contribution to world cuisine

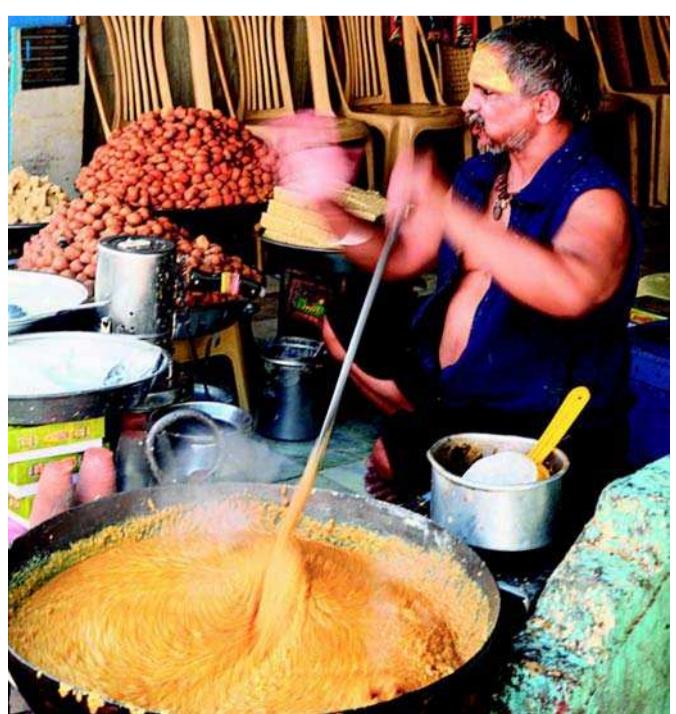
CHITRADEEPAN ANANTHARAM

Chicago-based independent food historian Colleen Taylor Sen's new book, *Feasts and Fasts: A History of Food in India*, documents food evolution in the country. A must-have for foodies, the book packs comprehensive information on various aspects of Indian food, right from the cultivation of agricultural crops to the medicinal value of chewing *paan*. Here are excerpts from an exclusive interview with the author:

How did you get interested in Indian food?

I'm a Canadian married to a Bengali. My late mother-in-law Arati Sen was a well-known Bengali journalist who wrote a column in *Desh* under the pen name Srimati. She wrote a lot about food.

Gradually, I started writing about travel and food as a freelancer for magazines and newspapers. My first paper with Indian food started way back in the 70s. I was focussing on regional cuisines which were unknown to most in the U.S.



(Left to right) Sweets being made in a temple kitchen, Colleen Taylor Sen, the cover of her book

Later, I went on to present a paper at the Oxford Food Symposia, on the Portuguese Influence on Bengali Cuisine, which was very well received. I published my first book, *Food Culture in India*, in

2004, which was followed by three more books. I started research and ground work for *Feasts and Fasts* as early as 1978.

What according to you is the most striking

The intensive and extensive use of spices is fascinating to me. For someone encountering Indian cuisine for the first time, the most striking aspect is the role of spices. Not the hotness as most think, but the aroma it gives to food.

As for techniques, most cooking techniques I see are common to other cuisines, except for the Indian 'bhuna', adding water in small quantities while stirring.

What do you think is India's main contribution to world cuisine?

Linguistic evidence indicates that coconuts were cultivated in South India 2,500-3,000 years ago. It had myriad uses as a source of fuel, drink and food — another example of how ancient the roots of Indian cuisine are.

Sugar cane seems to have been first domesticated in New Guinea around 8000 BCE but quickly spread to South East Asia and India. In the third century BCE, Indians found ways to convert sugar cane into *gur* (jaggery), molasses and crystal — a major contribution to world cuisine.

In fact, the English word sugar comes from the Sanskrit *sarkara*. The health benefits of food is a theme that runs through Indian culture. In Ayurveda, food is a panacea that both

part of the country is the most distinctive feature of Indian cuisine. Lentils play a central role (be it gravies, vegetables, breads, sweets or savouries) ensuring adequate protein in the Indian diet.

prevents and cures disease. The compendia of basic recipes compiled by the great Ayurvedic physicians are a major source of knowledge about ancient food. Then come the religious texts: In Krishna's discussion of *dharma* in the *Bhagavad Gita*, he defines three basic qualities that are still central to Indian thinking about food: *sattvic, rajasic*, and *tamasic*.

Your observations on the temple kitchen and its unique characteristics.

Food plays a very important role in Hindu ceremonies. Milk, fruits and sweets are offered to deities and later distributed to devotees as *prasad*. Some temples have enormous kitchens and are famous for their food, such as the Venkateswara temple in Tirupathi (the world's second-most visited holy place after the Vatican), which is famous for its *kalyana laddu*, and the Jagannath temple in Puri that serves more than 100 dishes. India's most famous temple food comes from Udupi in Karnataka, where, in the 20th Century, some temple cooks opened their own restaurants serving vegetarian food — first locally, then all over the world. Today, Udupi cuisine is distinctive and popular.

How is Indian cuisine evolving?

Every time I visit India, I am amazed at how rapidly things are changing. On the downside, some of the old stalls are disappearing; for example, the paratha *wallahs* in Chandni Chowk. On the other hand, the past few years have also seen a great surge of interest in Indian food history — in television shows, in culinary groups; I even found a Facebook page called 'Lost Recipes of India'.

Another fascinating feature is the rise in restaurants serving regional cuisine. When I first went to Kolkata 30 years ago, it was difficult to find a restaurant serving Bengali food. Now, there is a profusion of these establishments, ranging from simple to upscale. The last time I was in New Delhi, I even discovered a little restaurant specialising in Bihar cuisine!

What is your next project?

I am working on an Encyclopaedia of Indian Food, with well-known journalist Sourish Bhattacharyya as co-editor. The project is in its early stages and we are looking for funding.

Details about the books published by Colleen Sen are available at www.colleensen.com. A paperback edition of *Feasts and Fasts* has been published in India by Speaking Tiger Books

ND-ND

Courting success

Olympic medallist and ace shuttler P. V. Sindhu says she's looking forward to other tournaments and meeting Rajinikanth

SRINIVASA RAMANUJAM

Dressed in a flowy pink-and-white anarkali, Pusarla Venkata Sindhu is strolling around the well-lit floors of NAC Jewellers in T Nagar like a little girl in a candy store.

She has things to do — attend a press conference and share the stage with the owners of the store — but she steals moments in between to peer into the jewellery cases.

"I love shopping," she giggles.

This is a very different Sindhu from the girl we saw at the Rio Olympics. There, she was a warrior, puffing and panting as she ran across the badminton court with purpose, ever eager to score a point. In that epic final, Sindhu was probably at her best. Almost.

It was a game the entire nation followed, in the comfort of their drawing rooms and office spaces, and gasped collectively at as the Indian shuttler went down fighting to Spain's Carolina Marin.

In that span of a few weeks at Rio, Sindhu had succeeded in winning not just the silver but also several hearts back home.

Looking back, she's just overwhelmed with all the attention and affection she has received — as she tells *Melange* in an exclusive chat.

Excerpts:

How have the weeks after the Olympics euphoria been?

It has been totally different. Obviously, I'm very happy, but I am back to practise for the tournaments next month.



SHUTTLE SERVICE PV Sindhu PHOTO: V. GANESAN

and I'm back to my old routine again.

As a sports-loving nation, this Olympics has been different because we suddenly found so

many Indian sportspersons to root for. How difficult was it for you, with all this sudden focus on you and your game?

I didn't let the pressure get to me. On court, all I did was give it my best shot. At the Olympics, it was a matter of belief — in myself and what my coach had in me. Actually, the coming months will be tough — there are quite a few tournaments and the responsibilities will increase... since all eyes will be on me.

We saw you trying to constantly motivate yourself on court. How do you manage to keep your cool while playing?

Self-belief is very important; my coach kept motivating me from behind, irrespective of whether I scored or lost a point. That helped me keep my spirits up.

You must be pleased that a nation that usually comes together for cricket backed a shuttle player...

Almost everybody in the country was watching my match... the feeling was totally different. I knew that everyone was praying for me and I am very thankful for their support and encouragement.

We understand you were off cell phones and junk food in preparation for the Olympics. That must have been tough for a 21-year-old.

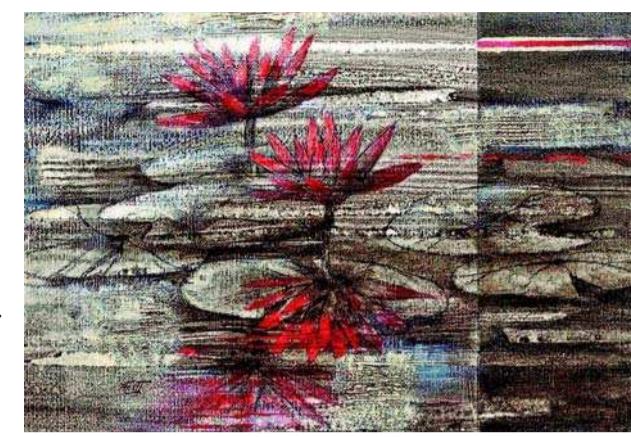
(Smiles) Food was an important part of my

I am thankful to Rajinikanth for saying that. I look forward to meeting him some day

“ ”

Just like lotus...

Noted painter Rita Jhunjhunwala says art is a therapy for her



A work by the artist

MAHIMA BHATIA

"I love to see how a lotus, in spite of being surrounded by dirt and filth blooms into beauty," is how Rita Jhunjhunwala describes her admiration for the national flower. The poise and serenity of the lotus flower can be seen in her paintings which were recently exhibited in the solo show, "Unsullied" at Alliance Francaise. "I am deeply attracted to the quality of a lotus. Just like we see it from the perspective of life, this is how one should live — unperturbed, unaffected yet making the best use of one's latent inborn talent," asserts the artist.

When you're not

playing badminton, what

do you do?

I love watching TV when I am at home. While travelling, though, I listen to a lot of music.

The artist using different forms like charcoal, watercolour, acrylic, gold foil and rice paper has perfected the art of fusion of colours and use of different hues. The tone of her paintings at "Unsullied" was sombre and demure while the mood of each of the painting was adequately described by the label under it. Thus there were

works named "Vivacious", "Divine", "Devotional", "Exuberant", "Rhapsody", "Poise" and "Steadfast". Though the artist loves using water colours, she believes that acrylic has more versatile effects. Having started painting at a very early age, she has experimented with different forms but acrylic is the closest to her heart.

The winner of the Soviet Land Nehru Award for painting the artist who is widely travelled finds art therapeutic.

"Art is a therapy for me. I paint because I want to. I feel happy doing it." In fact, the urge to paint came to her from childhood itself when she used participate in the spot painting competitions. She realised painting was her true calling. Like a true artist she is not complacent. "I still have miles to go. There is always a room for improvement even if when you compare your previous paintings with the present ones."

Advising the young talent to know their grammar well and have a complete hold on the basics,

Jhunjhunwala believes that there is no substitute for hard work and consistency.

Down Memory Lane

That cruel September...

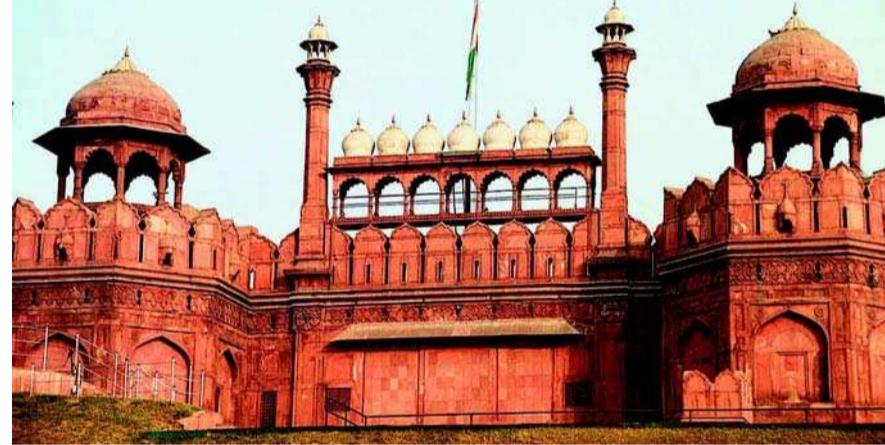
It is that time of the year when Delhi faced some of its darkest days in 1857

September brings back memories of 1857, along with, of course, a host of seasonal diseases flushed in by the monsoon. Last week this was more so as it was on 19th September, 159 years ago that the British were able to capture the Lahore Gate, the Jama Masjid and Salimgarh.

Lahore Gate was the place where Brig Gen. John Nicholson was shot, though he (the giant of a man)

survived several days till the whole of Delhi had been retaken by the Firangis.

According to old records cited by historian Christopher Hibbert, the British soldiers were scared of making a final assault on Lahore Gate because of their dread of street-fighting. Areas like the Lahore Gate, with their innumerable galis, had sharpshooters firing at the soldiers from rooftops and windows. It was a man lurking in the window of a double-storied house who had shot Nicholson in the back as he, swinging his flashing sword above his



A MUTE WITNESS The Red Fort PHOTO: M. LAKSHMAN

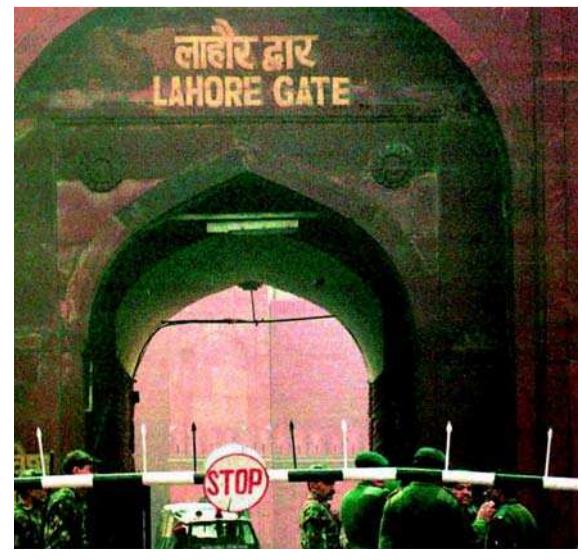
head, urged his men to move forward. Some years back a British party consisting of descendants of those who fought and survived or died in 1857 was keen to visit the Lahore Gate site where the General fell and the commemoration plaque put up at the site.

Being among the guides, this scribe made hectic inquiries about it from the residents of nearby Khari Baoli but most of them were either non-communicative or evasive in their replies. But one man pointed to a gali outside which was a tablet saying the plaque was inside. On entering it one tried in vain to locate the marble plaque. However, thanks to an ice-seller the

plaque came to view only after he deftly removed the rag covering it. The tourist party led by Dr Rosie James was overwhelmed and photographed it frantically before going on to visit the "Mutiny Memorial" on the Ridge and Badli-ki-Sarai. In a lighter vein, on September 19, 1857 when the invading force was able to penetrate the streets behind the Jama Masjid, the family of Munshi Turab Ali (whose foremost descendant now is Haji Faiyazuddin) went up to the terrace to see what was happening and got so engrossed that the daal being cooked on an earthen pot in the kitchen over a wood log fire got burnt by the time they came down and had to make do with stale rotis and the previous night's leftover curry. Faiyazuddin disclosed that almost the same thing happened when the ammunition magazine in Kashmere Gate area was blown up on May 11 of that year. The sound of the explosion was so deafening that many thought Doomsday had come. As a matter of fact, people as far away as Meerut claimed they had heard the earth-shaking sound. Well that day also the Munshi's family in Kutchia Mir Ashiq escaped to the terrace while the khichri got so badly burnt that it was left for the pigeons to feed on.

Many residents of the Walled City (fathers, brothers and husbands) used swords to kill their womenfolk lest they be captured, raped and murdered by the Goras. In one incident according to Hibbert, "14 women were found dead with their throats slit from ear to ear by their husbands and their bodies laid out on shawls." Many women jumped into wells, along with children,

R. V. Smith
The author is a veteran chronicler of Delhi



MAKING AN IMPACT Riga Saxophone Quartet in performance

A surreal performance

Rendering short but sweet compositions, the Riga Saxophone Quartet from Latvia played for international peace

MADHUR GUPTA

Cultural diplomacy has over the ages been instrumental in bringing nations closer to each other through the medium of performing arts and literature. The exchange of artists, laureates and philosophers promotes social understanding between different regions thereby bringing them on the same page. Exploring this dimension, the Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Latvia organised a performance by the celebrated Riga Saxophone Quartet, celebrating the International Day of Peace and the 7th World Flute Festival.

Elaborating about the Riga Saxophone Quartet, Artis Simanis, who plays alto saxophone and is also the founder member of the ensemble said, "The Riga Saxophone Quartet was established in 1992, marking the beginning of a new era for academic saxophone music in Latvia. With our wide-ranging repertoire, the artistic ensemble has been performing classical works, original 20th and 21st Century works, compositions of world famous jazz composers, lyrical melodies and engaging rhythms of Latin American music at locations

across the world."

Besides Artis, this Quartet has Ilze Lejina on soprano saxophone, Ainars Šablovskis on the tenor saxophone, and Baiba Tilhena on baritone saxophone. Talking about their show, Tilhena said, "We were invited by the Embassy of the Republic of Latvia in India to come and be part of the International Day of Peace and the 7th World Flute Festival. Since it is a sombre event, we have chosen to play more of academic music than jazz music." Joining her, Šablovskis added, "We are keeping the programme diverse by playing some transcriptions, some classical music by Joseph Hyden; some jazz music, and, of course, some original pieces too."

"Arrive De La Reine De Sabat" of George Frideric Handel, "Air" of Johann Sebastian Bach, "Ciudades - Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina 2011) & Ciudades - Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina 2011)" of Guillermo Lago were some of the interesting yet short pieces which were rendered by the Quartet in a spell of around 50 minutes.

Interestingly, on being asked if the European trends dictated them to keep the concert short, Lejina the soprano saxophone player explained, "Well, it really depends. Sometimes, we finish in half an hour and sometimes we extend a lot." Drawing on their own experience of Indian music scene Tilhena further observed, "Once we had an Indian player in the ensemble and then the concerts lasted over two to three hours. So yes, we do have a thorough understanding of the Indian music scene but since it was a special occasion we tried to keep the rendition short and sweet, yet sombre."

Special mentions need to be made about "A Night in Tunisia" of John "Dizzy" Gillespie, "Patchwork" of Philippe Geiss and "Oh Lady Be Good" of George Gershwin, which were played by the Quartet in a mellifluous manner. Held under the starry night sky with cool breeze, this delightful performance called for international peace.

The Quartet rendered some interesting yet short pieces in a spell of around 50 minutes.

Briefly**Mission accomplished**

It was a proud moment for a team of National Cadet Corps boys, who scaled Mt. Bhagirathi II recently, was honoured during a flag-in in the Capital. Maj Gen J.S. Sandhu, Officiating DGNCC, congratulated the cadets for their grit and courage to overcome challenges of rugged terrain and hostile weather conditions. He said the expedition will help imbibe the qualities of courage, comradeship, discipline, leadership among the cadets.

**All for inclusiveness**

An evening was hosted by Shankara and Varjia Life to announce Vihaan 2016, a kaleidoscope of abilities. Billed as India's first Holistic festival, Vihaan will focus on showcasing diversity of our culture and will be held at Indra Gandhi National Centre for Arts on December 14. It would be supported by Ministry of Culture. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Swaroop Rawal, actress and educationist, spoke about enrichment and empowerment of "Persons with Disabilities". The subject was on a key element into making a society inclusive and successful as it taps into all its potentials and brings out the best.

**Russian art**

An exhibition of paintings to mark the Year of Cinema in Russia-2016 was organised by the Russian Centre of Science and Culture jointly with the Forum of Indian Photographers and Artists at RCSC. The exhibition titled "Indian Artists Paint Russia" was on the theme "Russia-India Film Dialogue". The paintings on display are the work done by professional and amateur Indian artists at the three-day VI Annual Art Camp. Dignitaries, who participated in the event, were artist Jatin Das and RCSC Director Fedor Rozovskiy. The exhibition is open to general public till October 3.

**Education on calligraphy**

Delhi-based artist Shipra Dutta conducting creative workshop on calligraphy at Indian Institute of Art and Design's Okhla campus. She introduced the basics of calligraphy and its finer nuances. She said calligraphy was more than just decorated letters. "It is a heritage art which is used to establish a connect between the artist and viewers and trigger a response from the viewer in terms of a new thought process. As budding artists and designers, it is essential that the students get acquainted with this art."

Stamped for posterity

Anirban Dutta's "The Tale Of Stamps" reflects the glorious history of the Indian postal system

S. RAVI

Did you know that the first country to carry mail by air officially was India and that too in 1911? Or that Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore wrote nearly 7,000 letters all of which were sent by post and so fascinated was he with post office that he wrote to Lady Ranu Mukherjee sharing his desire of becoming a village post master? So enamoured he was that he wrote a play called "Dakghar" in 1912. Likewise many may not be aware that the first stamp in post-Independent India was released on August 15, 1947. It depicted the National Flag, Ashoka emblem and air services.

Information nuggets such as these along with several interesting stories about stamps, post offices and philately are what emerge from Anirban Dutta's 30-minute documentary *The Tale Of Stamps*. Recently screened at the Public Service Broadcasting Trust's Open Frame 2016 festival, the film, according to Dutta, is not an attempt to



FROM WHERE IT ALL BEGAN A view of the Mumbai GPO; a stamp released to commemorate Tagore's "Dakghar"

walk down the memory lane. "I am not trying to invoke nostalgia about the good old times gone by. Aware that technological advancement will inevitably phase out exchange of letters and usage of stamps, I was keen to document my research in the film to make people aware about the history of stamps and postal system. More so since these have not been archived and more than 80 per cent of

the material is with private collectors."

The film celebrates the rich and fascinating history of India's postal system through philately and brings together postal historians, well known philatelists, offices and stamps designers while seamlessly weaving fascinating anecdotes around stamps. Each person contributes delightful slices of history about stamps and post office. Kavery Banerjee, the Secretary Department of Posts, shares details of how the courier system operated in the past when rulers used messengers by foot and horses to deliver important communiqué. She also goes on to explain how the East India Company set up the first postal system in the country for its officials initially, which was later opened for public. Similarly, Vispi Dastur, a philatelist, tells us about the world's first postage stamp, Penny Black and the aristocracy of Indian philately, the Sindh Dawk, the country's first adhesive stamps issued in 1852.

Though fact-driven, Dutta does well not to make the proceedings boring by including plenty of tales around stamps and postal network. "By bringing in these stories I wanted to emphasise how the two are an integral part of our history. After all how long can viewers' interest be sustained by showing stamps?" quips Dutta. Citing examples from the film, he says, "It is fascinating to know that Lord William Bentinck, the Governor-General of India, scrapped the unpaid letter system wherein the receiver had to pay for the postage since people invariably would peep at the contents and return the letter." Likewise, one is amazed to know the superior skills and enterprise of Indian postal officials since they were sent to other parts



of the British Empire to establish post offices where Indian stamps were used. So we get to postcards and letters from faraway places like Baghdad, Zanzibar, Aden,

and the aristocracy of Indian philately, the Sindh Dawk, the country's first adhesive stamps issued in 1852.

Sharing details on how he was drawn to the subject of the film, Dutta says stamps were an important part of his growing up years. "Spending childhood in faraway places, letters were the only means of keeping in touch and through them I became fascinated with stamps. They became a window to the world and knowledge like intrigued by Polaska and CCCP on stamps I came to know about Poland and USSR while alpaca on Peruvian stamp provoked me to know about the animal and the country. Stamps became the trigger in my life to know about places, persons and history."

Dutta feels that collection and study of stamps among children and youngsters should be inculcated at the school and encouraged by parents. Emphasising the need to make stamps an integral part of teaching, he argues that as a visual tool it will make learning more fun while triggering eagerness to know more. "The Indian stamps on national leaders, statesmen, cinema, sports and performing art personalities will certainly kindle an urge to learn and acquire knowledge." In fact, he feels in today's hectic life, stamps can initiate some quality time conversations between parents and kids. "On seeing stamps on IPTA, Mohenjo Daro, Ashoka emblem, Bhimse Joshi, C.K. Nayudu, my son and daughter became inquisitive and started asking questions. We have had many delightful interactions thanks to stamps."

Having collected a lot of material, Dutta hopes to make a longer film on the topic.

"I have many more stories to share with audience like the one on the issue of stamp by India which coincided with the liberation of Bangladesh." Having whetted the audience appetite they are sure to wait for more.

Stamps became the trigger in my life to know about places, persons and history

Breaking barriers

Lamborghini Huracán Avio is inspired by fighter jets and moves at a mind boggling speed

S. M. UMAIR

The anxious wait was finally over as the much awaited super car came rolling on the stage. This Lamborghini launch in Delhi was special for more reasons than one. Lamborghini Huracán Avio is a limited edition car with only 250 units world over.

One look is enough to give you an adrenaline rush and the thrill of speeding it. As far as speed is concerned this car offers a breathtaking performance of 0 to



RIDE TO CHERISH Lamborghini Huracán Avio

100km/h in 3.2 seconds. It is not recommended for the faint hearted as the maximum speed is over 325km/h.

Its technical specifications like aspirated 610HP, 5.2 litre, V10 engine, 7-speed gearbox with double clutch, and hybrid chassis in aluminium and carbon fibre is pretty impressive too.

As soon as we got an opportunity to get close to the jet-like racing machine, we clicked pictures and checked out its interiors.

Addressing the media on Thursday, Sharad Agarwal,

We were greeted with a special L63 logo on the door panels where L stood for Lamborghini and 63 signified the year the company was founded. The interiors black leather with white stitching make it look stylish. In a way, this one pays tribute to air force and their countless achievements over the years. The designing and the finish of Huracán Avio would remind you of a fighter jet.

The price announced at Rs.3.71crores ex-showroom.

Lamborghini India said: "We are thrilled to launch Huracán Avio in India. This is the first time we have brought a special edition car to India. We are opening a window of five days for our Indian customers to order the car and be among the select few 250 owners worldwide. The Huracán Avio takes inspiration from the powerful fighter jets for its cutting-edge technology."

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Colin Firth moves away from middle-aged roles in movies

Oscar-winning actor Colin Firth moves behind the camera for his movie kicks after becoming frustrated with being offered the same kind of roles. Says the 56-year-old *Bridget Jones's Baby* star: "I have got involved in producing now. So the kinds of things that are more my own choice are more possible because I don't have to be castable," says Colin.



NEW TRACK Colin Firth

Apple's move to abandon the headphone jack could well be the final nail in the coffin for the technology

SOORAJ RAJMOHAN

Over the past few decades of technological advancements, we've seen devices come and go. I remember the cassette-playing Walkman replaced by the briefly popular Discman, which was then dethroned by the MP3 player, a device that would more or less become known as the iPod due to the raging success of the Apple product.

Eventually, even the MP3 player faded into the shadows as modern smartphones got better and better at playing audio, with some even boasting high-end Digital to Analogue Converters (DAC) to output hi-fi audio onto your choice pair of headphones. But throughout all this, the one constant has been the small, pointy and ubiquitous headphone jack.

It was around to plug into the Walkman, and everything that came after it. But now that the very company whose iPods it faithfully served for years has shunned it, the resilient little 3.5mm jack may well fade into history as well.

Let's take a moment to analyse its beginnings. At the launch of the iPhone 7, Apple's marketing head Phil Schiller remarked that the 3.5mm jack had outlived its utility, recalling how its early purpose was in telephone switchboards. He was right — they first popped into existence in the 1800s, and the 3.5mm variety became popular as the universal audio standard when Sony used it in their radios in the 1960s, and eventually the Walkman in the late 1970s.

At this point, it makes sense to agree with Schiller. After all, what is a half-century-old connection standard doing in such cutting-edge hardware in 2016? Apple's argument is that it wastes space, and they

CHANGING TUNES The days of the 3.5mm headphone jack may well be over

are right again. In devices getting increasingly thinner and lighter every year, the jack actually uses up much more space in the phone's body than constant innovation can afford. So, off it went.

It's easy to lay the blame solely at Apple's feet. However, they aren't the first ones to do it. LeEco's current generation of phones don't have it either, with the company using USB-C with their Continual Digital Lossless Audio (CDLA) technology.

Recently, Moto pulled a similar move by leaving out the jack on its Z line of devices.

Another key to why the universal standard is on the way out is contained in the acronym of LeEco's implementation — lossless. The headphone jack uses analogue technology, while most music today is digital, which needs to be converted to analogue signals for it to work, which leads to some loss in quality.

Digital standards, such as those achieved by Apple's

After all, what is a half-century-old connection standard doing in such cutting-edge hardware in 2016?



Burma and Nepal with Indian stamps on them.

Sharing details on how he was drawn to the subject of the film, Dutta says stamps were an important part of his growing up years. "Spending childhood in faraway places, letters were the only means of keeping in touch and through them I became fascinated with stamps. They became a window to the world and knowledge like intrigued by Polaska and CCCP on stamps I came to know about Poland and USSR while alpaca on Peruvian stamp provoked me to know about the animal and the country. Stamps became the trigger in my life to know about places, persons and history."

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Lightning connectors and Android's new USB-C implementation, don't face this problem. Modern headphones can now take full advantage of high-definition audio available on streaming services and deliver it straight to our ears. Hear the future knocking?

So, all said and done, it makes sense. Yes, we'll lose the connector we've been able to plug in anywhere, and the changeover will take a long time, as headphones supporting new digital inputs are still few and expensive.

The time is ripe for Bluetooth headphones, though they would not replicate the HD audio experience as well.

We're at a crossroads, and tough decisions are being made, but there are still two problems with abandoning the headphone jack. One, as Nilay Patel of *The Verge* pointed out in a recent article, is that digital audio means audio publishers can now disable audio from being played by certain devices, which was not possible with the analogue headphone jack. Two, and perhaps most important, what do I do if I want to charge my phone and use my high-quality wired headphones at the same time?

There are still chinks to be worked out, and pros and cons either way. In the meantime — it's been a good run headphone jack, and when the time comes, you will be missed.

BY THE RIVERS OF FIJI

On this island nation, get set for a smooth ride on a bamboo raft or an adrenaline-pumping jet boat journey and visit villages along the Navua and Sigatoka rivers, writes SANGEETHA DEVI DUNDOO



CULTURE AND ADVENTURE Clockwise from top, The Navua River that crosses gorges, river rapids and rainforests; villager Nem Mani who doubles up as tour guide, the Sigatoka River PHOTOS ANGEETHA DEVI DUNDOO

The best way to understand an island nation is to step out of resorts and get a peek into the lives of the locals. From the moment we land in Fiji, we hear chauffeurs and staff at resorts tell us about the villages they hail from.

The Jewel of Fiji tour and Sigatoka River Safari pack in bamboo rafting, 360-degree spins on jet boats and offer a touch of authenticity where tourists are invited into the homes of villages scattered along the Navua and Sigatoka (pronounced Singatoka) Rivers.

Somewhere on the upper Navua River, on Viti Levu island, our guide Nem Mani navigates the bamboo raft with all his might, interspersing the ride with nuggets of information he has gathered online. He's a self-confessed Google addict. Nem hails from Koromakawa village and has been giving tourists a taste of bamboo rafting for a while now. "I don't go to the gym. This is my workout," he chuckles. He will tell us later that the strength of Fijians in villages comes from eating native produce and not "supermarket stuff".

'Anaconda' waterfall
The brief ride on the raft, which is called a bilibili, punctuates the motor boat ride up the river. We also make a pit stop at Nakavika Falls, now popular as the location where *Anaconda* was shot. The story is that many children stopped swimming in the waterfall after the film released. It took some effort to get them back to their playful selves.

While on the raft, we hear nothing but the sounds emanating from the Namosi rainforest and the water. River Navua takes us to Koromakawa village, established by John Humphrey Danford in early 1800s.

Cannibalism is a thing of the past, but the guides don't flinch from pulling a fast one on visitors, warning them of delicious meals that can be made out of them if they disobey village rules.

Follow the rules
As for the rules, you never enter a Fijian village wearing a hat or shorts. Trousers that cover your knee, and in some cases, sarongs for women are a must.

Apologetically, the guide states that women are to be seated behind the men folk. When you click photographs, kneel; but do not stand when the Yaqona or Kava ceremony is on, we were told.

By the time we reached the village, I forgot some of these guidelines, and standing up, moved to the front, only to be warned and quickly pulled



back. Luckily, I was forgiven.

Not without kava
Fijians are inseparable from kava, a drink made from the powder of the Taro plant root. An estimated 250,000 drinkers consume three bags of kava a day. Kava is exported in the form of powders and capsules as stress relievers.

When the famed kava came my way, I was sceptical. Fellow travellers urged me to try it. "It makes your tongue a bit numb," someone exclaimed. Will it make me tipsy? A choppy ride back to mainland on high tide waters after a new drink didn't seem like a great idea. But apparently, kava gives you a buzz only if you have 20 to 25 glasses in a session. I gave in and had one. It was, well, tasteless.

The Kava ceremony is traditionally performed for special occasions, but is now also staged for tourists. Though the village visit and the customs are staged for tourists, both along the Navua and Sigatoka rivers, the experience is as authentic as it can get.

Each village is a large

family. Inhabitants grow their own crops and build their own houses. "No one goes hungry; you can always borrow ingredients from the next house," says one of our guides. The people live on a sparse income, risking the loss of crops to cyclones. The inflow of tourists helps them have an alternate trickle of income.

Snake dances (taralala and tuboto), a demonstration of traditional crafts such as Tapa Masi and mat weaving follow. A Fijian meal, cooked underground (lovo method, as they call it), is laid out. The food is simple and delicious.

360-degree spins

Along the Sigatoka, 15 villages have tied up with river safari operators. The villages are divided into two groups, each group playing hosts for six months a year. Each day, one village hosts a tourist group.

We experienced customs and food that were somewhat different from the village on Navua river. A generous amount of talcum powder was rubbed on our cheeks, and our guide told us in hushed tones not to rub it off, for it would amount to disrespecting our hosts.

The Sigatoka safari is a contrast to the leisurely bilibili ride. On our way back, the captain does dramatic hairpin turns, 360-degree spins and gleeful remarks that he's helped us wash off all that talcum powder.

The ride leaves us drenched to the bone.

We step out beaming, with memories that will linger.

(The writer was in Fiji on invitation by Tourism Fiji)

When you click photographs, kneel; but do not stand when the Yaqona or Kava ceremony is on

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A journey of self-discovery

Rohith Subramanian, also known as the Lone Wanderer, is a travel blogger who has embarked on a motorcycle journey that will last a year-and-a-half, cover one lakh kilometres, touch 46 countries across Asia and Europe and be documented on social media. He talks to HAFSA FATHIMA about what drives him

It started when I was young. My dad had this bike called a Rajdoot, and it had the greatest influence on me when I was growing up. I started travelling alone as a kid; I would hop on to a random bus and go to Tiruchi, stay there for a couple of days and then make my way back home.

On another trip, I was in Leh, and I worked for a man who would rent out motorbikes. He ended up giving me one, along with some food and money, and told me to travel around the area for a few days. The urge to wander and explore the world was solidified, and I knew I was going to do it on a motorbike.

My greatest fear has always been living a monotonous life. I didn't want to take short trips where I returned home to a normal life on Monday mornings; it had to be a lifestyle. I realised that when I looked back at my life, I wanted to be able to have a story to tell myself and others.

Right now, I'm in the middle of travelling 46 countries,

spanning Asia and Europe, starting with India. No matter which State I'm in, I don't stay in hotels. I stay in the homes of the people I've met on the road or on social media. If I don't find one, I sleep in bus stops, petrol bunks or police stations. It's a very nomadic way to live, but it's also about staying grounded and humble. It's been more than 50 days, and I've been lucky enough to find a shelter every night, from tea stalls to homes.

When I was younger, I dreamt of being so many things: a farmer, a waiter, a newspaper boy. This trip gave me the chance to be all of those things. I decided to pick up a different job

It's a very nomadic way to live, but it's also about staying grounded and humble

”

in every State that I was in, whether it was a for a day or a month.

In Kerala, I laid tar roads, in Karnataka I was a *chaivallah*, in Goa I was a bartender, and in Maharashtra, a vada pav vendor. I've met hundreds of people from different cultures, who speak different languages, but communication has never been a problem for me. Apart from English, I speak Tamil, Hindi and a little French, so that gets me by in most places. Language isn't the only way for you to communicate; I've always believed you can tell a story without using words. When you meet someone who you know may not see the next day, the conversations you have become more special. It's not always easy and the demands of a life on the road can take its toll.

I'm on the road for more than seven hours a day and I don't stop for breakfast or lunch, keeping myself fuelled with water. My weight was fluctuating when I started, and I had to work to get it under control. My back



THE CALL OF THE ROAD Rohith Subramanian PHOTO: BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

aches to the point where I'm worried if it's not aching when I wake up. As the journey has progressed, I have become more introspective. I've realised that this is also a quest of self-realisation.

It's funny, because when

you're growing up, your family keeps warning you about the danger of strangers. Now, I'm living a life where these strangers have become my family, and I'm proud to say that in every city or State that I've lived in, I have a place and people to call my own.

I remember a man from Kerala who found out that I had had nothing to eat since morning. He rushed to eight different restaurants and brought me back food. It's amazing that you can find unconditional love and kindness from people who barely

know you and owe you nothing. I wouldn't say I have an end goal in mind, but that's the beauty of this journey. I know that one day it will end, but I don't know where and when, and that's what makes it all the more interesting.

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Science & Technology

Indian Institute of
Technology Madras
develops cheap
lab-on-a-chip
diagnostic device

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**In Focus**

Tech-savvy teachers and
appropriately designed
teaching methods are
the need of the hour for
faculty development

PAGE 3

**Exam Prep**

Nervous about the
upcoming CAT exam?
Some tips to help you
stay calm and prepare
for it

PAGE 3



Exam Prep | Admissions | Scholarship alert | Internships | Offbeat careers | Science | Technology | Campusline

Write that WINNING SoP

Your statement of purpose should make you stand out. Some pointers to drafting that polished essay, and pitfalls you must avoid.

» STUDY ABROAD

VINAYA KURPAD

A statement of purpose is a student's personal introduction to the admissions committee of a university describing his/her background, interests, future plans and why he/she wishes to pursue a particular programme at the university.

A typical SoP includes a catchy opening statement, information about what triggered your passion for the field of study you want to pursue, and what background research/courses you have already worked on.

Here are some guidelines you can follow to write an effective statement of purpose.

- The SoP must emphasise your passion for the subject, interest in research in it, why you chose the university, in addition to details of the background work you have already done in the area.

- Start your SoP with a catchy opening statement or introduction. Remember, there would be around five professors in the admissions committee with around 300 to 500 applications. Make your SoP stand out.

- SoP must ideally be one or two pages in length in a standard word document.

- Use crisp and concise language and avoid making it text heavy. Write in active tense instead of passive. Use simple words instead of complicated jargon. Use a clean layout with left or justified alignment of text with ample "white space" and at least six-point spa-

cing between paragraphs.

- Proofread your SoP several times. Spell check is not enough. Spelling mistakes can weigh down your SoP and adversely affect your admission prospects.

- Get at least three other people to proofread your SoP and suggest corrections.

- The flow of the SoP must be coherent. Describe what triggered your interest in the domain and how you nurtured it over the years.

- Avoid clichéd statements. Mention a couple of sentences about your leadership skills, extracurricular activities, awards, accomplishments, and so on, in the middle of the SoP. Don't talk about these at the very beginning or the end.

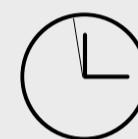
- Avoid irrelevant details such as winning a high school speech contest, an inter-school debate, sports competition or having been a great dancer or musician, unless it significantly adds weightage to your application and is noteworthy.

- Don't try to evoke sympathy by emphasising too much on your financial problems, gender-based

Misplaced commas, colons or wrong spellings can weigh your application down.



Be crisp and concise. Don't make your SoP text-heavy. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Last-minute checks**

1 Make sure you are addressing the SoP to the correct university, programme and professors. Avoid mistakes such as "I request you to consider me for admission to the prestigious MS in CS

programme at Stanford because the professors here are performing amazing research and I eagerly look forward to studying at Harvard University."

2 Use the services of sites such as <http://www.statemantofpurposesample.com/> to get your SoP critiqued.

3 The last two paragraphs must be devoted towards making compelling

conclusive statements to convince the admissions committee that you are sincerely interested in pursuing the chosen programme at the university. You must not appear shaky or unconvincing.

4 After completing your SoP, check grammar, formatting, spellings, and so on, several times. Misplaced commas, colons or wrong spellings can

weigh your application down.

5 If you are applying to eight different universities, you can reuse the generic format of the SoP but tailor the last part about the professors at each school and their research to specifically suit each of them. This website has some useful information about SoPs: <http://www.univ.edu/~gotera/gradapp/stmtpurpose.htm>

your SoP. Do not mention that you would not be able to join the programme if you don't get funding. It is a breach of etiquette to request funding in addition to admission.

They may not reject your application just because you requested funding, but they may pick another candidate who is equally good and who has not explicitly requested funding. You have to show that you are financially independent even when you apply for PhD programmes. You can talk about it when an offer of admission is made or with your professors/advisors over phone.

- If you are running close to the deadline at another university and have to choose, you could ask your professors at this university about funding options and get a confirmation from them through an email (in addition to the offer of admission).

- Avoid repeating yourself.
- Always write your own SoP. The admissions committee could do an extensive check for plagiarism and verify if the SoP was actually authored by you.

The writer is president and founder, www.coolgrad.com

» INTERNSHIPS**Web Designer intern at Ellipsonic**

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Eligibility: Life Sciences /Medicine students
Website: <http://bit.ly/Twenty19TH651>

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Category: Video Editing
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Stipend: Rs. 5,000-10,000 per month
Eligibility: Business/Management Students PG & Commerce/Media Students
Website: <http://bit.ly/Twenty19TH652>

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Category: Graphic Design/Art Work/Illustrator
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Eligibility: All students
Website: <http://bit.ly/Twenty19TH653>

Courtesy: www.twenty19.com

Let the words flow

Every writer struggles with the writer's block. But there is no need to panic. Here are some solutions.

» YOUTH

ARUNA SANKARANARAYANAN

A project report of around 5,000 words is due in a month. No sweat, you tell yourself. I have plenty of time. Meanwhile, you busy yourself with other jobs. As days morph into weeks, the 5,000 words loom larger in your consciousness. I will get to it, you say, while continuing to pursue other tasks. Three days before the deadline, you force yourself to sit down in front of your computer and type. But after the first two sentences, you are bereft of words. You're panic-stricken. "How in the world will I produce 5,000 words in the next two days?" you wonder.

In his book, *Procrastination and Blocking*, Robert Boice explains how the twin constructs of procrastination and blocking can thwart many an individual. He defines procrastination as putting off "doing more difficult, delayable, important things" by choosing to perform other tasks that give short-term relief. So, instead of starting your report, you may decide to first clean your room.

Blocking, in contrast, involves "getting stuck" at the beginning or end of a project, usually due to "paralysing anxiety" that the job will be externally evaluated. So, when you finally start typing, you are unable to think clearly to produce more than a couple of sentences. Boice

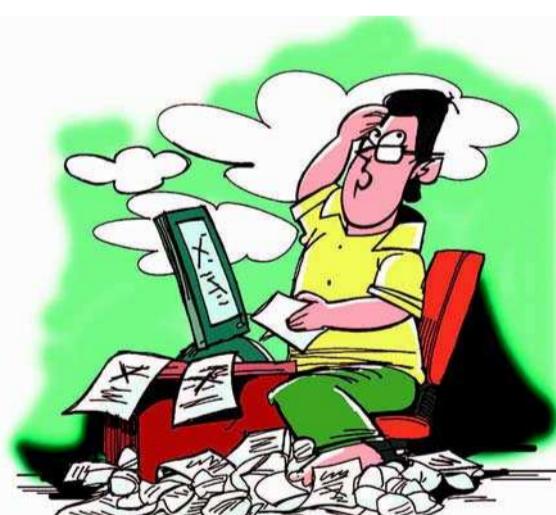


ILLUSTRATION: SATHEESH VELLINENZHI

Initially, to motivate yourself to write, you may reward yourself after completing a fixed number of pages.

This involves writing without inhibition. In other words, you should write whatever comes to your mind without caring if it makes sense or is grammatically correct. In fact, if you need to write often on your job, engaging in fifteen minutes of free writing daily can help unclog the cog-

nitive filters in your mind so that your imagination is free to chart its own course. As no one but you are going to see your free writing, you may find it therapeutic. If you are more accustomed to typing in your computer, you may want to try doing the free writing exercise by hand instead.

The essential point of this exercise is to free yourself of your own inhibitions. Write just about anything without letting your internal critic edit your thoughts. It doesn't matter if your content doesn't make sense. Just let the ink flow as you write.

Routine Initially, to motivate yourself to write, you may reward yourself after completing a fixed number of pages. Boice suggests that you work in short, daily sessions instead of trying to run a marathon at the end.

Moreover, if your schedule permits, try and write at the same time everyday, so that you begin associating a particular time with your writing tasks. Further, you need to learn when to stop each day. Pushing yourself to write more than required can backfire as you may experience burn-out. Once your writing habit becomes regular, you may find that you don't need to reward yourself extrinsically anymore.

In his blog on writing, author Jeff Goins says that besides procrastination and fear, another obstacle that prevents people from getting their thoughts down on pa-

per is a need for perfection. You feel you need to have the perfect plan or outline before you begin. And, invariably, you don't. As a result, you don't ever begin.

So, instead of waiting for the perfect moment or the perfect opening line, or the perfect argument, just start writing. There is no sacrosanct rule which says you must start at the beginning or the introductory paragraph. If the middle section of the report is easier to write, then go ahead with it. You can always come back to the beginning later.

Further, if you already have some words down on paper (or your screen), your stress levels would abate and you are more likely to think of a more engaging introduction. Goins also warns against waiting till you feel inspired. Inspiration is more likely to strike if you keep writing regularly.

In an article in *The Guardian*, Professor Rowena Murray suggests that you can also do social writing, where you write with others in the room. For students, this is fairly easy to accomplish by going to the library or computer lab where your peers are working.

If writing is part of your job, you may discuss writing with colleagues who understand that writing is hard work, thereby allaying your anxiety. But all said and done, the best way to tackle the beast is to start writing. Now.

The author is director, PRAYATNA. Email: arunasankara@gmail.com

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WEEK 5: INTERNAL SECURITY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

"Border management has multiple challenges and one of them is achievement of coordination among various security agencies involved." In the light of this statement, would you recommend a single security force for managing the entire land border of India?

"21st century has witnessed a revolution in information and communication technology." How has this development in means of communication posed challenges for internal security?

"Even when India faces a precarious internal and external security environment, it does not have a National Security Doctrine to guide the decision-making process in times of crisis." Examine the statement and the need for a National Security Doctrine.

Relief distribution is one of the most important areas of Disaster Management. In India it needs to be improved for all kinds of disaster management. Discuss.

"The relationship between disaster and development depends on the development choices made by the individual, community and the nation". Do you agree? Explain with suitable examples.

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Science and technology

SNAPSHOTS



Oxygen and early evolution

Researchers now have the strongest evidence yet to support the hypothesis that high levels of oxygen in the oceans were crucial for the emergence of skeletal animals 550 million years ago.



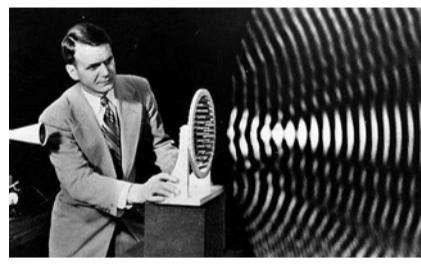
Genetic impact of training

Endurance training changes the activity of thousands of genes and give rise to a multitude of altered DNA-copies, RNA. So genes can change function as a result of exercise.



Youthful DNA in old age

In young people the expression of DNA is regulated. With age, regulation of DNA gradually gets disrupted, which is a cause of ageing. But there are people whose DNA appears youthful despite their advanced years.



Shaping sound waves

Researchers have found a way of generating acoustic holograms, which could improve ultrasound diagnostics and material testing. The holograms can also be used to move and manipulate particles.



Reef fish see more colours

Reef fish can see colours that humans cannot. Some such as the anemonefish 'Nemo' and damselfish can see the UV wavelengths we protect ourselves from. Colour discriminations by triggerfish are different.

IIT-M develops a lab-on-a-chip diagnostic device

R. PRASAD

A simple, self-powered, lab-on-a-chip device that could enable diagnoses of several diseases, which is both affordable and accessible even in resource-constrained settings, has successfully passed preclinical trials, thanks to research done by a team of scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M). The results were published on September 22 in the journal *Biomicrofluidics*.

A team led by Prof. Ashis Kumar Sen, the corresponding author of the paper from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Madras, used a 2-cm-long microchannel device that employs capillary force to draw blood into the device to separate plasma from whole blood and test glucose level in diabetic patients.

The first part of the microchannel device has hydrophilic walls (top and two side walls) that help the blood sample to be drawn in through capillary force. But one centimetre away, all the four walls of the microchannel are hydrophobic. Like a drop of water on a Teflon surface, the blood comes together and forms a large contact angle (more than 90 degrees) when it enters the hydrophobic region. The forward movement of the blood is suddenly impeded and the blood cells tend to accumulate in the hydrophobic region of the microchannel.

Unlike blood cells, the plasma with its low viscosity continues to move forward due to the momentum gained while passing through the hydrophilic region. "The blood cells slow down and then stop moving at the hydrophobic region and form a self-built-in filter, while the plasma continues to move past the cells," says Prof. Sen. "By creating a dif-



Prof. Ashis Kumar Sen (right) and Sneha Maria of IIT Madras have devised a low-cost method of diagnosing specific diseases. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ferential wetting behaviour in the microchannel we were able to separate the plasma from the blood cells." Separating the plasma from blood cells is essential as it improves sensitivity and reliability. Most blood analyses are based on optical detection techniques, and blood cells present tend to interfere with the optical path resulting in low sensitivity.

The device does not require any external or internal power as it relies on capillary force to draw blood and the separation of plasma from blood cells is achieved through differential wetting behaviour of the microchannel walls.

"Only 5 microlitre of blood is required and in 15 minutes we get 450 nanolitre of plasma which further increases with time. With suitable design modifications we have also achieved higher plasma volume up to 2 microlitre in 15

min, which is adequate for detection of most analytes," says M. Sneha Maria, the first author of the paper from the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Department of Biotechnology, IIT Madras. It takes 15-20 minutes to test the samples and get the results.

The detection platform for different diseases and conditions can be integrated within the device inside the hydrophobic region. "This is a proof-of-concept study so we used commercially available glucose test strips to detect glucose level in the blood samples," says Ms. Maria. The sensitivity of the disposable device is comparable to conventional blood tests, says Prof. Sen.

Unlike the microchannel device used by the IIT team, many commercial glucometers rely on whole blood for testing. Using whole blood can cause measurement errors due to various

hematocrit levels (the ratio of the volume of red cells to the volume of whole blood). When the hematocrit levels are high the viscosity of blood is more and this leads to low glucose concentration and underestimation. Overestimation results when the hematocrit levels are low. "There is a likelihood of more than 10 per cent error in glucose detection when whole blood is used," says Ms. Maria.

The team is now testing the device for diagnosis of dengue. Currently, rapid diagnostic test kits either use whole blood which affects the sensitivity or centrifuged plasma for dengue detection. This is where the device can score over others. Prof. Sen is hopeful that the device can be used for parallel detection of analytes for several diseases using just one blood sample. "We intend to separate the plasma to multiple detection sites for studying several diseases in one go," he says.

A new technique to look for exomoons

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

The recent discovery of Proxima b, an exoplanet in our neighbouring star system, Proxima Centauri in the Alpha Centauri group, has fuelled popular interest in studying new worlds. However, theoretical and observational study of exoplanets – planets orbiting stars other than the sun – is not new. Among the exoplanets discovered many cannot themselves support life. But it is expected that these could be surrounded by huge natural satellites having water and which are perhaps even habitable. This is one reason to look for such friendly "exomoons" as well as exoplanets.

Sujan Sengupta of Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru, and Mark S. Marley of NASA Ames Research Centre, California, USA, have come up with a novel technique to detect the presence of exomoons using the variation in the polarization of light coming from the exoplanet. The research has been published in the *Astrophysical Journal*.



An artist's impression of an Earth-like exomoon orbiting a Saturn-like exoplanet. PHOTO: NASA

Detecting an exomoon is not an easy task. It is – relatively – easy to detect the exoplanets as they transit across the face of their star, by detecting the related variation in the intensity of the star's light. With exomoons also, a similar method can be developed. This is because the scientists could study the dimming of that light as the exomoon transits the star. However, this would be a very faint signal.

A totally different approach, which depends on measuring the polarization of the light from

the exoplanet, has been developed by Sengupta and Marley. As they propose in an earlier paper, light from these exoplanets is likely to be linearly polarized. However, when integrated over a perfectly circular disc, this would cancel. There are two effects which would result in a non-zero value for the observed polarization – one, the oblateness resulting from the planet having a fast spinning motion and, two, if a exomoon should partially block the light of the exoplanet when transiting,

thereby introducing an asymmetry. If the planet is spinning very fast, the first effect would be dominant, but even then the authors show that it is possible to measure the slight correction due to the effect of the exomoon's transit.

As Dr. Sengupta puts it, "When a dark moon appears between the planet and the observer, it shadows a tiny part of the planetary surface. So, a part of the planetary surface is blocked to the observer. Therefore, the polarization that arises due to scattering in that blocked out region is not added up to the net polarization. Hence, the final result is not exactly zero which should have been if there were no obstruction."

This method offers a new way of detecting the exomoon – a fluctuation in the polarization of the observed light from the exoplanet. With this result, it becomes interesting for earth based telescopes and even space based ones, like the James Webb Space Telescope, to evolve instruments having one more capacity to help in the hunt for new planets.

Anthropocene 2: Damage control measures

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

In the previous column on Anthropocene (see *The Hindu*, dated September 12), we had discussed how the huge rise of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases has led to global warming. Here we highlight some of the remedial measures being taken, wherein fossil fuels can hopefully, and soon, be replaced by renewable and thus sustainable methods for energy production.

The main source of energy for all industrial and manufacturing processes during the last 250 years has been coal. Today, we produce about eight million tons of coal across the world, and burn it off as fuel. At this rate,



A major step is to replace carbonaceous fuel.

all the coal in the world will be gone in 150 years. Besides solid coal, we also use liquid petroleum and natural gas as fuel for generating energy. We use 70 million barrels of petroleum daily. The total amount of crude oil on earth today is about 1.7 trillion barrels, which, too, will be finished off in 53 years. These three fossil fuels are 'use it and lose it' types, not renewable.

Burning these carbonaceous fuels has rapidly damaged the earth by increasing the levels of the resulting carbon dioxide (CO_2) surrounding our earth. Carbon dioxide would not escape, being locked in by the gravity of the earth. And since it lets sunlight through to warm the earth, but does not release the warmth emitted by the earth, it bounces it back on

us. This greenhouse effect has rapidly warmed the earth and its atmosphere, slowly melting icebergs, raising sea levels and endangering island populations. This has led to what geologists have now declared as the start of a new epoch in earth's history, a man-made one termed Anthropocene, thus ending Holocene. The danger is clear; what can we do about it? Having been shocked into realisation, we can think new, or even some time-tested, thoughts. Scientists are thinking about several possibilities and, in fact, putting them into action. The first is to reduce (and totally forego) fossil fuels, and use what are termed renewable energy sources, also called sustainable energy sources. These are clean, produce no green-

house gases, consume no water and do not need large amounts of land. The very first successful step towards such realisation was in helping the ozone layer heal: The amount of ozone in the atmosphere and stratosphere above the earth was getting depleted, thanks to the use of some gases (such as Freon) used as refrigerants. Ozone, which forms a layer above the earth, effectively absorbs ultraviolet radiation, which can harm life forms on earth through oxidation. The ozone layer is thus a protective filter. But refrigerant gases, upon decomposition, react with and deplete the levels of ozone. Thanks to the Dutch Nobelist Paul Crutzen, who made us realize this harmful effect of Freon and similar gases, we have now replaced these gases by much

safer ones, and the ozone layer is slowly turning back to normal levels. We have also started replacing carbonaceous fuels by renewable and sustainable ones. One of them is the conversion of the energy we receive from the sun into electricity. Here, we use solar panels made up of materials that convert light into electricity (photo-voltaic cells, made of layers of silicon, gallium arsenide, cadmium telluride or other materials). Indeed, India is ranked number 1 in the world in utilising solar panels to generate electricity. Today, we are generating over 8,000 MW of power across the country, with Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat in the lead. This will grow more in the coming years. Scientists, both in India and abroad, are continuously working for better and better photovoltaic material to use in such solar panels. The second step is us-

Indian ROV monitors the health of coral reefs

K. S. SUDHI

Scuba divers who take a plunge into ocean floors to study coral reefs can now take a break. An indigenously developed remotely operated vehicle (ROV) is taking up their role with more efficiency and accuracy and it's expected to contribute significantly to the conservation and management of corals.

The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, had recently deployed the ROV for studying the coral reefs of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which are facing survival threats due to global warming.

While it would take weeks together for a scuba diver to diagnose the health of corals, the ROV could map a larger area in a day.

"The images of corals recorded by the ROV are useful for studying the biodiversity of coral reefs and their evolution. The underwater visuals had shown the coral debris and boulders caused by the 2004 tsunami and the rejuvenation of the colonies of branching corals, stony coral and brain corals at some locations," explained G.A. Ramadas, Head, Deep Sea Technologies Group, NIOT.

The coral reef biodiversity at Andaman region, which spreads across an area of 11,000 sq km, was seriously affected during the 2004 tsunami. The increasing sea surface temperature added to the stress. Currently, there is no mechanism other than scuba diving to examine the corals and assess the extent of damage or rejuvenation," explained Dr. Ramadas.

Though ROVs with similar depth rating and capabilities are available in the international market, many of them were not suitable for polar conditions. Also the scientific payload such as irradiance sensor, water sampler, sound velocity profiler, sector scanning sonar with the state of the art navigation systems makes the ROV a unique one, Dr. Ramadas said.

QUESTION CORNER

WHITE LATHER

Though bathing and detergent soaps differ in colour, the lather produced is always white. Why?

- K.R. Sriya, Vellore, Tamil Nadu.

Sap solution forms bubbles as its surface tension is much less than pure water, and is about 1/3 of that of pure water. Bubble formation happens due to the sucking in of atmospheric air by soapy solution. The bubble has a hollow inner space occupied by air, covered by a thin layer of soap solution. The outer layer is transparent but lets only a little of the light inside. This results in the outer soapy layer acting like a small mirror with a dark background (hollow space occupied by air) reflecting all the light incident upon it. The surrounding light is always white such as sun light, room light and so on. Hence the lather or froth consisting of bubbles always appears white irrespective of the colour of the bathing soap.

Not only soap water, the bubbles that are formed while pouring any fizzy drink in to a glass also appear white irrespective of the colour of the original drink. But one can see a coloured froth if one pours a fizzy drink in a room coloured with differently coloured light other than white light. For example one can see red coloured bubble formation if one pours beer in a room lit with red light.

- Dr. T. Bhavani, Bengaluru

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Why do our ears feel airlocked when we travel and get released when we open our mouth?

- Mukul Aadithya, Chennai

Readers may send their questions/answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

rest in this area, India has just started. The Atlantis Resources Corporation plans a tidal power farm with a capacity of 50 MW with the possibility to increase it to more than 200 MW in Gujarat. When complete, this farm will be the first of its type, not just within the country, but also in Asia.

The fourth and still growing way is the use of microbial fuel cells, wherein waste water is used by bacteria to generate electricity. This field is in its infancy and needs to be developed further. It is clear that the world has learnt at long last. It is also notable that quite a number of scientists and innovators are researching into additional ways to improve the efficiency of these methods. Here is an opportunity for Indian scientists and technologists to think of additional ways to green energy.

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NETTUR TECHNICAL TRAINING FOUNDATION – an ISO 9001 certified educational foundation established in 1963, is the living symbol of Indo-Swiss cooperation venture, aimed at promoting purposeful technical education for the youth of India.

The Foundation implements technical training programs through its multi-location training centres located all over the country, with a strength of 800 faculty. More than 40,000 students have been trained and placed at various industries in India and abroad. All the programs are industry-focused and aims at imparting employable skills to the youth.

About the University:

Steinbeiss University, Berlin, Germany offers B.Eng. degree program for the benefit of students in India, who have completed Class 12/ +2/ PUC in SCIENCE stream. Pre-requisite for this program is the student need to first join Diploma program offered by NTTF (in Tool and Die Making/ Mechatronics only) and thereby eligible to apply for German B.Eng degree.

Steinbeiss University is the largest State approved private university in Germany that offers students practice-oriented extra occupational higher education, based on project competence concept. Main idea of Steinbeiss University is the "inter-digitation of **theory and practice**", which means that the students can apply their gained theoretical knowledge directly to their job.

- ▲ Steinbeiss University has recognized the curriculum of NTTF Diploma Programs in **TOOL AND DIE MAKING and MECHATRONICS** as equivalent to their B.Eng. degree program.
- ▲ Class 12/ PUC/+2 passed students who joins NTTF Diploma Programs either in Tool & Die Making or in Mechatronics can enrol directly with Steinbeiss University for B.Eng. programme concurrently.
- ▲ In addition to their normal Diploma studies, the students are required to do an individual 'Degree Project', as stipulated by Steinbeiss University.
- ▲ **Dual Certification:** B.Eng. Degree from Steinbeiss University, Germany and Diploma from NTTF
- ▲ The graduated students through this dual program can opt employment in India or pursue Master's Programs in Germany or UK.
- ▲ This is a residential program offered in NTTF, Electronic city campus at Bangalore.

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