

KOZHIKODE DISASTER

Runway Red Flags Ignored For 9 Years



Security personnel stand guard near the mangled remains of the Air India flight in Kerala's Kozhikode.

■ Civil aviation expert Captain Mohan Ranganathan, part of a committee that inspected the airport, had warned the runway was not safe for landing.

■ In a letter to Civil Aviation Ministry and DGCA in 2011, he had said the airport was tailor-made for disaster.

■ DGCA had also issued a show-cause notice to Kozhikode airport director a year ago over critical safety lapses.

REPORTS ON PAGE 4



■ Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri reaches Kozhikode to take stock of relief measures.

■ AAI chief has said corrective steps will be taken once the probe report is out. Black Box recovered

149
under treatment after the freak accident that killed 18.

₹10 lakh
ex gratia announced to the families of those who have died.

Crooks make fake profiles to lure young addicts into buying gaming points, steal money with debit card & e-wallet details

GAMERS IN DELHI EASY PREY FOR CYBER CON

COVID-19 FALLOUT

By Shashank Shekhar
in New Delhi

LAST week, a Gurugram businessman lost a huge sum of money to his son's addiction to online gaming. The Class X student had given UPI details of his account to an anonymous cyber crook who promised gaming currencies in return.

Vendors, not sticking to physical distancing norms, sell fruits and vegetables at Jabalpur in MP on Saturday.

In July, a Punjab youth took his craze for mobile games to a different level by spending ₹16 lakh from his father's account to buy virtual ammunition.

Prior to that fraud, a motor-bike mechanic lost ₹50,000

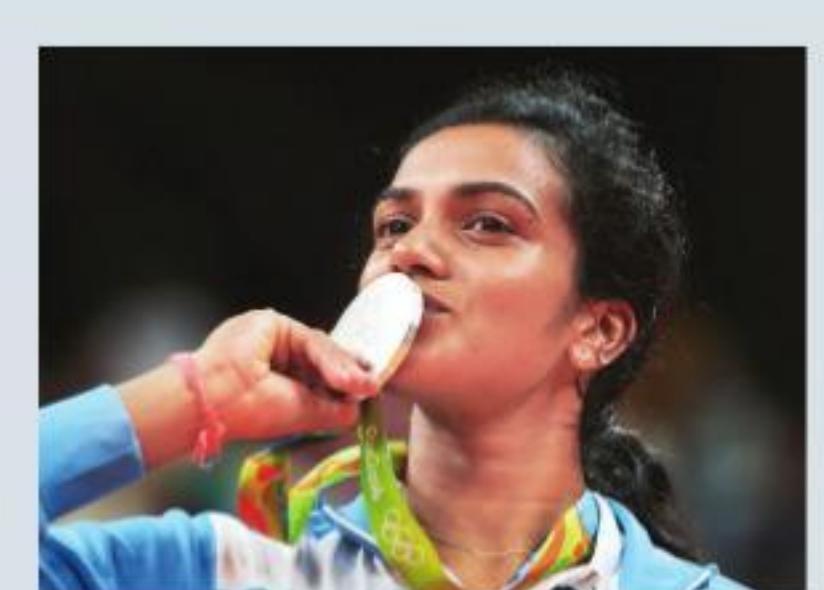
Turn to Page 2



'TEST GROCERY & VEGGIE SELLERS'

Grocery sellers, vegetable and other vendors can be potential spreaders, says the Centre as it tells states & UTs to test them for early detection that can lower mortality.

■ Abhishek Bachchan tested negative for coronavirus, Union Ministers Arjun Ram Meghwal and Kailash Chaudhary found infected, while Congress leader Nandi Yellaiah died of Covid-19.



‘I don't think I need more money. Winning medals will bring money.’

PV SINDHU,
BADMINTON
PLAYER

India Today
INDIA TOMORROW

SEE PAGE 23

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Imagine what would have happened had pandemic broken out before 2014. Could we have imposed lockdown when over 60% population was forced to open defecation?

— NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER



At least 53 more people, including 19 jail inmates, tested positive for the novel coronavirus in Uttar Pradesh's

Muzaffarnagar district, taking the number of active cases to 235, a health official in the state informed on Saturday.

continued from page 1

after his 15-year-old son withdrew the money from his bank account to purchase a PUBG game controller as well as weapons.

If you are glued to online mobile gaming during coronavirus curbs, beware! Cybercriminals are now looking for targets on popular platforms and duping addicts with promises of gaming points, coins or virtual currency that players need to customise their gaming avatars.

The popularity for online gaming has surged during the pandemic and gained mainstream recognition. And hackers are making a killing by trapping and duping youngsters.

GAME ON!

Cyber crime investigators say Garena Free Fire and PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds (PUBG) and Fortnite are online multi-player survival games and let players talk, chat and engage with random participants.

These games are usually free but have features to build the player's virtual character through points used to "buy" clothes, cars, and weapons.

In-game currencies can be used to get exclusive customisation, and complete missions and challenges or levels. All this could also be done by spending real money.

A Delhi Police official said as the number of gamers and the time spent on games have shot up drastically, cybercriminals have found a new breeding ground on online gaming platforms.

"Most victims are not coming forward as kids are involved in these frauds. Parents must keep banking details from children," he said.

EXPERT'S TAKE

Delhi-based cyber security expert Amit Dubey, while investigating a case, found thousands of fake websites, social media pages and chat groups that had people buying and selling gaming currencies.

"While tracking a case of missing money from the bank account of a south Delhi couple, I found the trail to Rajasthan. These criminals have made several Instagram and Facebook accounts where they post videos of latest tasks and customisation to lure young gamers. They offer in-game currencies at cheap prices but after gaining access to banking details they withdraw money and go underground."

CRIME PUSH

In a case which was cracked by the Uttar Pradesh Police, it was found that the craze for being ahead of another gamer is pushing gaming enthusiasts to crime. A final year graduation student was arrested for duping gamers across India.

UP cops arrested another gamer for duping a resident of Rs 8 lakh. After a detailed analysis, it was found that the criminals targeted the boy who started spending more time on mobile

A Delhi Police officer told Mail Today that it is difficult to track most accused because of the features of games.

gaming during the lockdown.

"The minor was addicted to online games. He was trapped while playing Free Fire. Criminals promised to give him a huge amount of virtual points and asked for his father's card and e-wallet details. Rs 8 lakh was withdrawn from the victim's account in installments," said senior UP Police official Triveni Singh.

The father did not know about these transactions. It was only when he went to the bank to update his passbook, he found the money missing.

After digital surveillance, a 20-year-old student from Agra was arrested. During interrogation, he confessed that he got drawn into gaming during the lockdown and duped gamers as he had to qualify different levels.

Singh warned that online gamers and their parents should

be extra careful. "These days, mobiles are connected to banking apps, e-wallets, social networking sites. One shouldn't play games with unknown people or give out personal or banking details," he said.

"Clicking on any link can also compromise the phone. This means one can fall victim to banking and social media frauds," Singh said.

TOUGH TO CRACK

A Delhi Police officer told Mail Today that it is difficult to track most accused because of the features of games. Gamers also use anonymous chatting applications. Communications are encrypted and servers are based in foreign countries.

However, not all purchases of in-game currencies are illegal. Experts claim there are forums and apps that provide legit payment systems but parents must ensure monitoring of these transactions.

INDIA	DELHI
FRESH COVID CASES	
61,537	1,404
TOTAL	
20,88,611	1,44,127
NEW DEATHS	
933	16
TOLL	
42,518	4,098

The Jharkhand Police couldn't do much in the case of a Class 11 student who lost Rs 6.32 lakh while playing an online multi-player game. He purchased in-game outfits and weapons. He told cops he needed a warrior's outfit and advanced weapons to

go ahead and used his father's card. Officials said all transfers were done legally, so it was not a case of online fraud.

"Gaming has seen a huge growth and most gamers are teenagers or below 25. They are crazy about these games and go to the extent of spending real money to get virtual currencies. Parents must monitor these online payments," Dubey said.

The Indian online gaming industry is growing at an exponential rate and is expected to be worth \$1.1 billion by 2021, according to Google-KMPG.

Online gaming has gained a strong foothold within the Indian entertainment industry. With a projected user base of more than 628 million gamers, this gives a whole new boost to the gaming ecosystem within the Indian economy.

With the number of gamers exponentially increasing every year, the gaming industry has become one of the most susceptible ones to cyber frauds.



By Chayyanika Nigam
in New Delhi

WHILE dealing with the pandemic challenge, increasing cyber frauds are giving sleepless nights to the Delhi Police. Despite the awareness campaign to alert the people, thousands are still falling prey to the frauds.

Delhi Police Cyber Cell unit claims that they have received thousands of cyber complaints post March 25. Every day more than 100 complaints are being filed in cyber cell unit of Delhi Police. As per the data, post lock down nearly 10,000 cyber complaints were filed, out of them 60 % are related to financial frauds.

In the month of April, May and June,

as many as 3068 and 3468, 3000 cyber related complaints were filed with this specialised unit. However, before lockdown the figures were comparatively very low. In January the number of cases was 1,260. In February as many as 1,849 cases were reported and in March the figure was 1,690.

Poonam Srivastava (name changed) is a recent victim who was duped of Rs 33.9 lakh by a person who befriended her on social networking site Facebook. The accused had promised to marry her. Poonam is among six per cent of the people who have fallen in the trap of fake profiles.

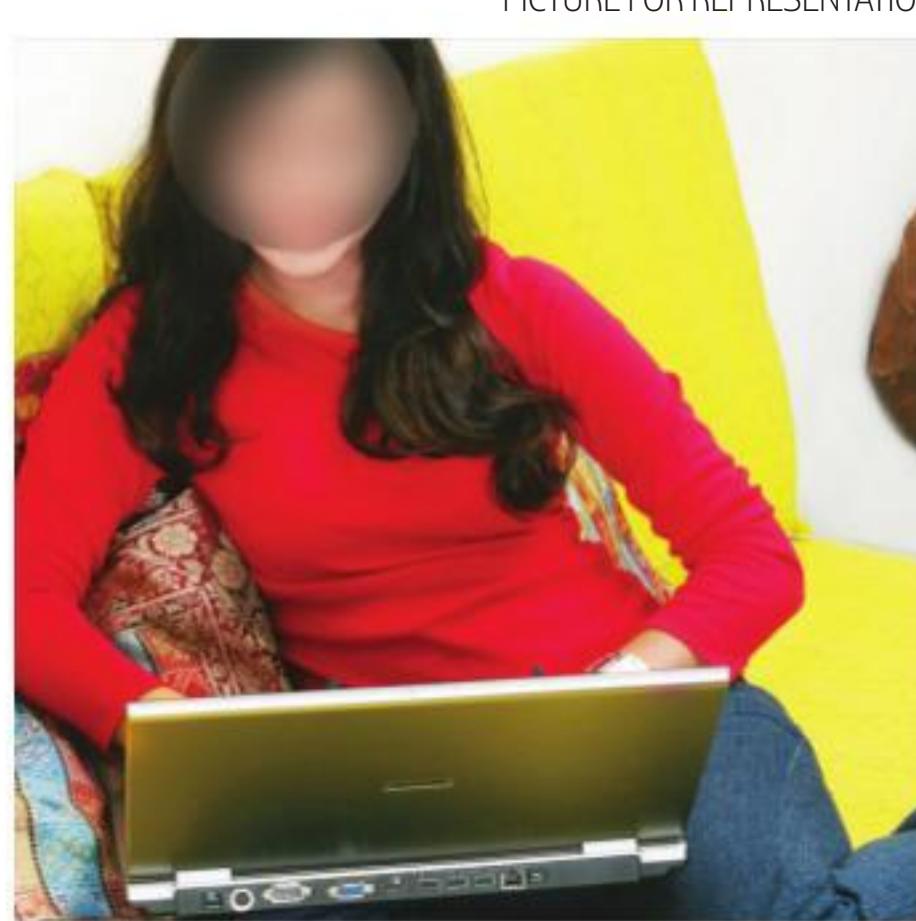
Later, the accused Mohammad Sadiq Imran (40), a resident of Andhra Pradesh was arrested in the case.

According to the complainant, she received a friend request on Facebook from the accused Imran. After winning the confidence of the woman, he allured and induced her to start a hotel business. Accordingly, the woman agreed and the accused managed to get Rs 33,92,201 transferred in his account.

After receiving the money, the accused started avoiding her calls. Subsequently, the complainant sensed that she had been cheated.

Various bank account details, documents, passbooks have been recovered from Imran's house in Andhra Pradesh.

A recent advisory by Ministry of Home Affairs asked those looking for alliances online to go for verified matrimonial websites.



An advisory by MHA suggested people to go to verified websites only.

CROOKS TARGET CITY'S ONLINE GAME ADDICTS

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION



An advisory by MHA suggested people to go to verified websites only.

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ESPIRIT Mathura Road, N.Delhi 7290095001, 9654999635 1800 103 5686	GALAXY G-1 Station Box, Chhatarpur Metro Station 9870191014 66763666	GALAXY Moti Nagar Crossing 8448293658, 418 77 777	THIRTY SIX H3, Sec-63, Noida 9810916666, 9871637000	ESPIRIT D-37 & 38, Surajpur Site-4, Kasna, Gr. Noida 7290095001, 9654999635 1800 103 5686	MGF Sector-50, Gurugram 9899266992, 8527565522, 0124-4415566	MGF MGF Mega City Mall, M.G. Road, Gurugram 9910067020, 9818899964, 8527723355	MGF 39 Milestone, Delhi-Jaipur Highway, NH-8 9810907071, 9810916666	UTTAM A-11, Meerut Road Indl. Area, Ghaziabad 9871637000, 9810907071	UTTAM SUNDAY Open
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File photos of Captain Deepak Sathe (L) and his co-pilot Akhilesh Kumar.

KOZHIKODE PLANE CRASH

By Shalini Maria Lobo in Kozhikode

NAUSHAD was sitting on his front porch with his daughter when he heard a loud sound, and in a couple of moments before he could wonder what the sound was he heard something that sounded like an explosion. His instincts were to keep his family safe and asked his wife to turn off the gas and the electricity main in his house. He then asked his wife to leave with the children to a house further down the road.

About 80 metres from Naushad's residence, the Air India Express Dubai-Kozhikode flight had shot off the runway and fallen into a gorge. As 15 men in the area gathered and ran to the crash site, they tried looking in to assess the situation.

"There was a passenger in a PPE kit where the plane was broken, leaning outside the aircraft requesting help. He told us there was no fire but that they wanted us to help them. We asked if we could join in the res-

Locals first to respond to distress calls

cue work and they agreed to our request," said Naushad.

Ajmal lives around 30 metres from where the aircraft crash landed. He heard the sound and rushed out of his house. "The first thing I saw was the pilots. They were still alive but couldn't be rescued because there was no space. Everything in the cockpit was jammed. They tried rescuing the pilots using cutters. But that didn't work. The pilots were one of the last ones to be taken out," he said.

He also added that both pilots

had a pulse and uttered a few words when rescued.

Ajmal happened to be in the aircraft helping people. Among the debris, I saw a small hand, he said. He had to shift a lot of debris including the aircraft seats to find a child under it. "I just saw their hands. The parts of the plane and the seat were on top of them. I removed that and the child had a pulse. We sent 6 of them in the ambulance and took them to the hospital."

DIYAN RAJKUMAR

Local residents Ajmal (L) and Naushad helped in the rescue operations.



'CAPT. SATHE SURVIVED A CRASH IN EARLY 1990S'

By Pankaj Upadhyay
in Mumbai

NILESH Sathe, cousin of pilot Capt Deepak Vasant Sathe who died in the Air India Express plane crash on Friday, penned an emotional post for his brother and said the pilot "martyred" himself to save the lives of many passengers on the ill-fated flight.

He said his cousin was "proud" to be a part of the Vande Bharat mission — the flight on which Captain Deepak Sathe was killed — in bringing back stranded Indians from foreign countries due to coronavirus

pandemic.
Reports claimed that Captain Sathe had turned off the engine right before the crash, saving the lives of his passengers and cabin crew.

His cousin Niles, in his long Facebook post, called the pilot "a soldier" who laid down "his life to save the lives of his countrymen". He said that the Captain had once survived a plane crash in the early 90s when he was in the IAF.

"He survived a plane crash in early 1990s when he was in the Air Force. He was hospitalised for 6 months with multiple skull injuries. Nobody thought he will fly again."



Deepak Sathe

Hours after bird hit, jet averts tech snag mishap

By Satyajeet Kumar
in Ranchi

MUMBAI-BOUND Air Asia India flight, which was grounded at the Ranchi airport on Saturday morning after a bird hit the aircraft during take-off, averted another mishap after it developed a technical snag while it was on the runway ready to take-off again hours later.

The flight, with 176 passengers onboard, was ready to take-off in the morning when it was hit by a bird and was grounded following that.

"AirAsia India aircraft VT-HKG operating from Ranchi to Mumbai as flight i5-632 encountered a bird hit during scheduled departure at 11:50 hrs, today, 8th August 2020," an airline spokesperson had said.

The aircraft was inspected and after all the maintenance and Standard Operating Protocols (SOPs), the flight was again ready to take-off for Mumbai in the evening but developed another snag on the runway.

AN EXPERT'S WARNING CAME IN 2011

By Akshaya Nath in Kozhikode

ALMOST nine years back, Captain Mohan Ranganathan, a civil aviation expert who was part of an expert committee which did an inspection of the Kozhikode Karipur airport, had warned the dangers of this airport.

In a letter he wrote in 2011, to Dr Nasim Zaidi, chairman of CASAC, Ministry of civil aviation and Bharat Bhushan, who was the director general of civil aviation, Captain Ranganathan had said that the runway in Calicut airport was not safe for landing.

He had written "landing on runway 10 in tailwind conditions in rain, are endangering the lives of all."

Capt. Ranganathan raised concerns over the inquiry on the Kozhikode mishap

His letter says that the Calicut airport doesn't have the minimum RESA on one end and no RESA on the other end. He had also questioned how the DGCA overlooked this factor, in his letter.

Speaking to India Today, Captain Ranganathan said, "A tail when landing on a wet runway is one of the most dangerous you can have. On top of that runway one zero has a very steep down slope from one third of the runway. Aircraft touchdown at around top of the hump and it is down slope all the way and the second half of that is where the aircraft are landing and there are very heavy rubber deposits there. So, the runway is tailor made for disasters."



Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inspects the crash site of the Air India Express flight in Kozhikode on Saturday.

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immunity boosting range comprises products that simply cater to strengthening your immunity like the immunity booster juice which is a combination of glioy, neem, amla, turmeric and tulsi, renowned to boost immunity. The amla juice, on the other hand, is made from organically grown amla which is the richest source of Vitamin C and helps strengthen the immune system. The tulsi ark is a combination of five species of Tulsi. It is a storehouse

of antioxidants that helps build up a robust immune system. Apart from these, the desi gir cow and kamdhenu cow ghee extracted by the Bilona process is a good ingredient to boost

immunity due to its high antioxidant content. The range of organic honey is rich in antioxidants and antibacterial properties which help improve the digestive system and boost immunity. Last, but not the least, is organic jaggery and jaggery powder that helps the body detox and helps it flush out toxins out of the body to boost the health of the body's immune system. Jaggery is extremely rich in mineral and acts as a good building agent of the immune system.

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Some Rajasthan BJP MLAs visited the Shamlaji temple in Gujarat.

BJP sends its 20 MLAs to Gujarat ahead of trust vote

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RAJASTHAN'S BIG POLITICAL CRISIS

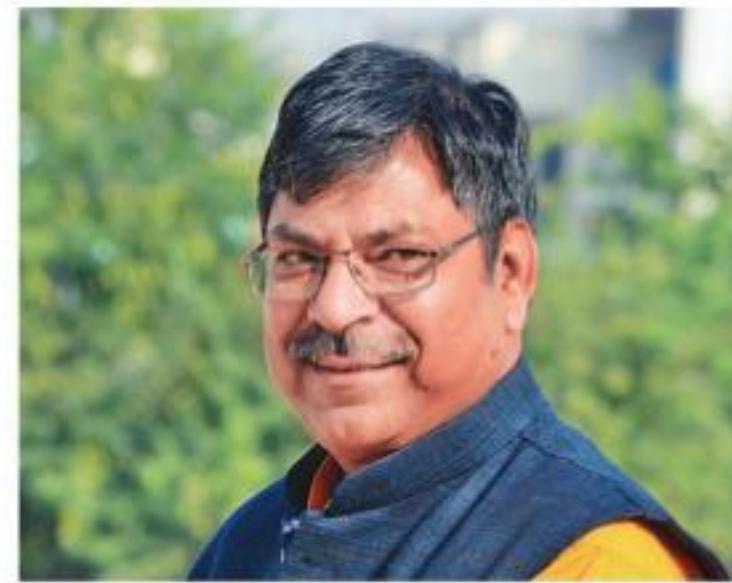
By Dev Ankur Wadhawan
in Jaipur

THE BJP has hit out at the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government in Rajasthan claiming that moral and immoral means were being used in an attempt to induce BJP MLAs before the assembly session which convenes on August 14.

In an exclusive interview, Rajasthan BJP president Satish Poonia told India Today TV: "BJP MLAs were taken to Gujarat as the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government in Rajasthan was using moral and immoral means to entice BJP MLAs. Around 20 BJP MLAs have been taken to Gujarat."

Poonia also claimed that Gehlot does not have the numbers to save his government. However, he remained non-committal on whether the BJP will stake a claim to form the government.

"It is clear that Ashok Gehlot does not have the numbers to save his



Rajasthan BJP president Satish Poonia.

government. It depends upon the situation on August 14 (the day the Assembly session convenes) on whether the BJP will stake a claim with Pilot group to form the government or not. I cannot say anything about it right now," Poonia said.

According to sources, BJP fears that if six BSP MLAs get disqualified, then attempts can be made to get in touch with BJP MLAs and thus, as a possible preemptive move, the party has decided to shift its MLAs to Gujarat. There is a possibility of some more party MLAs

being shifted to Indore in Madhya Pradesh.

Earlier, former Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje had left from Dholpur for Delhi on Wednesday night. Raje is believed to have met senior BJP functionaries in Delhi during her stay there.

The crisis, precipitated by Gehlot-Pilot tussle, had resulted in hectic activity within the BJP camp as well. However, Raje's absence during deliberations held by senior BJP leaders in Jaipur in the last month, had led to rumour mills buzzing.

Before the crucial Assembly session begins on August 14, Congress MLAs belonging to the Gehlot camp were shifted from Fairmont hotel on the outskirts of Jaipur to Suryagarh hotel in Jaisalmer district in Western Rajasthan.

In a major breakthrough signalling possible end to the political stalemate in Rajasthan, Governor Kalraj Mishra had agreed to the convening of the Assembly session in the state from August 14.

The Gehlot cabinet had sent proposal four times to the governor seeking convening of the Assembly session.

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- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| • Alannagar-42 (AMG) | • Raebareli-13 (RBL) |
| • Barabanki-16 (BBK) | • Shahganj-19 (SHG) |
| • Faizabad-26 (FD) | • Shivpur-29 (SOP) |
| • Vyasnagar-6 (VYN) | • Sonic-6 (SIC) |
| • Amausi-6 (AMS) | • Sultanpur-13 (SLN) |
| • Sindurwa-0.8 (SYW) | • Chaukhandi-6 (CHH) |
| • Mohanlalganj-7 (MLJ) | • Pratapgarh-4 (PBH) |
| • Unchahar-2 (UCR) | |

Interested parties may kindly send their EOI/suggestions along with details of the proposal for each goods shed separately up to 15:00 hours on 25.08.2020 to the DRM Office, Northern Railway, Hazratganj, Lucknow-226001, to e-mail id: srdcmfslk@gmail.com.

Contact no. 9794833953, 9794833986

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India, China hold talks to discuss Depsang situation

By Abhishek Bhalla
in New Delhi

SENIOR commanders of Indian and Chinese armies met on Saturday at Daulat Beg Oldie in Eastern Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control to discuss disengagement at the Depsang plains where mobilisation from both sides has escalated tensions.

Major General-level talks between Indian and Chinese armies were held, sources said. This comes after five rounds of meetings at the Corp Commander level – the highest military dialogue – since the standoff started in May.

Major General Abhijit Bapat, General Officer Commanding of the 3 Mountain Division headed the India delegation. The main agenda of the talks was to address the situation at Depsang plains that has seen a big mobilization of over 15,000 Chinese troops opposite Depsang.

Officials say the strategic importance of Depsang in the north of Ladakh is what makes the Chinese continuously create trouble here. There have been two serious standoffs here in 2013 and 2014.

India also raised the issue of patrolling in its area that has been blocked.

The Chinese army has deployed tanks and artillery guns along with a heavy presence of troops opposite Depsang. A similar deployment has been done by the Indian army.

A pullback in the area which is at 16,000 feet was the focus of discussions.

Till now, in the talks, the focus was on four friction points – Patrol Points 14, 15 and 17A along with Pangong Lake. While there has been a stalemate at Pangong Lake as China has come up with new fortifications between Finger 5 and 8 of the lake, there has been considerable disengagement at other places.

Major General-level talks were held, say sources



PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

'We lost our child, now we'll die of harassment'

Disha's parents break silence & say she was not pregnant, raped

EXCLUSIVE

By Saurabh Vaktania in Mumbai

"PLEASE don't defame our daughter and take mileage, don't play with her. She was our only child, we lost our only daughter, now they have tarnished her image, and now after her death they are after us. They want to kill us by harassing us like this," Disha Salian's parents told India Today TV in an exclusive interview.

A week before Sushant Singh Rajput's alleged suicide, his 28-year-old former manager, Disha, died in the wee hours of June 9. Politicians have alleged that the death of Sushant and Disha are linked. Mumbai Police has always maintained that there is no link between the death cases. Now, Disha's parents have finally decided to speak up. In their first-ever interview, Disha's mother Vasanti Salian and father Satish Salian spoke their hearts out and answered on the allegations and questions in the case.

Vasanti said, "First, I would say to the people of India, media, social media, YouTube and everybody — everything is false. All theories and stories are fake and just rumours. I lost my only child, but now, all these people will murder us. Therefore, I request them to stop all this. I request the Supreme Court to stop all this; we are suffering badly because of this. Now, we don't have any strength to listen to all these fake news about our daughter."

FALSE THEORIES

Speaking about the politicians' theories of rape and murder, she said, "All this is false. Statements in this case have been

taken twice. Malvani Police (where Disha's death case is being investigated) has all the documents on record. We have seen the post mortem report. Mumbai Police is doing their job properly, and therefore, we trust the Mumbai Police. We were quiet earlier, but the media defaming our daughter, we just can't take it anymore."

She added, "Puneet Vashist is writing a lot of wrong things about my daughter. He has harassed us the most. He has defamed my daughter. I request to punish people like him. The situation is so bad that people will lose trust in media. Nobody will watch news... We saw the

probes, we checked the documents. They have all the evidence. But these people, politicians are coming in between. They are delaying justice to Disha. I request Mumbai Police to finish their probe soon."

"They (Disha and fiancé Rohan Roy) were planning to get married after lockdown. Rohan was staying at our place during the lockdown. On June 4, Rohan got an offer. The Malad house location was finalised for an indoor shoot. So, Disha and Rohan went there... After this offer,

THE SUSHANT DEATH CASE



(Above) Disha Salian's father Satish Salian and mother Vasanti Salian.

(L) File photo of Sushant's former manager Disha Salian.

both of them were happy, Disha also got a chance to go out. From June 5, I spoke to her regularly over phone. She told me that the shoot went well. However, my daughter was in a lot of stress because the few deals were cancelled later."

"She was very ambitious. She wanted to become very big in the industry. She would say 'I want to be this and that'. Own a personal office.

She dreamt a lot. We were also happy.

After all, she was our only child. We always supported her. She was very nice... I don't have any doubt on anyone. All the children with her on that night were her very close friends...

Disha used to share each and every detail about her work with me. With whom she is working, what she is doing, and everything else. I never heard about Sushant and I didn't know much about him before all this... "Conditions of my house are very bad. We are living a traumatic life. We have

been defamed..." Vasanti told India Today TV.

'DON'T DEFAME HER FOR YOUR BENEFIT'

"I appeal to the Mumbai Police and the Supreme Court to take action against these people. They should apologise. Not a single thing is true." Disha's father Satish said, "As media has the freedom of speech, we also have the right to privacy, do not interfere in our life, please. I appeal to all, please."

"Police have showed all the evidence in the case to us, we saw the post mortem report. My daughter was not pregnant, she never got pregnant. She wasn't raped... Please, I request, don't believe in such rumours, do not spread such rumours. Don't use my daughter and defame her for your benefit. To politicians, media, and all the people, I request all of you to not do this to our daughter. Do not play with her," he added.

They addressed stories claiming that Disha was raped and murdered and said all such stories are false. They also asked the media and others to not spread fake news.

SSR kin blame Mumbai cops in SC

By Aneesa Mathur
in New Delhi

FAMILY of Sushant Singh Rajput has now alleged that Mumbai Police had "leaked" the email sent by key witness and the actor's friend — Siddharth Pithani — to Rhea Chakraborty. The allegation has been made in the affidavit filed before the Supreme Court by Sushant's father KK Singh.

The affidavit has questioned how an email sent by Siddharth to Mumbai Police was accessed by Rhea and made part of her petition in the apex court, and he alleged that the key witness was "under the influence" of Rhea.

Sushant's family has blamed Rhea for the suicide and has argued that though they filed a detailed complaint regarding the "misappropriation of money by Rhea", Mumbai Police has failed to find evidence even after 54 days of inquiry, which "only



Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar meets Sushant's family members in Faridabad on Saturday. (Inset) Rhea Chakraborty leaves ED office in Mumbai on Friday.

reflects one conclusion that the respondent number 3 is trying to shield the petitioner for the reason best known to them..." The affidavit also opposes Rhea's plea to transfer the probe in the abetment of suicide case from Patna Police to Mumbai, and argued that since the matter has been transferred

to the CBI, the plea pending in the apex court is "infructuous". It said that Rhea had also demanded a CBI inquiry in the matter via a social media post, but has now "taken a complete U-turn against the probe being conducted by the CBI" after the Bihar government transferred the probe to the CBI.

By Munish Pandey
in New Delhi

A DAY after taking over probe documents from Bihar Police, the CBI has started examining the documents in connection with the death case of Sushant Singh Rajput. India Today TV has learnt that the case diary, statements of around 10 witnesses, call data record, bank statements of Sushant and other evidence are being examined by the CBI.

The CBI is also expected to re-record the statement of Sushant's father KK Singh, who is a complainant in the case and had leveled a series of allegations against Rhea Chakraborty.

May record statement of Sushant's father

barty, her family members and others in the FIR. Sources said that the Special Investigation Team of the CBI formed to probe the case will also verify the claims made by Singh.

The agency will take help of forensic experts and doctors to

CBI analyses Bihar Police probe papers



File photo of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

verify the allegation that Rhea was giving overdose of medicines to Sushant. The autopsy report will also be verified by the CBI with the help of forensic officers. Sources said the CBI might wait till the top court direction, which is expected on August 11, and then summon the accused for statements.

DAY IN WORDS

Gandhi ji's slogan of 'do or die' will have a new meaning on the 78th anniversary of the Quit India Movement. 'Fight against injustice, do not be afraid.'

— RAHUL GANDHI, Senior Congress leader; on social media

I was too skinny.
Everything seemed to open up for me [at first]. My body couldn't hold out. I couldn't be healthy and a size 2 at the same time.

— DEBRA MESSING,
'Will and Grace'
star, on being
underweight in
the show

It's difficult to turn the game around. Rapha played an outstanding season. There are no accusations.

— TONI KROOS, Real Madrid player,
refusing to blame teammate
Raphael Varane for the defeat by
Manchester City

DAY IN NUMBERS

₹30k cr \$534 bn

loss suffered by the Himachal Pradesh economy due to Covid-19, says CM Jairam Thakur

the all-time high India's foreign exchange reserves have reached , according to data

AROUND THE WORLD

THE GUARDIAN
ON BLATANT NEPOTISM

Tory govt acts only for its own interests

WHETHER doling out lucrative contracts, helping billionaire property developers cut costs, or handing out lifetime seats in the House of Lords, the principle of the Tories seems to be cronyism, coupled with the arrogance of those who believe they are untouchable and that rules are for little people.

Developers have given £11m in donations to the Conservatives since Johnson arrived in Downing Street just one year ago.

The principle of the Tories seems to be cronyism

Take a look at the prime minister's list of nominations to the House of Lords. Besides his brother Jo, there are former advisers, donors, Brexiters, and longtime Johnson pal Evgeny Lebedev.

Why is the government behaving this way? An obvious explanation is the 80-seat majority it won in December. And that parliamentary defeat is distant.

Through their cronyism, their cavalier disregard for basic propriety, Johnson and his circle are draining trust at a time when it is essential to the public health. One day that will matter for the Conservatives' political fortunes. But it matters for the rest of us right now.

DAILY HUMOUR

“ The IRS are like the Mafia, they can take anything they want! ”

— Jerry Seinfeld

A 'MASKED' WEDDING

AFP



A newly married couple leaves a temple after seeking blessings during the lockdown triggered by Covid-19 in Kolkata on Saturday.

NEP may not be easy to implement



by
**Deepanshu
Mohan**

AS A columnist recently remarked, "One of the besetting sins of (Indian) policy making has always been an excess of ambition. Policy is rarely written for the constraints of implementation in Indian context." Amongst many other scholars and writers reviewing (and reflecting) on India's public-policy environment, I have, argued that our public policy ecosystem suffers from a chronic "implementation curse".

High on ambition

This ailment, for decades since independence, has been caused by interplaying factors: a shortage of allocated (public) resources; poor monitoring and analytical capacity to review processes of policy implementation; differential political motives at play across governance systems; delays in disbursement of announced outlays, and a 'bureaucratic overload'. The last term (bureaucratic overload) is a concept explained-with much empirical support- in a recent paper, co-authored by Aditya Dasgupta and Devesh Kapur.

Dasgupta and Kapur argue, in context of rural India, how, most government programmes fail on the ground due to poor implementation by bureaucrats. While most explanations for this emphasise on bureaucratic 'rent-seeking and capture' or an attitude of entitlement, what the authors bring forth is a causal explanation: bureaucratic overload, where, 'local bureaucrats are heavily under-resourced relative to their responsibilities'.

This executive 'overload' caused from a shortage, or a misallocation of public resources is empirically shown to have two key sub-features: a) 'officials with fewer resources are worse off in implementing rural development programs'; b) 'fewer resources are provided in administrative units where political responsibility for (executive) implementation is less clear'. As a result, what we

see is the culmination of weak state-capacity and a disastrous record on implementing what the state envisages.

In context of the National Education Policy (NEP), where much deliberation praise, and some critical scrutiny has emerged on the nuances of developing a more holistic, multi-layered content of learning through a localised-linguistic outreach, and make an over-arching attempt to overhaul India's broken education system, what's missing is this underlying reality on how ruptured our implementation-and executive-capacity is. It isn't as if there is just a behavioural crisis of a weak executive intent to not implement a policy (or law) but this surfaces from a decentralised fragmentation of State authority, poor accountability and an under-allocation of financial resources in doing what needs to be done. Apart from the bureaucrats, other stakeholders too (in context of NEP) need to work and operate under a better structured incentive-system that makes the implementation process a 'win-win' for both.

A closer look

For better implementation, the politics of 'ambition' in public policy must be aligned with a plan that ensures a progressive implementation roadmap to be present in the design of the given policy itself. More so in form of a map for the executive to follow and a feedback system to work under in ensuring adequate implementation. Else, any policy will be seen as 'ink on paper' (as Prof. Kaushik Basu puts it). What we see now is a 'political' exercise of blame-game across party-lines, between Union and state governments combined with a subjugation of agency for bureaucrats and the stakeholders involved.

In context to the new National Education Policy (NEP) too, yes, there is much to be content and happy about.

Adopting principles of multidisciplinary, flexible learning, 'easier' evaluation systems, and a more diverse linguistic exposure, are all welcome in India's diverse ethno-linguistic and socially fragmented national identity.

What remains to be seen is the government's effort in executing this. In the projected vision of regulatorily easing educational rules, or by setting up a new National Higher Education Body (replacing the UGC), one isn't sure if these steps may only be a tool to exert greater political control over universities. The National Research Fund too, for example, may turn into a tool for imposing ideological dispositions on educational institution across different levels.

Time to execute

The 6% GDP annual expenditure on (higher) education sounds more 'ambitious'. The vector of priority and political preference has been pointed at the reverse direction, say, towards a promotion of rampant privatisation and commercialisation of education; reducing funds to top public institutions, while posing concerns of unequal access to quality education for most of India's young citizenry, marred by a socio-economic divide. The policy needs more scrutiny and debate on its implications for the 'marginalised' groups.

While the excitement and praise on an 'ambitious' plan to overhaul India's education system may be understood, the underlying ability of the State to implement what it wishes and demonstrate effective executive capacity, requires greater scrutiny and engagement. It might be better to have an annual exercise of independent policy assessments, as part of periodic cycle of policy evaluations to understand context-specific ailments, afflicting the executive's policy implementation process at the ground-revel. Else, the realisation of an executive 'overload', amongst other reasons, may transpire as an inevitable outcome.

The writer is Associate Professor of Economics and Director, Centre for New Economics Studies, Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities, O.P. Jindal Global University. The views expressed are personal

“ I like work: it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours. ”

— Jerome K Jerome



SO FUNNY

I'm never on schedule, however I am always on time.



FORTUNE COOKIE

SOURISH BHATTACHARYYA
SOURISH BHATTACHARYYA

IT DOES not surprise me any longer when friends from the hospitality sector say they are on "leave without pay" or that they have been "furloughed". These words tell me more about the state of the industry than the dire statistics that the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) President, Anurag Katriar, keeps sharing with us.

His latest is that 40-50 per cent of the people working in restaurants, who are mostly in their 20s and early 30s, have lost their jobs. We don't see them because they have gone back to the small towns and villages that they came from. This is of course true not only about the hospitality sector. Across sectors, young Indians have been forced to turn their backs on what has been the most desired form of social mobility.

Restaurant owners meanwhile are fighting losing battles against landlords and quietly shutting shop; some are trying very hard to stay afloat by pushing home deliveries, gourmet and DIY sauces, but they have been struggling with numbers. It is becoming clearer with each passing day people have not yet gained the confidence to go to restaurants, or to order in from restaurants. No amount of publicity by restaurants highlighting their efforts to sanitise their operations and go 'contactless' (I still haven't figured out, though, how the business of eating out can go 'contactless!') has had the desired effect of driving footfalls back to their old levels. As a result, when I ask restaur-

Many young employees are now jobless

rant owners how much of their old business they've regained, their numbers vary from 20 per cent to 60 per cent (the latter, I believe, is an optimistic inflation of numbers actually being registered at the doors of restaurants).

The erratic return of lockdowns after they are lifted has not helped. Worse: At a time when people are being forced to accept pay cuts, if they are not losing jobs, discretionary spending has seen a precipitous drop, which, in turn, is getting translated into declining footfalls at malls and restaurants.

For the hospitality sector, this has been the longest downturn in living history. And the longest dry day, for because of some strange logic, restaurants and bars cannot serve alcohol, although liquor shops can sell. That is like reading out a death warrant of the restaurant business, because restaurants that are licensed to sell liquor, depend on booze for at least 30-40 per cent of their earnings. Liquor, being an effective social lubricant, also ensures restaur-



PANKAJ NANGIA
Restrictions and irrational fears coupled with the loss of discretionary income have interminably extended the recovery time of restaurants.

Is the party over for restaurants?

rant patrons stay longer and order more.

Why, then, are state governments stopping restaurants from serving liquor at the tables, which is now the accepted practice across the world? Like so many other whimsical acts, like Mumbai restaurants operating out of malls being allowed only to do home deliveries and takeaways, this one too defies logic. The State has yet again let down a sector of the economy that has given it truckloads of revenue, and us, as we watch helplessly, so many memorable moments of joy.

The writer is a noted food critic

THERE CANNOT be a more heartening story in these days of doom and gloom than that of an entrepreneurial 18-year-old, Siyaa Gupta, stepping into the world of cloud kitchens and launching her own line of home-made momos under the brand name of Boju's Kitchen.

What makes Siyaa's momos special is the touch of Darjeeling, which she inherited from her maternal grandmother — the Boju of Boju's Kitchen. Darjeeling momos stand apart because of their juicy fillings, which are not overwhelmed by chillies. The gentle sting comes from the accompanying sauce, the killer app — there's one made with tomatoes, red chillies and coriander, and then there's another, an understated peanut sauce that just inveigles your taste

RAISE AN OLD MONK TO DARJEELING MOMOS



Siyaa Gupta with her Boju (grandma); momos from Boju's Kitchen.

buds to ask, like Oliver Twist, for more.

These home-made momos, which come steamed or both steamed and lightly fried (thekothi, which stand out for their juicy innards), and with vegetables or paneer as

fillings, can liven up any conversation over tea or alcohol (my favourite liquid nourishment being rum grog made with Old Monk, honey and warm water). Siyaa's Boju (grandma) deserves our gratitude.

THE SHAPE OF THE RECOVERY CURVE

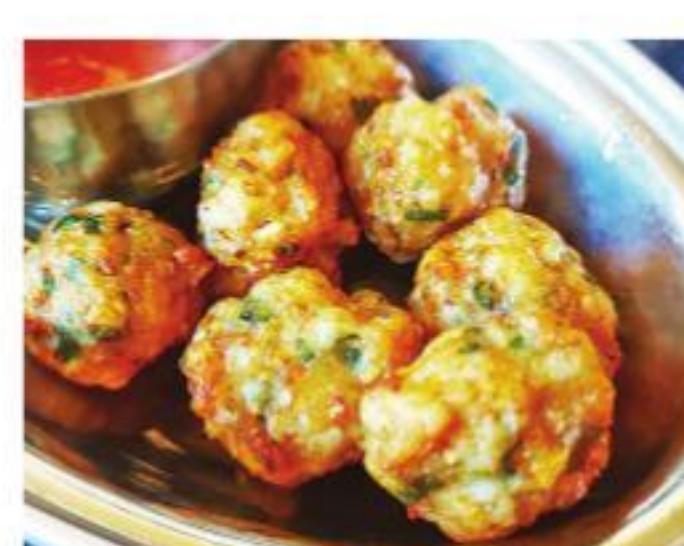
WHENEVER I see images of re-opened restaurants in America and Europe, and of crowds jostling in them, I am reminded about 'revenge shopping' (or bingeing in the case of restaurants) that experts had predicted would sweep the world after it unlocks-down. The theory was based on the fact that human beings are social animals who desperately seek out human company whenever they get the opportunity to do so.

It's yet to happen — at least in India. Ana-

lysts predict that contrary to the V-shaped growth curve being experienced by the food processing industry, the restaurant sector, which was on an all-time high till Covid-19 laid it low, is headed for a U-shaped curve, or an extended downturn, which is expected to continue till December, followed by a slow return to normality by March next year. That means a year of regular business, including six to nine peak months, lost. Can restaurants ever recover from this body blow?

The restaurant sector is headed for a U-shaped curve

Tangra brings Indo-Chinese cuisine



Fried shrimp balls have been the big hit of the Tangra menu.

AFTER THE tanneries were moved out of Tangra, Kolkata's old 'Chinatown', 20 years ago, the urban sprawl became the custodian of the hybrid Indo-Chinese cuisine. The brand ambassador of this inventive culinary style, which is as generous with tomato ketchup and cornflour as it is with Pou Chong's green chilli sauce, is the flamboyant Nelson Wang. The name Tangra acquired an international cachet when Peter Lo opened the Tangra Masala at the Queens in New York City in 2001.

For many Delhizens umbilically linked with Kolkata, the

city's distinctive Chinese cuisine has existed more in our collective nostalgia than as a legitimate genre of the global Chinese cuisine. But now we can reclaim it with Tangra: The Chinese Kitchen of Kolkata, a home delivery service started by Sharmishtha Mukherjee Cheema, who's one of the four co-promoters of the hugely successful Tenali: The Andhra Kitchen. Tangra's menu would gladden the hearts of lovers of Indo-Chinese food: Hot and Sour Soup, Spring Rolls, Hakka Noodles, Drumsticks of Heaven, Fried Shrimp Balls and Chicken Manchurian.



Bira 91's passionfruit-flavoured India Pale Ale

The best antidote to a nasty summer

DURING THE lockdown, when the booze shops had not yet re-opened, Bira 91 raised \$20 million from two investors — Sequoia Capital and Belgium's Sofina. It was a measure of the success that the beer brand created by Ankur Jain ratcheted up.

It can pair well with Indian cuisine

I had the Bira 91's India Pale Ale, flavoured with the acidic pomelo from Churachandpur, Manipur. The pairing with the grilled chicken legs and a sourdough-based flatbread topped with turkey ham from Tres, Lodi Colony Market, had also been intelligently made. Who said an India Pale Ale could only pair with a vindaloo or such vile Indo-Brit curries?

INSIDE STORY

IMAGES FOR REPRESENTATION



In the show, when nothing else seems to work for her clients, Sima Taparia taps into the services of astrologers and facereaders.



*The show **Indian Matchmaking** has evoked extreme reactions from the audience. Mail Today looks at how contemporary society perceives the convention of arranged marriages*

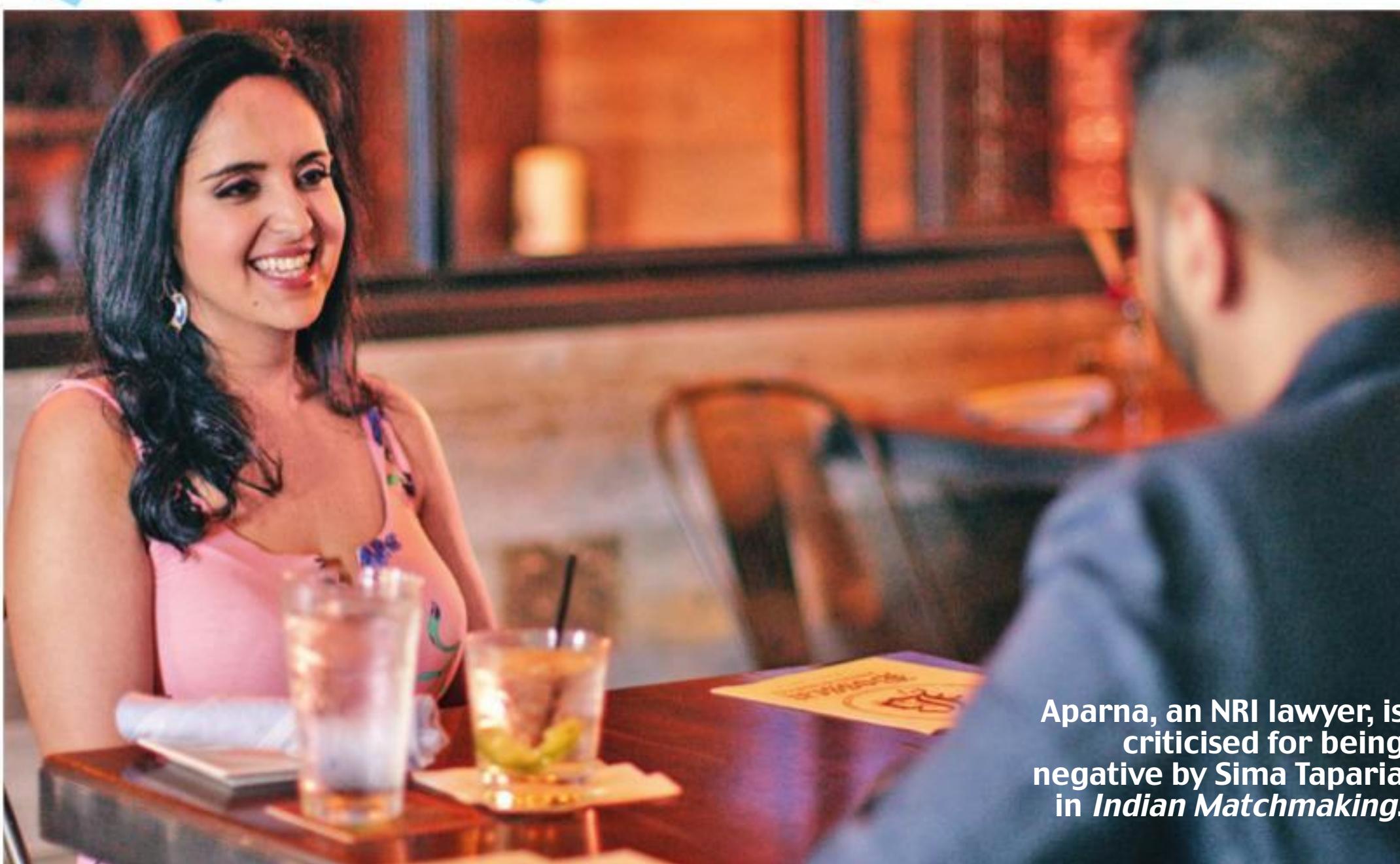


Suitable Girl

By Saimi Sattar

FOR as long as she remembers, most waking hours of her life had revolved around the sport she pursued. School and college were juggled alongside her training and matches leaving her with no time to be in a relationship. "I always knew that arranged marriage was the route I would ultimately take. And I did, last year. We met a few times, liked each other and decided to go in for it. It was not dramatic. Neither was it a last resort as some people would believe. I always knew this is what I will do," says a 30-something sportsperson based in Delhi. And since her marriage last year, things have worked out more or less rather "even better" than she had envisaged.

Apart from the aforementioned athlete, there are others who swear by the workability of an arranged marriage. "I trusted my parents' choice as I knew they would do better for me as compared to what I would do for myself. I was always clear even as a child that I would marry according to my parents' wishes. When my yet-to-be husband and



Aparna, an NRI lawyer, is criticised for being negative by Sima Taparia in *Indian Matchmaking*.

his family came home, I was in Kolkata and my mother told me that he was good-looking and came from a good family that was modern in outlook. I've been plus size, which is considered a negative in the marriage market. I was clear I won't change myself for anyone but they agreed," says Sakshi Raj Kakkar, mother to a young daughter.

The institution of marriage, when approached via the arranged route, has been at the receiving end of a lot of criticism since the day *Indian Matchmaking*, a web series, released on a popular OTT platform. Its gender bias, playing on stereotypes and reinforcing the need for

"adjustment and compromise" as emphasised by the matchmaker "Sima Taparia from Mumbai" in the show have come in for criticism. It has inspired memes, long posts and the height of popularity, even a widely-used Instagram filter.

Prof. Swargajyoti Gohain, Head of the Department, Sociology / Anthropology, Ashoka University decided to watch the show when some of her feminist friends put up a post praising it. "I was intrigued as when you see the title, *Indian Matchmaking*, you think that it would not be progressive and would engage in stereotypes," she says. After watching the show, besides the

larger debate of it representing or not representing Indian society, she wondered about the cash transactions that would have taken place. "It is a reality show at the end of the day. It is scripted and money has changed hands. Even when there is a true story, it is a commercial representation. Additionally, behind the screen money transactions in the form of dowry are not spoken about," she adds.

It was obvious that the show touched a raw nerve of an underbelly that exists beneath our so-called progressive attitudes. Twitter conversations and threads on how toxic the system

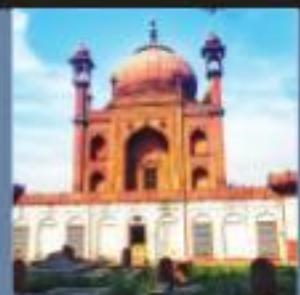
was were ignited. There were discussions about how, not too long back, most matrimonial advertisements talked about a "Fair, tall, slim, convent-educated and cultured girl". Tania Malhotra Sondhi, who runs MatchMe, an exclusive matrimonial agency in Delhi along with Mishi Mehta Sood, weighs in, "The show is not unrealistic. India is a country with so many diverse cultures, customs and traditions. That is something no one can deny because that is how our country is. There are a lot of people who could relate to the show and others who couldn't." However, she points out that her clientele is primarily progressive and do not give primacy to being from the same community and are more keen on compatibility.

Professor Pamela Singla, Head of the Department of Social Work at University of Delhi agrees that among a certain class the change is visible. She says, that over the 30 years that she has been teaching, she has seen the changes that urbanisation and an emphasis on girls' education by both, parents and the government, have brought about. "Women are moving out of their homes and working. As a result, there is a rise in the age at which girls now get married. From 24-25, it is now 28-30 and more. By that time educated women are more independent thinking even if they go in for an arranged marriage, so there is no coercion. So somewhere, this concept has undergone a change. The couple meet each other and things don't move ahead till they give their consent even though family continues to be an integral part of the sys-



Found in translation

Pages 14-15



A study in heritage

Page 17



Tania Malhotra Sondhi (left) and Mishi Mehta Sood (right) are the brains behind the matrimonial agency MatchMe.

tem."

Sondhi, who has been running the outfit for five years says, "The people who come to us are taking the decision for themselves. They are under no pressure to get married and would only do so if they find the right person. The emphasis is not on physical attributes. Education is what most people look at first."

What has also riled a lot many people about the show is the way it treats the men and women differently. If a woman does not like a man considered "eligible" by Sima Aunty, she is labelled "stubborn" but a man doing that gets away with a more indulgent "unsure" tag. Sondhi does concede that, even in a class which does not deny women opportunities and education, there is certainly a bias. "The difference does exist in the corporate sector or the film world when we talk of pay parity between the sexes. Similarly, when a woman, who has a child from a previous marriage, wants to resettle she will find it tough as compared to a man. Though, given our clientele, this gap reduces. We have a lot of clients in their 40s who are liberal

minded and are ready to accept a woman with a child," she says.

Gohain makes another pertinent point about the show which highlights how it differentiates between the men and the women. "When we see two men looking for brides on Indian Matchmaking, we do hear what they want but the women that they meet are not shown as having any preference or don't voice

The gender bias on the show has received criticism

it. We do not know what is going on in their mind. On the other hand, this agency of choice can be seen in the case of Indian-American women who were born or brought up abroad but not for Indian women," she says and goes on to add that the show cannot claim to represent a country as diverse as India.

Singla also points out that though she has not seen the show but has heard about the

content which seems to be pandering to stereotypes that exist in western minds about India. "Women being forced into marriage, not having a say in choice of partners or for that matter not meeting him before marriage pander to the impression of Indian exotica. It is no longer true," she says.

Of course, when dealing with a certain class of people — rich, business class,HNIs — there is one more thing which, though not stated, is an underlying subtext. "The family inheritance goes to the man while the sister is married off and is no longer a part of the family. The boy, who is a jeweller, is the heir while the sister watches from the sidelines," says Gohain.

She observes that the matchmaker, Sima Taparia comes from a certain background which accounts for her attitude. "Sima admits that she was married off at a young age. It's also a generational thing and people of a certain age have the perception that women have to compromise. It isn't the perspective of the show but of Sima. The good thing is that the women on the show don't buy it."

And neither are we.

Feel Good Factor

When Covid leads to aggression



Raashi Anand, founder and CEO of Lakshyam, an NGO

A Delhi-based non-profit is helping victims of domestic violence during the lockdown

By **Aasheesh Sharma**
in New Delhi

ONE not-so-discernible outcome of the worldwide pandemic and the ensuing lockdown has been the rise in incidents of domestic violence against women. When the mother is vulnerable to aggression, it affects the entire ecosystem around her. This tragic truth inspired social entrepreneur Raashi Anand to put her energies behind tackling this through her NGO.

Even as her organisation works to empower street children and their mothers, the founder and CEO of Lakshyam says working with victims of domestic violence happened organically. "Once the lockdown was announced, we knew we had to arrange food for our communities because most of them are employed in polishing shoes, selling toys on traffic signals, working on construction sites or as ragpickers. Beginning with the objective of organising food, within a few days, we started getting calls

Anand works with families of street children

Q&A

What are the areas in which Lakshyam works and where are the beneficiaries located?

Lakshyam works in the areas of child development and women's empowerment. We started in Delhi almost a decade ago, but now we have spread our wings to 17 states through our partners and various programmes. Our focus area remains children and women, but with the kind of intervention we do, the overall community also gets benefited.

How do you keep the NGO financially viable?

For an NGO, the initial three years are about creating a mark by working hard so that people trust you as a genuine NGO before they give you any money. So I began doing fundraising events to raise funds. Even today, it continues to be one of the most important sources of funds followed by individuals who believe in us and become permanent donors. But the Covid-19 lockdown has changed the scene altogether. Most corporations are closing projects, individuals want to save money and we can't do events. So, we are launching social enterprises to sustain ourselves.

Over the years, a number of celebrities have put their weight behind the philanthropic causes pursued by Lakshyam. "We have been blessed as a lot of celebrities have supported and appreciated our work. I knew none of them personally nor had any contact with those who could help me reach them. But it has added a lot of value to us, because if someone sees that Salman Khan and Boman Irani are associated with us the trust factor comes in," adds Anand.

WORLDLY WISE

Hong Kong reported 69 new coronavirus cases on Saturday, of which 67 were locally transmitted, as authorities continued efforts to contain a resurgence of infections in the global financial hub.

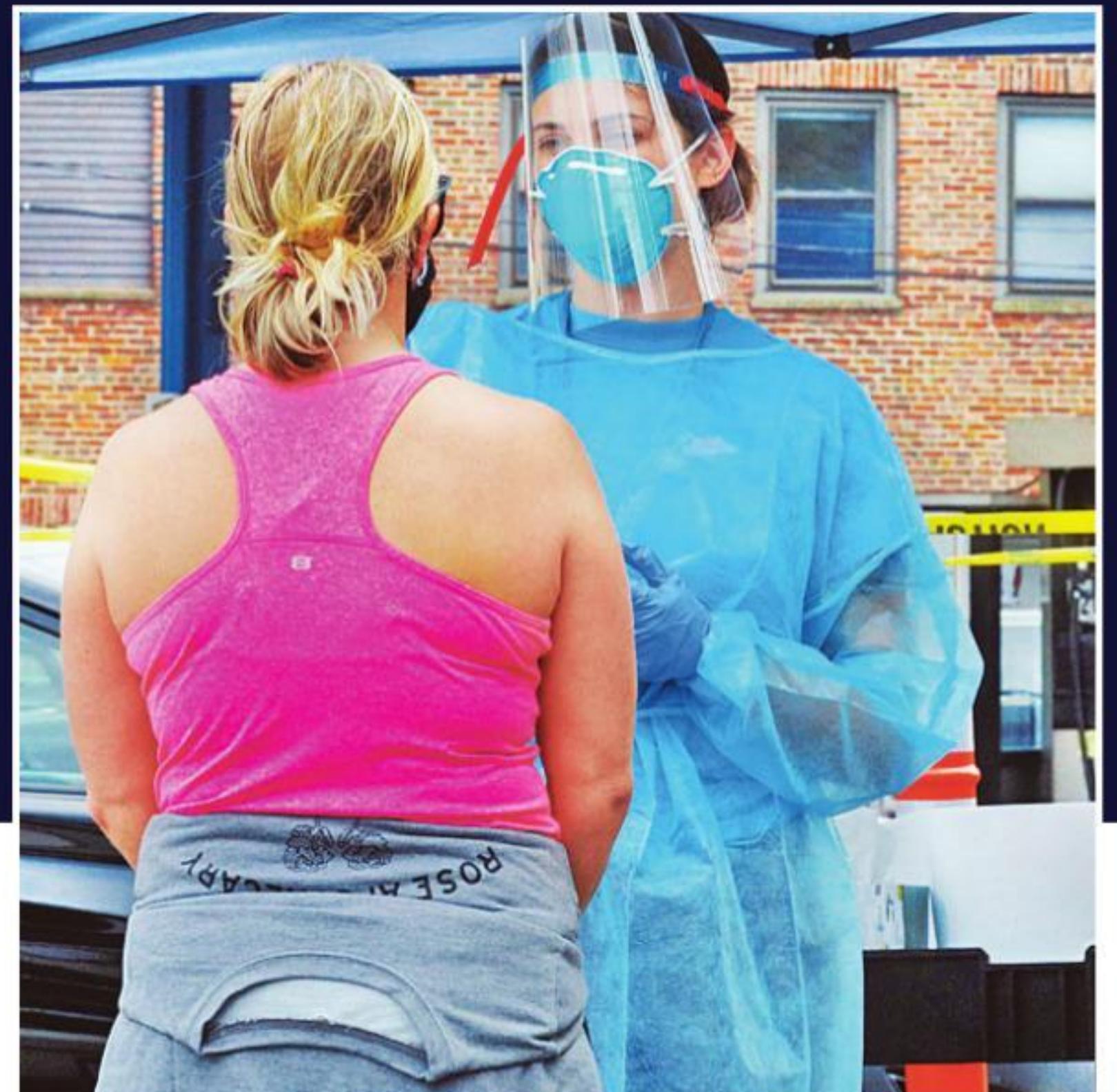


If you look at our infection rate we are probably in the best situation in the country right now... ,

— ANDREW CUOMO, New York Governor

US split over schools, tests & biz closure

Trump vows he will unilaterally grant financial relief as talks fail



MORE than 160,000 people have died from COVID-19 in the United States, a Reuters tally showed on Friday, as President Donald Trump said he would unilaterally grant financial relief to Americans after talks with congressional Democrats stalled.

The grim milestone, which includes 10,000 deaths nationwide in the past nine days, comes as Americans and their political leaders remain divided over such issues as reopening schools, testing, and business closures. "Elected leaders need to begin to address this crisis as a public health rather than a political issue," said Dr. Melanie Thompson, an internist in Atlanta.

"Federal and state governments should subsidize access to serial rapid testing for schools and all senior living facilities. Congress needs to provide a financial safety net for the most vulnerable, including our essential workers," Thompson said.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Trump said he would issue an executive order suspending payroll taxes for all Americans through the end of this year and extending supplemental unemployment benefits if the White House could not reach a deal on a relief package with top Democrats in Congress.

Trump, speaking at a news conference at his golf property in Bedminster, New Jersey,



(TOP) A medical worker administers a test for Covid-19 in Massachusetts. (Above) Medical workers in Massachusetts.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

made the vow after negotiations between the two sides broke down on Friday. Democrats said they agreed to reduce their \$3.4 trillion proposal but Republicans would not agree to more than double their \$1 trillion counter-offer.

COVID-19 infections are rising in 20 U.S. states, according to a Reuters analysis, as the center of the outbreak shifts from sunbelt states such as California, Florida and Texas to the Midwest.

FRESH WAVE

Roughly 100,000 people were expected to descend on Sturgis, South Dakota, this weekend for an annual 10-day motorcycle rally, prompting concerns that the popular event could touch off a fresh wave of the illness. City officials in Anchorage, Alaska, on Friday won a court ruling in favor of a ban on indoor restaurant dining after suing an eatery that defied an emergency order prohibiting the practice.

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker partially rolled back plans to reopen the state's economy, reducing the maximum number allowed at outdoor gatherings from 100 to 50.

School reopenings remained a divisive issue nationwide. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said on Friday that some 700 districts in the state could reopen classrooms, but urged them to consult with teachers, students and parents.

"If you look at our infection rate we are probably in the best situation in the country right now," Cuomo told reporters. "If anybody can open schools, we can open schools." In New York City, where 1.1 million attend the country's largest network of public schools, Mayor Bill de Blasio has said student attendance will be limited to between one and three days each week. —Reuters

19mn

Number of people infected by the coronavirus worldwide so far

W.H.O REFORMS CHALLENGED

GERMANY and France have challenged Washington's role in leading talks over reforming the WHO, citing the US decision to quit the global body. Germany's Health Ministry said the issue was discussed during a call of health ministers from the G-7 leading economies Thursday.

"In view of the US' withdrawal from WHO, Germany and France currently see no mandate for the US to lead the WHO reform process for the G-7. How can you be leading while you are leaving?" the ministry added.

—PTI

Mystery cases worry Australia despite hope for 'stabilisation'

AUSTRALIA'S second-most populous state, Victoria, recorded 466 cases of the new coronavirus on Saturday and 12 COVID-19 deaths, though authorities expressed hope for a stabilisation in new infections thanks to strict mobility restrictions. Victoria is at the centre of a second wave of infections in Australia, accounting for more than two-thirds of the national

Melbourne went under lockdown on Thursday

tally of nearly 21,000. The southeastern state, of which Melbourne is the capital, has recorded 181 deaths, almost 70% of the Australia's fatalities from the pandemic. Victoria state Premier Daniel Andrews expressed concern over 2,584 "mystery cases," including 130

An essential worker, wearing a face mask, walks past a 'Heroes Wear Masks' sign in Melbourne.



on Saturday, with unknown sources of infection.

Victoria's Chief Medical Officer Brett Sutton welcomed a "stabilisation" in coronavirus cases, saying the state had averted an exponential increase in infec-

tions due to its strict lockdowns.

Melbourne, the country's second-biggest city, went under a strict lockdown on Thursday, shuttering shops and business and requiring its inhabitants to stay home. —Reuters

NZ PM Ardern launches 'Covid-19 poll' campaign

THE charismatic 40-year-old leader is on track for a comfortable victory in the Sept. 19 election, according to opinion polls, having won global praise for her leadership during the coronavirus pandemic.

It has been 99 days since New Zealand had any domestic transmission of COVID-19, a rare achievement as the pandemic rages globally, and it has re-opened the economy after undergoing a complete shutdown to eradicate the coronavirus. "When people ask, is this a COVID election, my answer is yes, it is," Ardern told her supporters gathered in Auckland for the launch of her Labour Party's re-election campaign.

In her first campaign speech, Ardern pledged a \$205.32 million scheme aimed at getting



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.

40,000 Kiwis back in work, if her party wins the polls.

New Zealand PM Ardern on Saturday launched her re-election campaign promising a "laser-like" focus on boosting jobs and economic growth hit by the pandemic. —Reuters

Pakistan's move comes exactly a year after India scrapped Art 370

By Col Vinayak Bhat in New Delhi

PAKISTAN'S new map showing parts of India in its territory has already been described as a 'political absurdity' by New Delhi but it seems there is something that Pakistan is hiding.

The Survey of Pakistan site was inaccessible to Indian IP addresses to find the authenticity of the maps unveiled by Imran Khan and published by mainstream media in Pakistan.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan unveiled a Political Map on 04 Aug 2020.



Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan unveiled the new political map on Tuesday.

WHY PAK NEW MAP IS A SHAM

Here is why Pakistan's claims are nowhere near reality.

India holds 267 thousand hectares of Siachen Glacier and areas around it with there being absolutely no possession with Pakistan.

The 'Line of Control' (LOC) marked on the new map should logically indicate areas controlled by Pakistan.

Instead the LOC on Pakistan's new map runs North East from the NJ-9842 upto Karakoram Pass.

The areas beyond NJ-9842 — the Northern most demarcated point of LOC — North West from this point up to Indira Col at a height of 18,911 feet, India's northern most point are held by India physically.

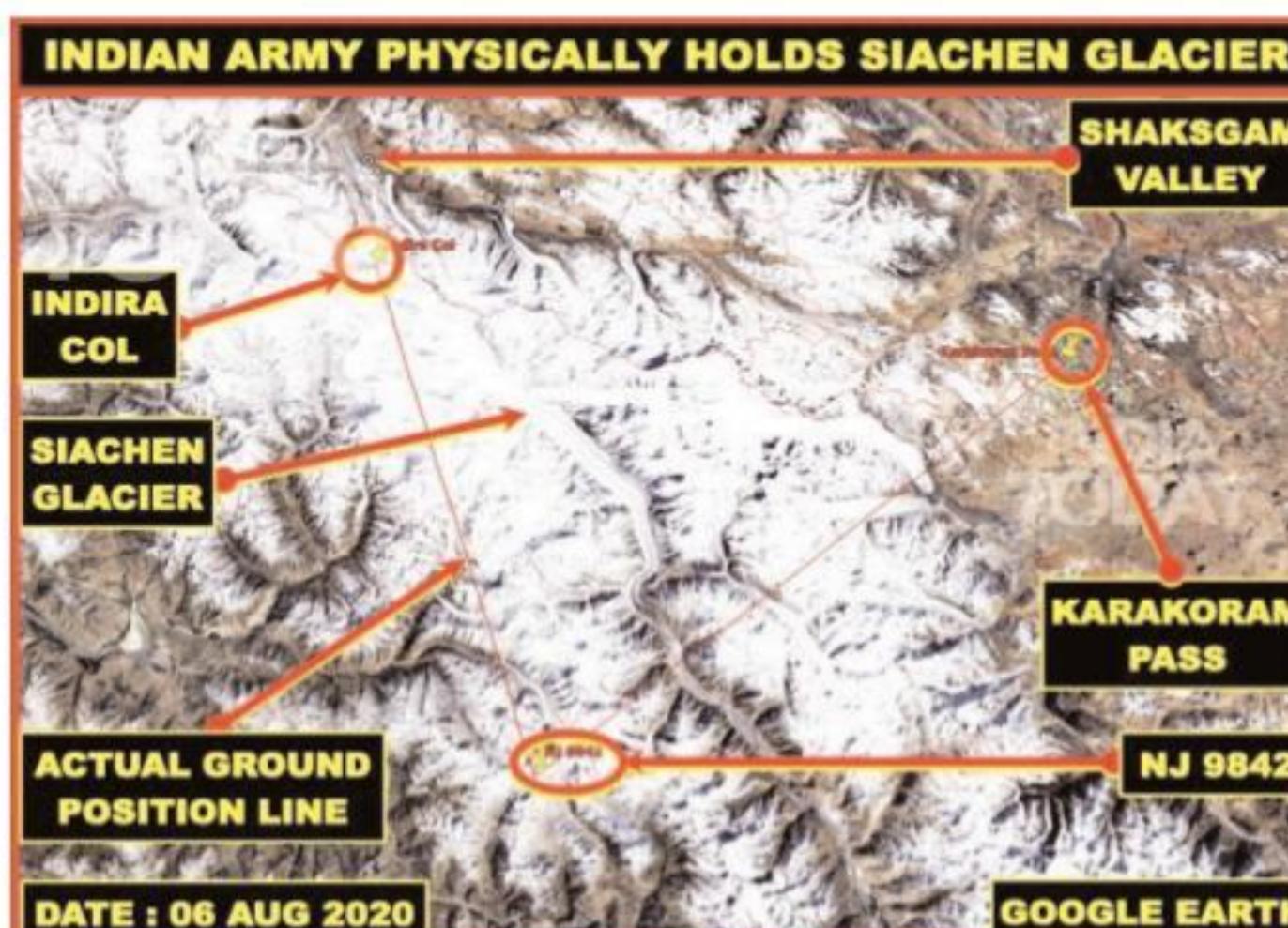
Mapping site blocked for Indian IP addresses

India took control of the Siachen Glacier in 1984 in what is called Operation Meghdoot carried out by the Indian Army.

Obviously, Pakistan's claim to controlling this area are imaginary.

Pakistan's move comes exactly a year after India scrapped Article 370 from the Indian Constitution that gave special rights to Jammu and Kashmir.

The timing of Pakistan's new political map is more interesting as it comes amid the three



month long ongoing standoff between India and China in Eastern Ladakh.

The areas beyond Karakoram Pass are also claimed by Pakistan in its new map.

Until now Pakistan had never claimed the areas of Ladakh because of its demographic dispensation. The locals follow Buddhism and not Islam and hence the aversion.

However, now Pakistan's political map indicates that it has claimed areas of Ladakh upto Finger 8 in Pangong Tso area.

Beyond the Finger 8 area of Pangong Tso the new map men-

tions "Frontier Undefined" with a caveat printed that "Final status to be decided in line with relevant UNSC resolutions".

Pakistan's government's claim on Ladakh seems to be part of a tacit agreement with China as there has been no objection raised by Beijing.

The new Pakistan map has a special square superimposed which supposedly shows the princely states of Junagarh and Manavadar as part of Pakistan.

The areas of Diu and Mendarda have been thankfully excluded from being part of Pakistan.

CHART OF ABSURDITY

Pakistan's new map showing parts of India in its territory has already been described as 'political absurdity' by New Delhi.

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India holds 267 thousand hectares of Siachen Glacier and areas around it that Pakistan seems to claim in its new map.

India took control of the Siachen Glacier in 1984 in 'Operation Meghdoot'.

The new Pakistan map has a special square superimposed which supposedly shows the princely states of Junagarh and Manavadar as part of Pakistan.

'China, Iran will try to meddle in US polls'

THE top U.S. counterintelligence official on Friday warned that Russia, China and Iran will all try to interfere in the 2020 presidential election, with Russia already trying to undercut Democratic candidate Joe Biden.

In an unusual public statement, William Evanina, director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, said the three countries were using online disinformation and other means to try to influence voters, stir up disorder and undermine American voters' confidence in the democratic process.

President Donald Trump, asked at a news conference in New Jersey how he would respond to interference in the Nov. 3 vote, said: "We're going to watch all of them, we have to be very careful."

He added that he believed Russia, China and Iran all



US President Donald Trump

wanted him to lose the election.

Foreign adversaries also may try to interfere with U.S. election systems by trying to sabotage the voting process, stealing election data, or calling into question the validity of election results.

"It would be difficult for our adversaries to interfere with or manipulate voting results at scale," Evanina said.

Trump repeated his refrain that the biggest risk to the integrity of the election was mail-in ballots.

"It's much easier for them to forge ballots and send them in, it's much easier for them to cheat with universal mail-in ballots," he said, referring to foreign countries.

Trump has been attacking the idea of voting by mail ever since a resurgence in coronavirus infections made it less likely that people will want to vote in person in November, saying despite research to the contrary that mail-in voting is vulnerable to fraud.

—Reuters

Furious Lebanese count their losses from blast



Lebanese Red Cross members walk amongst the rubble at the site of Tuesday's blast in Beirut, on Saturday.

AS Beirut mourns its dead and grapples with the scale of rebuilding after this week's massive blast, some Lebanese angered by their government's response called on foreign states to topple their leaders and run the country.

Activists planned to demonstrate in the city on Saturday to criticise the government's handling of the biggest explosion in Beirut's history. The blast in the port killed 154 people, injured 5,000 and destroyed a swathe of the city.

The government has promised to hold those responsible to account.

Some residents, struggling to clean up shattered homes, complain the government they see as corrupt — there had been months of protests against its handling of a deep economic crisis before this week's disaster — has let them down again.

"We have no trust in our government," said university student Celine Dibo as she scrubbed blood off the walls of her shattered apartment building. "I wish the United Nations would take over Lebanon."

Several people said they were not at all surprised that French President Emmanuel Macron

There is anger at the govt's handling of crisis

had visited their gutted neighbourhoods near the epicentre of the blast this week while Lebanese leaders had not.

"We are living in ground zero. I hope another country would just take us over. Our leaders are a bunch of corrupt people," said psychologist Maryse Hayek, 48, whose parents' house was

destroyed in the explosion. Priests chanted as they carried a coffin through the street to the church where she was sitting alone praying.

Macron, who visited Beirut on Thursday, promised angry crowds that aid to rebuild the city would not fall into "corrupt hands". He will host a donor conference for Lebanon via video-link on Sunday, his office said.

The demonstration in Beirut was planned for Saturday afternoon.

"The people are doing your work, shame," someone wrote on the dust covering a car window, referring to Lebanese leaders.

The prime minister and presidency have said 2,750 tonnes of highly explosive ammonium nitrate, which is used in making fertilisers and bombs, had been stored for six years without safety measures at the port warehouse.

—Reuters

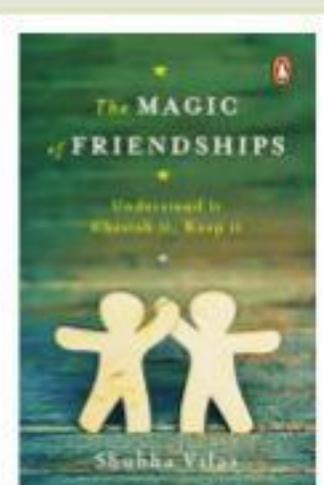
BOOKS & MUSIC



QUEST FOR RESTORING FINANCIAL STABILITY IN INDIA

VIRAL ACHARYA,
SAGE PUBLICATIONS;
₹509

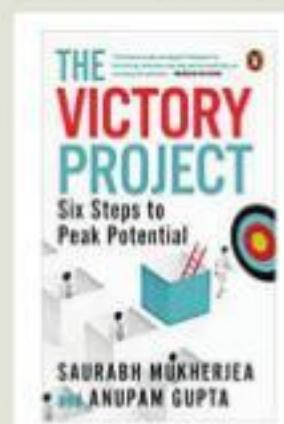
A book which has a concrete plan for sustained improvement, offered by the former Deputy Governor of RBI.



THE MAGIC OF FRIENDSHIPS

SHUBHA VILAS,
PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE;
₹159

A close look missing in our friendships and scenarios that prevent people from maintaining friendships in the days and times of social media.



THE VICTORY PROJECT: SIX STEPS TO PEAK POTENTIAL

SAURABH MUKHERJEA AND ANUPAM GUPTA,
PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE;
₹313

This book raises questions on India's struggling economy and the stressful and competitive work environment and attempts to answer them, and has strategies on how to achieve potential.

Author Perumal Murugan on the growing stature of regional languages and the consequences of urbanisation



Award-winning Tamil writer, poet and scholar Perumal Murugan

By Antara Raghavan

MOST three decades after it was first published, Perumal Murugan's enormously successful first novel *Rising Heat*, has been translated in English from Tamil. The story revolves around a young boy in Tamil Nadu who witnesses his family's ancestral lands taken away for housing development,

FOUND IN TRANSLATION

and how they struggle afterwards. The renowned author explains the novel's themes in an interview with MAIL TODAY.

What had led you to write this book in 1991?

I had written bits about my life before. My friends told me to write my experiences of farming and the environment in a novel. I remember vividly how our ancestral lands were taken away when I was 10. We had to sell all our cattle and livestock and our huts were bulldozed. I remember how my grandfather cried that day.

Q&A

Your book shows the devastating effects of urbanisation in the name of development, and those of political exploitation on individuals. Could you comment on this?

The concern for the welfare of people is absent, as is any thought of supporting them. The thing about urbanisation is that it is not entirely bad in its concept, but there must be some active con-

cern for people in its way, and those in charge must think of what can be done to help them in their distress. There is no systematic plan to give aid to these people in these circumstances.

Could you comment on how urbanisation impacts the character of Akka, the protagonist's sister?

Akka had decided to work in construction after the family had to leave their land. It was in construction that she met a boy of a different caste, and tried to run away with him. The family brought her back and she was completely defeated. It wasn't an

honour killing, but they did everything else to break her spirit. Urbanisation brings people out of bonded labour, and people from different sects together. Still people are unable to accept this, and they can't let go of the caste system. You think growth is happening due to urbanisation, but the caste system still exists.

The family is broken by the events throughout the novel, yet the protagonist manages to escape this. Could you explain this?

The narrator is a young boy who observes everything around him. His choices are to remain

NO ONE SHOULD ASSUME THAT



The protagonist in Tazmeen Amna's new book is fighting depression

IN HER blistering new debut, *Goner*, Tazmeen Amna draws an uncompromising picture of depression, which forces the reader to ask themselves difficult questions. She does this by taking the reader into the mind of a protagonist who is angry and depressed. Her unflinching honesty will make most readers root for her, and many more relate to her. Amna speaks on the themes of the book to MAIL TODAY.

What led you to write this book?

The lack of visibility of 'imperfect' protagonists, and the lack of attention to mental health in India led me to write it. Life is a pretence of being stress-free, and non-depressed nowadays. Social Media has pushed us all to partake in the illusion of having a perfect life,

By Antara Raghavan

as opposed to embracing the flaws and loopholes in our lives. I wanted to shatter that image. I wanted to break out of that shell of not having a care in the world. I wanted depression to be front and centre, and I wanted others to know what it felt like.

Is this book in any way autobiographical?

The book does have some autobiographical elements in terms of mental health issues, especially, and the indomitable 'stream of consciousness' of the protagonist-the struggle to silence the human mind, etc.

Could you explain the significance of the title?

People often use terms such as 'gone-easy' 'hysterical' 'insane' etc to describe women-mostly women who are opinionated. The title is a sarcastic rebuke to social judgement and name-calling. What would public conjecture be on a woman who is angsty, angry, given to substance abuse, and suffering from mental illness? Hence, the title 'Goner'.

You mention in the book, "it's rare to be happy. As in happiness in general as a condition or a 'state of mind'. Doesn't it ever bother you that depression as a disease is comm-

on, and happiness as a condition is not?" Could you comment on this?

True happiness—genuine, heartfelt, happiness—is rare. Happiness as a 'state of mind' is different from the temporary soaring feeling you get when you get a new job enter a new relationship. Happiness shouldn't be just a rush, it should linger. It doesn't hit you at the next turn, it settles in slowly as you make peace with your experiences. And depression, for that matter is today's most common ailment. India has been found to be the most depressed country in the world.

Due to the pandemic, and the lockdown, there is a great deal of discussion on the importance of mental health, and on depression.



BOOKS & MUSIC



The struggle in farmlands of Tamil Nadu is one of the main themes in the novel, *Rising Heat*

with the land and to stay in the field of agriculture, so his choices are aligned with those of his father and grandfather. He sees his mother beaten up by his father, and his grandmother becoming resigned. Urbanisation gave him an opportunity to escape into his studies, so he could then align with academics.

In the book you mention the protests that were taking place over having Hindi as the national language. Could you comment on this in today's context?

In my opinion, there are so many languages in India, and they all deserve equal attention. In other countries, the mother tongue is part of one's identity, while learning other languages is a choice. It should be the same scenario in India.

What do you think about the status of Indian translations these days?

I think people are much more aware about the need for translations. There are many more books in translated languages as well as more facilities for translation. There is a knowledge that there is no



RISING HEAT
BY PERUMAL MURUGAN,
TRANSLATED BY
JANANI KANNAN,
PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE;
₹399

need to impose a specific language on people. There is also much more exposure than ever before for translations.

Before 2000, the National Book Trust and the Sahitya Akademi were the only major organisations to push for the effort for more translations. Now there are so many more large publishers involved in this, and so there is more of a demand for writers who write in other languages.

Your new book, *Estuary*, has also been released in English. It is your first novel that is in an urban setting, rather than a rural setting. Can you share why that is?

After the controversy in 2010 when my book *One Part Woman* was published, I decided to write a book set in a middle class family living in a village. The consequences of the publication of *One Part Woman* was a lesson to me. I didn't want to touch upon caste. I wanted to get away from the subject, so I set the book in a more urban background.

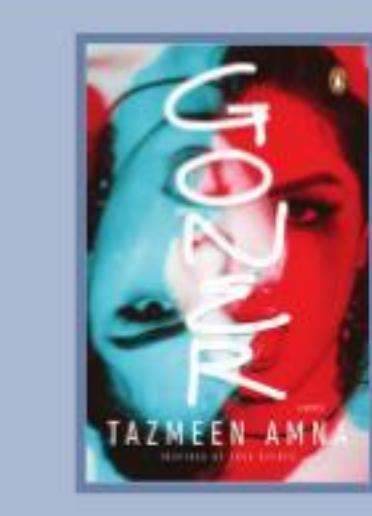
It is nearly 30 years since *Rising Heat* was published. It has been translated and published in English just now. What do you think about this?

I am very happy that it has been translated. It was my first novel, and when it first came out, the hugely positive reviews, and its response gave me my identity as a writer. People are still reading and publishing this book. It has been published in 10 editions. It shows that the themes of urbanisation and displacement are still relevant, and I am happy it is well-received in English.

YOU ARE A 'GONER'

Could you comment on this?
Well the pandemic has certainly revealed several truths we weren't willing to face. Like how hard it is to stay home with your thoughts. We need distractions to get by our own lives. So I believe it has brought forth various issues that were dormant so far: relationships have crumbled, and people have cracked under the pressures of loneliness. Not just that, the state of the economy, salary cuts, and losing jobs has also triggered mass anxiety. I hope that if anyone is having any kind of trouble, they would actively seek help, and I implore everyone to be kind: this is the one time that the world needs kindness. We should all go easy on ourselves, too.

There has been even more discussion around it in the



GONER
TAZMEEN AMNA,
PENGUIN RANDOM
HOUSE, ₹299

wake of Sushant Singh Rajput's suicide. Could you please comment on this?

This is a positive step in the right direction — more celebrities or people who are in the

position to influence others must come out and share their stories of struggling with mental health. The more we talk about it, the more we de-stigmatise it. It's time to own up to and have compassion for mental health issues. Sushant Singh Rajput's suicide has shown us that it is important to speak out, to get help, and to address one's mental health before it gets worse.

It is more important than ever to reach out in times of mental duress. While we all talk about Mental Health, it is also important to increase our sensitivity towards others and check in on our loved ones from time to time. You never know who is going through what: so let's always remember to be kind and to not trigger anyone. We all need to do better.



A musical journal, for a cause



Ronojoy Sircar's *Waiting Time* released on June 19.

By Simi Kuriakose

listened to Tool and Ray Charles, says, "The influences, I think, change from moment to moment. So it is difficult to pin it down." And is there a theme to *Waiting Time*? He laughs, adding, "There is no underlying theme. It could just be living."

Sircar's EP includes three songs titled *Waiting Time*, *Going*, and *Creases*. The first is about identifying the peculiar sense of a time of waiting while the second explores the transitory nature of the character's movement between Mumbai and Delhi. *Creases*, Sircar explains, explores the relationship of R#onbus to the "Bombay rains". Each track is interspersed with real-time recordings of everyday sounds. Sircar says, "There's the chant of *azaan* I heard on my first day in Mumbai, my mother screaming 'Welcome Back' when I landed at the Delhi airport, sound of trolleys, turning pages of a book, and more."

Waiting Time is also for a cause; the EP's price equals that of a single child's uniform at old Faridabad's Tender Hearts School, which supports children from impoverished villages around Bhatola.

Sircar's theatrical identity is named R#onbus

SONG OF THE WEEK

**SONG: EXIST
ARTISTE: PHOEBE RYAN**

POP SINGER and songwriter's new song *Exist* is one of the highlights of her latest album *How It Used to Feel*. Keeping in line with the nostalgic tone of the album, *Exist* is about past happy memories and renewed relationship. This is evident in the lines of the chorus, "I won't ask you where you've been/Or what took you so long/My worries are gone". Many will identify with the themes in the song. The line, "I was the victim of a losing streak" will strike a chord with many. The song is mostly for couples, as is seen in the line of the chorus, "All you gotta do is exist." The song's jazzy instrumentals and the Ryan's crooning vocals add the note of hope to the song.



— Mail Today Bureau

EAT, PRAY & LOVE

STANDING UP AGAINST BEING LABELLED

By Saimi Sattar

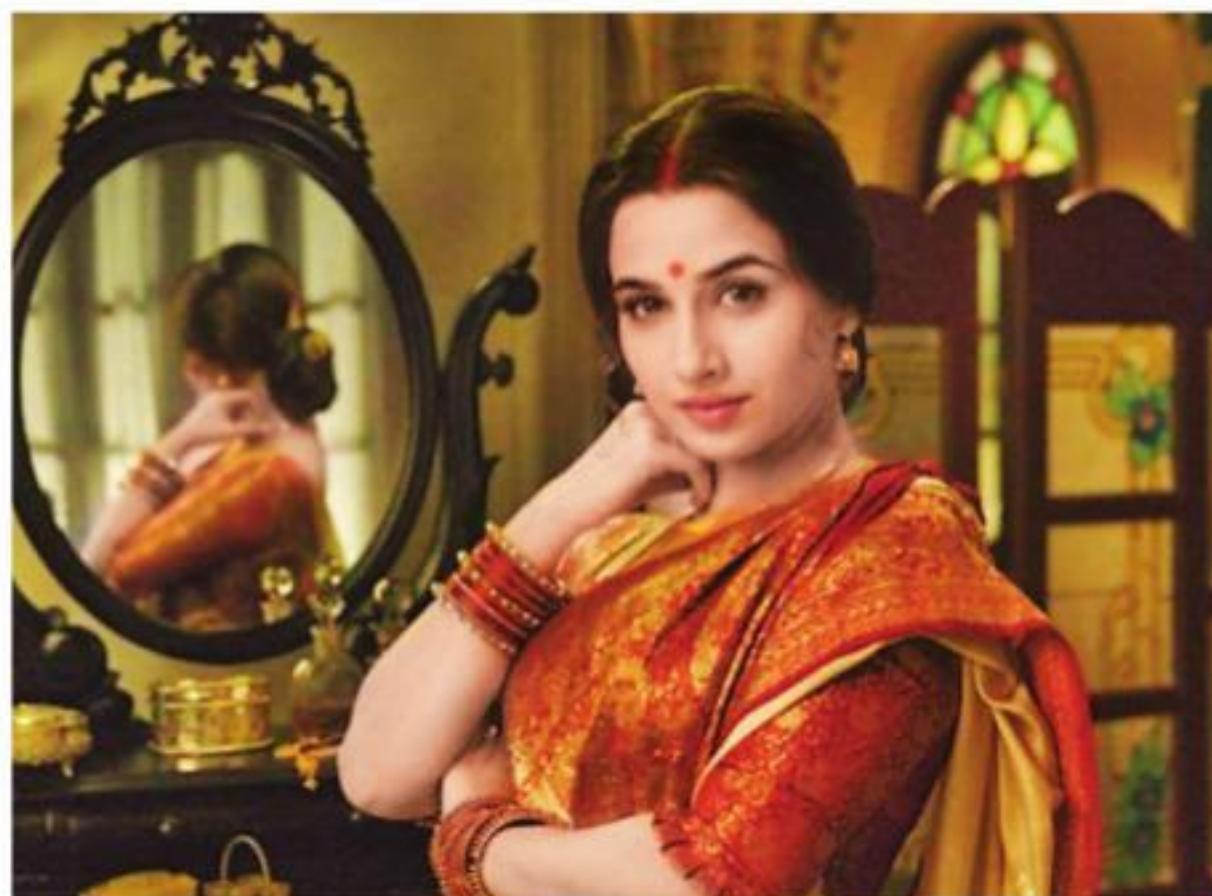
FOR A long time, actor Vidya Balan aspired to be a certain body type and wanted to fit into certain clothes. She recalled that she was comfortable with being "fat" as a child, during a conversation with Sushant Mehta, Editor-Entertainment, India Today Television, as part of the India Today e-Conclave Inspiration Series. "I was a fat child and I got a lot of attention because people would pull my cheeks and say 'Oh, you're so cute' and all of that. I loved it." It was only later when people started telling her that she should lose weight and she stopped getting attention from the opposite sex that it became a weighty problem. "I started doing all sorts of crazy things to lose weight. I remember at one time I started drinking 10 litres of water and... for a few weeks, at night, I would start puking," she said. When her parents took her to the doctor, he told her that rather than losing weight she was losing important nutrients in food and also energy.

However, her struggle with her weight did not end here. "Even after I became an actor, I wanted to lose weight desperately... but it would come right back because I have a certain body type. You know, when I stopped fighting my body (and it happened over time) it was then when I started becoming healthier and happier because your body is what keeps you alive."

So many of us spend our lives hating our bodies, which is unfortunate because you are hating the very thing that's keeping you alive," asserted the actor, who was often panned for being overweight.

She struggled against yet another label — that of being jinxed — at the start of her

After Parineeta, things changed for Balan and the actor had a string of successes such as The Dirty Picture



Actor Vidya Balan refused to allow body shaming or criticism hamper her evolution

career. "When I first did my feature film with Mohanlal in Malayalam, I got seven to eight film offers. The only problem was that the film got shelved after the first schedule. So not only did the film get shelved, I was also replaced in all other films. I was labelled jinxed after that," she said, remembering the ridiculousness of the situation. "I am not a superstitious person. I don't think any success or failure can be attributed to anyone else. Sometimes things don't work out," added Vidya.

She met Pradeep Sarkar who cast her in Euphoria's song *Kabhi Aana Tu Meri Gali*, and later, in the film *Parineeta*. And then, just like that, things changed completely when she

had a string of successes including *The Dirty Picture*, *Kahaani* and *Bhool Bhulaiyaa*. "Now, in retrospect, it seems like 'Wow, that was such a spree of success'. But at that time, I was just working, going from one film to another. Of course, I was aware that I was critically acclaimed or my film got commercial success but I didn't give it too much importance." Then people started telling her that she had the Midas touch post *Kahaani*. "I was like 'I have just been following my instincts and what Midas touch, I don't know!'. But all of this also puts pressure because you think that 'Oh, now how do I maintain this success?'. I think that is the worst thing to happen to anyone. When you are in the flow of things and know things work out but when you start trying to plan and figure and strategise, that's the end of it."

Actor Vidya Balan (right) in a still from the film *Parineeta* (below).



I was a fat child and I got a lot of attention because people would pull my cheeks and say 'oh, you're so cute' and all of that. I loved it.

—VIDYA BALAN, ACTOR

TIME TO RELISH CHAI, PAKORAS AND A MONSOON PLATTER



The Vedic Thali at Ardor 2.1 is perfect for the season.

By Rewati Rau

MONSOON in Delhi is similar to the guests who are always welcome. And while the Coronavirus pandemic might have dampened the spirit of the rains this year, it hasn't stopped people from feasting on delicious food while it pours. Just like the 'garam chai with assorted pakora basket' to the bread pakoras, ISBT Maggi, warm soups and salads at Cafe Delhi Heights. Says Ashish Singh, its corporate chef, "The Indian culinary monsoon traditions are rich and diverse with its unique seasonal and regional specialties. Warm and tangy food with spices and oils comfort our emotional ties attached with the

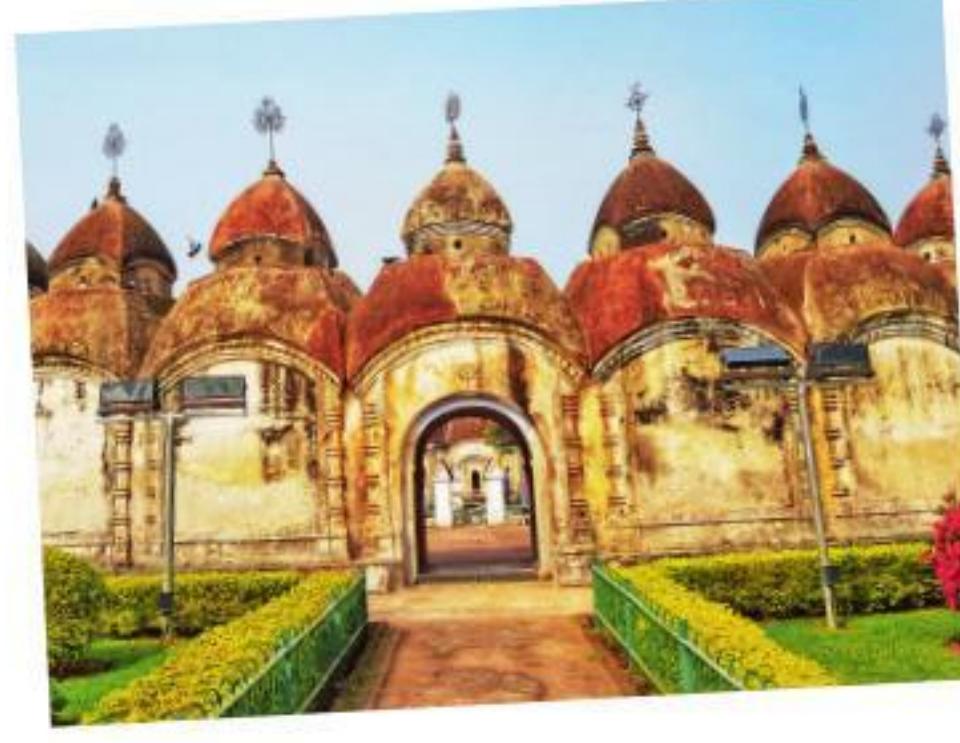
season. Whereas Dilliwalas enjoy kachoris, samosas, bread pakoras with masala chai, Bengali's devour egg rolls and aloo chop this season. North-East is famous for piping hot momos with chilli dips and Bhajji's, Vada is the comfort food for South India. Gujarat welcomes Methi na gota and crispy dal vadas and Maharashtra celebrates buttery pao and spicy and tangy bhaji."

This season is also the time when what you eat is important to maintain immunity. Rajiv Khullar of Pirates of Grill explains, "There are many health benefits of food we indulge in this season. Haldi milk benefits to cure from cold or flu and is a good immunity builder."

Restaurant Ardor 2.1 has come up with their Vedic Thali made using natural immunity boosters like haldi, amla, tulsi, bharangi, echinacea, mulethi, shankha-pushpi and more. Chef Saurabh Udinia, corporate chef, Farzi Café, adds, "Apart from corn, momos and thukpa, none of these makes to the so called 'healthy food' category. However, as they all are snacks, they are eaten in lesser quantities in between meals. And they can be made with seasonal vegetables like radish, carrot, lotus stem, gourds, etc. Traditional pakoras could be replaced with steamed and grilled colocasia patode. One must have immunity boosting diet including lots of seasonal fruits and vegetables."

It is advisable to have immunity boosting food

Travel Mail



Belur-Halebidu in Karnataka (top) and 108 Shiva Temple in Kalna, West Bengal, are great showcases for local architecture

By Satarupa Paul

SOMETIMES in late February, just before the coronavirus pandemic sent India into lockdown, I found myself in Agra. The early morning mist had settled around the Taj and its grand dome was only partially visible in the distance. Its beauty held me spellbound, just like it had on several previous visits, but that morning, I felt inclined to explore more of what Agra had to offer. And so, I gave India's most famous landmark a miss and drove onwards through dusty lanes and busy marketplaces of the old city.

Just beside the dilapidated Bhagwan Talkies cinema I stumbled upon the Roman Catholic Cemetery. The oldest Christian burial ground in North India, this cemetery is unlike any in the country since it features a predominantly Mughal influence, with tombs built of red sandstone instead of white marble, Persian inscriptions on the headstones, and designs that are more Islamic than Christian. The star attraction here is the tomb of Dutch mercenary John William Hessing, who served as a Colonel in the Maratha army and commandant of the Agra Fort until his death in 1803.

APART from the cemetery, Agra's churches, too, offer a glimpse of the city's Christian past—a chapter of its history that is often overshadowed by its more dominating Mughal past. Prominent among these is the quaint Akbar's Church—built by Jesuit Fathers in 1600 on the invitation of Emperor Akbar, who wished to learn more about Christianity; and the splendid St. George's Church—a protestant church built for British military personnel in 1826. These offbeat sites are now promoted by the Tourism Guild of Agra as part of a colonial tour for anyone who wishes to escape the milling crowds at the Taj and discover something unique while at it.

Talking of unique discoveries, just about an hour away from the city of Vadodara in Gujarat—known for its magnificent Lakshmi Vilas Palace and the reputed Fine Arts faculty of MS Baroda University—lies the sprawling UNESCO World Heritage Site of Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park. Spread over a massive area of over 1,300 hectares, the site not



only displays the transition from Hindu to Muslim culture and architecture, but according to UNESCO, it's also the "only complete and unchanged Islamic pre-Mughal city" that still stands.

Archaeological findings from the Chalcolithic Period jostle for space with remains from the time of the Chadva Dynasty through the Khiljis, the Chauhan Rajputs, the Solankis, the Mughals right up to the British.

Travel farther down to southern India and the heritage landscape begins to wear a prominent Dravidian influence. The scores of famous temples and tourist favourites such as Hampi aside, there remain many lesser known monuments that are a delight to explore. On a day trip

from Bengaluru a couple of years ago, I stumbled upon one such find—the twin temple complexes of Belur and Halebidu, a four-hour drive from the city and just 20 minutes away from each other. Built in the 12th century, these two temples are the best-known examples of Hoysala architecture. Built of soapstone and similar in their star-shaped arrangement, they feature gorgeous hand-carved sculptures, intricate reliefs, detailed friezes and inscriptions that depict not just Hindu theology and legends but also the life and culture of 12th century South India.

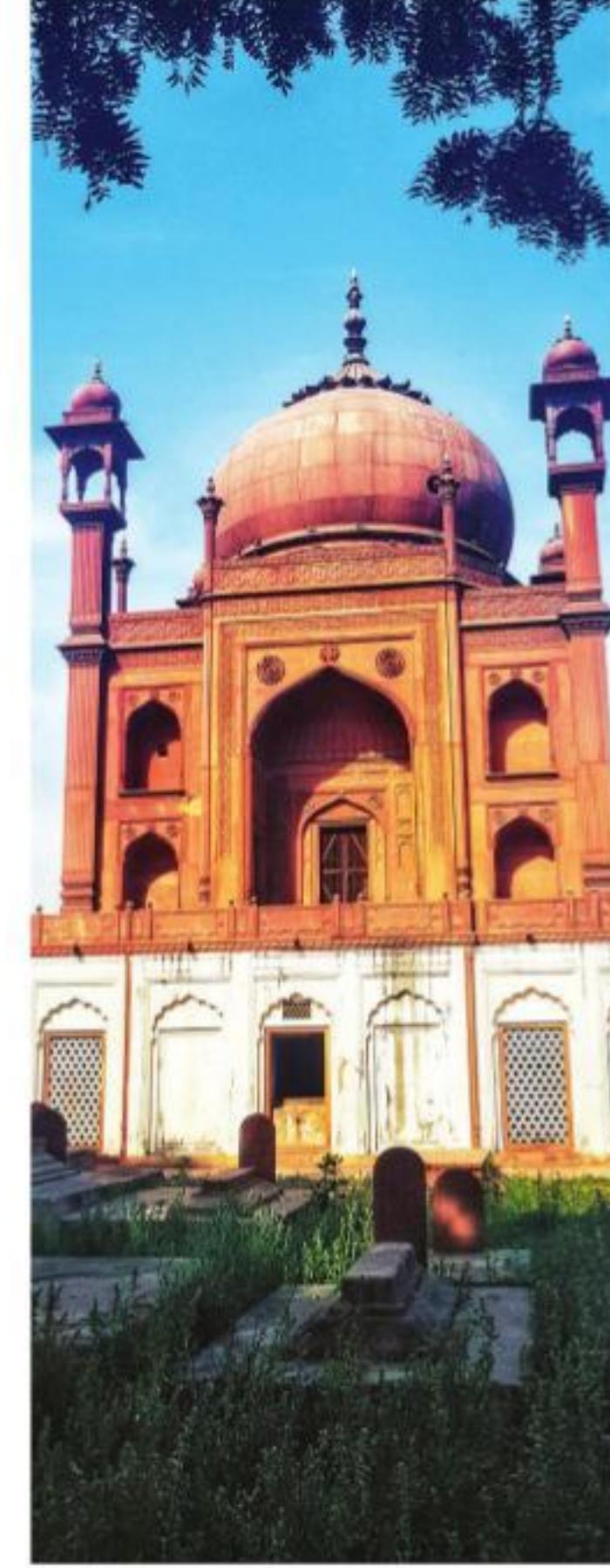
Eastern India is a different ballgame altogether with its heterogeneous mix of influences—from the numerous Buddhist sites in Bihar to the revered



PHOTOS: SATARUPA PAUL

Above and right: Akbar's Church and the Red Taj in the Roman Catholic Cemetery offer glimpses of Agra's Christian past

Left: Champaner-Pavagadh near Vadodara is a sprawling heritage site dotted with surprises.



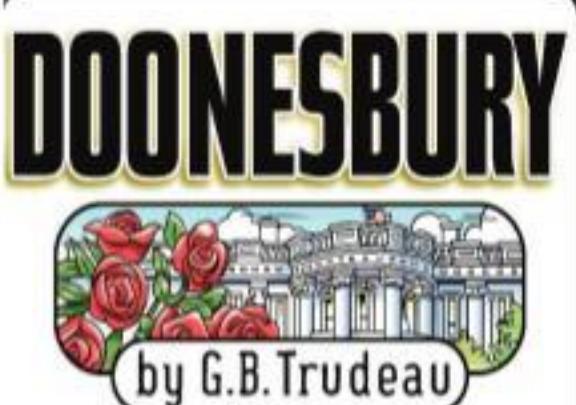
the other hand, consists of 108 *aat-chala* (or eight-sloped-roofed) temples arranged in two concentric circles, each housing a Shiva lingam pointing north. The ingenuity of the planning is such that all 108 Shiva lingams can be seen from the centre of the complex!

A STUDY IN HERITAGE

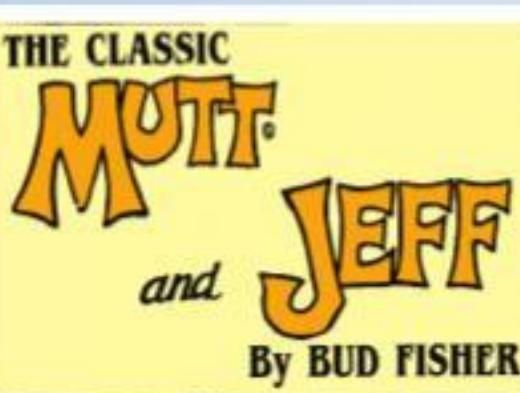
After the Covid lockdown, visit these off-beat monuments for a slice of culture

LAUGHLINE

DOONESBURY



MUTT & JEFF



THATABABY



BY PAUL TRAP



THATABABY

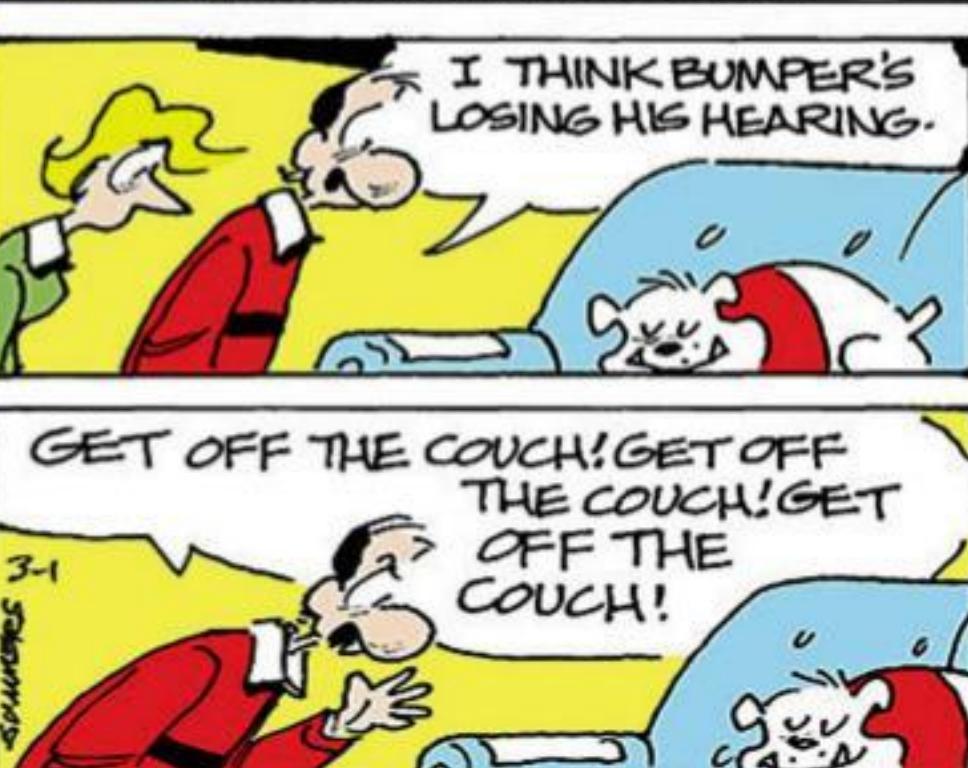
FRED BASSET



THE MIDDLETONS



BY RALPH DUNAGIN & DANA SUMMERS

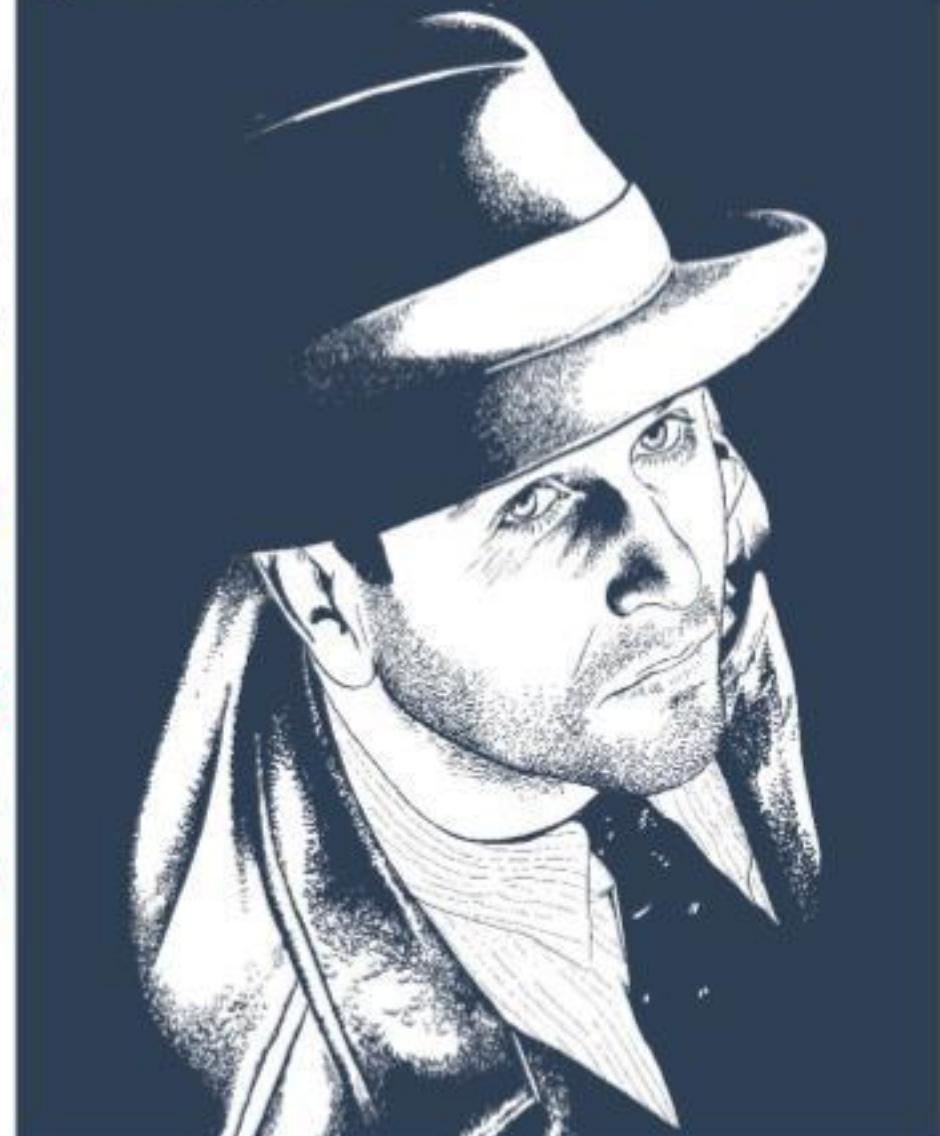


THE WELSHMAN WHO FOUND TV STARDOM PLAYING A RUSSIAN MASQUERADE AS AN AMERICAN, **MATTHEW RHYS** WAS BORN IN CARDIFF ON NOVEMBER 4, 1974. HIS FIRST LANGUAGE WAS WELSH, AND HE ATTENDED WELSH-LANGUAGE SCHOOLS. AT 17, AFTER PLAYING **ELVIS PRESLEY** IN A SCHOOL MUSICAL, HE WAS ACCEPTED BY THE PRESTIGIOUS ROYAL ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ART IN LONDON. BRITISH STAGE, FILM AND TV WORK FOLLOWED, AS WELL AS A ROLE IN A NEW ZEALAND TV SERIES, BEFORE HE LANDED A ROLE IN THE 1999 MOVIE **"TITUS,"** WHICH STARRED **ANTHONY HOPKINS** AND **JESSICA LANGE.**

A FAST-RISING STAR IN THE UK, HE SET HIS SIGHTS ON HOLLYWOOD, AND AFTER APPEARING AS A KILLER ON THE FINAL EPISODE OF **"COLUMBO,"** HE RELOCATED TO THE STATES AND SPENT FIVE SEASONS ON THE SERIES **"BROTHERS & SISTERS."**



BIOGRAPHIC

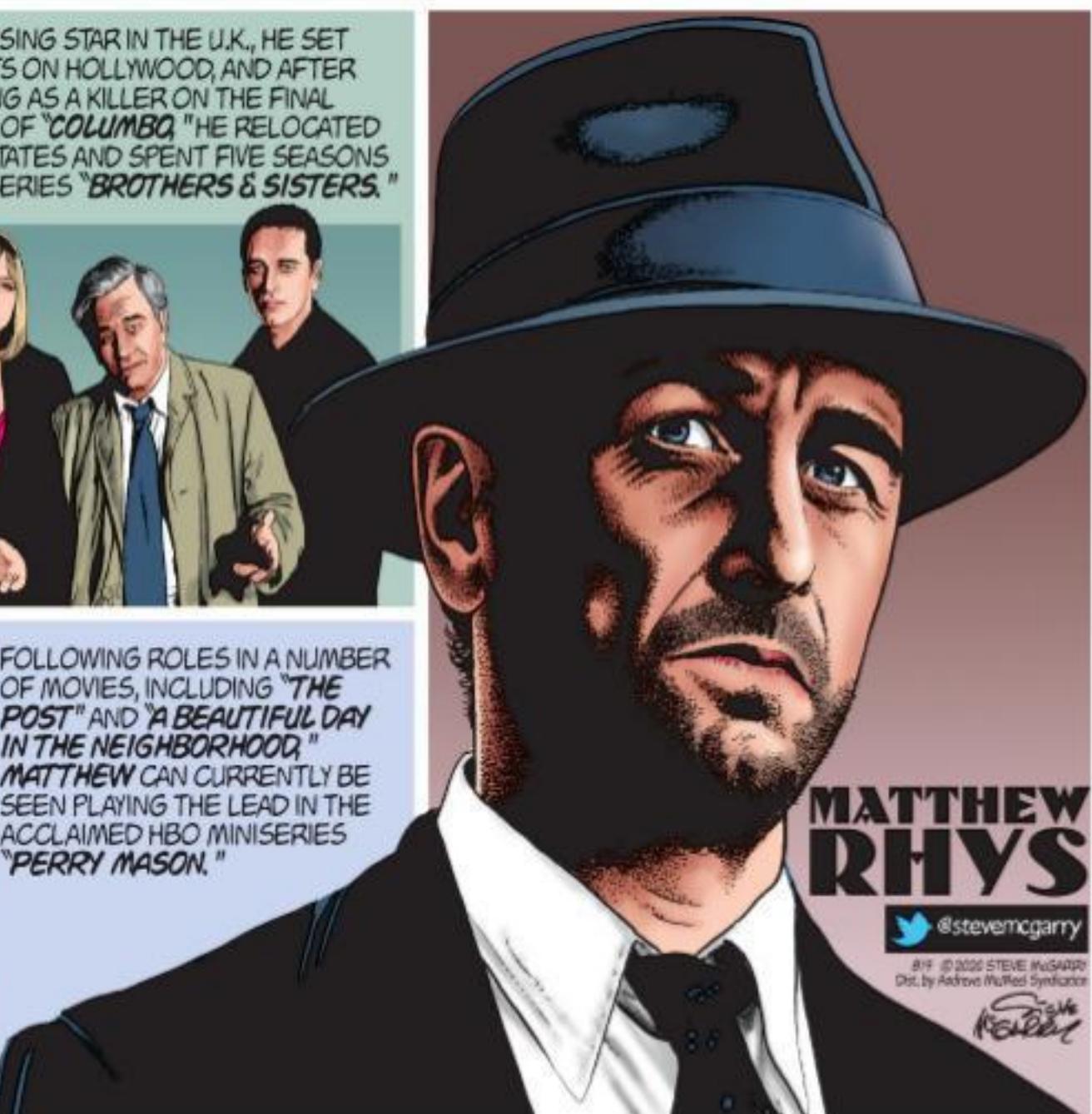


FOLLOWING SOME HIGH-PROFILE ROLES ON BRITISH TV, HE RETURNED TO U.S. SCREENS IN THE COLD WAR THRILLER SERIES **"THE AMERICANS,"** STARRING WITH **KERI RUSSELL** AS TWO SOVIET SPIES POSING AS AN AMERICAN MARRIED COUPLE. THE SHOW, WHICH RAN FOR SIX SEASONS, EARNED HIM AN EMMY.

MATTHEW AND KERI BECAME ROMANTICALLY INVOLVED IN REAL LIFE, AND THEIR FIRST CHILD WAS BORN IN 2016.



FOLLOWING ROLES IN A NUMBER OF MOVIES, INCLUDING **"THE POST"** AND **"A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD,"** MATTHEW CAN CURRENTLY BE SEEN PLAYING THE LEAD IN THE ACCLAIMED HBO MINISERIES **"PERRY MASON."**



MATTHEW RHYS

@steve_mcgarry

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MOVIES TODAY

**SONY PIX
MUSIC AND LYRICS**

9 p.m.
Alex Fletcher (Hugh Grant) is a washed-up former pop star who is attempting to revive his dwindling career by hitching his name to the rising star of Cora Corman (Haley Bennett), a young megastar who has asked him to write a song titled "A Way Back Into Love". Alex is reluctant to compose again after two decades, but his caring but professional manager tells him that his career is doomed if he doesn't. During an unsuccessful attempt to compose the song in collaboration with a "very hip, very edgy" lyricist, Alex discovers that the woman who is temporarily watering his plants, Sophie Fisher (Drew Barrymore), has a gift for writing lyrics. Sophie, a former creative writing student reeling from a disastrous romance with her former English professor Sloan Cates (Campbell Scott) who "forgot" to mention he had a fiancée, initially refuses. Alex cajoles her into helping him by using a few quickly-chosen phrases she has given him as the basis for a song.

HBO**DORA AND THE LOST CITY OF GOLD****4:20 p.m.**

Deep in the Peruvian jungle in 2009, 6-year-old Dora (Madelyn Miranda), daughter of jungle explorers Cole (Michael Peña) and Elena (Eva Longoria), spends her days going on adventures with her monkey friend Boots (voiced by Danny Trejo), her 7-year-old cousin Diego (Malachi Barton), and imaginary friends Backpack (voiced by Sasha Toro) and Map (voiced by Marc Weiner) while thwarting Swiper (voiced by Benicio del Toro) the thieving fox. One day, Diego and his family leave to Los Angeles while Dora and her parents remain searching for the hidden Inca city of gold Parapata. After 10 years of exploring, in 2019, Dora's parents decipher the location of Parapata and choose to send a now 16-year-old Dora (Isabela Moner) to Diego's high school in Los Angeles while they travel to the lost city. Staying with a now 17-year-old Diego (Jeff Wahlberg) and his family, Dora meets fellow students Sammy (Madeleine Madden) and Randy (Nicholas Coombe).

WB**NAKED GUN 33?: THE FINAL INSULT****1:45 p.m.**

Frank Drebin has retired from Police Squad and lives a seemingly happy life with his wife, Jane Spencer Drebin. Under the surface, however, Frank is unfulfilled acting as a househusband, and he and Jane attend marriage counseling. Six months after Frank's retirement, he is visited by Ed Hocken and Nordberg, who ask for Frank's help with an investigation. Police Squad has caught wind that infamous bomber Rocco Dillon, who is currently incarcerated, has been hired by terrorists to conduct a major bombing against the United States. Frank remembers Rocco's girlfriend Tanya Peters from an investigation years ago and agrees to help Ed and Nordberg by visiting the clinic where Peters works.

STAR MOVIES**ANT-MAN****4:45 p.m.**

In 1989, scientist Hank Pym resigns from S.H.I.E.L.D. after discovering their attempt to replicate his Ant-Man shrinking technology. Believing the technology would be dangerous if replicated, Pym vows to hide it for as long as he lives. In the present day, Pym's estranged daughter, Hope van Dyne, and former protégé, Darren Cross, have forced him out of his company, Pym Technologies. Cross is close to perfecting a shrinking suit of his own, the Yellowjacket, which horrifies Pym. Upon his release from prison, well-meaning thief Scott Lang moves in with his old cellmate, Luis. Lang visits his daughter Cassie unannounced and is chastised by his former wife Maggie and her police-detective fiancé, Paxton, for not providing child support. Unable to hold down a job because of his criminal record, Lang agrees to join Luis' crew and commit a burglary. Lang breaks into a house and cracks its safe, but only finds what he believes to be an old motorcycle suit, which he takes home. After trying the suit on, Lang accidentally shrinks himself to the size of an insect.

ZEE CINEMA**SURYA THE SOLDIER****8:55 p.m.**

Surya is a soldier in the Indian Army who suffers from anger management issues and dreams of being posted at the LOC. After getting into a brawl at a local club and attacking Inspector Himanshu Negi and stealing the latter's gun, Surya uses it to shoot dead a terrorist right when the officer comes to ask for the gun from Surya's senior Col. Sanjay Shrivastav. Surya's dreams are now shattered after being court martialled for indisciplinary action. His godfather requests Shrivastav to give Surya a final chance. Shrivastav agrees on the condition that Surya gets a signature of approval from the country's top psychologist and the Dean of the Institution of Psychology and Foreign Languages, Dr. Rama Krishna Raju, who happens to be Surya's estranged father. In order to fulfill his dream of going to the border, Surya agrees, taking up home with a passport officer named Kishore, who has been waiting for a year for a similar signature from Raju. Upon meeting, Surya and Raju refuse to acknowledge each other, and Raju questions Surya's personal life. Surya reveals to Raju about his relationship with Varsha, whom he broke up with when she distanced him on finding of his profession and his disrespecting her uncle.



BY Manisha Koushik

Astro Focus


ARIES March 21-April 19

Money will have to be raised to buy something big and expensive. The success can make you arrogant. Anxiety related to the child's career is possible for parents. Excessive workouts can be exhausting. You may waste time gossiping around. You will not allow the property to become a cause of dispute within the family. There is no dearth in the preparation of students, success is certain. Spouse will try to impose his or her views on you.

LUCKY COLOUR: White; LUCKY NO: 17

TAURUS April 20-May 20

Help from someone's will come in handy in times of need. Denial of leave application will be disappointing. The troubling domestic situation will become normal. Health's consciousness can motivate you to join fitness program. Your seniors will get impressed with your working skills today. Property related stars appear high.

LUCKY COLOUR: Saffron; LUCKY NO: 3

GEMINI May 21-June 20

You will fail to take timely decision. Due to confusion, you may end up buying cheaper goods at a higher price. Hard work is needed to establish identity in professional life. You would like to express your concern towards the elderly family member. Tension may remain due to property dispute. It will be possible to overcome obstacles on the strength of confidence.

LUCKY C : Forest Green; L NO. NO: 4

CANCER June 21-July 22

Regular income will strengthen the position of money. Relations with colleagues seem to be deteriorating. In this situation, it is necessary to employ patience. Understand the importance of romance in married life. Adopting a disciplined lifestyle will be beneficial for health. It is possible to have disputed property in your name. Students should seek help from teachers or seniors. You will be emotional and speak out everything you feel for your lover.

LUCKY COLOUR: Turquoise; LUCKY NO: 4

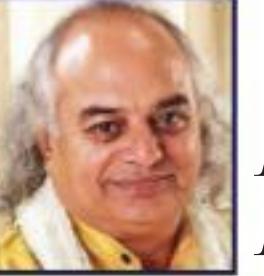
LEO July 23-August 22

Take investment decisions only after consulting an expert. You will receive appreciation for your contribution in the organization. It will take a lot of time to organize the house. Fun, food, and family will play an important role in the relationship today. You will get relief from physical pain. Try to avoid traffic routes. There is a need to plan a budget to repair the house. Students need to pay attention to every lesson and instruction. Romantic relationships are getting stronger and sweeter.

LUCKY COLOUR: Rose; LUCKY NO: 9

VIRGO August 23-September 22

Investing in gold will prove to be a gold mine. Time is favorable for changing jobs. Parents can try to control your life and preferences. You may get sound advice in the matter of health. The journey will be tiring but you will soon recover from fatigue. It is possible to get a reasonable and desired price for the property. The determination of the students will lead to the success.

LUCKY COLOUR: SEA GREEN; LUCKY NO: 6


By Dr Ajai Bhambi

ARIES Apr 14-May 14

Some new responsibility can come your way making you a little nervous on the love front. You may not be very sure if you can handle it well or land in a mess.

TAURUS May 15-June 15

Shared hopes and dreams enable you to enjoy time with your beloved that much more. A love for adventure could see you both embark on a journey on the spur of the moment.

GEMINI June 16-July 15

You could see yourself getting mixed results. The day may start on a haphazard note where all seems lost but this will give way to calmness and a strong hold on yourself.



Love Horoscope

*Dates based on Vedic Sun Signs

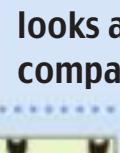
CANCER July 16-Aug 15
It is going to be a nice day when you get to spend a lot of time with someone you may have recently got attracted to. The gods of love provide you with a wonderful experience.


LEO Aus 16-Sep 15

You could feel dejected and very low in confidence. You have a partner who is always willing to help you so why not bring out what is troubling you so much?


VIRGO Sep 16-Oct 15

Love life is going to be quite happy. Problems will get solutions and you can look forward to spending a day of bliss and shared goals with your sweetheart.


LIBRA Oct 16-Nov 15

An ardent lover, you believe in casting your net far and wide. Many will be drawn to your attractive manner and good looks and are going to revel in your company.


SCORPIO Nov 16-Dec 15

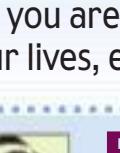
Your romantic life will be action packed. You will attend a social gathering, dance the night away, meet new people and enjoy the warmth of your lover's presence.


SAGITTARIUS Dec 16-Jan 13

If you're working on how to cut loose from a relationship that is going nowhere, deal with people's feelings in a gentle manner. One can always remain friends even though the spark has gone.


CAPRICORN Jan 14-Feb 11

Don't get into a combative mood or your love life will suffer. Play it cool and learn to enjoy the moment. You are going to discover new things about your mate.

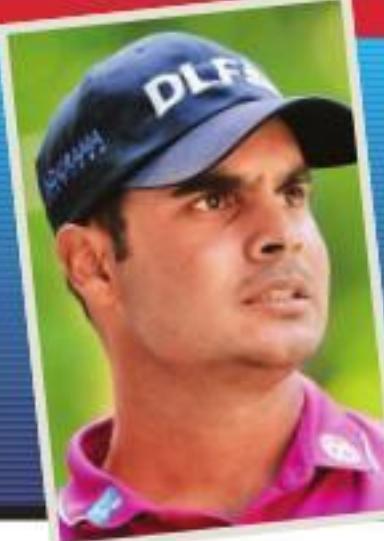

AQUARIUS Feb 12-March 13

Fleeting you, get ready to meet your match! The ensuing love affair will be a tumultuous one but you are going to have the time of your lives, enjoying yourselves.


PISCES Mar 14-Apr 13

You love to travel and are sure to take your lover along with you for fun times. This relationship is getting serious now and wedding bells can ring soon.

Sports Mail



Shubhankar Sharma misses cut at English Championship

Batra says India's preparations for Tokyo Olympics is suffering

MAIL TODAY

INTERVIEW

By S.Kannan in New Delhi

INDIAN OLYMPIC Association president Narinder Dhruv Batra feels the nation's preparations for the postponed Tokyo Olympics needs to be speeded up immediately.

In an exclusive interview with MAIL TODAY on Saturday, Batra said the COVID-19 pandemic and delay in resumption of full training of all the elite athletes is going to be detrimental.

"I have no hesitation in saying there is a big difference between what our expectations were from our medal hopefuls in March and right now. Many countries like the USA, Britain are already training while countries like Russia and China would be going full tilt as well. In India, sadly, there are still too many restrictions on training and this is doing damage," said a concerned Batra.

As far as holding the Tokyo Olympics is concerned, Batra says there is no doubt.

"The International Olympic Committee and the Tokyo organising committee have made it clear the Games are on in 2021. My problem has more to do with how preparation of Indian athletes has suffered. This needs to be taken up immediately," said Batra.

After months of lockdown, when the government authorities gave permission for elite athletes to resume practice, far too many restrictions have been imposed. "I firmly believe the government has to allow all elite athletes to train without any barrier. Yes, there will be some interruptions, but the time has come when we need to create a bio bubble like in Europe in England for football and cricket. A couple of Indian hockey players have tested positive for COVID-19 and are now in isolation. Once they recover and the other players also are given all clear, hockey training has to resume," stressed Batra.

"It is one thing to be playing alone on the field but that is not enough. Players have to run with the ball, bend, only then will their actual match level fitness improve after so many months. In Europe, the FIH pro league will resume in September and we in India are lagging behind. Very soon, I would like to see hockey players competing at match pace. Skills and drills are fine, we need to be training like before without fear," he said.

STRESSING on the need for a bio bubble, where all players are screened and protected, the IOA president stressed sports like boxing and wrestling also need to be in practice in a similar way like hockey.

"When players are fine and in good medical condition, there is no need to worry. In these sports, the players have to spar and only then will they improve," he felt.

Asked about how swimming has suffered in India, Batra said he is aware of the situation.

"I do not know why swimming



The IOA chief pointed out that many countries have already started full-fledged training of their athletes.

CREATE A BIO BUBBLE, SAYS IOA CHIEF



Narinder Batra says there's no doubt over 2021 Tokyo Olympics taking place.

has still not resumed in India. Even in the USA and Brazil, where the COVID-19 situation is bad, swimmers are training. The government should at least create facilities for the elite swimmers who have achieved B grade qualification for the Olympics. A lot of time has been lost," he said.

The IOA chief also expressed surprise that while many camps have resumed, a shooting camp

remains elusive. "Indian have won 15 quota places for the Tokyo Olympics and their standard in the world is high. There is no logic in not holding a camp for them. In fact, in a sport like shooting, social distancing is easier and tournaments can be held at home. I hope shooting does not suffer as prior to lockdown, we were hoping for medals from them," added Batra.



I firmly believe the government has to allow all elite athletes to train without any barrier. The time has come when we need to create a bio bubble.



— NARINDER BATRA,
IOA PRESIDENT

By Rohit Paniker
in New Delhi

AS ACE weightlifter Mirabai Chanu manoeuvred through the flooding birthday wishes and cakes on Saturday, her focus remained firmly on the Tokyo Olympics medal.

Mirabai was one of the few athletes in Patiala centre to have voiced their concerns over lack of training due to lockdown. And for the last two months, the 2018 Commonwealth Games gold medallist is pumping the iron twice a day for the time when competition resumes.

"It is mentally satisfying to be out there, training every day. We have three sessions each day. The first one in the morning is just



Svitolina and Bertens to skip US Open over Coronavirus concerns



All cyclists test COVID negative at camp

By Aditya K Halder
in New Delhi

ALL 11 sprint cyclists and four coaches, who reached IG Stadium for the Sports Authority of India-organised national camp, have tested COVID-19 negative with the camp beginning from August 14 at the venue. Apart from them, 16 support staff will also be part of the camp as the entire group is under mandatory quarantine.

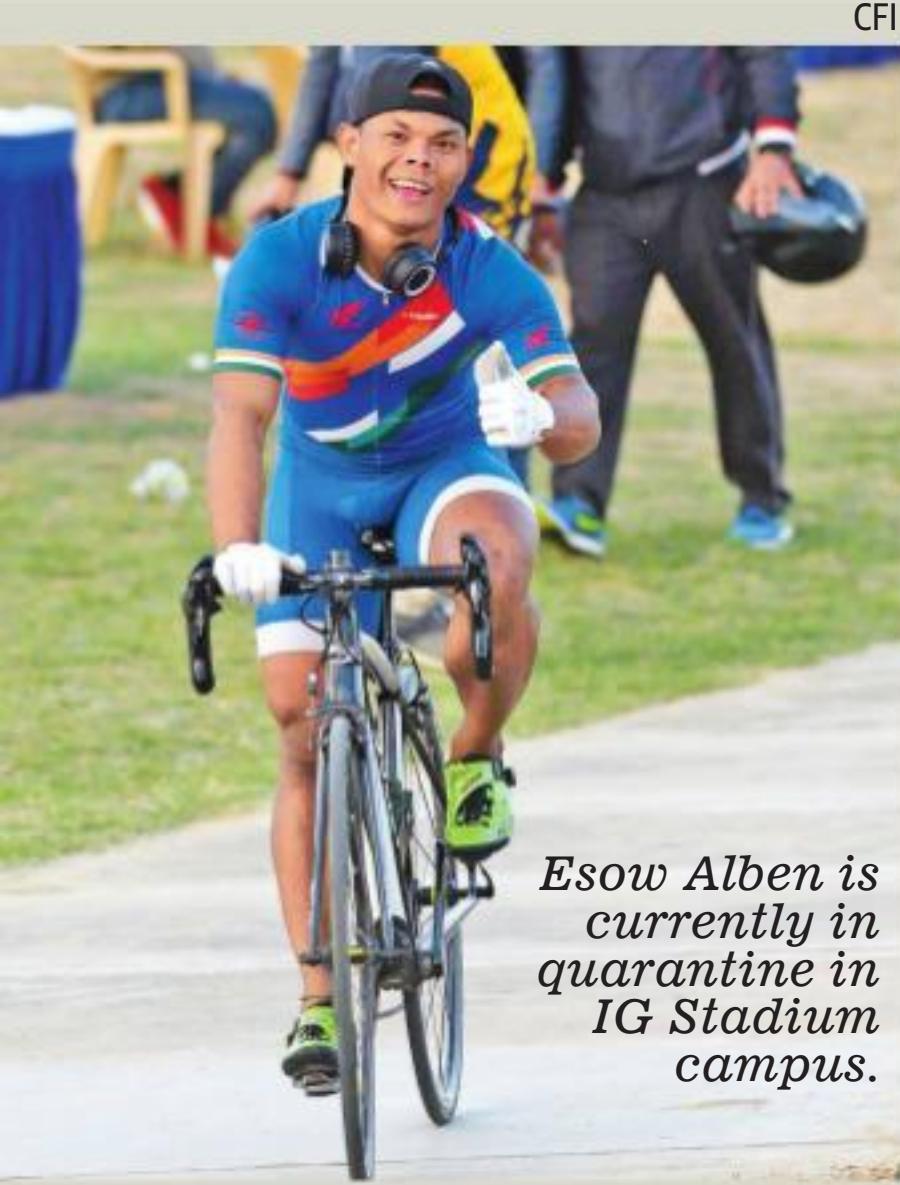
The group will be joined by West Bengal cyclist Triyasha Paul soon, who is due to reach the camp by today, and will undergo RT-PCR Coronavirus test on arrival like the rest of the team.

Rest includes five sprinters from Manipur (namely Jemsh Singh, Ronaldo Singh, Rahul, Rojit Singh and Rejia), two from Andaman (Esow Alben and David Beckham), and four others from Punjab.

"All the cyclists except Triyasha have reached the venue and have tested negative after undergoing the test, they will continue to remain quarantine and follow SAI SOP and home ministry guidelines," Cycling Federation of India chief Onkar Singh told MAIL TODAY.

Additionally, a doctor and nursing staff have been stationed in the facility around the clock so that any sudden emergency can be dealt with.

The training is slated to begin from August 14 as CFI coaches will receive the areas for training from Sunday onwards and come up with green zones through sanitisation and a training plan. The restoration work of the Yamuna Velodrome's cycling track is currently in progress and is expected to continue till September end.



Esow Alben is currently in quarantine in IG Stadium campus.

TRAINING GAINS PACE FOR LIFTER MIRABAI

running and other exercises while in the afternoon and evening sessions we lift. It's still light weight, I am lifting just about 50-80 per cent what I am used to. I am working solely on the endurance as there is no need to lift heavy without any competition in sight," Mirabai told MAIL TODAY from Patiala. "It had been tough in the initial few days because I hadn't lifted weights for more than two months. So, I had a bit of struggle but since it was really light, I slowly got

better. Now, I am just trying to keep my focus on the mat."

With the pandemic still raging, heading home to Imphal is out of question for the 26-year-old as she revealed even her parents have asked her to stay in Patiala.

Travelling from the Northeast has been difficult in recent times. Another lifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga is a good case in point as he has been trying to travel back to Patiala for two months but to no avail. His flight from Aizawl to Kolkata

to Delhi has already been cancelled twice.

"That is something even my parents don't agree to. To go home right now is not something I am looking at. I have slowly started to gain form and the training is going well. I cannot break the chain. My parents tell me it's not safe to travel right now as the situation is not right. Once the quarantine period, or any other formalities pertaining COVID-19 are over, I might consider," she said.

Mirabai Chanu (left) celebrates her birthday with weightlifting chief coach Vijay Sharma at the NIS Patiala.



Please cheer for the champions

SPORTS VIEW
by S. Kannan

NEWS OF five Indian hockey players testing positive for COVID-19 in Bengaluru may have come as a shock to many. Reactions to this news have been mixed, some questioning why the camp has to resume now and a few others curious how they were hit by the virus.

When you are a star athlete in India, it is not easy to lead a normal life. Everything comes under scrutiny, from success to failure, personal life and even testing positive for Coronavirus. At a time when there is intense speculation that the Indian Premier League will take place in UAE in September, the cricketers will also come under scrutiny, with COVID-19 just being a part of it.

Looking back at all the champions India has produced over the years, especially in Olympic sport, one thing is certain. They have a fixed span as far as popularity goes. This is in sharp contrast to the kind of popularity which a cricketer enjoys, even though he may be past his prime.

Indian athletes preparing for the Tokyo Olympics, less than 12 months away, are under the scanner again. It is no exaggeration, each of these elite athletes, across several sporting disciplines, is under huge pressure.

Pressure of expectation, pressure of training in the post pandemic period, and above all how society looks at them. My personal experience after watching the superstars win Olympic medals — Abhinav Bindra, PV Sindhu, Leander Paes, Karnam Malleswari and Gagan Narang — to name a few, is that they are extremely down to earth. They lead normal lives post Olympic glory and each one is a role model in his or her own right. Times are changing. Today, athletes have a great presence in social media, with even the ones who have not even competed in their first

Life has changed in the last six months, there is genuine fear if we will be able to lead normal lives

Olympics, enjoying attention.

Two names which come readily to mind are pistol shooter Manu Bhaker and Hima Das. Yes, they have fan following and there are many more who will also be hoping to do well not just in the Tokyo Olympics but also future multi discipline events like the Asian Games.

Someone like Manu Bhaker was shattered after she failed to win a medal at the 2018 Asian Games. It is to her credit she has come out of that shock, regrouped, and now is focussed on doing well in Tokyo. Manu will never talk about the pressure she faced during peak pandemic and how she is dealing with the situation.

There are many more youngsters like Manu and Hima, which includes the hockey players, boxers, weightlifters,

track and field athletes and also wrestlers who probably need maximum support now. They are fighting many battles, staying fit, avoiding the Coronavirus and also dealing with uncertainty about how the situation will be in the months leading up to the 2021 Olympics.

Just as we wish our cricketers good luck for the IPL, we need to treat our stars preparing for the Olympics with the same love and affection. If in many sports some amount of activity has begun, the plight of swimmers and squash players (not Olympic sport) is pathetic. Due

to a combination of factors, their training has been hit very hard.

Just as we expect sports fans to pep up athletes in whichever possible way, it is also fair to expect officials and administrators who run sports to play their roles. Dirty politics, squabbling over petty issues does no good. Put the Indian athlete at the centre and give them the boost they need to rise and shine.

LIFE HAS changed in the last six months and post pandemic, there is genuine fear if we will be able to lead normal lives. Likewise, imagine what is the plight of our budding superstars who are young and ready to fight the odds and aim for glory.

Social media offers a fantastic opportunity to keep in touch with these valuable people who could be the next Olympic champion. It is not tough to spend less time on negativity and focus on good things like sportspersons.

There will be plenty of hurdles, a few more athletes could test positive for COVID-19. But that hardly matters, as they will emerge stronger finally. For those thinking only a vaccine will kill all fear, that is wrong. You have to live with the virus and at the same time exercise caution. Do cheer for our champions, whichever possible way.

As we continue with our journey in life, time to say goodbye to all Sportsview readers.

TWITTER



Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal.

MAILTODAY SPECIAL

By Chetan Sharma
in New Delhi

THERE is nothing for athletes in Delhi, says Asian Games 2018 bronze medallist Divya Karkhan while slamming the state government yet again. In 2017, when the Indian wrestler won silver in Asian Championship she was praised everywhere in the world but not at her state.

According to Delhi government guidelines, she was supposed to get a cash reward of Rs1 lakh for her achievements but was allegedly sidelined for speaking her mind out during a

**Govt guidelines
state reward of ₹1
lakh for players**

meeting with Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal here.

"It still pains me. That humiliation broke me at that time. I am yet to get that cash reward from the Delhi government," Divya told MAIL TODAY. "I was playing for Delhi but the step-motherly treatment forced me to change the state to Uttar Pradesh. I didn't have any job at that time and wanted money to live my dream of representing India in international events. However, the Delhi government didn't support me and even failed in delivering their promise."

"Thankfully, I got a job in Railways last year. So, I have some financial support and security at least."

Divya's father Suraj Pahalwan narrated the humiliation his daughter and he faced by the Delhi government officials at the Chhatrasal stadium. "I remember, I went to Chhatrasal stadium where the sports official appointed by the Delhi government sits. I was kept waiting and insulted. The official said on

'FORGET CASH REWARD'

Wrestler Divya's father narrates humiliation he and his daughter faced for questioning Delhi CM Kejriwal



Divya (in orange) was allegedly sidelined for speaking her mind out during a meeting with Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal.

my face that 'you won't get anything from the government now as you have questioned the chief minister. Just forget any help now'. I came back home and decided that I will never go to the Delhi government for any kind of help.

"Delhi government has always done this to their athletes. They don't give respect to them. Recently Youth Olympic silver medallist Simran also slammed the Delhi government for not fulfilling the promise given to her. I feel really sad for all the athletes who have to beg for

their own rewards. On one side they say that sport is the future but the reality is totally different," Suraj told the paper.

Last month, Youth Olympics silver medal winning wrestler Simran has appealed to the Delhi government to provide her with the cash prize that was promised so that she can resume her training which has been halted because of financial problems. However, till date no official has given time to meet her.

"At the time Shri Satyender Jain (a minister in Delhi cabi-

net) had assured me that I would get a cash award from the government. But it has been two years and I have not got any help. I tried to make Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia aware of this but I am yet to get a reply to my emails," Simran had said.

"Because of my poor financial situation, I am not able to practice regularly. I appeal to the Delhi government to release my cash prize according to the sports quota so that I can restart my practice."

Buttler and Woakes rescue Eng hopes

JOS Buttler and Chris Woakes were leading a spirited counter-attack as England reached 167 for five in pursuit of 277 on the fourth afternoon of the first Test against Pakistan. A 64-run stand between Dom Sibley and Joe Root had set a strong foundation for what would need to be the second highest chase ever recorded at Emirates Old Trafford but a promising score of 86 for one subsided to 117 for five as the tourists swarmed.

Buttler and Woakes then grabbed the initiative in brazen fashion with an unbroken 50-run stand at better than a run a ball before tea.

The day began at full throttle, 16 balls, 32 runs and two wickets enough to wrap up the Pakistan innings in a blur. Yasir Shah was the catalyst, hitting three fours and a slogged six off Stuart Broad before nicking the seamer behind. Jofra Archer ushered in the business end of the match by running through Naseem Shah with a yorker.

With almost two days to play England began their innings in watchful mode, careful to avert a repeat of day two when they lost their first three wickets inside six overs.

Brief scores: Pakistan 326 & 169 vs England 219 & 217/5 (Buttler 53*, Woakes 55*; Shah 2/76)

—Daily Mail

33 Is the highest score of Yasir Shah v England, bettering his previous best of 30 at Lord's in 2016.

57.17 Is the batting average of Joe Root v Pakistan. In 10 Tests/19 innings, he has so far collected 972 runs which include one hundred and 6 fifties. The aforesaid performance is his best against any country in Tests.

31 The number of wickets claimed by Stuart Broad in the current year at an average of 14.12. The most by any bowler.

60 The number of wickets claimed by Stuart Broad v Pakistan at an average of 23.11

3 The number of wickets taken by James Anderson in the last five innings at an average of 61.66.

—Compiled by Manoj Kumar

Sports ministry courts code issues to national bodies



Kiren Rijiju-headed ministry has asked NSFs to share information in respect of compliance and status.

By G Rajaraman in New Delhi

IN a move that some will interpret as a tacit admission of its failures to maintain its own record, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has invited 57 National Sports Federations to provide information so that it can respond to petitioner Rahul Mehra's contention that none of them is completely compliant with the National Sports Development Code of India 2011.

The letter reached NSFs barely hours after it was rebuffed by the Delhi High Court where it had argued strongly that it had the exclusive right to recognise or unrecognise NSFs. It had an urgent application seeking a modification of the Court's February 7 order that directed the Ministry and

Invites NSFs to provide information

the Indian Olympic Association to inform the Court in advance when making a decision on NSFs. "In order to enable the Ministry to file an affidavit stating its position before Hon'ble Delhi High Court before the next date of hearing (August 21), each NSF is requested to give reply/information in respect of compliance/status to the issues raised by Mr. Rahul Mehra regarding non-compliance of various provisions of the Sports Code

by the NSFs," the Ministry wrote. Besides, seeking a copy of the constitution and other documents, the Ministry has asked NSFs to comment or share information in respect of compliance and status on the issues raised by the petitioner. It wanted NSFs to quote the relevant provision of their respective constitutions along with clause number and page number and any other such relevant documents. Curiously, as the Ministry had decided to grant recognition to 54 NSFs on May 3 and 3 NSFs on June 16, it has to be assumed that it believed that, in its view, they were all Code-compliant. Then again, it may be difficult to expect 100 per cent compliance of each of the 25 criteria listed. The Ministry will be hard-pressed to explain these.

Sports Mail



Juventus sack Sarri after just one season in charge

Nail-biting finale

Bottas edges teammate Hamilton by 0.063 seconds to take pole, Hulkenberg is third

VALTTERI Bottas edged out Mercedes teammate and championship leader Lewis Hamilton to claim pole position Saturday for Formula One's 70th Anniversary Grand Prix.

Hamilton appeared on course to take his 92nd career pole but he had a poor first sector on his final run and Bottas clocked 1 minute, 25.154 seconds, 0.063 seconds ahead of the six-time world champion.

It gave Bottas his first pole since the opening race of the pandemic-delayed season in Austria, which he went on to win.

Hamilton won the next three races from pole, including last weekend in the British GP, to extend his championship lead over Bottas to 30 points in his quest for a record-equaling seventh world title.

F1 is back at Hamilton's home circuit of Silverstone this weekend for a race also closed to spectators due to the coronavirus restrictions. Bottas signed a one-year Mercedes contract extension earlier this week.

Nico Hulkenberg took an impressive third in his role as Sergio Perez's replacement at



Mercedes racer Valterri Bottas reacts after clinching the pole. (Below) Nico Hulkenberg.

Vettel's poor form continues as he finishes 12th

Racing Point.

Perez remains sidelined with the Coronavirus and Hulkenberg was the only driver within one second of the Mercedes drivers.

The German driver qualified 13th last week but failed to start the race following a car failure.

Max Verstappen took fourth ahead of Renault's Daniel Ricciardo with Lance Stroll sixth for Racing Point.

Sebastian Vettel's poor form in his Ferrari left him in 12th after the four-time world champion finished 10th in last Sunday's race. Vettel was signed by Ferrari to end its barren run of world championships, which extends to Kimi Raikkonen in 2007.

He is leaving at the end of the season with Charles Leclerc, who qualified in eighth, identified as the team's star of the future.

Lando Norris heads into his second home race in as many weeks in fourth spot in the championship and he will start from 10th.

McLaren teammate Carlos Sainz, who will replace Vettel at Ferrari in 2021, finished 13th with Norris 4-1 up on the Spaniard in qualifying this season.

George Russell extended his unbeaten qualifying head-to-

QUALIFYING

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 1. Bottas | Mercedes, 1:25.154 |
| 2. Hamilton | Mercedes, 1:25.217 |
| 3. Hülkenberg | Racing Point, 1:26.082 |
| 4. Verstappen | Red Bull, 1:26.176 |
| 5. Ricciardo | Renault, 1:26.297 |
| 6. Stroll | Racing Point, 1:26.428 |
| 7. Gasly | AlphaTauri, 1:26.534 |
| 8. Leclerc | Ferrari, 1:26.614 |
| 9. Albon | Red Bull, 1:26.669 |
| 10. Norris | McLaren, 1:26.778 |

head with Williams teammate Nicholas Latifi to 5-0 after he was 15th. Giuseppe Farina drove an Alfa Romeo to victory at Formula One's first world championship race, here at Silverstone 70 years ago. —AFP



World champion Sindhu prefers medal over money



Sindhu was tied at 13th on Forbes' List of Highest-Paid Female Athletes in 2019.

WORLD CHAMPION PV Sindhu is not only one of the best players in badminton at the moment but also among the highest-paid female athletes in the world. Last year she was tied for 13th place on the Forbes List of Highest-Paid Female Athletes.

Sindhu had total earnings of 5.5 million dollars last year which is certainly the most marketable female athlete in India. Winning the BWF World Tour Finals in 2018 and the BWF World Championship in 2019 significantly added to her riches.

While money remains a motivating factor for the Hyderabad, Sindhu admitted that winning medals is still her top priority but she was happy when her name came up in the Forbes list last year.

Sindhu, speaking to India Today's Rajdeep Sardesai, also revealed that unlike most other athletes, she actually likes shooting for advertisements and

India Today
INDIA TOMORROW

commercials as it gives her a chance to do something else apart from badminton.

"I was happy to see my name on the Forbes list. Being on it with other sporting superstars is sort of a motivation, not a distraction. I used to like going for the shoots because it was something different than badminton for me."

"I don't think I need more money,

getting medals is definitely a big thing. Winning medals will bring money," Sindhu said on the latest episode of India Today, India Tomorrow.

Sindhu's father PV Ramanna was also part of the interview and made it clear that no matter how much money an athlete like her daughter earns, one should never forget their values and the background from where he or she came from before making it big.

PV Ramanna, who was a member of the Indian volleyball team that won bronze in the 1986 Asian Games and was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 2000, said that her superstar daughter Sindhu still has her values intact, like every athletes should.

"The values are same because we should not forget our past from where we came. If we have that in mind we will automatically be grounded, values need to remain the same," PV Ramanna said.

—India Today

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