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INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS OF CENTURY »htnation p11

POORVA EXPRESS DERAILS IN UP



The derailed coaches of the Howrah-New Delhi Poorva Express. At least 14 people were injured when 12 coaches of the train jumped tracks near Kanpur early on Saturday. »P11

Congress moves its war room to Lodhi Estate

Saubhadra Chatterji

NEW DELHI: In this poll battle, the Congress party has a new war room.

The operational nerve centre of the largest opposition party shifted to a small bungalow in Lodhi estate a few weeks ago from its traditional war room. 15. Gurdwara Rakabganj Road (GRR), which it has used for the past 15 years.

The new warroom at 80, Lodhi Estate, hosts almost all important

meetings related to strategy. meetings related to strategy, campaign and data analysis. Every day at 4pm, senior leaders such as Ahmed Patel, Anand Sharma, Randeep Surjewala, Jai-ram Ramesh, Praveen Chakravarthy and Sam Pitroda go into a huddle at this bungalow to take

nudue at this bungalow to take stock of the situation and the campaign.

The bungalow belongs to Rajya Sabha member and former union minister, P Chidambaram. It doesn't have a big, formal reception counter but offers visi-

tors rooms, conference facilities and ample parking space. On Saturday, some construc-tion work was going on at the building where, people familiar with the matter say, some of the bedrooms have been converted

into makeshift office spaces.

The party leaders shifted their operational base from the well-publicised 15 GRR property this year in search of a more private place, away from media glare. The place, tucked away in a leafy corner of Lutyens Delhi, also
CONTINUED ON P6



■ The new war room hosts almost all important meetings related to strategy, campaign, and data analysis.

AMALKS/HTPHOTO

RSS asks BJP to shift focus to local issues

Smriti Kak Ramachandran

NEWDELHI: As the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) prepares for the remaining five phases of the general election, its ideological parent Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has asked candidates to focus on local concerns dates to focus on local concerns, as issues like the Balakot strike and the overall popularity of the government have "limited trac-tion on the ground", according to people aware of developments. With its experiment of mati

With its experiment of motivating people to come out and vote — informally known as "third party campaign" — not $having\,worked\,too\,well, the\,RSS$ has stepped up efforts to garner support for the BJP. According to a senior functionary, the Sangh had for the first time started a campaign where, instead of directly campaigning for the BJP, its foot soldiers reached out to the masses and urged them to vote.

"The turnout after the first two phases has not been very different from the corresponding phases in 2014. The Sangh was eyeing a 100% voter turnout, because more people voting would mean a better shot for the BJP at winning with a majority. But that has not happened," said the functionary quoted above.

CISF proposes to buy paintball guns to improve shooting skills

Anvit Srivastava

NEWDELHI: The Delhi Metrounit of the Central Industrial Security Force(CISF) has made a proposal to buy paintball guns for target practice during mock drills.an officer privy to details of the pro-posal said on Saturday.

month by the CISF's Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) unit in Shastri Park to the CISF headquarters Once cleared the proposal will be sent to the ministry of home affairs for approval, All

ACCORDING TO A

SENIOR OFFICER, ANY COMMANDO HIT BY A PAINTBALL WILL LEAVE THE MOCK DRILL AND BE REQUIRED TO REFINE

guarded by the CISF.

According to a senior officer,

any commando hit by a paintball will leave the mock drill and be required to refine their armed combat skills. Senior officers said this will help them filter the best of their shooters and do away with conventional security mock drills in which commandos prac-tise positions with unloaded

The move comes after a committee was formed to advance the CISF's urban warfare techniques. Jitender Rana, senior com-

ing mock drills as it will spark panic. We have excelled the close combat technique, but with paintball guns we will get a clear

ELECTION2019

TAKE DOWN WEB SERIES BASED ON MODI, EC ORDERS

The election commission has asked the producers of a web series based on PM Narendra Modi's life to stop its online streaming and remove all content related to it until further orders. Eros Now, the producers of the series, has been asked to file a compliance report. The poll watchdog said the series no. ...
potential to disturb the level ...
- Gald ...

P13

the other amance po. ...
candidates in the rest.

TEJASHWI SKIPS ANOTHER RAHUL **RALLY IN BIHAR**

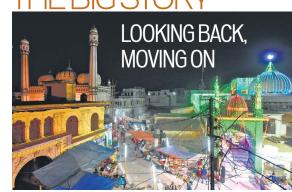
Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)'s Tejashwi Prasad Yadav missed ally Rahul Gandhi's rally in Supaul, Bihar, on Saturday, the Congress president's third in the state and the third missed by Tejashwi, prompting opponents to claim that all was not well within the Grand Alliance. The Congress is contesting nine of the 40 Lok Sabha seats in the state and the RJD 20, with the other alliance partners fielding »P10

SCRUTINY OF RAHUL'S AMETHI PAPERS ON HOLD

The scrutiny of Congress president Rahul Gandhi's nomination papers from UP's Amethi has been put on hold after four independent candidates raised objections over his name, nationality and defurational qualificaality and educational qualifications. The returning officer of Amethi said on Saturday that Gandhi had been asked to reply to the objections by April 22 after his lawyer sought time. >>P13



BIG STORY



As a mediation process is under way in the Ayodhya dispute, the city's residents recall how neighbours helped fill the breach between two communities

→P15

RAMACHANDRA GUHA POLLS IN 1952 AND 2019: NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE

KARAN THAPAR

IS THE EC GOING SOFT ON **NARENDRA MODI?**

→P16



INDIA'S TINY INFLUENCERS

They're reviewing toys, making ice cream and letting us into the daily life of the urban tween. With millions tuning in, India's youngest vloggers are learning to generate hits, deal with the perks and perils of fame

→P17

/ARIET AS HISTORY IS MADE, A TIME TO REVISIT IT

As the English Premier League sees its most absorbing title race since 2011-12, it's a good idea for fans to immerse themselves in Michael Cox's The Mixer: The Story of Premier League Tactics... writes Soumya Bhattacharya in his fortnightly column this week







metro@weekend

How internet killed Delhi's poll bazaar

Traders and manufacturers in Sadar Bazaar, which has been supplying election merchandise to political parties and candidates all over the country for decades, say they have not seen a slump like this before. And they blame it on mobile internet. They say the trend of online campaigning reached a crescendo in 2019, with contestants relying more on digital platforms. **→P9**

Heiress pleads guilty

in sex cult case

Clare Bronfman, heiress to the Seagram liquor fortune, pleaded guilty to her role in a secretive society of women sex slaves. The guilty plea on two counts - conspiracy to conceal and harbour illegal aliens for financial gain and fraudulent use of identification - allows Bronfman to avoid a trial in the case set to open

→P19

htsport

Shiva Thapa makes

Shiya Thapa (60kg) moved a step closer to adding a record fourth medal at the Asian Boxing Championships, entering the pre-quar-terfinals of the continental event with a thrilling 4-1 win over South Korea's Kim Wonho in Bangkok on Saturday. Thapa is now only two wins away from a medal to add to the gold, bronze and silver he had won in the 2013, 2015 and 2017

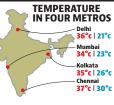
→P20

htweathe









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ABHINANDAN GETS TRANSFER ORDERS FROM J&K FOR SECURITY REASONS >htnation p11



BLIND MAN Makes Historic Pacific Voyage

TEAM MAKES MID-SEASON CHANGE TO IMPROVE IPL CAMPAIGN > hts

Sexual harassment case against CJI heard by CJI

DENIAL Charges part of conspiracy to 'deactivate' highest judicial office, says Gogoi

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi responded to charges of sexual harassment levelled against him by a former staffer in his office by convening an urgent hearing of the matter in the Supreme Court on Saturday by a three-judge bench headed by him, and spoke for 18 minutes defending himself.

A visibly emotional Gogoi said the charges—unprecedented in so far as they have been levelled against the top judge of the high est court in the land — were an attempt by a bigger force to "deactivate the office of the Chief Justice of India because sensitive matters are being heard by the court next week".

The court has taken suo motu (a Latin phrase meaning on its own motion) cognisance of the matter, and it will now be heard by the two other judges who heard the issue on Saturday, justices Arun Mishra and Sanjiv Khanna.

The order issued on Saturday also advised the media to exercise restraint in its coverage of the case; it was signed only by Mishra and Khanna and not by CJI Gogoi, indicating he had technically recused himself from the case. It wasn't immediately known when the matter will be

"There is a bigger force behind this. They want to deactivate the office of the Chief Justice of India

APEX COURT TAKES SUO MOTU COGNISANCE

CHARGE

harassment Termination of

employment of complainant, some of her family members

Victimisation by filing a "false and frivolous"

WHAT THE CHIEF JUSTICE SAID

Attempt is being made to undermine the independence of judiciary by levelling allegations of sexual harassment against the Chief Justice of India

There is a bigger force behind this. They want to deactivate the office of the Chief Justice of India because I am hearing sensitive matters next week Nobody can catch me on money. People have to find something and they have found this

All employees of the Supreme Court are

treated respectfully by me

atters next week. Independence of judiciary is under very serious threat, it is pathetic," said Gogoi during the hearing that lasted 23

He added that he will "continue to act without fear and decide whatever cases I have to decide. Nobody can stop me.' Opinion was divided on the

CJI's reaction. Senior advocate Sanjay Hegde said: "Judges speak only through their judgment, when there is an attack on a judge of this nature, there was no other recourse except to answer from the bench itself. The CJI has made his personal position clear by denying all the allegations. Thereafter, he has left it to the institution to take

a call and give an institutional

SN Singh, former dean of the law faculty at Delhi University, added: "Every time an allegation of sexual harassment is made against a judge, they say judiciarvisin danger. How is the independence of judiciary in danger? The CJI should go on leave and an inquiry must be made in the mat-

On Friday, April 19, a former woman staffer associated with the office of the CJI, wrote to 22 Supreme Court judges that "there has been sexual harassment and consequent victimization of the woman and her fam-ily" by the CJI, according to the

to respond to such cases. The CJI forms a three-judge panel, which conducts an in-camera probe into the allegations. In this case too, there is no clarity on what happens if the CJI has been accused >>P11

Sexual harassment is a cognizable

offence, which means police are obliged to register an FIR on learning of the allegations. But, as

criminal case can be registered against a serving judge unless the CJI is consulted. It is unclear what

happens if allegation is against CJI

An in-house mechanism also exists

per a 1991 top court ruling, no

The letter from the woman took place in his home office

removed a few months later.It adds that she herself was shuffled around various departments and subsequently fired.

refers to incidents that allegedly where she was posted for some

It mentions efforts to allegedly target her family, including her husband, a head constable in Delhi Police, who has been suspended, and a brother-in-law who was first appointed to a job in the Supreme Court under the CJI's discretionary quota and then

Hindustan Times has seen her letter but cannot authenticate any of the allegations made in it.

CONTINUED ON P7

FOREIGN SECY TO BRING UP AZHAR ISSUE DURING HIS CHINA VISIT

Sutirtho Patranobis and Rezaul H Laskar

BEJING/NEWDELHI: India's foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale will hold talks with top Chinese offi-cials, including foreign minister Wang Yi, next week on key issues such as coordinating the posi-tions of the two sides at international forums and the listing of

JeM chief Masood Azhar. Officials who spoke on condition of anonymity described Gokhale's two-day visit to Beijing beginning on Sunday as part of regular diplomatic consulta-tions. However, he is visiting days ahead of the second Belt and Road Forum, which India will skip because of concerns over territorial sovereignty related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Gokhale will have a series of meetings on April 22, including with vice foreign minister Kong Xuanyou, and state councillor

Indian officials sought to play down the significance of the timing of the visit, saying it had been scheduled some time back. »P11

4 mustread

J&K HIGHWAY RESTRICTIONS **RELAXED**

Restrictions on civilian traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar Highway (NH-44), imposed after the Pulwama terror

Nyay will remonetise the Indian economy: Rahul

हिन्दुस्तान

Shashi Shekhar

NEW DELHI: The Congress's minimum income guarantee scheme, Nyuntam Aay Yojana (NYAY), will remonetise the Indian economy by boosting demand and manufacturing, the party's president Rahul Gandhi has said.

Gandhi,48, said the Congress spent the last few months discussing ways to "restart the

"The NYAY scheme will remonetise the Indian economy. The way petrol is provided to an engine, the NYAY scheme will impstart the entire economy. With this, the poor will get money, demand will increase, manufacturing will increase and the youth will get employment," Gandhi said in an interview with Hindustan, a sister publication of the Hindustan Times.

Gandhi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi could go to jail if allegations of corruption in the Rafale fighter jet deal were investigated. "The documents that The Hindu newspaper has published clearly show that Narendra Modi bypassed the negotiation team and directly worked out the details with Das sault. He could go to jail on the basis of these documents alone, Gandhi said.
The Congress president said

unemployment, the agrarian crisis, and corruption were the biggest election issues in 2019, adding that the National Demo-cratic Alliance (NDA) government had destroyed "purchas-

Wherever there is On one hand Mr pain in India, it is the Modi talks about nationalism. On the other, nature of the Congress to resolve it. This is our he allows a Rafale fighter thinking. This is the vote aircraft worth ₹526 cr to

In a way, the Modi government destroyed the purchasing power of the people. If we do not give impetus to the purchasing power, and do not restart the economy of India, how will the country move forward? RAHUL GANDHI, Congress president

ing power" and that one of the Congress's first tasks if it wins the elections will be to "jump start the economy

bank of the Congress

Gandhi also dismissed the age-old characterisation of caste-based vote banks, which has resulted in the election strategy of social engineering

that many parties use, and said

his party stands for everyone and has universal appeal.

be bought for ₹1,600 cr

"I don't agree. This is your view that these are vote banks. The Congress is the party of all and it helps everyone. Demonetisation and GST hit small businessmen, and these were

o asianpaints

FULL INTERVIEW »P10

ND Tiwari son's wife among five under scanner

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI: The wife of Rohit Shekhar Tiwari — the son of former Uttar Pradesh chief minister ND Tiwari—who is believed to have been murdered earlier this week, is among five people who were inside the house at the time of the incident and are now under the police's scanner. Shekhar was found dead on Tuesday and the report of an autopsy on Friday said there were signs that he died of asphyxiation, leading police to

open a murder investigation. On Saturday, Shekhar's wife Apoorva and his half-brother Siddharth were questioned by police, who are working on several angles and "strange circumstances" to determine what took place at the victim's Defence Colony residence on Monday nightthe approximate time the murder took place according to the

"It is important to question all those who were present in the house because there are many ange facts. The autopsy say: Shekhar was murdered around midnight on Monday. He was found unconscious at around 4pm on Tuesday. The air conditioner of the room was switched on all this while. Also, nobody tried to wake him up for 16-17 hours while he lay dead in his room? Maybe not illegal but these circumstances are strange," a police officer aware of the investigations said, asking not to be

CONTINUED ON P6

Two members of gang that uprooted ATMs arrested

NEW DELHI: With the arrest of two men, police on Saturday claimed to have busted a gang of thieves from Mewat in Harvana that stole ATMs. According to police, the gang would either cut open the ATM using gas cutters or uproot the machines by tying it to a vehicle. In two months, the gang had targeted at least 50 ATMs in Haryana and Delhi-

NCR. The two men have been identified as 25-year-old Ajeez and 23-year-old Saddam.

EC notice to Pragya for saying her curse got Karkare killed

BHOPAL: The district election officer of Bhopal has found a violation of the model of conduct in remarks made by Bharatiya Jan-ata Party (BJP) candidate Pragya Thakur against former Mumbai anti-terror squad chief Hemant Karkare, Madhya Pradesh's chief electoral officer (CEO) VL Kantha Rao said on Saturday.

"Show-cause notices for violation of the model code of conduct have been served to Pragya Tha-kur and the organiser of the programme where she made this remark. Action will considered against them after their replies."

mustread

Thakur is an accused in the

BCCI FINES RAHUL, PANDYA ₹20 LAKH

own admissions, did offend sensitivities," the ombudsman said.

BCCI's ombudsman fined Hardik Pandya and KL Rahul ₹20 lakh each for

their sexist comments on a TV show aired in January. The duo will face no further action, clearing their participation in the World Cup. "I have no hesitation in observing that the remarks made by the player, even by his



2008 Malegaon blasts case that was investigated by Karkare, who died in the 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai, Thakur, who is out on bail, said on Friday that she suffered abuse, har assment and insults from the late police

CONTINUED ON P6 RELATED REPORT »P10

AAP says Cong delaying alliance, rejected its own seat-sharing deal

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday criticised the Congress for "delaying" and "backtracking" on a possible alliance with it for the ongoing Lok Sabha elections even as it urged the party to reconsider its proposed seat-sharing pact.

On Saturday, the AAP called a press conference, saying it would announce its "final decision" on the alliance. However, by the end of the press briefing, senior party leader and Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia said, "Even though there is no official offer from the Con-gress on a fresh seat-sharing pact for Delhi and Chandigarh alone, we will see if anything of that sort comes our way. Alliances cannot happen at press con-

When asked about the 4-3 seatsharing proposal from the Con-gress in Delhi, Sisodia said that giving three seats to the Congress in the national capital would mean "giving three seats to the B.IP" adding that a Delhispecific deal would not attract his party.

AIMING HIGH AND LONG

From small towns to big league: UP boys steal the show at javelin c'ship gold medallist Neeraj

Navneet Singh

NEW DELHI: They may start with DIY javelins fashioned out of wild bamboo, but the future stars of the sport in India are coming out of Uttar Pradesh.

The state dominated the recent national javelin championships in Sonipat, Haryana. They won gold and silver in both the U-10 and U-18 boys' group, and silver and bronze in U-16. Four of the final 12 throwers in the senior men's group too belonged to UP.

Shivpal Singh, India's second best thrower after Asian and Commonwealth Games

Chopra, will be representing India at the ongoing Asian Athletics Championships in Doha, and is a serious contender. His father Ramashray, who was a state level athlete, introduced the sport in the 1980s to his village Hingutar Garh, near Vara

Rohit Yaday from Dabhiya village, who set a national record in the U-18 competition with a throw that is also this year's best in Asia, is a perfect case of the uncut diamond. His first les-sons were with a bamboo javelin, fashioned from wild bamboo growing near his home.



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durudram

Father of juvenile accused is pressuring me: Judge

SCHOOL MURDER JJB magistrate writes to district judge; father denies claim

GURUGRAM: The principal magis trate of the Juvenile Justice Board, Manglesh Kumar Choubey, has informed the district and sessions judge that the father of a teenager—accused of killing an eight-year-old boy at a private school in Bhondsi in 2017 is trying to influence him and recently even approached him to withdraw his order to shift his son from a Faridabad observation home to a Karnal institution Stating this, Choubey passed a

reference order on April 12, a copy of which is with HT. In the order, he wrote some advocates had come to meet him earlier that day. Since he was busy and there is no facility in the board to meet a panel of advocates, he went outside the office to see if there was any problem. He saw a few of advocates along with the father of the juvenile accused.

"I was astonished to see that they were trying to influence me to change my order by exercising power under Section 104 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act. 2015. They were pressuring me not to shift the juvenile to the place of safety Madhuban, from the Observation Home, Faridabad. They were bent upon to influence me to recall the order dated 11.04.2019 on the ground that the Board has ample powers to amend its own orders. When the undersigned refused to accede to their unlawful demand and requested them to approach the state government to designate a place of safety of their choice at the place nearer to the house of the accused or to challenge the order, they went away but the tone of the father of the juvenile



sessions judge, Gurugram, are with the victim's father and the accused's father as well.

THE ISSUE

- On April 11, the JJB magistrate passed an order to shift the juvenile accused to Place of Safety in Madhuban, Karnal, as he had turned 18 on April 3
- Later in the day, the accused's father filed an application, stating that as per Section 95 of the JJ Act, the board has to see the best interest of the child. and before transferring him from a place to another, the board has to see that the child is kept at a place near his
- On April 12, the accused's father submitted an application to the JJB and the sessions court, seeking a stay on the transfer
- A hearing on Saturday was adjourned till May 4.

was threatening [sic]," the reference order stated.

Copies of the order, which was sent to the district and sessions judge, Gurugram, are with the victim's father and the accused's father as well.

The accused's father, how-ever, denied the allegations and said he had gone to collect a conv of the transfer order and not to influence the principal magistrate in any way.
"Inever had a threatening tone

while speaking to the principal magistrate. This is a baseless allegation. The special home is neither safe nor secure for my son, as there are many litigation cases pending with regard to the safety and protection of juvenile there. Transferring him there will cause immense mental pain and agony to us. The transfer to a far offplace is not even in the interest

or welfare of the child. I have requested not to shift my son from here," he said Saturday. Sushil Tekriwal, counsel for

the father of the murdered boy, said the warning, intimidating and menacing attack on a judicial officer is an unpardonable felony and a criminal case under strictest provisions of law shall have to be registered against all culprits immediately. "The juvenile suspect is accused of committing a 'heinous' crime and his father has been interfering in the court's proceeding since he was apprehended by the CBI," he said.
On April 11, Choubey had

assed an order to shift the juvenile accused to Place of Safety in Madhuban, Karnal — a special home for boys aged 16-18 years accused of heinous crimes - as he had turned 18 on April 3. Later in the day, the accused's father filed an application stating that as per Section 95 of the J.J. Act. the board has to see the best interest of the child, and before transferring him from a place to another, the board has to see that the child is kept at a place nearby his residence. It also seeks consideration for safety of the juvenile. On April 12, the accused's

father submitted an application to the JJB and the sessions court, seeking a stay on the transfer. The board, in its reply on the same day, said they are surprised to see this application as he is not the first or the only juvenile who was being shifted. The order further stated that neither the juvenile nor his parents can success fully pray for special treatment on any ground. The sessions court stayed the transfer order on April 12. A hearing Saturday was adjourned till May 4.

In two incidents, miscreants break into cars, steal laptops and cash

HT Correspondent

GURUGRAM: In two separate inci dents, unidentified persons stole three laptops, ATM cards and cash worth over ₹3 lakh by breaking into two cars Friday, police said adding that the vehicles were parked along with other cars in Sector 27 and Golf Course Road at the time of the

According to police, the thieves allegedly smashed the rear windows of these cars in the early hours of Friday and in the afternoon and fled with the laptop bags kept on the rear seats of the vehicles. After preliminary investigation, cases of theft were registered at the Sector 29 and DLF Phase 1 police stations.
One of the victims, Vikrant

Verma, a resident of Najafgarh in Delhi, told police that he, along with his friends, had gone to have lunch at one of the malls near Bristol Chowk Friday afternoon. "Verma had parked the car in an unattended parking lot when unidentified men allegedly broke the glass windows and fled with the laptops. When he returned after an hour, he found the glass of the rear windows of both the cars broken. His friend had also left her wallet and laptop on the rear seat," said Karan Goyal, assistant commissioner of police (DLF).

In the other incident, a Sector 27 resident's bag was stolen from the rear seat of his car, parked opposite his house.

"I had parked my car outside my house and there were around 10 more cars parked on the stretch. When \hat{I} woke up in the morning, I noticed the window glass broken and looked my bag which was missing," said Adutiya Satyam.

The act is captured on a CCTV camera and a copy of the footage was handed over to police.



MCG opens buildings for pvt ads, mobile towers

GURUGRAM: The Municipal Cor poration of Gurugram (MCG) has formulated a policy as per which all civic body structures can now be used by private companies for establishing advertisement billboards, setting up electric vehicle charging stations and erecting mobile tow ers, officials said Saturday.

According to officials, all MCG offices (sub-divisional offices, joint commissioner offices). community centres, sewage treatment plants, water boosting stations, can be utilised by private firms for these purposes.

MCG commissioner Yashpal

Yadav said the aim behind this move is to boost MCG's revenue collection through leasing their structures. "These ventures will not affect day-to-day operations of the MCG in any capacity and will only help boost MCG's cash reserves. We have a lot of buildings across the city, and the policy has been introduced to utilise its potential for commercial tie-

ups," Yadav said. He maintained that since most

terraces and rooftops lie vacant in all MCG buildings, officials realised its potential for erecting mobile towers. He further said the central government has recently given licences to numerous private companies for establishing electric vehicle recharge units.

"Private companies are on the lookout for vacant spaces in centrally located parts of each city for setting up electric vehicle recharge units. Since the exist-ing MCG buildings have a lot of vacant spaces next to them and are also located in central parts, it will be ideal for private companies to set up the facility. Hence, the policy has been accordingly constituted for incorporating

this feature," he said.
With the MCG garnering only ₹868.41 crore as receipts for the 2018-19 fiscal, — less than half of its previous fiscal collection of ₹1657.41 crore — the civic body has been looking at various modes to boost its revenue in 2019-2020 for which it has estimated a receipt of ₹2,605.13 crore.

During the budget meeting in February, MCG officials had said poor collection of property tax, and stamp duty were the main reason for lesser collection.

In the 2017-18 fiscal, MCG had collected ₹342.24 crore in property tax — the highest ever fiscal collection. In comparison, MCG was able to net only ₹196 crore through property tax in 2018-19.

The Haryana government had also deposited ₹845.11 crore stamp duty with the MCG in 2017-18 fiscal, in 2018-19 fiscal they only received ₹382.40 crore from them. MCG officials said that around ₹300 crore of stamp duty from the government was still awaited, but had not been transferred by the time 2018-19 fiscal ended. The sum is yet to be received, said officials.

To boost its revenue, last month, MCG officials said that they have started formulating a policy for regularising banquet halls which would help the civic body get ₹120 crore in licence fees. The policy will be intro-duced after the Lok Sabha polls. Besides, the MCG is also

exploring the possibility of leas-ing out its vacant plots for commercial ventures. The move will increase its cash reserves and also safeguard its properties.

Exhaustion, nose bleed on rise due to heat: Doctors



Doctors advised avoiding exposure to direct sunlight between 11am and 3pm.

SAVE YOURSELF FROM THE SUN Drink lots of water

and juices to keep yourself hydrated

Include large quantities of fruits and leafy vegeta-bles in your regular

Avoid all kinds of oily foods

Alcohol is dehy

GURUGRAM: With the rising tem peratures, the number of heatrelated diseases is also increas-

The Civil Hospital in Civil Lines attended to around 1,000 patients with complaints of dizziness, lightheadedness, heat exhaustions, among other heat-induced illnesses this month, doctors said. During the same period last year, the hospital had treated close to 700 such

The hospital staff said many cases of abdominal pain due to the heat have also been reported in the last 15-20 days.

The maximum temperature had crossed 38 degrees Celsius in the first week of April. The month brought the maximum temperature down to 30 degrees However, the day tempera-

tures are expected to touch 40 degrees Celsius around April 23.

Private hospitals, too, have seen cases of heat strokes and a rise in the number of people coming in with nose bleeds. "Over the last 15 days, I have attended to more than 10 patients complaining of nose bleeds. Before April, there were hardly any such cases," said Dr Rajnish Kumar, neurologist at Paras Hospital.

A dry, hot weather tends to dry out nasal membranes and can lead to formation of crusts that bleed when picked, he said, adding, "During the summer season, we sweat more and lose

salt in our bodies which is the cause of unconsciousness and exhaustion, Make sure you have enough fluids throughout the day to maintain the level of

Dr Amitabha Ghosh, physi cian at Columbia Asia Hospital, said he has seen a rise in mild forms of heat illnesses such as heat exhaustion and heat cramps over the last 10 days. "These are a result of prolonged exposure to high temperature along with dehydration and physical exertion," he said.

Ghosh said when feeling sick during the season, one should avoid painkillers and only drink lots of water and have a bal-anced diet. "There's a high chance that taking painkillers in the heat could lead to some kidney damage," he said.

Doctors advised avoiding exposure to direct sunlight between 11 am and 3 pm. They said people should wear light-coloured clothes as they won't absorb heat.
However, doctors said they

haven't received cases of heat strokes — a more extreme mani-festation of heat exhaustion that happens if your body tempera-ture rises to 40 degrees Celsius or higher — yet. Symptoms of a heat stroke include throbbing headache, dizziness, nausea, rapid breathing, muscle weak ness among others.
They further said that cases

of heat stroke start coming in when the temperature rises above 42 degrees Celsius, and advised people to not exert themselves in the coming few



IMD scientists predict the maximum temperature to touch 40

Day temperature up, likely to rise to 36 degrees today

GURUGRAM: The maximum temperature on Saturday rose to 35 degrees Celsius from 32 degrees Celsius on Friday, and according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) officials, is expected to rise further to touch 37 degrees Celsius on Sunday.

However, Saturday's day tem-perature was still two degrees below the normal for this time of the year.

IMD scientists predict the

maximum temperature to touch 40 degrees Celsius around Tuesday, "The next four to five days will see mainly clear skies and a rise in the maximum temperature. Strong, warm surface winds are expected to blow from Monday," said an IMD spokes-

The day temperature on Tues day and Wednesday had fallen to around 29 degrees Celsius from 38 degrees Celsius on Monday due to light rains and strong winds the city received as a result of an active western disturbance

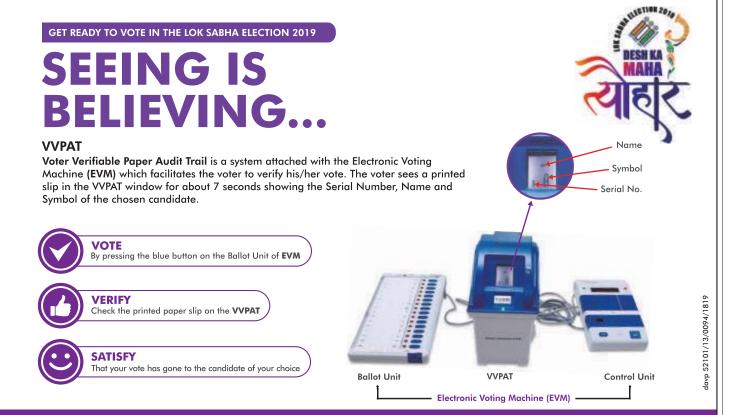
On Saturday, the minimum temperature was recorded at 19.2 degrees Celsius, a degree less from Friday's minimum temperature. Saturday's minimum temperature was two degrees below the normal temperature for this time of the year, according to the THE AIR OUALITY INDEX SATURDAY WAS **RECORDED AT 138** (MODERATE). **ACCORDING TO THE CENTRAL POLLUTION**

ONTROL BOARD

The minimum temperature is expected to rise to 21 degrees Celsius on Sunday, and touch 25 degrees Celsius around Wednesday, IMD officials said

The air quality index in Gurugram on Saturday was recorded at 138 (moderate), according to the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB AQI monitor at Vikas Sadan in Sector 11. Friday's AQI too was moderate with a reading of 148. According to air quality experts in the city, the AQI is expected to worsen in the coming days due to meteorological factors such as low wind speed. The level of particulate matter (PM)2.5 was recorded at 91 ug/m3 on Saturday

On a scale of 0-500, AQI value between 401 and 500 is considered to be 'severe' level of pollu-tion. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), such high levels of pollution can affect healthy people and seriously affect patients with lung







(††ñɨঙɨト NO VOTER TO BE LEFT BEHIND) 👍 @ECI 🌚 @ECISVEEP 📵 @ECISVEEP

Suspect attempts to escape police custody, caught

GURUGRAM: An attempt by a 27-year-old man — who was arrested for theft — to flee from

the police custody was foiled by

the police on Friday morning.

Following the incident, the police commissioner asked

ing the accused to the hospital or

the court, said the police.
According to the police, Monu

Kumar Yaday, a native of Baliya

in Uttar Pradesh, was arrested on April 14 by Shivaji Nagar

police team due to his alleged

involvement in a theft. He along

with his two accomplices had

stolen dress materials and gar-ments from a shop in Old Guru-

gram. They were arrested by the

crime team, said the police.
On Friday morning, around

5.20am, Yadav had requested the policemen to let him use the toilet. Constable Deepak Kumar

HT Correspondent

Congress delaying alliance, says AAP

LAST TRY AAP members have postponed filing their nominations till Monday in a lastditch attempt to forge alliance with Congress



NEWDELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Saturday criticised the Congress for "delaying" and "backtracking" on a possible alliance with it for the ongoing Lok Sabha elections even as it urged the party to reconsider its proposd seat-sharing pact.

On Saturday morning, the AAP called a press conference saying it would announce its 'final decision" on the "Lok Sabha elections alliance"

However, by the end of the press briefing senior party leader and Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia said, "Even though there is no official offer from the Congress on a fresh seat-sharing pact for Delhi and Chandigarh alone, we will see if anything of that sort comes our way. Alliances cannot hap-pen at a press conferences."

He did not comment further when asked about reports that a fresh 5-2 seat-sharing pact in Delhi (5 AAP and 2 Congress) was being discussed between the

two parties. When asked about the 4-3 seatsharing proposal from the Con-gress in Delhi, Sisodia said that giving three seats to the Con-gress in the national capital would mean "giving three seats to the B.IP" adding that a Delhihis party. The deputy CM also said that an alliance in Haryana, Delhi and Chandigarh would have been sealed had the Congress not "backtracked" on its "own offer" of 7-2-1 (7 Congress, 2 JJP and 1 AAP) for Haryana.

"Yesterday after detailed dis-cussions, we somehow convinced our alliance partner in Haryana, the JJP, to agree to the new pact. Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) chief Dushvant Chautala even agreed to that, but then the Congress backtracked again on Friday night, saying there is no possibility of formation of any alliance anywhere except Delhi," he said The AAP leaders said that

while the Congress proposed 6-3-1 seat sharing formula to the AAP in Haryana where six seats would be for Congress, three for JJP and one seat for itself, the JJP had initially proposed 4-4-2 with four seats for Congress, four for JJP and two seats for AAP. The JJP offer was outrightly rejected by the Congress.

Congress's Delhi unit chief PC Chacko, however, said the talks of the alliance with AAP had always been about Delhi only. On Friday, senior party leader

Gopal Rai had said that the AAP postponed the nomination of its candidates in a last ditch effort to form an alliance with the Congress. "On Monday, AAP candidates would file their nominations along with South Delhi can-didate Raghav Chadha, North East Delhi candidate Dilip Pandey and New Delhi candidate Brijesh Goyal," Rai said.



On Monday, AAP candidates would file their nominations along with South Delhi candidate Raghav Chadha, North-East Delhi candidate Dilip Pandey and New Delhi candidate Brijesh Goyal.

Raes Ahmad of BSP files his nomination

HT Correspondent

GURUGRAM: Bahujan Samaj Party's (BSP) candidate Raes Ahmad on Saturday filed his nomination papers with return-ing officer Amit Khatri at the Mini Secretariat.

Ahmad, 58, hails from Budaun district in Uttar Pradesh and will be contesting for the Gurgaon Lok Sabha seat for the first time. He said overall development and creation of jobs would be imporin the district. "Our focus will be on promoting inclusive develop-ment and creation of more jobs. Unemployment has been plaguing the region, and the ruling party has done anything to alle-

him to work from Gurugram and focus on Mewat, which was in dire need of support. Ahmad also said that the party would work towards improving brotherhood and bridging gaps within the

Ahmad's elder brother Abdul

Malik had earlier contested on the Faridabad seat on a BSP ticket in the Lok Sabha elections of 2004. In 2014, BSP ranked behind the Bharatiya Janata Party, the Congress, Indian National Lok Dal(INLD), and the Aam Aadmi Party(AAP). On Saturday, two other candidates filed their nomination.

Sarwan Kumar from the Socialist Unity Centre of India (Com munist) filed his candidature. So did Virender, 58, as an independ

WHILE YADAV TOURED

INDERJIT SINGH VISITED

pur, Khentawas, Saidpur, Patli,

Hajipur and Garhi, among oth-

BADSHAHPUR, RAO

VILLAGES IN PATAUDI

took him to the rooftop toilet of the DLF Phase-4 crime branch office as the ground floor toilet was blocked. The police said as there was no space in Shivaji Nagar police custody, the accused had to be shifted to the premises of the crime branch.

Taking advantage of the dark, the accused jumped from the rooftop. But the constable jumped and caught hold of him. "The constable caught hold of

his legs. Although the accused tried to hit Kumar, he did not leave his grip and raised an alarm following which other police personnel reached the spot. Kumar suffered minor injuries and was given first aid," said Shamsher Singh, ACP (crime).

Senior officials congratulated Kumar for his bravery and said

Ajay Yadav, Inderjit Singh hit campaign trail in Ggm

HT Correspondent

GURUGRAM: Election campaigning in Gurugram was kicked off by both the candidates of the

Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Part(BJP), who hit the campaign trail to reach out to the While Captain (retd) Ajay

Yadav of the Congress went to villages in Badshahpur assembly constituency, the sitting BJP member of Parliament(MP) Rao Inderjit Singh toured the villages of his stronghold of Pataudi.

On Saturday, Yadav went to over two dozen villages in Bad-shahpur and also opened an election office in Farrukhnagar, said Congress leaders. Yadav was accompanied by senior Congress leaders, former minister Rao Dharampal, Pradeep Zaildar, Begraj Yadav during his visit to the villages of Muhariknur Sadhrana, Kaliawas, Iqbalpur, Dhankote, Garhi, Chandu, Budhera, Makdola, Dhanwapur, Basai and Khedki Majra, among

Interacting with the villagers.

come to defeat the communal and divisive forces. "The BJP has failed to create jobs; it has destroyed the economy through demonetisation and the hasty implementation of Goods and Services Tax(GST)," he said.

Rao Inderjit Singh went to a number of villages in Farrukhnagar and cited the development work done by the BJP government both in the state and at the Centre. Singh said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had raised India's stature in the international community of nations and it was he who



Capt (retd) Ajay Yadav during

ensured a strong, combative stand against terror. Singh also said that discrimination against Ahirwal had also ended under the government and a number of infrastructure and development works have been completed in south Haryana and Gurgaon. He visited Jhanjrola Kheda, Sultan-pur, Mubarakpur, Mohammad-

SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI UNIVERSITY

CISF wants paintball guns to sharpen combat skills also be efficient enough to

NEWDELHI: The Delhi Metro unit of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), one of the forces, has made a proposal to buy paintball guns for target practice during mock drills, an officer privy to details of the proposal said on Saturday.

The proposal was sent last

month by the CISF's Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) unit in Shastri Park to the CISF headquarters. Once cleared, the proposal will be sent to the ministry of home affairs for approval. All Metro stations in Delhi are guarded by the CISF

According to a senior officer, any commando hit with by paintball will leave the mock drill and be required to refine their armed combat skills

Senior officers said this will help them filter the best of their shooters and do away with con-



CISF personnel take part in a mock drill at a Metro station. The Delhi Metro unit of the CISF has made a proposal to buy paintball guns for target practice during mock drills.

PARVEEN KUMAR

ventional security mock drills in which commandos only practice positions with unloaded weapons. The move came after a committee was formed to advance the CISF's urban warfare techniques.

Jitender Rana, senior com-

mandant, CISF, confirmed the

excelled the close combat tech-

initiative. He said the motive is to check the skills of the commandos in urban warfare. "At present, we cannot shoot real bullets during mock drills as it will spark panic. We have

NO CHILD'S PLAY

- Paintball guns are used across the world to practice urban warfare
- During mock drills, any commando hit with by paintball will leave the mock drill and be required to refine their armed combat skills
- This will help CISF to filter out the best of their shooters and do away with conventional security mock drills in which commandos only practice positions with unloaded weapons.

nique, but with paintball guns we will get a clear picture of how good our men are at shooting, Rana said.

He added that the Delhi

Metro's has a small built-up area. "Our men need to be skilled to make sure they are not hit by enemy bullets. They must

ensure every bullet fired in a real-time terror situation, takes down the enemy. Whichever commando will be hit with a paintball will be required to refine their skills at close armed combat. This will also help us identify the best shooters in our force with the best real-time response," the senior commandant said.

Rana said paintball guns are used across the world to practice urban warfare. "Initially, we have requested to buy 30 to 50 paintball guns. "The approval is pending," he added.

The Delhi Metro is one of the hypersensitive installations that the CISF secures in the National Capital. Every year, intelligence agencies issue a series of alerts related to the security of Metro stations, after which the security of the Metro is increased from time to time Apart from DMRC, the CISF also guards the airport and government offices.

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Havmor

REPORTER'S DIARY

Hospitality in the time of a mishap

THE GIFT OF KINDNESS Although shaken by a devastating neighbourhood fire, the residents of Kadipur did not forget to show their generosity towards the reporter

ndurudram

GURUGRAM: On April 15, a Monday morning, I drove to a firecracker warehouse in the Kadipur industrial area, where, hours earlier, a blaze had claimed the lives of two persons and injured five others

ment were completely uneven and littered with potholes, making it a daunting task for small vehicles to pass through, I somehow managed to navigate my way through them. However, my next task was to find a safe spot to park my car.

I finally settled on a vacant spot

adjoining an eatery, the only establishment in the locality that was open at that hour. Despite the fact that my car practically blocked the front view of his shop, possibly affecting its prospects of attracting clients, the owner of the outlet was unexpectedly kind regarding my request to park and allowed me to leave my vehicle

there. However, along with that permission, he, like many other residents I met later in the day, gave me his own version of events that true and partially exagsimilar kind of hospital

itv from a

residing

opposite the ware

house.



2 die in blaze at firecrackers war

warehouse fire on April 16. me struggling to get a picture of the

spot with my mobile, members of the family opened their home to me and offered me not just a place where I could get good angles but also food and refreshments.

When I was searching for possible gaps in the main gate of the ware-house, through which I could get a picture, one of the residents of an adjacent two-storey building, who was standing on his terrace at that time, spotted me and gestured me to

I climbed up the steps to the terrace where, despite the fact that the man's young sons were taking a bath in the open and his wife was laving out ingredients to make pickles in the sun, he allowed me to remain at the establishment for several minutes even asking me if I would like some water to drink or something to eat

The invitation turned out to be for tunate in more ways than one, giving me a better glimpse of the site and also helping me to gain an insight into what might have caused the blaze

After clicking pictures from the site, where, by that point, reporters were being allowed into the vicinity As I waited there and examined the

site I noticed that senior police officials were being given chairs by their staff, although they were being arranged by the residents of the adjoining houses. Even as I stood in the sun, expect-

 $ing\,by\,no\,means\,a\,similar\,treatment$ as the one received by the police. bystanders from a nearby house gave mineral water. Even though I tried to reject their offer politely, one of them said, "If you don't sit and hydrate vourself, vou will faint or have a heat stroke." He then forced a bottle into my hand, Surprised, I could only respond with a "Thank you"

The cycle of kind gestures being extended to me by local residents finally came to a close, as I returned to my car after obtaining all the details for my story. The owner of the eatery saw me walking towards my car and invited me inside his shop for water, breakfast and tea, all "free of

Although I declined his offer and proceeded to open the door of the car, he rushed out and handed me a bottle of aerated beverage, chilled in the $fridge, while \, continuing \, to \, persuade \,$ me to come into his establishment. Reluctant to appear as being too rude, I finally gave in and wrapped up my trip with a brief conversation with

the shop owner.
I then made my way back to the office, with a whole host of new $details\,in\,my\,notebook, and\,a\,mind$ that, touched by the hospitality of the locals, was forced into wondering whether the so-called "urban" con cepts of "privacy" and the "personal space" needed a rethink

Kartik Kumar is a reporter with the Gurugram bureau. He covers MCG, Traffic, Fire and Sports for the newspaper

MAN ASSAULTED BY INEBRIATED **DRIVER AT UDYOG VIHAR SIGNAL**

HT Correspondent

police.

ior leader of Rashtriya Sahara Party and a resident of Dunda hera, was at a traffic signal in Udyog Vihar around 10.30am in his Honda car, when a speeding Ertiga car allegedly hit his vehicle from the behind and started

honking.
According to the police, the accused then intercepted Jangra's car and started abusing him. The victim, who was at the wheel was travelling with his father. When the victim objected and asked the reason for his abuse, the accused picked up a stone lying at the spot and hit him in the face and on his head The police said he suffered injuries. Meanwhile, the accused fled from the spot," said Sham-sher Singh, assistant commissioner of police (crime).

Singhalsosaid, "The accused tried to snatch the victim's phone. When he resisted, he pushed him down on the road and even tried to run over him."

The victim screamed for help and some passersby rushed to his rescue. The victim later called his friends, who took him to a hospital. He complained to the police in the evening. A case under relevant sections was reg istered at the Udyog Vihar police



GURUGRAM: A 25-year-old man suffered severe injuries after an inebriated man allegedly thrashed and punched him in his face and hit his car during a road rage incident in Udyog Vihar on

Krinesh Jangra, son of a sen-

station, said the police.



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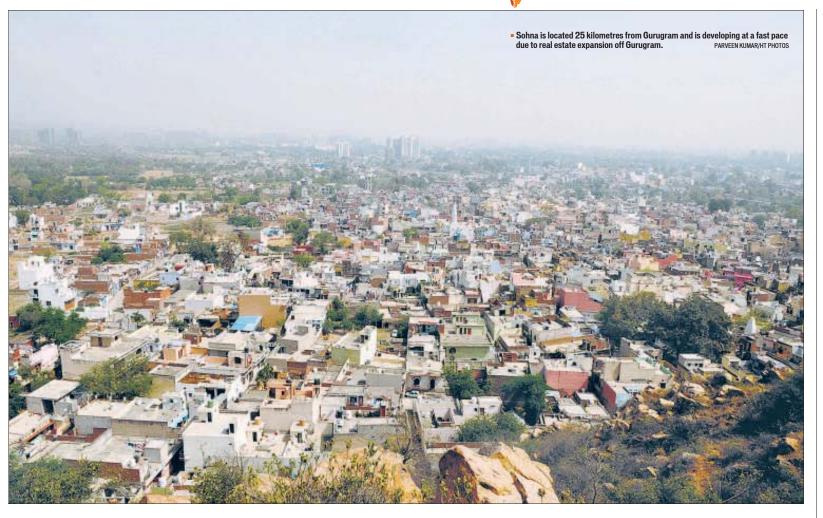


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ection2019

CONSTITUENCY WATCH: SOHNA



Sohna to vote for development

ASPIRE FOR A BETTER LIVING Residents want Sohna to be developed as a satellite town of Gurugram; seek more jobs, improved healthcare facilities and better support for farmers

Pavneet Singh Chadha

GURUGRAM: Located at a distance of over 25 kilometres from the Millennium City, Sohna changes character as one drives past the high-rise corporate offices, half-built condominiums and several private educational institutions that adorn the sides of the Sohna Road.

As one approaches the main town, the buildings, which have come up over the last decade, give way to vast open spaces and old tombs.

The road that leads up to the main

town offers a clear picture of its past, of villages still trying to keep pace with urbanisation while holding on to their rich historical past. Several tombs and mosques, built during the Lodhi era, lie abandoned even as vast lands are rapidly being acquired for corporate office as Sohna aspires to become a satellite

town of Gurugram.
A massive old fort wall on a hill, on the outskirts of the city, looms over the town, a reminder of the town's histori-

HT, in the build-up to the polls on May 12, paid a visit to Sohna, among the nine assembly constituencies of the Gurgaon parliamentary seat, to assess the political legacy of Sohna and ascertain the mood of the voters.

In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the incumbent member of Parliament (MP), Rao Inderjit Singh, contesting on a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ticket, had garnered the highest votes in Sohna constituency—getting 64,165 votes out of the 141,681 polled votes, a vote share of 45%. Sohna had accounted for over 10% of Inderjit's total votes in nine assembly constituencies of Gurgaon He was closely followed by Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) candidate, Zakir Hussain, who polled 46,849 votes (33% of the total). The remaining votes were shared between candidates of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Congress Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and independ-

In the past 15 years, the Gurgaon Lok Sabha constituency has been a fight between Rao Inderjit Singh and Zakir Hussain, with Inderjit claiming a hat-trick of victories and Hussain finishing as a runner-up thrice.

In 2009, when Inderiit had contested on a Congress ticket, he had polled 27, 550 votes compared to Hussain's 28,925 votes in Sohna. The total voter base of Sohna, at the time, was considerably lower — at 83,765.

Ram Kanwar, a political analyst and former professor, Haryana Agricul-tural University, Hissar, said that the BJP is likely to emerge as the number one party in Sohna. "The incumbent government appears to retain support among its voter base—Rajputs, Gujjars and Yadavs—in Sohna. Although the INLD has given the BJP competition in the constituency, the split within INLD this year means that there appears a possibility that some of the Muslim votes, traditionally a vote bank of the INLD, may switch over to the Con-

" said Kanwar. In the villages and towns that HT visited, voters voiced their concerns about transport connectivity, lack of higher educational institutions, jobs. access to healthcare facilities and drinking water. However, despite these shortcomings, the support for the incumbent government appeared strong, especially, in the aftermath of the recent air strikes by India in

response to the Pulwana terror attack A small detour from the Sohna Road. over six kilometres from the main town, leads to Daula village after an arduous journey on cramped and dusty roads. A dozen elderly men are engrossed in a game of cards, the village's favourite activity to kill time in the day, on a community plot (chaupal), which has been christened 'Gullu ka Nehra'. Vijay Singh or Gullu, a villager informs, is a social worker who owns the land.

Daula was among five model villages adopted by former President Pranab Mukheriee under the Smart Gram project in July 2016. The objective was to set up basic infrastructure, information and communication systems to improve governance and provide better Gullu said "This is where all the

important discussions take place in the village and all the disputes are settled '

The village has three schools, pukka roads and gets electricity throughout the day, unlike earlier, says Gullu. A major concern among villagers, mostly landowning farmers and ex-servicemen, is the lack of access to quality healthcare, jobs, poor telecommunica-

government official. Singh said that the village had been transformed after realtors and developers purchased land to construct offices and residential projects along the Sohna Road over the last decade. The region, he said, witnessed exponential growth in the past decade with circle rates of village properties rising, but said that the construction boom and urbanisation is vet to translate into jobs. "The youth of the village commute to far-off places such as Gurugram, Faridabad and Palwal to study and to get jobs. The town has some private educational institutions, but not everyone can afford to pay high fees. The govern-

man, said that in the past five years, the situation had significantly improved as the village was getting "biili" and "paani" full time. "However, the village lacks access to basic healthcare services. There is a health centre, but the doctor and the nurse visit only once a week. It remains locked on other days. We have to go to the government hospital, which is understaffed, and most of the patients are referred to the Civil Hospital in Gurugram for treatment,'

An Avushman Bharat kiosk at Sohna Civil Hospital has been set up for those

SHOWDOWN FOR THE GURGAON SEAT

Rao Inderjit Singh, currently of the BJP, and INLD's Zakir Hussain have faced off thrice, with Singh emerging as the victor on all the occasions. Hussain ran Singh close in Sohna, when Singh contested on a Cong ticket



MAIN ISSUES FACED BY RESIDENTS



Residents said that access to clean drinking water, electricity and proper waste disposal mechanisms are lacking in the constituency Although the situation has improved in the last five years, a lot remains to be done, they said. In some villages, two to three hours of power cuts are common, said villagers

LACK OF HIGHER EDUCA-

TIONAL INSTITUTIONS Residents said that students have to commute

daily to Gurugram, Faridabad and PalwalW to study, as Sohna lacks government colleges and higher educational institutions funded by the ...g.nc. ecocational institutions funded by the government. People said they could not afford to pay the tuition fee of private colleges set up in the constituency

CONNECTIVITY AND LACK OF TRANSPORT

Residents said the frequency of buses between Gurugram and Sohna should be increased due to the large number of people commuting daily for work. The connectivity of public transport

tion connectivity and lack of higher education institutions.
"The mobile networks are extremely poor. The government has laid down wires and set up routers across the village, but the connectivity remains poor.

The only spot where one can get net-work is near the temple, perhaps due to some divine intervention. I have to walk a few metres every time the phone rings," said Shishupal Singh, a retired

ment should set up a polytechnic college to help create jobs in Sohna. Moreover, it is not safe for women to travel to far-

off places," said Singh.
Ompal Singh, a retired ex-servicesaid Ompal Singh.

eligible to get registered.

Despite the evident shortcomings,

those present at the chaupal were unanimous in their support for the incum-bent government ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, "The current government has given a proper reply to Pakistan on terrorism by conducting airstrikes and exacting revenge for the Pulwama attack. Desh ko power de di Eight kilometres from Alipur, at the (the country has been empowered). When it comes to delivery mechanisms it was earlier difficult to get an LPG cyl inder and the system had gaps. Now, there is no middleman. The level of corruption has gone down," said Sukhpal

Singh, a farmer. also expressed his support for the BJP and said PM Modi has given a befitting reply to Pakistan. "He was the architect of surgical strikes across the Line of Control (LOC) in 2016 and now, we have conducted airstrikes deep inside the territory of Pakistan. He has done in five years what previous governments failed to do. Now, Pakistan will think twice before attacking us," said Singh.

In the adjacent Alipur village, sev eral farmers, beneficiaries of the PM KISAN yojna, which was announced in the 2019 interim budget, praised the government, Under the scheme, small and marginal farmers cultivating crops on up to two hectares (five acres) of land, get direct income support of ₹2,000 per quarter from the government.

"There are issues when it comes to healthcare and cleanliness in the village. But the government has provided subsidies for inputs. The power situa tion has improved considerably and a present, we get power for at least six hours a day. If it can be raised to 12 hours daily, it would be enough to till one acre in a day. The situation is at least better than it ever was earlier, said Ishwar Singh, a farmer, who has been staying here for four decades.

Bather Devi, a widow of an army offi-cer who served in the 1971 war, said that the government had ignored the needs

of the armed forces though. "The government has worked in providing civic amenities. However, one grouse is that I am yet to receive the arrears of one rank one pension (OROP) scheme. The ex-servicemen have been protesting but the government does not pay heed to them," said Devi.

post office in the main Sohna city, a group of senior citizens stand, disgrun tled, in a disjointed queue, waiting for their monthly pension. The internet at the post office has been down for several hours and some of the older women are squatting near a banyan tree in the office complex, waiting for the 'net' to become operational. Sixty-five-year-old Satish Chand

said, "I have been coming here for the past three days to collect my pension but the internet has been down. This delay takes place almost every month When the internet is functional, there is a power cut. All this talk of 'Digital India' is a lofty idea here.'

Outside the post office, a herd of stray cattle is feeding on the garbage strewn across the road leading to the main bazaar. Residents said that the city lacks a proper waste disposal mechanism and farmers often leave their cat tle on the main roads during the day.

Notwithstanding the support from farmers, members of the trader community said that concerns persist.

Nand Kishore, 35, a trader, said, "The government made tall promises in the last election, but the reality on the ground has not changed. Sanitation remains a major problem. Swachh Bharat is merely a slogan. In the past five years, no politician from any party has visited us to address our concerns.

He, however, rued a lack of a credible alternative to the current government. At least 10 buses are stationed at the

bus stand in the centre of the city, waiting to ferry passengers to Gurugram, Nuh, Ballabgarh and Faridabad.



The city needs infra and leaders must be held accountable if they fail to provide governance. Transport connectivity, unemployment, governance are some areas where the govt is lacking. SATISH CHAND (65), who retired from a private job



Sohna needs to be better connected to Gurugram in terms of transport. The govt should create better infra and also work on efficient delivery mechanisms to root out corruption.

RAJ A KHARI (50), property dealer



Several works were completed in the past five years in the village. Streetlights have become functional, RO plant for water was built and the community centre is being renovated. MAMTA DAGAR, sarpanch, Alipur



My vote will be for BJP. In the past five years, he has taken the country forward in terms of development and now, India ranks as one of the superpowers.

P KHATTANA (23), parking attendant

Twenty-three-year-old Prince Khattana, a first-time voter and a resident of Sohna, works as a parking attendant in Gurugram, "I commute daily between Sohna and Gurugram. Earlier, I used to take a bus but the frequency of buses is limited, especially at night. There is a lack of cheap transport options to commute. The shared auto rickshaws are expensive. I had to purchase a secondand motorcycle to commute, Khattana

He said that he would vote for the BJP government, as he believed that PM Modi is a strong leader and the other parties have failed to put out a strong candidate.

About a kilometre from Alipur, in Ghamroj village, which is dominated by Raiputs, residents said that irrespective of the candidate or the work done by the incumbent government in the past five years, their vote would go to the BJP.

Param Chauhan, 42, a milk supplier, said, "My family and I have been voting for the BJP for decades. The candidate does not matter. It is about supporting an ideology. BJP has worked for the nation and initiated several develop-mental schemes. No major scams have taken place under this government. It will take time for things to change at the ground level."

Umar Mohammad, a property dealer. however, said that the BJP's work, in terms of development and governance has been disappointing and that he would vote for change. "The govern-ment had promised 'achhe din', but that was just a gimmick. Traders suffered during the period following demonetisation and also due to the hasty implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Unemployment has increased by a big margin. The government has failed to create jobs," said Mohammad, adding that he travels to Sohna for work daily from Nuh, which is also among the nine constituencies that make up the Gurgaon seat.



Residents of Daula village said they want more jobs created in their village





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DOWN

1 Up to now (2,3)
2 Essential ingredient (4,3,6)
3 Brutal (7)
4 Wide-open (6)
5 Precipitous (5)
6 Superfluity (13)
7 Tolerant (7)
11 Harshly grating (7)
13 Lavish meal (7)
14 Superficial appearance (6)
16 Bowleaged (5)

16 Bowlegged (5) 18 Upright in posture (5)





CRYPTIC CLUES ACROSS

gurugram

PUZZLE 15272 © Gemini Cross

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS
1 Young tree (7)
5 Pounce suddenly (5)
8 Temporarily (3,3,7)
9 Kingdom (5)
10 Tell story of (7)
11 Gnawing (6)
12 Brusque (6)
15 Shuffling gait (7)
17 To jog (5)
19 As a result of (2,11)
20 Rainwater channel (5)

20 Rainwater channel (5) 21 Withdraw under attack (7)

htsudoku

- ACROSS

 1 He argues that a large animal swallows a small one (7)

 5 His victims lose heart (5)

 8 Unconnected sound or ring perhaps (7,6)

 9 Social occasion for a tripper (5)

 10 Time of day for getting level (7)

 11 Strong and healthy or alternatively bankrupt (6)

 12 This ring is impressive (6)

 15 They beat up rum and eggs, perhaps (7)

 17 Clergyman provides transport after six (5)

 19 Induce to become religious? (4,2,7)

 20 Not well, being wom out (5)

 21 Put right a slipping bandage? (7)

DOWN

- DOWN

 1 Five hundred study with anxiety (5)
 2 Cases of eviction? (3,3,7)
 3 Catty female (7)
 4 Be a shade embarrassed? (6)
 5 Agree to strike? (5)
 6 Firm plan for retirement? (7,6)
- 7 The pleasure the Turkish take in a sweet (7)
- 11 Takes a walk in the rose garden? (7) 13 Not well enough to carry any weight? (7)
- 14 It connects similar pressure points (6) 16 A record number of contestants in the
- 18 Cuts down the sail area and knots (5)



OUICK

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI: The police on Friday

arrested a man who had hired two

contract killers to get a financer killed, because of his friends had taken a loan of ₹52 lakh from the financier in February 2018. Police

said that the man had paid the

killers, one of them a juvenile,

₹35,000 each. The contract killers

were arrested a month after the

ht nomage

MMG



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

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9X9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

Man arrested for hiring 2 contract killers

man as Rajender Kale, who hails

from Dausa in Rajasthan, who

used to live in Delhi's Sangam

used to live in Delin's Sangam Vihar. The police said Kale has previously been involved in case of murder in Ambedkar Nagar, and was out on bail when the murder took place. According to the police, on

February 8, 2018, a 47-year-old

financer, Sanjay Chawla, was shot dead near his house in Mal-

viya Nagar. During investiga-

SUDOKU>> SCAN THIS SUDOKU UNIT FOR THE SOLUTION AND MANY MORE PUZZLES

DIFFICULTY

and apprehended a juvenile on March 14 for their role in the mur-

der. However, Rajender Kale, who had hired one of the men and

the juvenile, to kill Chawla, remained on the run.
"During interrogation, Kale told us that one Manjot Singh of

Malviya Nagar took a loan of ₹52

lakhs from Sanjay Chawla. How-

ever, because he was unable to

pay the interest, Chawla allegedly used to insult him. Singh,

Congress moves its war room to Lodhi Estate

allows much-needed additional

The white bungalow, the peo nle familiar with the matter

to have higher daily footfalls. The

fully over for the party. The Congress's social media cell is still

was an infrequent visitor to GRR "Meetings with him are usually held at his office or at the party headquarters," said a senior Con-gress leader who spoke on condi-

common minimum programme

space for the party's expanding poll network.

War rooms are important for

political parties as they serve as a dedicated control room for elec-tions, which have become complex and very tech-heavy affairs. The BJP, too, has a sophisticated central war room in Delhi. Many of the candidates also prefer to set up their own war or control rooms in their constituencies.

added, doesn't have the state-of-the-art facilities such as biomet-ric entry and other electronic gadgetry, which the old war room enjoyed in its corporate-style set up.
"It is also because 15 GRR used

new place is access-controlled and only a few leaders hold meet-ings here," said a Congress func-The utility of 15 GRR is not

gress's social media cell is still housed at that property and many political meetings continue totake place in the old war room. Congress chief, Rahul Gandhi, and general secretary, Priyanka Gandhi, however, are yet to visit the new war room. Rahul Gandhi was an infragenet visitor to GRR.

tion of anonymity.
The party has also taken some space in a Talkatora Road property for routine work but none of

erty for routine work but none of the senior leaders go there. The Gurdwara Rakabganj Road war room was set up before the 2004 election and a lot of recent electoral history is attached to the property. Ramesh and Salman Khurshid used to write the party manifesto and other documents at the GRG bungalow. It also played host to the extensive process of Congress and Left leaders writing their

and sought help of two of his

friends, whom he promised ₹5

Naik said, the two men then

lakh," the DCP said.

his house," the officer said

SUPERIOR GROUP

for the first United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government.

EC notice to Pragya for remark on

Karkare She said he died because she some said ne died because she cursed him: "Maine kaha, tera sarvnash hoga" [Isaid, may you perish.] The remarks invited severe criticism from political leaders and the Indian Police Sorvice Accordation. The P.II. Service Association. The BJP distanced itself from Thakur's statement. On Friday evening. statement. On Friday evening, Thakur offered an apology and saidher remarks were prompted by the pain she had experienced during her incarceration. On Wednesday, Thakur joined the BJP and hours later

was named the party's candidate

was named the party Scalindause for the Bhopal Lok Sabha seat. She faces Congress's Digvijaya Singh in the contest. CEO Kantha Rao said he had taken cognizance of the matter and asked Bhopal district collec-tor Sudam Khade to submit a tor Sudam Khade to submit a report on it. "The violation was found as any candidate can't abuse and use any objectionable aduse and use any opectionable language against any particular person or religion that could affect peace and communal harmony. Similarly, no aspect of private life, not connected with the public activities of the local. the public activities, of the leaders or workers of other parties shall be criticised," said Khade in a notice to Thakur and Vikas Virani, BJP district president, organiser of the programme. Pragya Thakur said she

would reply to the notice. "I have already apologised for my comments. However, it was my personal pain which I expre

Nyay will remonetise the Indian economy: Rahul

opposed by the Congress. When the farmers are in trouble, the Congress is the first to come and stand by them. Wherever there is pain in India, it is the nature of the Congress to resolve it. This is the thinking that is the vote bank of the Congress. For us, every Hindustani is the mirror of the Congress ideology, he said.

Over the years, the Congress has become a fringe player in some states in the country, but

Gandhi is confident that the party will do well in Tamil Nadu, Bihar, even Uttar Pradesh. "The success of our coali tion in Tamil Nadu will wipe out everybody. I believe that the Congress will win all the seats there. The alliance in Bihar will also bring great results. In Uttar Pradesh, we are fighting separately but still the Congress will win seats. That's why we have sent Priyanka ji (Priyanka Gan-

sent Prhyanka Ji (Prhyanka Gan-dhi) and Scindia ji (Jyotiraditya Scindia) to UP." Gandhi said that to fund the party's big idea for the election, NYAY, a scheme that promises poor households Rs 72,000 a year, no taxes will be raised and the middle class won't have to bear the brunt of funding this

scheme.
The Congress president repeated his allegation that PM Modi was doing things to benefit his "industrialist friends' and on corruption in the Rafale and on corruption in the Ratias deal. The Congress has maintained that the new deal struck by the NDA government, which replaced tan old deal negotiated by the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA), entails buying the fighter idea at a buying the fighter jets at a higher price. The government has denied this. The Supreme nas denied this. The Supreme Court also said in a judgment that it doesn't see the need for a court-monitored probe into the deal and that it is convinced due process was followed, but is now hearing a review petition

on this. Commenting on one of the BJP's core campaign planks, nationalism, Gandhi said those nationalism, Gandni said those talking of nationalism don't answer serious questions. "In the last five years, what has the Modi government done for the youth, farmers, the poor labourers? A Rafale plane worth Rs 526 crore will be bought for Rs

1st Death Anniversary Ashok C Gupta (IOFS

so fresh, your goodness and smile missed foreve

1,600 crore and it will not even be manufactured in the country. Can this behaviour be national-

ND Tiwari son's

wife among five

under scanner Shekhar's mother Ujjwala Shekhar's mother Ujjwala Devi Sharma, who returned to the capital on Friday night along with Apoorva after the family went to Haridwar for the funeral ceremony, said relations between the couple had been strained,

Shekhar and Apoorva married in 2018, Shekhar's father-in-law in 2018, Shekhar's father-in-law told PTI. "Wy daughter cannot do something like this. When I got to know about his death, I came down here. Police are probing the matter and soon we will know how he died."

news agency PTI reported.

Shekhar's mother also told the news agency that her son was apparently upset over his politi-cal career, according to the PTI. Police registered a case of mur-der on Friday after an autopsy by a team of Gotors at All India Institute of Medical Sciences said the 39-year-old was smothered with a pillow. He was found or Tuesday by a household help and taken to Max Super Specialty Hospital where he was declared

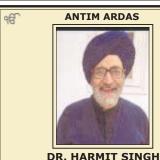
Shekhar, an advocate, had Shekhar, an advocate, had fought a legal battle with ND Tiwari to prove that he was the late veteran politician's biological son. In 2014, a paternity test decided the case in Shekhar's favour, following which the three-time Uttar Pradesh chief minister publicly accorded him minister publicly accepted him as his son.

The case is being investigated by the crime branch of the police

HIS MOTHER ALSO TOLD

A NEWS AGENCY HER SON WAS APPARENTLY UPSET OVER HIS

POLITICAL CAREER



Left us for his heavenly abode on 18th April 2019

Prayer Meeting will be held on Sunday, 21st April 2019 at Gurudwara Shri Rakabganj Sahib, Hall No. 1 New Delhi from 4 to 5pm

Mrs. Sunila Singh

Rupika & Manbir Sawhney Jaspreet & Payal Singh Harpreet & Ravleen Singh Bawa Family & All Relatives Nasib & Pavitar Kau Karan, Karina, Nanki Alayna & Naisha M: 9811024608

UNFORGETTABLES



In Loving Memory of SH. A.S. SACHDEVA

We cannot see you, you are always with us in our hearts, we miss you dear father. The Shield of the house. Fondly remembered by: Munish & Sonia Sachdeva (Son & Daughter-in-law). 43/42, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi. Mob: 9899012000, 9999968079.



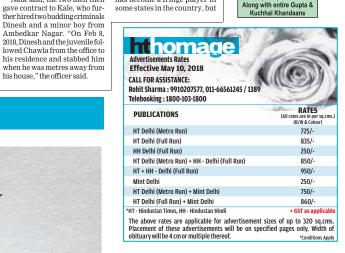
In Loving Memory of Smt. Swadesh Kumar

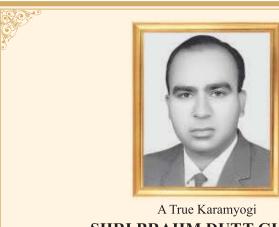




Smt. Prakash Wati Luthra

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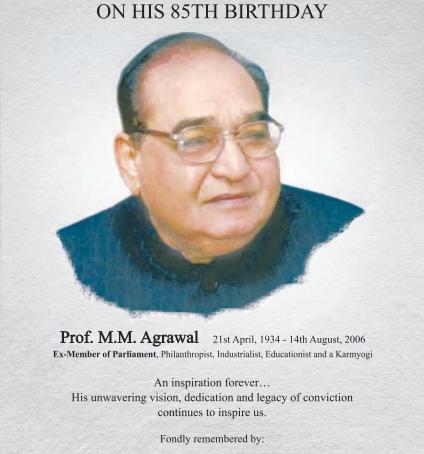
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Prabha Agrawal (Wife)

IN LOVING MEMORY

Celebratory firing injures 1 in Rohini

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI: A 12-year-old boy was critically injured after being shot in the head during a wedding procession in Rohini on Saturday night.

The child remained under observation till late on Satur-day, even as the police made efforts to trace the accused.

The incident took place around 9 pm in Rithala area when the boy was standing in the balcony of his third-floor house to watch a wedding procession that was passing by on the street outside

"One of the relatives from groom's side opened fire during the procession. The bullet hit the child in his head. As he collapsed, bleeding profusely, his family members raised the alarm and the child was rushed to Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital. From there he was referred to a private hospital where he is

frompageone

case against CJI

CJI Gogoi said in court on Sat-

urday that the former staffer,

who made allegations against

him, has "a criminal background and has two FIRs against her".

FIR is short for first information

CJI summarising the allegations

made against him in the letter

(which also has a sworn under

taking), and also published on Saturday morning in four online

He said: "I received communication from four online publica-

tions Caravan Leaflet Scroll

and Wire wanting to know of my

response on the allegations. They

gave me less than 12 hours to respond. A response was sent to

these publications by the Secre-

tary General denying the allega-

CJI said, "I will not stoop low even to deny this allegation. What

troubles me is that after 20 years

in judiciary I have a bank balance

of ₹6 lakh, 80 thousand and ₹40 lakh in provident fund. When I was an advocate I had more. No

one can catch me on money. They

have to look for something else

Even my peon has more money

my home office for a month-and-a-half. The allegation pertains to

an incident on October 11 and 12.

2018, when my personal private secretary made a report of inap propriate behaviour by the staff(er) and forwarded it to the

registry. Thereafter she was

removed from my office. At some point of time, unsolicited phone calls were received from the hus band of the lady seeking help

from the CJI to put her back into service, which were reported to the Delhi Police." "The lady has a criminal back ground. There are two FIRs against her. One was against her

when she entered service under section 324 (Voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means) and 506 (criminal intimidation). The other FIR was lodged in Feburary/March this year for

negotiating a deal for employ-ment in the Supreme Court for a

person for which she took ₹50,000

against a claim of ₹10 lakh. She

was arrested in this FIR and was in custody for four days. After her

release she has been threatening

Brushing aside the allegations, he added: "This employee was in

than me

Rebutting the allegations, the

publications.

The hearing began with the

Sexual

harassment

heard by CJI

THE INCIDENT TOOK

PLACE AROUND 9 PM IN RITHALA AREA WHEN THE BOY WAS STANDING IN THE BALCONY OF HIS THIRD-FLOOR HOUSE TO WATCH A WEDDING PROCESSION

under treatment and critical," said a senior police officer who is not authorised to speak to the

The hospital staff, on realising that the child has a gun shot injury, called up the police.

Senior police officers arrived at the spot and the suspect who had fired the gunshot was iden-

"Efforts to trace the man have been launched. A case of attempt to murder and arms act has been registered," the police officer said

the complainant in the case and

the police have moved an applica-tion seeking cancellation of bail of

the lady and the hearing in the matter is today in the Patiala

House court. Two cases are pend-

ing against her husband and her

brother-in-law also," observed

An application for cancella-

tion of bail of the former staffer

says that she was arrested on March 10, sent to judicial custody

on March 11 and released on bail

moths of service left and retires

refrained from passing any judi-cial orders but said, "We leave it

to the wisdom of the media to

showrestraint, act responsibly as is expected from them and

accordingly decide what should

or should not be published as wild

and scandalous allegations

undermine and irreparably damage the reputation and negate

independence of the judiciary

We would, therefore, at this junc-ture leave it to the media to take

off such material which is unde-

AFTER THE HEARING,

FROM PASSING ANY

THE BENCH REFRAINED

JUDICIAL ORDERS BUT

SAID, "WE LEAVE IT TO

THE WISDOM OF THE

MEDIA TO SHOW

 $on\,November\,17,2019.$

CJI Gogoi has seven more

After the hearing, the bench

CJI Gogoi.

on March 12

Body of man with throat slit found in northwest Delhi

Press Trust of India

NEWDELHI: The body of a man with his throat slit was found near bushes in northwest Delhi's Azadpur area on Saturday, police

Police were informed around 7.55 am about the unknown body lying near railway line at Azadpurflyover, they said. On reaching the spot, police found his throat slit by a sharp

edged weapon. A case has been registered and a probe initiated, a senior police

officersaid The body is yet to be identified and has been preserved in the mortuary, the officer said, adding that efforts are being made to identify it.

Police are also scanning through profiles of missing persons at the local police stations to $identify \, the \, body. \, If \, not \, identified \,$ within 72 hours, the post-mortem will be conducted, they said.

NEW DELHI: A man who had been

evading arrest since last year in a

 $murder\, case\, was\, held, police\, said$

The suspect, Rajender, a resident of Sangam Vihar, was carrying a reward of ₹ 50,000 on his

arrest, they said.
He was accused of killing San-

jay Chawla (47), a resident of Mal-

viya Nagar, in February 8 last year, Deputy Commissioner of

Police (crime) Ram Gopal Naik

During investigation, it was

revealed that the deceased was a financer and used to provide loan

against interest on monthly

Thereafter, three men—Man-

jot Singh, Dinesh, Vickey and Rohit Thakur — were arrested while one juvenile was appre-

hended on March 14, 2018, the

However, the main accused.

He was arrested following a

Rajender, was absconding, police

tip-off on Friday from near Tuglakabad Fort, the DCP said.

During interrogation, it was revealed that Manjot Singh took

When he was unable to pay the

a loan of ₹52 lakh from Chawla.

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NOTICE FOR ADMISSION TO PH. D. PROGRAMME 2019-2020

MOTICE FOR ADMISSION TO FIT. D. FROGRAMME 2019-2020 at NIPGR for conducting divinsions are open for Ph. D. Programme 2019-2020 at NIPGR for conducting dvanced research in the frontier areas of Plant Biology. Reservations are as per statutory orms. The Admission to the Ph.D. programme is through two stage process consisting of intrance Examination and interviewilviav-oce. he selected candidates will be enrolled for Ph.D. program in academic affiliation with the awaharlal Nehru University, New Delhin, NIPGR will provide hostel accommodation to lected candidates (subject to availability).

Jawaniana Nentro Junissay, You selected candidates (subject to availability). For detailed information, visit our website www.nipgr.ac.in. The last date for submission of online application is May 29, 2019. Controller of Administration NIPGR

basis, Naik said.

on Saturday.

JHAJJAR CHEATING CASE

Court adjourns matter till April 24

Associated News International

NEW DELHI: The Patiala House Court on Saturday adjourned till April 24 hearing in the bail matter of a woman who was arrested for cheating a man hailing from Haryana's Jhajjar district of ₹50,000 in lieu of getting him a job at the Supreme Court.

The matter is being investigated by the Crime Branch.

In view of the matter, the Investigating Officer Mukesh Antil on April 11 wrote to the Metropolitan Magistrate Manish Khurana to "cancel" the bail granted to the accused in the "interest of justice".

It came after the complainant

Naveen Kumar contended that he was being threatened by the accused and her associates.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Manish Khurana adjourned the matter as the application was not served to the accused. On March

THE SUSPECT WAS

ACCUSED OF KILLING

SANJAY CHAWLA (47), A

RESIDENT OF MALVIYA

NAGAR, IN FEBRUARY 8

LAST YEAR, DEPUTY

POLICE (CRIME) RAM

interest, Chawla repeatedly

insulted him and he decided to

Therefore, he hatched a con-

spiracy with Rajender and Rohit Thakur and he promised to pay ₹5

Further, they gave contract to Rajender and he hired Dinesh

and the juvenile. On the day of the

incident, Dinesh and the juvenile

followed Chawala from office to

residence and later stabbed him,

COMMISSIONER OF

GOPAL NAIK SAID

lakh, police said.

47-yr-old wanted in

case arrested: Cops

year-old murder

station against a woman for

cheating.

In the First Information Report, Kumar had alleged that the woman in 2017 demanded Rs 10 lakhs from him in lieu of getting him a job of a process server or class IV employ at the top

After the complaint paid the first installment of the total amount, the couple fled and later threatened to implicate him in a false case if he demanded his money back. On March 10, the woman was

arrested and a case was registered against the accused under the section 420/506 and 120 B of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

She was later sent to the judicial custody and thereafter released on bail on March 12 on the order of Metropolitan Magis trate Sumeet Anand of Patiala House Court.

18-year-old killed



 Some of the major projects developed and displayed by students and faculty on Saturday included a foldable bed for "bed-ridden" patients, a height-adjustable wheelchair, a staircase climbing aide

IIT-D wows with innovations on

NEW DELHI: From security system that detects changes in pressure to ring an alarm, to a device that could help the paralysed to move again, the IIT-Delhi showcased around 60 innovations by its students and faculty on Saturday. Naga Jayant, an M Tech stu

dent and a co-inventor of the security system, said users can activate the system using their mobile phones "Users can fix these activated pressure sensors on valuables such as gadgets, vehicles and jewellery. If there is any pressure built on them, the burglar alarm will start beeping immediately and the user will also get a message on her or his mobile phone "

With the "intelligent vehicle monitoring system", developed by postgraduate students Anshuman Singh and Pardhi Chandan, any monitoring body can detect drivers who use the mobile phones while on

"It is based on Global System for Mobile (GSM) communication technology. If it's installed in a vehicle it will automatically send signals to the authorised person whenever the driver is using the phone while the vehicle in motion," said Singh.

Among the other innovations put up on display during the event, its 15th Open House Day attended by 5,000 students from technology to "remote-control" the nervous system. 'The technology can be appli

cation in case if the lower body of a person is paralysed by some accident or in early stage of motor neuron diseases but the brain in intact. Using this technology, one can send signals from the brain using EEG (Electroencephalography) to stimulate the muscle and can help initiate some move ment in the limbs like lifting and twisting an arm or legalittle and clenching fists," said Tapan K Nayan, an assistant professor at IIT-D's school of biological

Some of the other major pro jects developed by students and faculty included a foldable bed for "bed-ridden" patients, a height adjustable wheelchair, a stair case climbing aide for disabled people and foldable bicycle.

IIT-D director V Ramgopal Rao on Saturday said that the institute is focusing on developing technologies having some social impact. He has also announced to introduce "professors of prac-tice" initiative at the institute "The IIT-D senate has already approved the programme under which experts from the industries having more than 10-years of experience will be encouraged to come and teach students at the institute. They will be participat ing in researches as well. Most importantly they will not need any PhD for this," he said.



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Open House Day

in road mishap in outer Delhi

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: An 18-year-old mandied and two of his friends sustained injuries in a road acci-dent in outer Delhi on Saturday morning, the police said.
The deceased was identified

as Himanshu (18), the injured as

Sahib (21) and Jayant (18), they said, adding that the other vehicle involved in the accident has not yet been identified. "At around 5:40am, an accident occurred on Jwalaheri

Market Chowk Road. At the

spot, a damaged Honda City car was found," a senior police officer said The three injured persons were rushed to a hospital in a police van, but Himanshu was later declared dead there, he

Subsequently, a case was registered at Paschim Vihar east was and a probe was initiated, police said.



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Bachelor in Prosthetics & Orthotics (BPO)	10+2 Science PCB/PCM & English	

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Starting of Online/Offline Application : 01.04.2019 Closing of Online/Offline Application : 24.05.2019 **Date of Entrance Examination** : 09.06.2019 (Sunday)

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Far from the chaos of urban life

BEST OF BOTH Removed from the hustle and bustle of the city, this condo give its residents the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of nature without compromising on the conveniences of modern life



GURGAONONE SECTOR 84

Sonali Verma

 $\textbf{GURUGRAM:} \ Residents \ of \ Alpha \ Corp \ Gur$ gaonOne, a condominium spread over 12.5 acres in Sector 84, said they leave the dusty, chaotic city behind when they come home to the sound of water from the fountains and the sight of vertical gardens at the entrance of the condo.

"The area is devoid of any traffic noise You can hear the birds singing in the mornings and see the peacocks dancing, a resident said, adding the quiet is why senior citizens such as him enjoy the

The condominium was built around a year ago, and is currently partially occupied. Most residents travel a good distance to work every day, but don't mind the commute. "Though there is no public transport, we have pre-booked shuttles that take us to our workplaces in the city. And once you get on the highway, it doesn't take too long," said a resident who commutes to MG Road, which is around 16 kilometres from the condominium

The area, which is still developing slowly, has a market at a walking distance, schools for all age groups and a movie theatre. Inside GurgaonOne, a small grocery shop and parlour take care of daily needs and indulgences, said residents. Sumit Rana, who moved to the condominium in October last year, said there's plenty to do inside GurgaonOne and he doesn't need to step out.

The condominium has a swimming

ALTHOUGH RESIDENTS HAVE TO TRAVEL LONG DISTANCES TO WORK EVERY DAY. THEY DO NOT MIND, SINCE THEY HAVE ACCESS TO PRE-BOOKED SHUTTI FS

teaches people of all ages. Skating classes for children are also held daily. Recently was given to children. GurgaonOne has a yoga room with a view of well-manicured lawns, a gymnasium, a squash court, a basketball court, and indoor and

outdoor badminton courts. All the eight towers have walkways adjacent to them. Residents said thanks to the presence of trees and greenery around, the air quality also feels better than the quality in the main city.

Residents here use a mobile application to keep a tab on their electricity consumption. They can use the same application to enter details of visitors and pro-vide entry. A residents' emergency management team has been tasked with fire management and elevator manage-ment, among other tasks. Trainings on elevator safety and fire safety are held frequently. Blood donation camps and health camps are a regular feature. The condominium has vast underground parking, but space for guest parking is available in front of each tower. Apartments are connected with an intercom facility, and residents are notified of visitors from the gate by the security staff.

Events at GurgaonOne are held at the open-air amphitheatre and include games for the children, food stalls, dancing and singing. Holi is a three-day-long affair in the condo and includes lunch and

dancing every day, said residents. Every morning, a flag hoisting cere mony takes place at the condominium The security staff, along with a few residents of the towers, hoist the national flag diligently, and take it down before retir-

The condominium has recently taken a number of steps to go green. Segregation of waste began recently, and trainings are being conducted by the residents' welfare association(RWA) to sensitise residents Recycled water is used for horticulture, and also in the flushing lines. Gurgawhich replenish the groundwater



The condominium was built around a year ago and is partially occupied at present.



CONDO CARD

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SOCIAL MEDIA GROUPS **Apps:** Society Connect, which helps residents pay bills, manage visitors





(From top) Inside GurgaonOne, a shop and a narlour take . care of daily needs and indulgences The condo also has welllawns for all the active souls of

WHAT'S UNIQUE



that the quality of life in the condominium is quite different of that in the main city. It is green, serene and almost everything is available within 500 metres of



welfare association vas formed members and

Yoga classes take place in the morning. In evenings, children learn skating and swimming. There is also a gym in the condo. PARVEEN KL

societysuperstars



AKANCSHA SOOD

Akancsha Sood moved to the condominium four months ago the use of plastic and other green initiatives since then. She started by putting up posters that asked residents to reduce the use of plastic. "I asked the shop owners to cut down plastic bags and they have been keeping paper and cloth bags since then," she said, adding that her aim is to start composting in the condo on a large-scale



SONICA SOOD

Sonica Sood, vice-president of the RWA, actively takes care of the horticulture at GurgaonOne. "The aim is to create a green cor nity," she said, adding that she has been planting a variety of trees at different locations. The interest in horticulture comes from a love for trees and the environment, she said Residents of the condo said she came up with the idea of creating shapes on the grass lawns to beatify the place.

Digital health tools boost traditional services but cannot replace them: WHO guidelines



SANCHITA SHARMA

The first international guidelines for prioritising, integ and regulating digital health tools, released this week, underline the benefits of 10 digital approaches to improve public health and essential services but warn that technology cannot and should not replace traditional health services

With 51% of the world's popu lation having access to broadbandinternet service, the World Health Organization's (WHO) guidelines on digital interven-

tions use evidence to identify how tools that use smartphones tablets and computers can make health systems more efficient responsive and resilient to resource constraints.

"Safe and secure digital health technologies can significantly improve the quality, accessibility and sustainability of health services. New digital health technologies can help connect health professionals to patients in hard-to-reach areas, improve detection, diagnosis and treatment of health problems, and support management and monitoring of public health programmes so decision-makers know whether their policies are working," said Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, regional director of the World Health Organisation South East Asia Region (SEARO), of which India is a part.

Several countries, including India, have integrated digital technologies into public health systems to improve outreach and fill gaps in traditional health services.

"There are many good examples from the region. India's electronic vaccine intelligence network—eVJN—is providing the country's immunisation programme with real-time information on vaccine stocks and flows through a simple mobile application. India has also launched a path-breaking integrated health information platform, a country-wide information system for managing disease outbreaks in the first instance but with poten-

tial for many others uses," Dr Khetrapal Singh said.
Among the initiatives that

have worked are digital tools for training and public health communication such as text reminders to pregnant women to attend antenatal care appointments, reminders to get children vaccinated and decision-support tools to guide health workers provide care.

"Other countries in the region (SEARO), which is home to 26% of the world's population, are increasingly using SMS mes ges, voice messaging and other digital tools to provide large-scale prevention services for non communicable diseases to people at all levels of literacy through the BeHe@lthyBeMobile Initiative, Countries are also introducing electronic medical records, which should help improve continuity of care for people with long term health conditions," said Dr Khetrapal

The BeHe@lthvBeMobile is a joint WHO-International Telecommunications Union initiative that assists national governments to develop mHealth services to prevent and manage noncommunicable diseases, such as heart disease, diabetes and cancers, and their risk factors, such as high blood pressure and high blood glucose.

Digital technology adds value, but it is not a silver bullet, warns the WHO guidelines While there is some evidence on the effectiveness of telemedicine, commodity management,

health worker decision-support and education, content and digital tracking of patients' health status, improving governance, and digital support for vaccinations, birth and death notifications for support; gaps in the available evidence make it difficult to assess whether tools are

effective in every context. "The WHO sounds a mixed note of welcome and caution, just as Louis Pasteur advised his research fellows, 'keep your enthusiasm but let strict verification be its constant companion'," said Dr K Srinath Reddy, president, Public Health Foundation of India.

The guidelines are primarily meant for public health delivery, it can also serve as a playbook for developers and manufacturers

of digital health devices, who need to generate more evidence to show their products improve on established healthcare prac-

"They come at a time when several applications of innova-tive digital technologies are claiming to transform the outreach effectiveness and affordability of healthcare. While there is great promise of such benefits. especially in primary health care, disease surveillance, natient tracking counselling telemedicine and supply chain management, the performance of new technologies needs to be carefully evaluated," said Dr Reddy.

"India is emerging as a crucible of innovation in digital technologies and can become the

generic drugs. As it sets out to do so, the WHO guidelines will point the direction. In a rapidly emerging and expanding field, WHO will also need to frequently update and revise the guidelines to keep pace with the innovations and evidence," said Dr Reddy. It's imperative to ensure

patient safety, privacy, tracea bility, accountability and secu-

rity.
"This is a very fast-moving area. To take greatest advantage of the potential of digital technologies, people must be confident that information is secure and confidential. With that assurance, the benefits stand to be immense," said Dr Khetrapal

How the net killed Delhi's poll bazaar

LOSING GROUND Sadar Bazaar, which once supplied election merchandise to India's political parties, is witnessing a slump like never before. And traders blame it on the internet.

NEW DELHI: Mohammed Chaman, a short, soft-spoken merchant of election mer-chandise in Delhi's Sadar Bazaar, is miffed at the way the general elections are going for him.

"I have not sold anything since morn-

ing;Idon't know who will eventually win or lose, but I am certainly a loser. My business is down by half this time," says Chaman, sitting in his shop overflowing with stacks of scarves, caps, t-shirts, bands, watches featuring slogans and symbols of various political parties.

"This smartphone has killed my business," he says, pulling out a phone from his pocket. "Earlier, the contestants had merchandise rooms at their offices, now they have war rooms where tech-savvy youngsters run their campaign on laptops. They do not seem to need us any

Chaman, who runs Aaroma Enterprises, is not the only one whose business has taken a nosedive—traders and manufacturers in Sadar Bazaar, which has been supplying election merchandise to political parties and candidates all over the country for decades, say they have not seen a slump like this before.

And they blame it on the mobile internet.

The trend of online campaigning, which started during the 2014 general elections, they say, has reached a crescendo in 2019, with contestants relying more on digital platforms to reach out to their voters than the traditional methods like public speeches, road shows. door- to- door campaigns, killing their decades-old business.

They are not exaggerating - India now has 450 million smartphones owners against 155 million during the previous general elections in 2014, according to Counterpoint Research, a research and analysis company. And experts say the online advertising expenditure by political parties is likely to double to 400 to 500 crore this Lok Sabha election.

Abdul Malik, whose firm Bharat Handloom Cloth House, better known as Gaffar Bhai Jhandewale, has been supplying flags to political parties and candidates all over the country since 1954

cannot hide his pique for what he calls

"election planners".
"Earlier, we used to have wedding planners and now we have these election planners. They have managed to convince our customers that the mobile phone, and not the merchandise, is the tool to take their messages to the voters, says Malik, sitting in his first-floor office whose walls are festooned with flags of various political parties.

According to an estimate by the industry body Assocham, there were around 150 'political consultants', big and small, in 2014. Industry insiders peg their current number at 400, and their stated 'expertise' lies in helping political parties and candidates meet technological and social media challenges.

Malik, who, on an average, made about 3 croreflags during every general election in the past, says his business is down by 75 per cent this year.

"In the 2009 general elections, I had employed 100 people, now I have only 10. We used to work through the night during the elections and still could not meet the demand. Many top politicians visited

ELECTION WOES

- Traders of election merchandise in Sadar Bazaar say their business is down by 75 per cent, thanks to online campaigning by political parties
- The general elections in the past, they say, provided temporary employment to 2 lakh people
- Thousands of workers from Haryana Punjab and UP flocked to east Delhi localities to work in small sewing units operating out of the houses. Most have not got work this time
- India now has 450 million smart-phone owners as against 155 million in 2014, says Counterpoint Research
- expenditure by political parties is likely to double to ₹400 to ₹500 crore this Lok Sabha election



my office to ensure we complete their orders in time," says Malik

He points to several sewing machines and workers, sitting idle among stacks of unsold flags. "They have gone silent now," he says. The party workers and volunteers who came to buy merchandise from them, Malik says, are now busy creating and running WhatsApp accounts. This new method of campaigning he says ruefully has not only deprived the festival of democracy of its colour, but has also led to a disconnect

between voters and candidates.

"In the past, politicians and part workers went door to door, canvassing for votes with folded hands. They would personally meet men, women and children, pin badges on their shirts and offer them flags. They no longer do all of this, and so do not need our merchandise," says Malik, "Now, there is no personal chemistry left between voters and candidates. Even voters do not like to wear badges and bands of any political parties, except those of BSP who like to assert their caste and political identity.

Political consultants say their clients have realised that election merchandise is out of fashion and a sheer waste of time and money. "They can get 1,000 likes for a few hundred rupees on Facebook imagine how much time and money it would take to personally reach out to 1,000 households," says Vivek Bagri, who runs Lead Tech, a political consultancy firm in Gurgaon. "Besides, digital campaigning has a lot of room for creativity in terms of design and messaging. Since 2014, our business has gone up ten times. We are working in almost every

state for political parties and candidates during the current elections

But Bagri admits that digital cam paigning has led to what he calls an 'emo tional detachment' between the candi date and their constituents. "A bond is developed when a politician goes to personally meet his or her voters," says

The smartphone, which people use both for information and entertainment. has emerged as a very potent campaigning tool, a perfect delivery mechanism for customized political messaging in India," says Apar Gupta, executive director, Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF), a Delhi- based non-government organisation that works in the sphere of digital rights. "But yes, political parties need to strike a balance between on-ground and digital campaign."

Sadar Baaar traders say that the busi ness used to be so good in the past that during the general elections, about 200 traders from other states came and rented shops for a few months in the market to sell election merchandise. Now, hardly 25 shops are left.

'And they too are looking for alternative business opportunities," says Anil Gupta, one of the biggest merchandise dealers in Sadar Bazaar, and the president of All India Election Material Man-ufacturer and Traders Association. Gupta, a stout man who looks more like a politician in his impeccable white kurta and pyjama, has been in the business since 1979. It is afternoon, and he is sitting on a cushion on the floor watching TV along with half a dozen staff in his big air-conditioned shop whose shelves

are crammed with election merchan

"In the 1980s, we used to sell only caps badges and flags; then came stickers, wrist bands, paper masks, pens, purse ribbons; now we also sell water bottles, phone covers, pen drives, diaries with messages and symbols of political parties, to keep up with the times," says Gupta, adding, "But most contestants have now outsourced their campaign to political consultants, who do not believe in merchandise." No wonder then Gupta is now trying to reinvent his firm.
"I have asked my son to explore if we too can become campaign planners."

The shock of the slump in business is being felt not just in Sadar Bazaar, but in other part of Delhi, too. There are thousands of families in east Delhi localities such as Seelampur, Bhajanpura, Nand Nagri Sonia Vihar Welcome Colony for whom elections brought an opportunity to earn decent money.

"We sew flags, and caps, etc. In the past, the work started six months before the elections and we worked day and night and made about ₹2-3 lakhs. But now, there is no work," says Mohammed Ilivas, who lives in Janta Colony in

Every general election, Illiyas, says about 50,000 workers in Haryana, Pun-jab and UP flocked to these east Delhi localities to work during elections. The traders say, the general elections pro-vided temporary employment to 2 lakh in the capital. "We have never sided with any political party, and sold merchan dise of all. But now they have ditched us



BEWARE!

Anil Gupta's shop in Sadar Bazaar, which has been in business since 1979. Traders say that once



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	E-Tender Notice No./2 for 2018-2019							
	Reference :- This Office e-Tender Notice No.O.No./PW/AD/E-Tender/1482/2019, Dated 28/02/2019							
	Published	Read As						
	1) E-Tender download Period :- Dated 06/03/2019	E-Tender download Period :- Dated						
	(10.00 AM) to 20/04/2019 (6.00 PM)	20/04/2019 (6.01 PM) to 30/05/2019 (6.00 PM)						
	2) Pre-bid Meeting :- Dated 02/04/2019 Office of	Pre-bid Meeting :- Dated 08/05/2019 Office of						
	the Chief Engineer, P.W.Region, Konkan,	the Chief Engineer, P.W.Region, Konkan,						
Mumbai at 3.30 PM.		Mumbai at 3.30 PM.						
	2) F Tandar Opening Date : Dated	E Tondor Oponing Data : Dated						

24/04/2019 (3.00 PM) 04/06/2019 (3.00 PM) nges to this site http://mahatenders.gov.in of the Govt. of Maharashtra.

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Sd/-Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Alibag Dist.Raigad.

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hindustantimes e ection 2019

'Nyay scheme will remonetise the economy'

POLL NARRATIVE Congress chief says mood of people favours change; lists major failures of Bharatiya Janata Party govt, including unemployment, rural distress, alleged corruption in Rafale deal

HINDUSTAN NITERVIEW

Rahul Gandhi is confident that the grand old party will do much better in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections than estimated by media surveys. In an interview with Shashi Shesister publication of the Hindustan Times, Gandhi said the mood of the people clearly favoured change and listed the major failures of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government, including rising unem-ployment, rural distress and alleged corruption in the Rafale deal. The coalition Congress has formed in Tamil Nadu will "wipe out everybody," Gandhi said, and the alliance in Bihar will "bring great results." He also said Guiarat, the home state of Prime Minister Naren dra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah, would give a "huge majority" to the Congress in the Lok Sabha polls. Edited

You are on election tours across the country. How do you feel about it? What kind of results will the Congress get?
Positive results will come

because the country is disappointed with the BJP and wants

If you talk about numbers?

Instead of numbers, look at the mood of the public. The atmosphere of change is clearly visible. There are three reasons. First, unemployment is at its peak, the youth are restless, but Narendra Modi is not even talking about employment. For the Congress, the youth and employment are a priority. Sec-ond, agriculture and farmers are in trouble but Mr Modi seems oblivious to this

You are aware of our record when it comes to protecting the interests of our farmers. In Chhattisgarh, Punjab and Karnataka, we gave loan waivers in 72 hours. The third issue is corruntion which is all around us especially corruption in the Rafale deal where the trail of corruption leads directly to Mr

After the Gujarat elections, the Congress has gained some ground... do you think the expectations of good results from Congress have increased?

The performance of the Congress is going to be much better than what media surveys are showing. This is not fully visi-ble in newspapers and TV channels because we know that the BJP government puts pressure on media through its various agencies and uses the govern $ment's\,advertising\,funds\,to$ control the narrative.

You have not been in power for a long time in the country's largest states such as UP. Bihar. Tamil Nadu, etc. It has had an impact on the organisation. Will it be difficult to get better results there? The success of our coalition in

Tamil Nadu will wipe out every-body. I believe that the Congress will win all the seats there. The alliance in Bihar will also bring great results. In Uttar Pradesh, we are fighting separately but the Congress will win seats. That's why we have sent Priyanka ji and Scindia ji to UP. In Bihar, our state incharge, Shakti Singh Gohil, has done

You did not form a coalition in Uttar Pradesh. People thought you would form one.

In Uttar Pradesh, the SP-BSP decided not to form a coalition However, we wanted all of us to fight together. I respect their decision. We respect Mayawati ji and Akhilesh ji. We are fighting alone but I'm certain we will

In Delhi, too, talks of coalition continued for a long time. What happened after that? We said clearly that in Delhi we

are ready to form an alliance with the Aam Aadmi Party to defeat the BJP. There was also a consensus on the four-three for-mula. But I do not know why they changed their mind. Now they talk about Haryana, talk about Punjab, talk about Goa, too. It is their decision to not form an alliance in Delhi. We have offered them four seats in Delhi because we want to defeat

Today, I was in Surat for five hours. I stopped the car at one place and many daily-wagers came to us in search of work. Like-wise, traders are very disap-pointed with GST. When I asked "who are you voting for", they remembered "Gujarati pride." Will you be able to encash this discontent in the Lok Sabha elections?

Remember one thing. Gujarat was considered the BJP-RSS stronghold but in the assembly elections in Gujarat, BJP almost collapsed. This was despite the fact that Narendra Modi and Amit Shah had used all their strength there. Do you know what kind of pressure was exerted in Surat? How the income tax department and government agencies were mis used? Gujarat's results will be a surprise. Gujarat is going to give a huge majority to the Congress party in this Lok Sabha

Demonetisation, the Gabbar Singh Tax and Narendra Modi's policies benefited people like Anil Ambani, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi, but this emphasis on benefitting crony capitalist friends of Mr Modi, has jammed the engine of Hin-dustan's economy. That's why you met with a lot of unemployed workers in Surat. The truth is that, in a way, the Modi



government destroyed the pur chasing power of the people. If we do not give impetus to that purchasing power, and do not restart the economy of India. how will the country move for ward? We have spent the last many months on planning how we will re-start the Indian econ-omy. Our flagship Nyay scheme [Nyuntam Aay Yojana mentioned in the manifeso], will

There is an allegation that all institutions have broken down in a way. When one talks to those from the BJP, they start giving old examples. As a leader of the new century, what will you do for the restoration of impartiality and prestige of these institutions? India's strength is its institutions that make the government accountable and strengthen democracy. Our institutions have a special place, they are respected. Nar-

play a big role in this.

On the contrary, the Congress's nature is to strengthen the institutions and through

endra Modi has tried to weaken

democracy by weakening the various institutions of our

Commission chief, or the stake holder of any institution running the country, RBI, Planning Commission, Supreme Court-Mr Modi has insulted them all. In fact, for the first time in the history of the country, Supreme Court judges were forced to seek justice from the people of the country. Today the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has spoken out against the pres sure being exerted on the judicial system. Our institutions our democracy.

What do you consider the three failures of Narendra Modi? tion of Indian economy, demonetisation and Gabbar Singh

You have tried to change the political narrative through Nyay. The government faces fund constraints today, how will you imple ment it?

We have always kept our promise. We spoke of a farm loan waiver in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Pun-jab and Karnataka. Mr Modi said there is no money for loan

tion of Congress governments in these states, we waived the loans of farmers. Now they say from where will get the annual ₹72,000 for five crore families? I tell you, we will get it out of the pockets of the handful of industrialist friends of Mr Modi. Neither will we burden the middle class nor will we take money from them and we will not raise income tax. The Nyay scheme will remonetise the Indian economy. The way petrol is pro-vided to an engine, the Nyay scheme will 'jump-start' the entire economy. With this, the poor will get money, demand will increase, manufacturing will increase and the youth will

You are also contesting from Wayanad. But Smriti Irani says you have gone looking for a safe seat. Amethi is my 'karmabhoomi'. I contest from Amethi, and will continue to do so. I want to send a clear message to my brothers and sisters in south India. When you go to south India, whether it is Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Goa, Kar-nataka, Telangana or Andhra Pradesh, everywhere one strong feeling is prevalent, that their voice is not being heard.

get employment.

and to tell every Indian in the south that your voice will be heard and you are also an important part of this country you are also India, that is why I am contesting from Wayanad, in the south of India.

If you have to take the oath for the post of Prime Minister, what will be the first three things that you

Firstly, the decision on the post of the Prime Minister depends on the people of India. The pub-lic will decide. But, my priorities are to put the Indian economy back on track, end the pain of farmers and workers, employment for the youth and pave the way to the future. Today, the future does not seem bright to the youth of India. We our youth. A new vision.

Why is it that Pakistan comes up as a political issue in every Indian election? Sometimes, it is said that former PM Manmohan Singh met Pakistani ambassador, Sometimes you are accused.

Do you remember what Mr Modi said in the 2014 election? He made four major promises One, that he will deposit ₹15 lakh in every bank account. Two, he will give jobs to two

crore youth every year. Three, farmers will get 50% profit over their cost of produc tion. Four, ₹80 lakh crore worth of black money would be brought back to India within 100 days. He failed to deliver on these four promises and that's the reason why he is trying to divert issues. On the other hand, we have promised to deposit ₹72,000 every year in the bank accounts of the poorest of the poor, That's ₹3.6 lakh over 5 years. Secondly, we will fill up all

government jobs to create new employment opportunities for youth. We will have a separate budget for our farmers.
Thirdly, we will empower the

people of India to fight against corruption. It will begin with the Rafale probe. Narendra Modi has nothing left to say about his poll promises so he is trying to divert attention.

READY FOR ELECTION BATTLE

Let's see. Let there be some sus-

You have been regularly been seen performing puja or going to reli-gious places. Do you perform puja

in your private life?
My work is my biggest worship. The work I do and the path of my life are also an important form of worship for me. That's also a part of our Indian culture If a person or a community invites me to their place of worship or house, I would definitely like to go. I respect and understand their religious sentiments. This is the path of India

strength in Parliament but from the beginning, it was vocal against the government. Now, it looks like it is increasingly becoming a personal battle between Narendra Modi and you. Do you agree? I had hugged him in front of everyone in Parliament. You go

The Congress had reduced

through all my speeches and see, I never make any personal attacks. I speak with affection. I don't talk about his family. I never say anything about his father or mother or his wife. I respect the Prime Minister,

but he should speak the truth. He claims to be a chowkidar, but on the other hand gives ₹30,000 crore to Anil Ambani in the Rafale deal, what else can be said (of it) but (that it's) theft? It's not my personal battle. I am only carrying out my responsibilities for the country.

[The government and Anil Ambani's Reliance Group have denied allegations of any wrongdoing in the Rafale deal.]

You had hugged Narendra Modi feeling for you in him? No. It looks like he has personal

animosity against me. But I don't have any personal ani-mosity or hate towards him.

My fight is on ideological grounds. I am fighting against his ideology. I neither have any anger nor any vengeance against Modi

But he has anger and the need for revenge. When he meets me in public, he often looks away. That's his style.

National Highway-44 ban partially lifted in J&K

DELHI/SRINAGAR: Restrictions on civilian traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar Highway - NH-44 imposed after the Pulwama suicide attack which killed 40 soldiers in February, has been relaxed, the J&K government

said in a statement. On February 14, 40 soldiers of the Central Reserve Police Force were killed when an explosive laden vehicle rammed into their convoy. On March 30, another attempt to target a convoy failed. Following this, on April 7, the

movement of civilian traffic along the highway was restricted to twice a week — Wednesday and Sunday On Saturday the administration rolled back the restric-tions partially, from two days to one and on a certain stretch and added that these will further be reviewed after the last phase of polling is over on May 6. An offition on civilian movement between Srinagar and Baramulla on National Highway-44 would now be limited only to Sunday with effect from April 22. There would be no prohibition on civilian traffic on Wednesday.'

would continue between Srina gar and Udhampur on National Highway-44 as earlier. Even on the days of restrictions - Sunday and Wednesday—between Srinagar and Udhampur and on Sunday between Baramulla and Srinagar, the local administration would continue to facilitate the movement of civilian traffic as has been happening in the last

CIVILIAN MOVEMENT

BETWEEN SRINAGAR AND BARAMULLA ON NH-44 WILL BE LIMITED TO SUNDAY FROM APRIL 22. THERE WILL BE NO BAN ON WEDNESDAY

two weeks, it said.

"Complete review of restrictions on the highway would be done after the last phase of elections on May 6 to examine the need for continuing with them," the statement said, but added, "The restrictions will be reviewed on a real-time basis and modifications will be made as necessary."
"The restrictions weren't pop-

ular with the local population, importantly the security forces weren't either keen on continuing with the restrictions," a sendid not want to be named said explaining the reason behind the "The tourist season begins

from May. In addition, the J&K government will move back to Srinagar - the summer Capital from May," a second senior MHA official said indicating more relaxation in the coming days.

Earlier this week, HT had reported about the government reconsidering the restriction on civilian traffic.

SECURITY MEASURES FOR ANANTNAG Between 30.000 and 40 000 security forces will be in place for the $first\,phase\,of the\,three-phase\,polling\,in\,South\,Kashmir's\,Anantnag$ on April 23. The LS seat, which has been without a representative in Parliament since 2016.

The J&K police and the CRPF polling booths, which are most vulnerable in the region, senior officials said requesting anonymity. Ninety percent of the 900 polling booths in the constituency have been declared hypersensitive Separate teams headed by senior police officers have been formed to tackle stone pelters. The army will be pressed into "night and area domination efforts," the officials said.

PDPleader Mehbooba Mufti was elected to the Lok Sabha in 2014 from Anantnag, but she resigned after becoming chief minister of J&K chief minister in 2016 following assembly elec-South Kashmir forced the Election Commission to defer a by-election and the seat has remained vacant since. Inspector General of Police SP Pani and top officials on Saturday held a meeting with officers who will be deployed on the ground on Tues

"The first and second phase of polls, which remained almost violence-free, has given us confidence but the election in Anant nag will be a big challenge," said a senior police officer.

Baramulla and Srinagar in the Kashmir valley voted on April 11 and 18. On the recommendation mission has reduced the duration of polling, which will begin at 7 am and conclude at 4 pm.

Tejashwi skips

NDA CASTS DOUBTS OVER GA

Rahul rally again

PATNA/SUPAUL: The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)'s Teiashwi Prasad Yadav, leader of the opposition in the Bihar assembly, missed ally Rahul Gandhi's rally in Supaul, Bihar, on Saturday, the Congress president's third in the state and the third missed by Tejashwi, prompting opponents to claim that all was not well within the Mahagatbandhan, or Grand Alli-

Tejashwi has previously missed Gandhi's rallies in Gaya and Katihar, The Congress, RJD. Rashtriya Lok Samta Party, Hin-dustani Awam Morcha and Vikassheel Insan Party are part of the GA; the Congress is contest-ing nine of the 40 LS seats in the state and the RJD 20 with the other partners fielding candidates in the rest.

BJP-led National Democratic lighted Yadav's conspicuous absence at Gandhi's rallies and said the alliance was coming apart, "There is no unity in GA. The alliance leaders are avoiding each other and skipping rallies by topleaders," said Union minister and BJP's Patna Sahib candidate, Ravi Shankar Prasad.

"That there are a lot of inner another NDA constituent.

contradictions in GA was apparent from the fact that Tejashwi has been skipping Rahul Gandhi's meetings," said Chirag Paswan of the Lok Janshakti Party, Both the RJD and the Congress



ces within GA nor is there is any threat to GA unity," said the party's state spokesperson, Mri tunjay Tiwary. Tejashwi told journalistsinPatna "Iwillattend other rallies of Rahul Gandhi.

The Congress echoed that. "Tejashwi had a pre-planned election meet in Khagaria, which goes to the polls on April 23, to canvass for Vikassheel Insaan Party candidate Mukesh Sahni. whois a prominent GA leader...," said the Congress's Bihar incharge Shakti Singh Gohil.

being the venue of the latest Gandhi rally missed by Yadav hasn't been lost on analysts. The local unit of the RJD has openly opposed Congress's sitting MP Ranjeet Ranjan and has not campaigned for her. Ranjan's hus band and the sitting MP from Madhepura, Rajesh Ranjan aljas Pappu Yadav, has gone on to file his nomination papers from Madhepura as an independent after GÅ turned down his request to field him. Veteran socialist Sharad Yaday is the RJD's official nominee for the seat. The RJD is apprehensive that Pappu Yadav might spoil Sharad Yadav's victory chances.

Akhilesh accuses uncle Shivpal of

colluding with BJP president Akhilesh Yaday on Saturday accused his uncle Shivpal Yadav, without taking his name, of being in collusion with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

Akhilesh, however, denied that he had expelled Shivpal from the party. He claimed his uncle had got him expelled from the

Åkhilesh was addressing a rally in Makhanpur in support of Akshay Yadav, the sitting MP and son of SP general secretary Ram Gonal Vaday Akshay face his uncle Shivpal, who is contest ing as a Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (PSP) candidate

BSP chief Mayawati and Rashtriva Lok Dal president Ajit Singh also addressed the rally. All three parties have tied up in Uttar Pradesh for the Lok Sahha elections "Conspiracies are being hatched against us and falsehood is being spread that we have expelled him (Shivpal) from the Samajwadi Party and have insulted him. It is totally false..." said Akhilesh. "In fact, it was he (Shivpal) who convinced Neta ji (Mulayam Singh Yadav) to expel me and other party leaders (Ram Gopal Yadav)," he alleged. "There were and BJP on the sly, for which he was awarded by the UP chiefminister with a bungalow... ," he alleged.

Modi backs Pragya despite Oppn furore

Priyadarshini said that her husband will win by a huge margin of votes.

NEWDELHI: A fierce political battleraged on the controversial nomination of Malegaon blast accused ragya Thakur as the Bharatiya Janata Party's Bhopal candidate, as saffron party led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi rallied behind the decision to field her. ven as leaders across the opposition have questioned the move

Senior Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia with his wife Priyadarshini during a public meeting after filing his nomination papers at Gandhi Maidan in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh on Saturday.

On Friday, Thakur said that the former Mumbai Anti-Terror ist Squad chief Hemant Karkare, who died in action during the Mumbai terror attacks on 26 November 2008, had tortured her. She added that the top cop and died after she cursed him.

Pragya Thakur is among the even accused in the 2008 Malegaon blast case in which six peo ple were killed and over 100 injured on September 29. Kark are was heading the probe and Pragya Thakur was arrested as the motorcycle used in the blast was registered in her name. Thakur, who has been charged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act is out on bail afternine years in jail. Her comments received widespread censure from leaders, including Uddhav Γhackeray, chief of Shiv Sena, a BJP ally. The party's state unit too distanced itself from her reac tions, saying that it considered all those who died in the 26/11

demanded an apology. Following the furore, Thakur reportedly apologised for her remarks, but on Saturday demanded an apology from those who "tortured her for nine years" while speaking to reporters. However, Prime Minister Nar

endra Modi defended Thakur's candidature in a TV interview on Friday. He hit out at critics asking why she could not contest when there were other candidates who were out on bail.

"People who have been convicted by the court, some are going to meet them in jail, or when they go to the hospital. Do such people have the right to preach? Secondly, if the Amethi candidate is out on bail, no debate. If the Rae Bareli candidate is out on bail, no debate, But if the Bhopal candidate is out on bail, to raise a storm on this. How will this sustain?" the Prime Minister said, referring to Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi, who are currently on bail in a case of alleged misappropriation per taining to the National Herald

case.
Madhya Pradesh Chief Electoral Office sources said a complaint has been received against Thakur for her comments on Karkare. The matter is under enquiry, they said.

(With PTI inputs)

■ po | briefs |

I am scared, nobody knows what Modi will do: Pawar

MUMBAI: NCP chief Sharad Pawai said Saturday that he was "terribly afraid" as to what PM Narendra Modi, who once called Pawar his mentor in politics, would do next Pawar was addressing a campaign rally at Daund in Baramati LS seat from where his daughter Supriya Sule is seeking re-election, "Modi says he came into politics holding my finger. But now I am terribly afraid, because what this man will do, nobody knows," he said

Poll commission notice to Sidhu over Bihar remarks

NEW DELHI: The Election Commis sion (EC) on Saturday issued a notice to Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu over his reported appeal to Muslims in Bihar to vote en-bloc to defeat the Bharativa Janata Party. The poll panel has given Sidhu 24 hours to reply to its notice, which has found the remarks to be in contravention of the model code of conduct that bars making an appeal for votes along religious lines.

Situation in Bengal like in Bihar 15 yrs ago: EC

KOLKATA: Election Commission Saturday said the situation in West Bengal was similar to that it was in Bihar around 10 to 15 years ago and had lead to voters' demand for deployment of central forces in the Lok Sabha elections. The TMC demanded his removal, claiming that Navak has allegiance to the RSS and the BJP. Meanwhile, as per EC orders, Malda SP Arnab Ghosh will be replaced with Ajoy Prasad.

Four police observers appointed for Tripura polling AGARTALA: The EC appointed four

sought to downplay Tejashwi's

absence. "There are no differen-

central police observers to hold the third phase of polling in the Tripura East LS seat, where election was deferred to April 23, citing an "unconducive security situation". an official said here on Saturday The EC appointed three central police observers and a special central police observer to oversee the use of security forces in polling in the mountainous tribal reserved parliamentary constituency.

Congress seeks removal of Rae Bareli collector LUCKNOW: The state Congress on

Saturday urged the EC to remove Rae Bareli district magistrate Neha Sharma who, it alleged, was playing a partisan role and working as an agent of RIP candidate Dinesh Pratap Singh. In a memo-randum to CEO L Venkateshwarlu senior Congress leaders said there was no possibility of holding a free and fair election here as the DM had failed to discharge her duty in an impartial manner.

natio

Foreign secy to discuss **Azhar during China visit**

KEY PARLEYS Visit comes ahead of Belt and Road Forum, which India will skip over CPEC

Sutirtho Patranobis and Rezaul H Laskar

BEIJING/NEWDELHI: India's foreign secretary, Vijay Gokhale, will hold talks with top Chinese offi-cials, including foreign minister, Wang Yi, next week on key issues such as coordinating the positions of the two sides at international forums and the listing of Jaish-e-Mohammed chief, Masood Azhar.

Officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, described Gokhale's two-day visit to Beijing beginning on Sunday as part of regular diplomatic consultations.

However, he is visiting days

ahead of the second Belt and Road Forum, which India will skip because of concerns over territorial sovereignty related to the China-Pakistan Economic

Corridor (CPEC). Gokhale, who earlier served as the envoy to Beijing, will have a series of meetings on April 22, including with vice foreign minister, Kong Xuanyou, and state councillor and foreign minister, Wang Yi.

Indian officials sought to play down the significance of the timing of the visit, saving the trip had been scheduled quite some time back.

"The foreign secretary visits other countries as part of our regular consultations. He was recently in Washington and Moscow. He will be visiting Berlin after Beijing," said an official who asked not to be identified.

In addition to talks aimed at maintaining momentum in bilateral ties in the wake of last year's informal summit



India has renewed its demand for JeM chief Masood Azhar to be designated a global terrorist since the Feb 14 Pulwama attack , for which his group claimed responsibility. WASEEM ANDRABI/HT FILE

dra Modi and President Xi Jin-ping at Wuhan, Gokhale is expected to discuss the coordinating of India's and China's positions on key global issues at forums such as the G20 Summit to be held in Tokyo in June, people familiar with developments

Xi is expected to meet the Indian prime minister on the sidelines of the G20 Summit. The Chinese side is also keenly looking forward to the second informal summit, which will be held in India some time after the general election gets over in

Beijing is currently prepar ing to host the three-day Belt and Road Forum from April 25, which will be attended by nearly 40 heads of state and government. India and Bhutan are among the countries that will not attend the forum. New Delhi

 $tion \, of \, the \, forum \, in \, 2017.$ India has repeatedly expressed concerns about the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), largely because of CPEC, which passes through Pakistan-occu-pied Kashmir, and the uneven playing field created by China for Xi's flagship connectivity project. For Beijing, India's snub is a diplomatic irritant. Briefing the media on the forum on Friday foreign minister Wang had said: "One of our differences is how to look at the BRI. The Indian side has its concerns. "We understand that and that is why we have stated the BRI, including the CPEC, is only an economic initiative and does not target any third country, and they have nothing to do rial disputes left from history

efforts to designate Masood Azhar at the UN's Islamic State and al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee, too, has emerged as an irritant in ties.

Gokhale is expected to con-

vey India's concerns on this issue to Kong.

Kong has played an important role in bilateral consultations in recent years, and had visited Pakistan in March in the aftermath of tensions following the February 14 Pulwama suicide attack that killed 40 Indian Central Reserve Police Force personnel.

In December, Kong had visited India to review diplo-matic ties in the wake of the Wuhan summit. India incidentally has sent one of its frontline warships, INS Kolkata, to join the 70th anniversary of the Peoole's Liberation Army Navy at Qingdao in east China. Hu Shisheng, a Beijing-based South Asia expert, said there are several issues for the two sides to discuss. "I thought of the second BRF summit. Maybe, the Indian side wants to reduce China's misconceptions. Although New Delhi is reluctant to send official delegations to the second BRF, the cooperation between the two countries on regional integra tion and governance can still be pushed forward," said Hu, director of the Institute of South and Southeast Asian and Oceania Studies at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations.

Azhar will be discussed too, Hu said. "That's another possibility because the technical block will end by May. Discussions could also include how to coordinate positions during the G20 Summit in Tokyo," he said.

KEY CASES NEXT WEEK

Criminal contempt plea against Congress president Rahul

tions to SC in the Rafale case

A plea by producers of a biopic

on PM Narendra Modi challeng-ing an embargo on its release till elections are held

A petition seeking cancellation of polls in Tamil Nadu alleging

corruption in campaigning

Gandhi for attributing observa-



At least 14 injured as Poorva Exp derails

HT Correspondent

KANPUR: Twelve coaches of the Howrah-Delhi Poorva Express jumped the tracks about 20 kms from Kanpur past the intervening midnight of Friday and Saturday, jolting passengers out of sleep and flinging some off their berths, and causing injuries to at least 14 people.

Kanpur senior superintendent of police (SSP) Anant Deo said the 14 passengers had suffered bone fractures as the train, headed to Delhi, veered off the tracks near Rooma railway station in Kanpur Nagar district around 12.50 am on Saturday. Eleven others with minor injuries were discharged after first aid. There were no deaths, North Central Railways chief spokes-man Gaurav Bansal said.

Four of the 12 derailed Linke $Hofmann\,Busch\,(LHB)\,coaches$ overturned, North Central Railway public relations officer Amit Malviya said.

According to preliminary investigations, the derailment was possibly caused by a fault in the coupling but investigators have not ruled out sabotage.

The general manager of North Central Railway, Rajiv Chaudhary, said an inquiry had been ordered, which would be con-

panel had concluded.

No matter how high the judges

are, they are definitely not to be

 $treated \, as \, immune \, from \, charges \,$

of sexual harassment of women at

the workplace if and when such a charge is made and proved, the

two jurists had said in their

report. SN Singh, former dean of the

law faculty at Delhi University, said the regulations of the sexual

harassment committee must be

changed to include sitting judges.

'In case a complaint is lodged the

internal panel should not include any judge from the Supreme

Court. Senior members of the Bar

should be asked to enquire into

remaining passengers. Follow trains were diverted, while som inter-city trains were cancelled However, prompt action by the railway authorities and the dislater, a passenger train passed through the track, the release

to Kanshi Ram Trauma Centre in Kanpur, where they were referred to the LLR Hospital. Satendra Kumar, an employee of the pantry car, said the passenger were jolted awake as the train coaches went off the tracks.
Uttar Pradesh chief minister

The railways have paid an ex-gratia of ₹5,000 to passengers with simple injuries and ₹25,000 to those with serious injuries. (With inputs from Agencies,

He said a special train com-

prising 14 coaches left for New Delhi around 5.45 am with 900 passengers of Poorva Express. Another train with 10 coaches left around 7.50 am with the ing the derailment, the routes of five down trains and nine up trict administration ensured that the track was ready for rail traffic to resume by 6.15 AM. On a trial basis, a goods train and from the railways read. The injured were first rushed

Yogi Adityanath has directed the officials to extend all possible help to the injured and ensure that proper medical treatment was provided to them.



ABHINANDAN TRANSFERRED FROM J&K OVER **SECURITY ISSUES**

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, captured and briefly held by Paki stan after his MiG-21 jet was shot down during an aerial engagement over the Line of Control on February 27 has been transferred out of Jammi and Kashmir for security rea sons, a defence ministry official

said on Saturday. Varthaman has been shifted from Srinagar airbase, to "another frontline fighter base", the senior defence ministry official, who didn't want to be named, said without giving details. "Security considera tions prompted the transfer, the official said. Security agen cies had indicated that Vartha man could be targeted by Paki stan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), the group that claimed responsibility for the February 14 suicide attack in Pulwama that killed 40 Indian troops and triggered a tense standoff between the two countries. The Indian Air Force (IAF), how ever, described Varthaman's transfer to another airbase as "routine". Varthaman, flying a vintage Russian-origin MiG-21 iet, was part of the complement of combat aircraft that took on incoming Pakistan Air Force jets on February 27. A day ear lier, IAF combat jets had struck a JeM training camp at Balakot in Pakistan's Khyber-Pakh tunkhwa province. Varthaman was taken prisoner by Pakistani forces after his jet was shot down along the LoC.

HE HAS BEEN SHIFTED

FRONTLINE FIGHTER BASE", SAID A SENIOR DEFENCE



Almond Bar 35g | ₹20*



Hazelnut Chocolate 150g | ₹200*



Dark Chocolate 40g | ₹25*



Milk Chocolate 40g | ₹25*



Dark Chocolate with Mint



Colombia Origin **Dark Chocolate** 125g | ₹150*



Dark Chocolate 125g | ₹150*



Super Fruit 150g | ₹150*

shortstories

BAIL PETITION OF GUPTA REJECTED IN AGUSTA CASE

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Saturday dismissed the bail plea of the alleged defence agent, Sushen Mohan Gupta while directing that he be produced in the court on Monday in connection to the AgustaWestland scam Special Judge Arvind Kumar refused to grant relief to Gupta, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate alleging that Gupta had in his possession some payment details in the ₹3,600 crore purchase deals of Agusta-Westland VVIP choppers

Three houses, seven shops gutted in J&K's Kishtwar

JAMMU: Three houses and seven shops were gutted in a fire in the Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir but there was no report of any loss of life, officials said Saturday. The fire and emergency services personnel managed to put off the blaze after several hours of operation, they said, adding the cause of the fire was

Teenager dies after being gang-raped in Jharkhand

DHANBAD: A teenaged girl died hours after being allegedly raped by at least five persons, who were members of a marriage party, in a village in Dhanbad district of Jharkhand, police said Saturday. All the five, including two minors, have been apprehended, they said. The victim's father said she was rushed to hospital soon after she came home, narrated the ordeal and fainted. She died in the hospital, he added.

Cornerstone laid for first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI: The historic foundation stone-laying ceremony of the first traditional Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi was performed on Saturday in the presence of officials from India and the United Arab Emirates as well as thou-sands of members of the commu-nity. Indian Ambassador Navdeep Suri attended the event in the presence of over 2,500 Indians from the UAE and across the world, according to Gulf News.

Jet workers meet Jaitley. urge salary payment

NEW DELHI: Senior executives of grounded Jet Airways met the Union finance minister Arun Jaitley on Friday and requested him to direct the banks to release at least one month's salary. Jet has not paid salaries of a large number of its employees for the last three months. They also appealed to expedite the bidding rocess for Jet's stake sale and ensure transparency in the procedure. Jaitley assured them that he would look into all issues raised by the employees, saidNa-tional Aviator's Guild vice presi-dent Captain Asim Valiani.

Sexual harassment cases relating to SC judges in legal grey area managing judicial tribunals," the

THE COURSE OF ACTION

NEW DELHI: Allegations of sexual harassment against the sitting Chief Justice of India (CJI) have once again put the spotlight on the lack of a mechanism in the higher judiciary to probe charges of sexual misconduct against serving judges.

Headed by a sitting woman judge, the Gender Sensitization and Sexual Harassment of Women Committee of the Supreme Court inquires into complaints of sexual harassment against employees of the court registry. There is no clarity, however, on a mechanism to deal with cases of alleged misconduct by sittingjudges

As per the current process, any inquiry against a sitting judge can only happen under the Judges Enquiry Act that mandates that only the CJI can constitute a probe panel. Any action to remove the judge concerned can only be initiated if the panel finds him or her guilty. The report is then forwarded to the CJI, who

The Constitution allows a judge to be removed only by an order of the President based on an both Houses of Parliament.

In 2014, a panel of two eminent

4 detained in NIA

raids in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD: The NIA on Saturday

carried out searches at four pla-ces in Hyderabad and Maharas

tra's Wardha and detained four

people for questioning in connection with its investigation

into the Abu Dhabi Islamic State

According to a senior NIA offi-

cial related to the probe, the

agency carried out searches at

early in the morning on the out-skirts of Hyderabad and took

three persons into custody for

questioning.
The searches came after infor-

mation from three youths arrested in August last year for

alleged links with the IS, the offi-

cial said adding it was found that

a person from Hyderabad was in

touch with Mohammed Abdul-

lah Basith and Mohammed

Abdul Qhadeer, who were

among the three. Both are currently lodged in jail.

module case, officials said.

and Maharashtra

Nariman and the late PP Rao -called for devising a mechanism to provide redressal to those who levelled sexual harassment allegations against sitting judges A bench headed by the then CJIP Sathasivam had nominated the

two to suggest measures on how

to deal with complaints of such

nature against sitting and retired

WHAT NEXT

■ With the SC taking suo motu cognizance of the allegation

against the CJI, it is now a

udicial matter and will be

■ The bench, comprising justices

will decide on the next steps

■ Chief justice Gogoi will continue

benches that he is a part of

to hear the cases that are under

Arun Mishra and Sanjiv Khanna,

judges. Present CJI Gogoi was a part of that bench. Both found flaws with the Gender Sensitization and Sexual Har assment of Women at the Supreme Court of India (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Regulations as they did not extendor apply to either sitting or retired judges of the apex court. The regulations were framed only after a law intern in 2013

 $charged\,a\,retired\,SC\,judge\,with$ seeking sexual favours. However, the top court has taken no steps to include the recommendations in the regulations nor has it made the disciplinary proceed-ings by the sexual harassment this being a common grievance.

The two also opined that incessant sexual harassment of women at workplace, if established, would amount to "proved misbehavior" which would serve as a grounds for the removal of a

committee transparent, despite

judge. "The shield of irremovability

from office would not protect themifacharge of sexual harassment at work place were proved against retired judges of the Supreme Court or the High Court

Advocate Vrinda Grover said the former junior court assistant who has levelled allegations against CJI Gogoi has asked for a special inquiry committee comprising retired SC judges to inquire into her accusations. The SC internal complaint com-

such a complaint.'

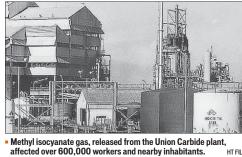
mittee comprises members including sitting judges who are all junior to the CJI. The basic rule of any disciplinary proceeding is that inquiry should be conducted by person superior to the defendant. A Special Inquiry Committee would provide a forum for a fair and impartial enquiry and would also protect the independence of the Judici-

UN lists Bhopal gas tragedy among worst industrial accidents of century

Press Trust of India

IINITED NATIONS: The 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy which killed thousands of people is among the world's "major industrial accidents" of the 20th century, a UN report has said, warning that 2.78 million workers die from occupational accidents and work-related diseases each year.
The report released by the UN

labour agency International Labour Organization (ILO) said in 1984, at least 30 tons of methyl isocyanate gas, which was released from the Union Carbide pesticide plant in the Madhya Pradesh capital, affected more than 600,000 workers and nearby inhabitants. "The government figures estimate that there have been 15,000 deaths as a result of the disaster over the years. Toxic material remains and thousands of survivors and their descend-ants have suffered from respira-



tory diseases and from damage to internal organs and immune sys-tems," it said. The report titled 'The Safety and Health at the Heart of the Future of Work — Building on 100 years of experience' said the Bhopal disaster was among the world's "major industrial accidents after 1919" Among the other nine major industrial disasters after 1919

listed in the report are the Chernobyl and Fukushima nuclear disasters as well as the Rana Plaza building collapse. In the Chernobyl disaster in April 1986, one of four nuclear reactors at the Chernobyl power station in Ukraine exploded, releasing at least 100 times more radiation than the atom bombs dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

FROM SRINAGAR AIRBASE, TO "ANOTHER

MINISTRY OFFICIAL

FILM AND TELEVISION INSTITUTE OF INDIA

UNIVERSITIES HOLD A TREMENDOUSLY DIVERSE GROUP OF YOUNGSTERS WHO WILL DETERMINE THE COURSE OF INDIAN POLITICS. WE TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT ISSUES ARE SHAPING MAJOR CAMPUSES

At FTII, new regime meets old discontent

CAMPUS STIR After the 2015 strike, administration says things are getting better; students say they are being targeted for raising questions

une 12, 2015, began like any other day at the Film and Television Institute of India in Pune, a leafy campus that was once the site of one of the country's first studios, and where, even today, a wide arte rial road leads off to a lake built for a film set in the 1940s. The news spread as the students filed into the canteen; a new chairperson of the governing council had been appointed after 15 months. It was Gajendra Chauhan, an actor best known for his role as Yudhishtir the oldest of the Pandava brothers, in Mahabharata, a televised serial that aired on

Doordarshan from 1988 to 1990. The decision to protest this appointment was pretty immediate, recalls Harishankar Nachimuthu, the then president of the FTII Students' Association (FSA). But even he couldn't predict the nation-wide impact that the strike, which lasted 139 days and saw criminal charges slapped on 35 students, including him, would have.

"[His appointment] was clearly part of a larger agenda of saffronization of education encouraging mediocrity.installing a puppet who would let the government do what it wanted. pushing through a certain narrative of history," says Nachimuthu, now 31 and an assistant director in Chennai. But Chauhan's filmography and links to the Bharatiya Janata Party—he became a member in 2004 didn't bother Nachimuthu and the students who congregated that night for a General Body Meeting (GBM), so much as the absence of Chauhan's engagement with serious cinema and

Twenty-three major works I



 $\begin{array}{ll} 26 & \text{days.} \\ \text{The job of the chairman is to get} \end{array}$ work done, not take classes. What ideology have I imposed?" asks Chauhan when Hindustan Times spoke to him. "How can you ask for my removal even before seeing what I can do? Even today students message me on Facebook saying, 'Sir we miss

LIFE POST 2015

During the 2016 admissions, students were asked to sign affidavits promising, among other things, good conduct. Robin Joy (28) was one of them. The former FSA president also points out a change in the academic council. Since the 1970s, two student body representatives have been voting members and participated in all discussions. However, since 2016 there has been a partial roll-back

— "for the first time, student members are not allowed to participate in discussions on a number of issues which directly affect them, including syllabus, fees

and discipline," he said. FTII director Bhupendra Kainthola admits that the students "participation in deliberations is restricted to only certain issues, but clarifies that the "meeting agenda continues to be circulated to them, and their written comments are obtained and dis-

Rajarshi Majumdar (25), the

current general secretary of the FSA, says many students who participated in later protests have been sent disciplinary notes, some have not been sent on foreign exchange pro-grammes and have had their scholarship cancelled. "They don't want us to protest."

"All discipline issues involving students are addressed by the Proctor's office. While minor rule violations are overlooked, serious indiscipline issues are dealt with firmly. In the last three years, even the courts of law stood by FTII when students who were punished took legal recourse. As for international exchange programmes, it is but natural that only the best stu-dents will be sent overseas to represent a premier institution such as FTII. The institute cannot incentivise those with a history of inappropriate conduct," said

A HISTORY OF STRIKING

The Film Institute of India was set up by the government of India in 1960 under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. It was re-designated after the television wing was added in 1974. The institute is governed by a governing council, headed by the chairperson, who is also the president of the FTII Society. The academic policies are formulated by the academic council, while matters involving finance are controlled by the standing finance commit-

In other words, after his appointment, the buck stopped at

FTII's culture of striking is a widely known — in the early 1980s, on the lack of faculty; in 1995, following Mahesh Bhatt's appointment as chairperson, fee hikes and converting several three year courses to two; in 2000, on the introduction of a system



Film and Television Institute of India students protest against television actor-turned-politician Gajendra Chauhan when he had assumed mbai on January 7, 2016. Things haven't been the same since then

to continue with their courses only after year-end assessments; and in 2010, after a draft report by a consultancy firm suggested a public-private partnership and short-term courses to increase revenue of the institute.

The main demand of the striking students in 2015 was to roll back the appointment of Chauhan and five FTII Society mem-bers nominated by the government under the category of "Persons of Eminence". The Society consists of personalities and alumni connected with film, tele-vision as well as ex-officio members, all of whom are nominated

by the government.
Some of the society members appointed included Narendra Pathak, the former president of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, and Anagha Ghaisas, a doc-umentary filmmaker known for her short film. Shri Narendra Modi — Gatha Asamanya Net-rutva (Tale of Extraordinary Leadership).
Like the strikes of the previous

decades, this one too was studentled, driven by their wish to have a say in their education. Yet, Vikas Urs, a 34-year-old cinematogra-pher based out of Goa, and one of the leaders of the 2015 strike, points out that the FTII is not political the way other campuses are. He attributes this to the absence of organizations like ABVP or Students Federation of India or National Students Union of India, all of which are affiliated

"We're all there to learn to make films, irrespective of our backgrounds and political beliefs. In that sense, our strike wasn't coloured by an existing political thought. The strike was a question to those who wanted to impose their skewed understanding of politics, society, cinema and arts," he said.

OFPROTESTS

In January 2015, students from Jadavpur university in West Bengal went on a strike on account of a cover up of a sexual harassment case—the vice chancellor eventually resigned. Shortly after the FTII strike ended in September, Hyderabad Central University erupted over the suicide of Rohith Vemula, a Dalit student. Around the same time, students from Delhi University had started protesting the University Grant Commission's decision to scrap fellowships to M.Phil and PhD students who hadn't cleared the National Eligi-

bility Test. Simultaneously, filmmakers artists and writers began to return their government awards. Former FTII chairperson Saeed Mirza, who returned his National Award told HT at the time, that the protest started by the institute's students had become a movement against "intolerance, divisiveness and hate."

 $Part of what \, made \, the \, 2015 \, FTII$ strike unique was its catholic nature—politicians from across

affiliations arrived at the campus to express solidarity. This included Nitish Rane, a member of the Legislative Assembly in Maharashtra, Rahul Gandhi, the current president of the Indian National Congress, and Yogendra Yadav of Swaraj Party. Per-formers, filmmakers and musi-cians visited. GBMs were held almost each night to discuss the way forward—opinions often dif-

fered, and consensus was sought. Nearly a month into the strike, a group of students, faculty members and alumni met Arun Jait-ley, the then I&B minister, who refused to roll back Chauhan's appointment.

The main demand was that a due process be put in place so that no government can put its ideology into running of the institute. said Urs, who was part of that group.

In August 2015 when the then FTII director, Prashant Pathrabe, decided to carry out the assessment of the 2008 batch despite several diploma films being incomplete, the students surrounded him in his office, demanding an explanation. Later that night, the police arrested a few students from the campus, based on a complaint filed by Pathrabe—the case continues to

WAYFORWARD

MISSILE DESTROYER LAUNCHED

HT asked Chauhan whether in hindsight, the punitive measures undertaken by the administration during his chairmanship $seemed\, disproportionate, such as for instance, the arrests.\ ``This$ was a law and order situation. Is it $not\,heavy\,that\,a\,student\,stays\,in$ a hostel for 8-10 years, doesn't pay fees...on whose money is he stay ing?" he replied.

A 2017 Comptroller and Auditor General of India report pointed out that non completion of courses by students led to a loss of ₹11.83 crore to the exchequer. However, Chauhan's conflation of an administrative issue delayed batches are also the result of inadequate infrastruc-ture like studios, missing or faulty equipment, say studentswith slapping criminal charges on a group of protesting students, is precisely the sort of adminis-trative heavy-handedness that the students were striking

against in the first place.
National Award winning alumnus Paresh Kamdar says a shift in perspective is needed. "All along, students have been seen as a law and order problem, every time they raise a question on academics or management So, the strategy of opposition is to break the resolve of the students. This isn't the right way. Students need freedom to question. To challenge the existing order is an important aspect of art."
For Nachimuthu now, partici-

pating the democratic process is a way of taking forward the resistance. "Last time, I didn't vote. I thought it didn't matter who came to power. Now that has

Why meteorological department's monsoon forecast is often inaccurate

NEW DELHI: The India Meteorological Department's southwest cal information to at least 700 million people in India who depend, directly or indirectly, on agriculture for a livelihood. Yet, the predictions are, quite often, far from accurate. The reason: a very high variability in rainfall patterns.

To be sure, the error margin for monsoon forecasts has declined, from 7.94% between 1995 and 2006 to 5 95% between 2007 and 2018. Even so, over the last 11 years, the actual rainfall matched the forecast only half

And the predictions are not likely to get any better. Uncer tainties associated with climate change mean that even the predict monsoon rainfall and distribution cannot significantly improve the accuracy of the fore-

casts, experts said. In 2007, for example, IMD had forecast "below normal" rainfall of 93% of the long-period average (LPA), but the rainfall India actually received was "above normal" at 106%. at 106%.

In 2009, IMD again predicted below normal rainfall of 93% of the LPA, but the actual rainfall was only 78% which belongs to "deficient" or drought category. In 2016, IMD predicted "excess" rainfall which in actuality turned out to be average. Last year too the IMD was off

the mark, having predicted 97% of LPA when the country received rainfall that was 91% of the LPA, the average for 50 IMD couldn't have forecast

that rainfall will be below normal in 2018, said M Rajeevan, secretary, ministry of earth sciences, because "we didn't foresee the massive rainfall deficiency that the northeastern states would face.

For the first time ever, northeast India received less than 80%

 $IMD \, is \, an \, arm \, of \, the \, ministry \,$



Farmers depend on rain forecasts during the June-Septembe monsoon season to decide on what crops to sow.

of earth sciences.

"No natural phenomenon car be predicted accurately; it's even more difficult when climate DS Pai, senior scientist at IMD.

The seasonal forecasting of the southwest monsoon, which waters more than half of India's crops and accounts for threefourths of its annual rainfall, has been done with the help of statistical and dynamical models since

Before that year, the forecasts were based only on statistical models. Farmers depend on the forecasts of rainfall during the June-September monsoon to decide on what crops to sow.

"The dynamic models are very high resolution mathematical models that show weather phenomenon in every part of the globe with a 3D picture of atmospheric and ocean phenomenon. We are using both dynamic and statistical models now but we will soon replace it with only the dynamic model," said Pai. "A statistical model is easy to

deal with as you assume past relationship between rainfall and various atmospheric and oceanic predictors to hold good this year. As such relationships keep on changing with time, for example when there is El Niño-Southern Oscillation, there is always a chance of witnessing a

forecast failure without any ning," said Akshay Deoras, a PhD researcher at the department of meteorology, University

El Nino is a weather phenomeon associated sometimes with drought in the subcontinent, El Niño-Southern Oscillation, also known as ENSO, is a periodic fluctuation in sea surface temperature and the air pressure of the overlying atmosphere (Southern Oscillation) across the equatorial Pacific Ocean according to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration. "A dynamical model is more complicated to deal with. Some of the issues faced by such models in simulating the southwest monsoon include biases in rainfall over India compared to the observations, improper simulation of important features of the monsoon circulation and improper representation of relationships between sea surface temperature and monsoon rainfall. In addition, models have constraints in capturing the changing nature of predictors due to climate change-for example, region of maximum heating in the Pacific Ocean associated with the El Niño events "Deoras

Climate scientists say that the statistical ensemble forecasting system (SEFS) may not be rele-

No natural phenomenon can be predicted accurately; it's even more difficult when climate change causes aberrations

DS PAL senior scientist at IMD Pune

change-related unpredictability

in weather phenomena.
"The dynamical model IMD uses, called global coupled fore casting system, is something they have started forecasting with only in the last couple of

It is as good (or as bad) as any in the world. This will hopefully replace the SEFS one day because under climate change the old statistical relationships (that SEFS is based on) may no onger hold," said Krishna Achu taRao, climate scientist at the Centre for Atmospheric Sciences (CAS) at Indian Institute of

Technology-Delhi. The large uncertainty of global models in predicting the impact of climate change on the monsoon has led a team from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) to develop an IITM Earth System Model (IITM-ESM) that will be used for seasonal monsoon forecasts. It will also contribute to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) sixth Assessment Report on how the world is being affected by climate change, to be released in 2020.

The IITM model projections have indicated that there has been a weakening of the Indian monsoon in recent decades, leading to an overall decrease in rain-

This trend has been supported by long-term monsoon data from the IMD, but the model also shows that in future there will be a perceptible enhancement in overall monsoon rainfall as well as increase in extreme weather events like floods and droughts associated with climate change.

The Navy launches guided

missile destroyer 'lmphal' at

Mumbai's Mazagon Dock

■ Imphal is the third in Project 15R Visakhapatnam ship' (2015) and 'Murmagoa' (2016)

■ The ships, packed with state-ofthe-art weapons and sensors, will be commissioned into the Indian Navy from 2021 onwards

Barcoding raw materials used in drugs to become mandatory

ture medicines.

NEW DELHI: The Union health ministry will make it mandatory for all active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) packages to be barcoded to detect spurious drugs and monitor imported and indigenously produced raw materials used to manufac-

APIs are critical components that make drug formulations potent against disease. There are about 2,500 APIs that are used to create hundreds of thousands of drug formulations. 'Raw material is usually sup-

plied in bulk and its authenticity affects the final product. After the barcoding rule is imple $mented, the\,misuse\,of\,names\,and$ brands and sale of counterfeit drugs should come down signifidrugs controller general of India

On April 2, the drug and technical advisory board (DTAB) of the government recommended that provisions be included in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, to make it mandatory to

Barcoding will help determine whether supplies are coming from registered firms, especially while dealing with firms in other nations from where raw materials are sourced DR S ESWARA REDDY, DCGI

have QR coding on labels of APIs to trace their origin and movement from API manufacturers to drug manufacturers through a system of networking.

"The department sometimes ets complaints about false labelling, when what is mentioned on the label is not the ingredient inside the pack, or the ingredient is not from the company mentioned on the label.

"Barcoding will help determine whether the supplies are coming from the registered company, especially while dealing with companies in other coun tries from where raw materials are sourced," Reddy said.

'The DTAB has already

agreed to the proposal for API barcoding and recommended it to the ministry, which should soon notify it," he added.

The health ministry had earlier unsuccessfully contemplated using barcodes on antibiotic packs to check antibiotic misuse.

Barcodes are machine-reada. ble representations of data that's descriptive of the material contained in a particular packaging.

Pharmacists have welcomed the API barcoding move. "Barcoding is a better way of

checking distribution of mate rial supply. The move should work as an efficient quality-control measure," said Sandeep Nangia, president, Retailers and Distributors Chemist Association in Delhi.
The health ministry also sub-

mitted an affidavit to the Delhi high court this week, saying that experts from DTAB and the drugs consultative committee were being consulted to make it mandatory for manufacturers to recall and destroy expired medicines and vaccines, which are sometimes repackaged and

election2019

RSS to BJP candidates: Focus on the local issues

STRATEGY Advises party to improve oratory skills, use crowd-pullers, infuse energy in rallies

NEWDELHI: Asthe Bharativa Janata Party (BJP) prepares for the remaining five phases of the gen eral election, its ideological par ent Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has asked candidates to focus on local concerns as issues like the Balakot air strikes and the overall popularity of the government have "limited traction on the ground", according to people aware of develop-

The Sangh has also asked the party and its candidates to "infuse more energy into cam paigns and rallies", they said on condition of anonymity.

With its experiment of motivating people to come out and vote — informally known as "third party campaign" — not having worked too well, the RSS has stepped up efforts to garner support for the BJP.

According to a senior functionary, the Sangh had for the first time started a campaign where, instead of directly campaigning for the BJP, its foot soldiers reached out to the masses and urged them to vote. The idea was to build momentum in favour of the BJP, which is seeking re-election at the Centre, in subtle ways

"The turnout after the first two phases has not been very different from the corresponding pha-

One more worker of our

party has been killed in

He(Modi) knows that he

will lose the elections

and that is why his face has

turned pale. He is now

'haratanka' (phobia

suffering from

of losing polls)

MAMATA BANERJEE West Bengal CM

Purulia...Har atyachar ka nyay

hoga (justice will be done for

every atrocity)... Ab

nyay hoga (justice

will be served now)



In 2014, the Sangh's foot soldiers urged people to vote the last

RALLY TRACKER

Bilaspur

Bhilai

Wayanad

Pathanamthitta

Chhattisgarh

Shivamogga

a 100% voter turnout, because more people voting would mean a better shot for the BJP at winning with a majority. But that has not happened," said the functionary quoted above.

The RSS pracharaks also reached out to the private sector to help with creating awareness on participating in the electoral process, and through their point persons, target groups such as doctors, academics and lawyers.

In the first phase, the voter turnout was 69.45%, slightly lower than the 69.7% in 2014. In the second phase, the turnout was 69.19%, marginally up from 66.52% in the previous election.

HT had earlier reported that after the Sangh's annual meeting in Gwalior it had set a target of BJP win more votes. A high turnout, it had said, would widen the difference in vote share between

the BJP and other parties. However, the Sangh has now asked candidates to focus on issues that resonate locally

Daily meetings are being held between pracharaks (workers)

"The Sangh feels that, apart from Prime Minister [Narendra] Modi and [BJP president] Amit Shah the B.IP does not have nowerful speakers. So, candidates have been asked to improve their oratory skills and use crowd-pull-ers such as Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath," said

a second functionary.
The Sangh has also earmarked areas on which it will focus for the

Narendra Modi

Nitin Gadkari

Rahul Gandhi

Priyanka Gandhi

Panighata

West Bengal

Amit Shah

Mayawati

Forbesganj

South Dinajpur

The RSS has asked candidates to focus on local concerns, as issues like the Balakot air strikes (against Pakistan) and the overall popularity of the government have 'limited traction on the ground'.

RSS FUNCTIONARY

These include the Sekhawati region in Rajasthan where Jat-Rajput caste equations are testy, and in Madhya Pradesh where the upper caste communities are reportedly unhappy with the

The 2019 polls are crucial for the RSS since it feels it has been targeted more by opposition par-ties than the Bharatiya Janata

"The Sangh has benefitted from the BJP being in power in states such as MP—not only was its ideology the basis for many policies, it also grew stronger organizationally. But since the Congress is back in power [in MPL it is already facing the heat. So, it is imperative for the Sangh to see a friendly party in the seat of power [at the Centre]," the first

Modi had raised

₹15 lakh in their account.

I knew it cannot be done.

Nyay scheme will act like

RAHUL GANDHI, Congress chief

The promises of

BJP have proved to be

as hollow as the ones

Congress governments

given by the earlier

at the Centre...

'achche din' by the

promising to deposit

petrol for the Indian

economy

hopes of people by

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra interacts with a

FIRST RALLY IN KERALA

Rahul is in your hands: Priyanka

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Campaigning for her brother and Congress president, Rahul Gandhi, in Way anad, the party's general secretarv. Privanka Gandhi Vadra said on Saturday that the former has been wrongly portrayed by opponents for at least a decade but that he was still man enough to go to the other side of parlia-ment to hug the man who had called his mother names and insulted his late father.

She was speaking at a meeting at Mananthawady, Wayanad.

Priyanka Gandhi was refer ring to the incident in the Lok Sabha last year when the Con-gress president walked over to the treasury benches and hugged a bemused Prime Minister Nar endra Modi after delivering a hard-hitting speech criticising the NDA government.

In an emotionally-charged speech she said her brother has been personally +attacked for many years, "They have sought to portray a character of him which is very far from truth. As children, we shared moments of devastation and loss together. Despite heavy losses, he never nursed anger towards anyone. I am here to seek votes for my brother and best friend," she said India, Privanka Gandhi also isted the personal qualities of her brother. "He is a black belt (in Aikido). Also a trained pilot. An ace diver and mountaineer. He doesn't like any publicity. I know he won't like what I am saying, she said, adding that Rahul Gandhi is also well-versed in the epics tioned whether the custodians of the country have such in-depth knowledge in them.

Priyanka Gandhi spoke of the losses her family has suffered, starting from her grandmother Indira Gandhi, who was assassinated. "Indiraji was like a mother to us. When I was 12 she was assassinated in our home. Our smallfamily of four was bound by the love of our parents. Seven years later when my brother was studying in Harvard, our father (Rajiy Gandhi) was also killed. Despite these personal losses, he never nursed any anger towards anyone," she said, adding that she is entrusting her brother to the hands of people of Wayanad.

Like Rahul, Priyanka Gandhi, too, spared the Left and attacked the BJP. The Left parties were upset with Rahul Gandhi's candi-dature from Wayanad, his second constituency besides Amethi in UP, and said it would dilute the

Poll watchdog stops streaming of Modi web series

HT Correspondent

NEWDELHI: Amid the ongoing gen eral elections, the Election Commission has asked the producers of a web series based on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's life Modi: Journey of a Common Man, to stop its online streaming and remove all content related to it until further orders.

The commission also asked Eros Now, the producers of the series, to file a compliance report

Acting on a complaint for warded to it by the chief electoral officer of Delhi, the poll watchdog said the series has the potential to disturb the level playing field at election time and was in contravention of the model code of conduct in force since the poll schedule was announced on March 10

The commission referred to its April 10 order that barred the screening of any biopic subserving the purpose of any political entity or individual, which has the potential to disturb the level playing field during elections.

Taking note of the fact that the web series showcases the different phases of PM Modi's life, from his childhood to becoming a national leader, the EC, in its order, said, "...In view of the admitted facts and material available on record, this web series being an original web series on Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister and a political leader and a prospective candidate in the current general elections to the Lok Sabha, cannot be exhibited."
On Monday, the poll watchdog

will convey its decision on the screening of the Modi biopic to the Supreme Court in a sealed

THE POLL WATCHDOG

SAID THE SERIES HAS THE POTENTIAL TO DISTURB THE LEVEL PLAYING FIELD AT **ELECTION TIME**

No new tax for Nyay: Manmohan

NEW DELHI: Former Prime Minis ter Manmohan Singh on Saturday said that Nyay scheme of the Congress will usher in an era of minimum income guarantee in India, end poverty and restart the economic engine which has "come to a stop" under the present government.

In a statement, Singh said that implementation of Nyay, which aims to provide ₹72,000 per family population, would not entail any new tax on the middle class.

He said that the Congress is committed to fiscal discipline and Nyay would cost between 1.2% and 1.5% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at its peak. "Our nearly \$3-trillion econ

omy has the fiscal capacity to absorb this expenditure. There will be no need for any new taxes on the middle class to finance Nyay. The economic stimulus that Nyay will provide will furhas been conceptualised after much thought and consultations with experts," Manmohan Singh

Speaking at a rally in Tamil Nadu last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had attacked the scheme, saying, "They are now saying 'ab hoga nyay', now there will be justice...This means that they have admitted that they did injustice for 60 years.

In his petition, Lal alleged that

Gandhi furnished false informa-

tion about his educational qualifi-

in his election affidavit dated

03.04.2004 in Form No. 26, dis-closed that he cleared the CBSE

Senior Secondary examination in 1989 and M.Phil in Development

Economics from Trinity College

Cambridge University, in 1995. "...Subsequently, the candi

date in his election affidavits

dated 03.04.2009 and 11.04.2014

disclosed different educationa







with the real story," he said.

pollbriefs

electoral officer Surendra Kumar has suspended 14 government polling at a booth in Sorada assembly segment in Ganjam were deployed in five Lok Sabha and 35 assembly constituencies amd were suspended on charges

of dereliction of duty.

BJP seeks action over K'taka minister's remarks

BENGALURU: Karnataka minister Zameer Ahmed Khan has trig-gered a controversy by making certain alleged personal remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, prompting the state BJP to petition the Election Commission Saturday seeking necessary action. BJP state election committee convener Dattaguru Hegde said: "It is an attack on personal life, the statement is malicious offending decency and morality.









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MRP inc. of all taxes. Conditions app

DYNASTIC

NEW DELHI: Finance minister Arun Jaitley on Saturday said the has become a liability for the Congress party and expressed hope that aspirational India would reject caste-based and dynastic

In a blog post titled, 'Will 2019 Witness the Dynasty as a Liability on the Congress Party?' Jait-ley wrote, "If the Congress's dynast has only an ability to deliver 44 seats or 60 seats in Parliament, what then is the incentive for conventional Congress men to bear humiliation of sub jecting themselves to a dynast? Ultimately, in dynastic parties one has to accept political slavery" Dynastic politics are common among several regional and national parties, including the Congress. The party has been led by a member of the Gandhi family since independence.

"A relevant question with this changing socio-economic profile of India is - Are dynasties an set for a party or are they a lia bility? Unquestionably, the present generation of dynast has become a liability rather than an asset for the Congress," he said Calling former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee and current PM Narendra Modi the "tallest politicians of this could happen only in meritbased parties. "Is history going to witness something wholly unprecedented? Are we going to witness the rejection of caste based and dynastic parties? And will aspirational India make a harsh judgement on electing a merit based leadership? This may well be the case."

Wayanad hopes for better days

Aurangabad

WAYANAD: First-time voter Varsha John, a 23-year-old working in a technology firm in Bengaluru, is on leave visiting her family in Wayanad. After the Congress announced on March 31 that party president Rahul Gan-dhi will also contest Wayanad, in addition to Amethi, John made it a point to extend her leave to cast her vote on April 23.

"Idon't have any political affiliation.ButRahul'sentryhaselectrified the scene. I think it is the best thing ever to happen to the backward district," she says with

John is not alone in hoping that the attention Wayanad is receiv ing will open up new opportunities. "It is a god sent opportunity. We are sure his candidature will bring development to Wayanad. said Sreemaya V K, a postgraduate and first-time voter. Although she hails from a fam-

ily that has traditionally voted for the Left (the Left Democratic Front, a coalition of left parties including the Communist Party of India (Marxist), is one of the two alternating ruling coalitions in the state), she is thinking of giving her vote to the "PM-in-wait ""I think the time of hardcore ideology is over. What we need are better opportunities. Politics of violence and hate will have to go," she says.

While many like her express hope over Gandhi's candidature, the troubles of this district nestled in the Western Ghats, run deeper. A minority-dominated constituency—the Muslim population is 32 %, while Christians are 22% and Hindus make up 46% as per the 2011 census — It is one of the most backward districts of Kerala. For instance, the infant mortality rate here is the highes in the state, and is 2.7 points higher than the state average of 7.



Wayanad, from where Congress chief Rahul Gandhi is contesting, is

Most of the educated youngsters eventually move to neighhouring states like Karnataka or Tamil Nadu for employments several others flock to the Middle East for blue-collar jobs. More than half the 1.3 million

strong electorate in the state is below the age of 35 years. John's expectations from the high-profile entrant in Kerala politics are high: greater job opportunities better travel facilities, lifting of a ban on night travel along the Kozhikode-Bangaluru highway and a railway line to Mysuru, a demand that is several decades old and has not been taken up by successive governments.

"I have been hearing about Nilambur-Nanjangud railway line since my childhood. It is the shortest route to Mysore from Kerala. But it has never materialized," said PC Marakkar, 48, who runs a taxi in Vythiri.

He too hopes that Gandhi will move this along. After all, Gandhi spoke of the travel difficulties in Wayanad during his last trip in

FOREST PRESERVATION. TRIBALLIVES

Wayanad, which has close to 45 % forest cover and a sizeable tribal population, was one of the districts worst hit by the floods that

crippled Kerala last year. One can still sees the scars left by the disaster: hills scooped out by the damaged roads and bridges. Of the over 400 persons who died in the floods, the most were from Wayanad and Idukki

"We still have little access to education, healthcare and hous-ing. Infant mortality death is very high. We don't need lip service but an exclusive package to lift us," said Jaya PS, a post-graduate tribal student from Mananthaw adi. She hopes Gandhi will help improve the lot of ancient tribes.

"Wayand has 21% tribal population. Though the government pumped in money it failed to reach tribals. We hope things will change with Rahul's entry. With direct payment to families [of welfare measures] we can avoid middle men and bureaucracy to an extent," said former minister PK Jayalakshmi, hailing from Kuruchiva community.

On April 17, during his visit to Sultan Bathery, Gandhi requested a meeting with Sreed-hanya Suresh. The 24-year-old tribal youth had qualified in the recent civil service examination A woman who confronted adversities with much guts," Gandhi described her to reporters, after their meeting at St Mary's Col-

A THREE-CORNER FIGHT In Wayanad the Congress presi

dentislocked in a three-cornered contest with Communist Party of India's PP Suneer and Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance's Thushar Vella pally.
Both his opponents often ask

voters whether they want another election in six months. "It is a time-pass for Rahul Gandhi. Don't go by his empty prom-ises," Vellapally told workers on Thursday citing his track record in Amethi. Suneer has asked voters to elect a candidate who can devote all of his time to the constituency. "His candidature is a historic blunder. He came here only twice. After election he will disappear forever," he told youngsters in Kalpetta while campaigning last week. At a rally in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "(Rahul Gandhi) says he wants to give a message In that case he should have contested either from the state capi tal or Pathanamthitta. It is nothing but appeasement politics."

these concerns. "It is great honour forme to contest in a constitu ency in Kerala. I want to give a message to the south by contest ingfrom Wayanad," he said while addressing a rally in Sultan Bathery on April 17. After filing his nominations on April 4, Gandhi has visited the constituency once but senior leaders are camping here. Sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra arrived on Saturday for a two-day visit. "Rahuls' entry in Wayanad will have a ripple effect in all constituencies of Kerala. Left leaders' outbursts are an indication of their uneasiness The little-known constituency is high on the political map of the country. We hope this will help end its backwardness," said sen

ior journalist and political

observer Sunnykutty Abraham

Scrutiny of Rahul's nomination deferred

NEW DELHI: The scrutiny of Congress president Rahul Gandhi's nomination papers from Uttar Pradesh's Amethi has been put on hold after four independent candidates raised objections on three counts: his name, nationality and educational qualifica-tions. The returning officer of Amethi said on Saturday that Gandhi had been asked to reply to the objections by April 22 after his lawversought sometime Amethi

goes to the polls on May 6. The Congress has slammed the independent candidate Dhruy Lal, for making false allegations Senior Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi said, "Over hundred pages of objections, clearly prepared in advance, have been filed on the day of scrutiny. It raises the same 15-year-old allegation... wrong name and wrong nationality. It reflects the fear and frustration of BJP over the certain victory of Rahul Gandhi in Amethi. Hence, it is their desperate attempt for a technical knock-out on a non-existent

qualifications...," the petition said. Lal raised questions about Gandhi's nationality on the basis of purported copies of a certificate of incorporation of a UK-registered company, in which Gandhi is stated to be a British national

Only Indian citizens can contest elections in the country. In Delhi, PTI quoted BJP spokesperson GVL Narasimha Rao as saving it was "stunning that Gandhi's lawyer had sough

time to reply to the objections. "These are serious allegations Is Rahul Gandhi an Indian citizen or not? Did he ever become a Brit ish citizen? He should come out

14 polling officers suspended in Odisha BHUBANESWAR: Odisha chief

officers for dereliction of duty in the second phase of polling on April 18 and recommended fresh district. Kumar said the 14 officers













ODISHA

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OMC Horise. Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha

CORRIGENDUM-5 SELECTION OF MINE DEVELOPER AND

OPERATOR (MDO) FOR KURMITAR IRON ORE MINE Reference: RFP No. 32/OMC/PROJ/13, Dated 02.03.2019 In inviting reference to the above RFP document, it is for the information of all interested bidders that, after careful examination of the pre-bid queries received from prospective bidders, corrigendum / addendum to the above bid

document has been prepared and uploaded in the website of MSTC (www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/omc) on 20.04.2019 under the title "CORRIGENDUM -5", for amending the RFP, IMSA & Appendices thereto, which shall be binding on the Bidders. This corrigendum/ addendum shall be construed to form the original part of the bidding document.

Further the responses to the pre-bid queries are also uploaded under the title "Response to pre-bid queries" in the website of MSTC.

The revised bid document considering the above corrigendum/ addendum along with any other changes, if felt necessary shall be uploaded in the website of MSTC

(www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/omc).
Interested bidders are requested to download the above documents from the website of MSTC (www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/omc).

General Manager (Projects)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CONST. DIVN. NO. I JAMMU **EXTENSION OF DATE**

Providing and laying of Wet Mix Macadam, 50mm thick BM and 25mm & 30mm thick SDBC on road from :1/ Link road from Khalsa Chowk to Sector-5 and Lane No. 0 Sector-7,

- 1/ Link road from Knaisa Gnowk to Section 3 and Laire No. 3 Goods . , Lane No. 2, Sector-11, Nanak Nagar, Jammu. 2/ Road in Ekta Vihar (Length = 1.45 Kms), Arjun Vihar (Length = 0.41 Km)
- Hoad in Lista Vinar (Length = 1.45 Kms), Arjun Vinar (Length = 0.41 km) and Bandhurakh (Length = 0.22 Km) in Kuniyani Area (1 104.75 Lass). 2/ Providing and laying of Wet Mix Macadam, 50mm thick BM and 25mm & Somm thick SDBC on road from: 1/10 Kms Matador Stand to Khandwal (Length = 2.50 Kms). 2/ Chatha Milli Chowk to Rani Bagh Peer Baba from Km Ist RD (900) to Km 2nd RD (700) L= 1.70 Kms (128.20 Lacs). Providing and laying of 50mm thick BM, 25mm & 30mm thick SDBC on Main Stop to 200 Bedded Hospital via Gole Market Gandhi Nagar, Jammu (52.89 Lacs).

This office e-NIT No. CD-1/193 of 2018-19 Dated 06-03-2019.

Read as Instead of good prometries and be downloaded to the Bidding documents can be downloaded to the Bidding documents can be downloaded be bestie http://klenders.gov.in from on 07-03-2019 to 23-04-2019 1000 Hrs on 07-03-2019 to 16-04-2019 (1630

| The Bids shall be deposited in electronic The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website http://jktenders.gov.in form from (1000 Hrs) on 07-03-2019 to 23-04-(1000 Hrs) on 07-03-2019 to 16-04-2019 upto (1630 Hrs). The bids received will (1630 Hrs) to 1630 Hrs). The bids received will be opened 24-04-2019 at or after on (1100 Hrs) online

Hrs) online
Technical bids of bidders shall be opened on Technical bids of bidders shall be opened on lin ne in the office of Executive Engineer PWD in the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) (R&B) Const. Divn. No. I Jammu 24-04-Const. Divn. No. I Jammu 18-04-2019 at o 2019 at or after (1100 Hrs) after (1100 Hrs)

All other terms & conditions shall remain the same as already advertised.

No:- 191-206 Dated:- 16-04-2019 DIP/J-309-P/19

PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. I, Jammu

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED GIRL



Hasima Khatoon

this girl namely Hasima Khatoon D/o Mohd. Hanna R/o Jhuggi in front of Dedhae Market, Khichri Pur, Delhi Age : 12 years, Height : 4', Complexion : Sallow, Face: Oval, Identification: Mentally Weak, wearing matmaila colour suit and nikker, has been kidnapped since 27.09.2012 from the area of PS Kalyan Puri, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 331/12 dated 28.09.2012

General public is here by informed that

u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Kalyan Puri,

Any person having any information or clue about this kidnaped girl may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO : P.S. Kalyan Puri, Delhi Website: http://cbi.nic.in Tel. No.: 011-22772287, Fax: 24368639 Tel.: 24368638/24368641

Appeal for Identification



General public is hereby informed that one male dead body Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 40-45 Years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Shallow, Sex: Male, Wearing: Black Jersey, Blue Jeans Pant, Blue & Grey

Colour Shirt & Bare footed was found dead on 15.04.2019. Place of Recovery: Platform No. 9 ODRS, Delhi. In this regard FIR/DD No. 15A, has been lodged at PS ODRS, Delhi on 15.04.2019. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

PS. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi DP/3789/RI V/19 Ph.: 011-23961522, 8750871302

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

File No.: 7PUB/Tender/BOT/ Pay & Use Toilet/2018

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager / Chg., Northern Railway, New Delhi invites e-tender for the 'Provision of Deluxe Pay & Use Toilets on BOT basis at various Railway stations of Delhi Division for a period of Fifteen years. The details of locations, reserve price, EMD & tender cost etc are given below

Tender No.	Station/	Approx	RP	Contract	EMD	Tender cost
	location	area in	(in Rs.)	value for	(in Rs.)	(incl. of
		sq ft.		15 years		GST @ 18%)
PayUseBOT09-2019	Meerut Cantt	800	60,000	15,07,734	30,200	2,360
PayUseBOT10-2019	Ballabhgarh	800	60,000	15,07,734	30,200	2,360
PayUseBOT11-2019	Sahibabad	800	50,000	12,56,463	25,200	2,360
PayUseBOT12-2019	Jind	480	18,000	4,52,336	9,100	1,180
PayUseBOT13-2019	Okhla	800	30,000	7,53,875	15,100	2,360
PayUseBOT14-2019	Shivaji Bridge	800	2,40,000	60,30,953	1,20,700	5,900
PayUseBOT15-2019	Tilak Bridge (A)	500	1,50,000	37,69,352	75,400	3,540
PayUseBOT16-2019	Tilak Bridge (B)	500	1,50,000	37,69,352	75,400	3,540
PayUseBOT17-2019	Sadar Bazar	200	60,000	15,07,734	30,200	2,360

Interested bidders may please visit official website for E- tendering i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for further details and submitting tender. Date of bidding close on 13.05.2019 at 11:00 hrs.

Important Note: 1. Bidders who wish to participate in the e-tendering will have to procure class-3 valid Digital Security Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can procure this certificate from any of the certifying authority of Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA). Government of India. Details of certifying authorities can be obtained from www.cca.gov.in.

2. The bidder has to register, if not registered earlier, with www.ireps.gov.in using DSC to participate in tender process. Detailed procedure for registration, system requirements and bidding are also available on www.ireps.gov.in 1175/2019

Deals Today's business world is a little like instant noodles. Something is always cooking every two minutes. That's why we always keep you two steps ahead with the latest news on mergers, acquisitions, and everything in between. mint or nothing



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE (M&P) DIVISION, HMT, SRINAGAR Abstract of N.I.T. No:- PHE/M&P/02 of 2019-20/ E-TENDER / Dated: 19-04-2019

For and on behalf of Governor of Jammu and Kashmir State, E-tenders are invited in Two Covernor System for the Supply of Laboratory Equipments Along with all Allied Accessories for 35 No. Water Testing Labs of Kashmir Valley from the reputed and registered manufacturers or their sole authorized distributor/dealer as per specifications / details annexed to the NIT.

To get your MINT copy, give a missed call on 7039035039 or visit

www.mintreaders.com or write to us at subscription@livemint.com

Name Of Work	Cost of Tender	EMD Fee	Validity of
	Document		Bids
Supply of Laboratory Equipments Along with all	Rs 1000/- =	Rs. 1,00,000/- =	120 days
allied Accessories for 35 No. Water Testing Labs of			from
Kashmir Valley from the reputed & registered			opening of
manufacturers or their sole authorized			price bid
distributor/dealer as per specifications / details			
annexed to the NIT.			

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 19-04-2019 to 08-05-2019 up to 4.00 PM. The bids uploaded on the website upto due date and time will be opened on time and date given in the list of important dates enclosed, in the office of Chief Engineer KMR PHE Department Rajbagh Srinagar in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case of holidays /office happens to be closed on the scheduled date of opening, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the scheduled time and venue
- The complete bidding process will be on line
- Clarification, if any, shall be sought from 19-04-2019 to 07-05-2019 through following E-mails xenmandp@gmail.com
- Technical bids shall be opened online in the office of the Chief Engineer KMR PHE Departmen
 - Rechnical bids shall be opened online in the office of the on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of qualified bidders shall be opened online in the office
- of the Chief Engineer KMR PHE Department Rajbagh Srinagar. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids

Dated:19-04-2019

CORRIGENDUM

Description : Earnest Money o ork, Rs. : Existing : 330400.0

Amendment as per Corrigendum 232690.00 Note : Others Terms 6

352-CYrte Divi. Rty. Manager (S&T) N.W.R., Bikaner

PHE (M&P) Division, Sgr

Near Chamunda Bridge, Naroda Road, P.C Saijpur Bogha, Ahmedabad-382345

Raj Thackeray rallies hurt BJP, but can Oppn gain?

SATARA/PUNE: From seeking Narendra Modi's ascension to Prime Minister in 2014 to calling for his ouster in 2019, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray's political objective has changed quite dramatically in five years.

MNS is not contesting the Lok

Sabha elections, but Thackeray has been campaigning extensively against the Prime Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief Amit Shah, across Maharashtra especially in Maratha- dominated constituencie That is because Modi failed to keep his promises, Thackeray says in his public meetings, referring to the 2014 poll promises of depositing Rs 15 lakh in every poor person's account, and to bring back money stashed illegally outside India.

Knownforhisoratorialskills and his striking similarity to his late uncle and Shiv Sena founder, Balasaheb Thackeray, the MNS chief attracts huge crowds. He uses audio-visual presentations at the venues to pep up his speeches that are laced with humour and sarcasm.

The BJP has so far failed to chalk out a strategy to counter Thackeray, who has become a thorn in its flesh, much to the advantage of the Congress-Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) alliance. Though Thackeray does not directly seek votes for either the Congress or the NCP, his spiteful comments against Modi and Shah leave no room for any confusion. For instance, the MNS chief recently said at a rally that if people can experiment with Modi, why couldn't they do so with Congress president, Rahul Gandhi

TALKING POINTS

The MNS chief speaks on a range of issues: Pulwama and Balakot, $Modi's \, surprise \, visit \, to \, Pakistan, \\ the \, Goods \, and \, Services \, Tax \, (GST)$ and the controversy over the Rafale jet fighter deal. His common refrain is that the people must choose between democracy and dictatorship.
Addressing a rally in Satara,



Rai Thackerav

Thackeray questioned Modi over the February 14 terror attack in Pulwama. He even replayed videos of Modi's speeches before 2014 when he had questioned the then Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, over terror attacks.

"From where did so much of RDX come from that resulted in the killing of our 40 jawans? Modi should answer this. Who invited Nawaz Sharif to his swearing-in ceremony? Who went to Pakistan uninvited to celebrate Nawaz Sharif's birthday and fed him the cake? Imagine how the families of our martyrs must be feeling," he told the gathering.
In Pune, Thackeray attacked

Modifor playing the caste card.

"Modi has double standards. He said one thing before becom ing the Prime Minister and did completely reverse after assuming power," he said.

THEN AND NOW In April 2014, Thackeray had

announced that his main priority was to make Modi the Prime Minister. In fact, Thackeray had endorsed Modi as the Prime Minister back in August 2011, when the MNS chief was on a nine-day tour of Gujarat. Thackeray had said that the people of Guiarat were fortunate to have a chief minister like him. Much has changed since then.

Thackeray has now turned into one of the bitterest critics of Modi and accused him of "cheating" the nation and not fulfilling his promises made in the run up to the 2014 general elections.
Pune BJP chief, Yogesh

sions such as demonetisation and GST to put the economy on track and that had "hurt" some people. "Traditional politics has a certain set up and those who suffered due to note ban will obviously raise a hue and cry. I cannot find any other reason why [Thackeray] is opposing the Prime Minister

APRIL 21, 2019

Political analysts said the obvious reason for the fallout between Thackeray and Modi is the Shiv Sena, "When he realised that BJP is not going to dump Shiv Sena and align with his MNS, he started attacking Modi," Punebased political observer, Vishwambhar Choudhari, said.

The BJP has asked Thackeray to specify who he is campaigning for since the MNS has not fielded any candidates in the Lok Sabha polls. "He should first of all come clean on this. In a parliamentary democracy, people have the right to express their views but he is not telling the voters why and for whom he is campaigning," Gogawale said.

The ruling party has approached the Election Commission to add the expenses of his rallies to the accounts of the Con-gress and the NCP on grounds that he is indirectly campaigning for the two parties.

Senior Congress leader, Anant Gadgil, said Thackeray was inde-pendently addressing election rallies and the opposition parties were neither sponsoring those nor had they provided him with any platform

Will the huge crowds he is drawing translate into votes for Congress-NCP? Political experts say only the election results can

"He is getting a good response because there is no good orator in any political party and nobody in Maharashtra can match him in those skills," political analyst Choudhari said.

"But whether the crowds he is attracting in his rallies will translate into votes is something we will come to know only after the elections. We must also remem-ber that even Balasaheb used to get good public response but that could never transfer into votes, he added.

VESTERN RAILWAY-AHMEDABAD DIVISION TENDER NOTICE (NIT)

CONTRACT WORK OF PROVISION OF ON BOARD HOUSE KEEPING SERVICES -Tender Notice No. DRM(M) ADI/2/2019 20 Dated: 18.04.2019 E-Tender is invited from eligible contractors for the following work. Name of the Work: Contract work o work. Name of the Work: Contract work of provision of "On Board House Keeping Services" in train no. 12960/59,19116/15 and 22956/55 for a period of 4 years. Tender No.: M/442/19/3/OBHS/NBVJ/2019-20/4 years Estimated Cost of work: ₹ 3,77,11,209.55/- (₹ Three Crore Seventy Seven Lakh Eleven Thousand Two Hundred Nine and Daiss Fifty Five only Earnest Nine and paisa Fifty Five only) Earnes Money Deposit: ₹ 3,38,600/- (₹ Three Lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Only Date and time of tender closing and opening: closing at 15.00 Hrs. on dated 20.05.2019 and Opening at 15.30 Hrs. or dated 20.05.2019. Website particulars details of tender can be seen of address of the office of tender inviting Authority: http://www.ireps.gov.ir Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical) (W. Rly.), 2nd Floor, Mechanical Branch

TEMPORARY CANCELLATION / SHORT TERMINATION / SHORT ORIGINATION / RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS DUE TO MAINTENANCE WORK

In order to upgrade the safety standards, Northern Railway will undertake the work of periodic maintenance and renewal of assets on Ghaziabad - Moradabad, Najibabad Jn - Moradabad, Moradabad - Rampur, Rampur - Shahjahanpur and Shahjahanpur Alamnagar sections. To execute the work, Mega Traffic blocks will be taken on 22.04.2019. Consequently, the following trains will temporarily be affected as under :-

Train No. & Name	Dates of Cancellation from originating stn.
54055/54056 Moradabad - Delhi - Moradabad Passenger	22.04.2019
SHORT TERMINATION/SHORT ORIGINATION/PARTIAL CANCI	ELLATION OF TRAINS

Train No. & Train Name	Train to short terminate at / originate from	Train Partially Cancelled Between Stations	Date from originating station
55308 Ramnagar - Moradabad	at/from	Moradabad - Pipalsana -	22.04.2019
Passenger	Pipalsana	Moradabad	
55311 Moradabad - Kashipur	at/from	Moradabad - Pipalsana -	22.04.2019
Passenger	Pipalsana	Moradabad	
55301/55302 Moradabad -	at/from	Moradabad - Rampur -	22.04.2019
Kathgodam - Moradabad Pass.	Rampur	Moradabad	

RESCREDULING OF TRAINS				
Train No. & Name	Scheduled	Rescheduled		
	Dep. Time & Date	Dep. Time & Date		
12358 Amritsar Jn - Kolkata	05:55 hrs. on	06:55 hrs. on		
Superfast Express	22.04.2019	22.04.2019		
14258 New Delhi - Varanasi Jn	11:35 hrs. on	12:35 hrs. on		
Kashi Vishwanath Express	22.04.2019	22.04.2019		
15044 Kathgodam- Lucknow Express	10:55 hrs. on 22.04.2019	12:55 hrs. on 22.04.2019		

Note:-For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

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RAIL COACH FACTORY KAPURTHALA

Tender No. MSF/18/2019/01. Name of work: Cleaning & Scrap segregation works of Group-l & Tool room shop alongwith cleaning Paint booth of Underframe section. Description: Cancellation of referred Tender on administrative ground. Existing: Likely to open on 23.04.2019. Revised: Cancelled Notice No: G-122-01/Mfg./008/2019-20



TENDER NOTICE ID 2019 DARE_464440_1

Online tenders are hereby invited on behalf of the Secretary, Indian Council of Agricultural Research by the Director, ICAR-IARI for entering into Rate Contract for

supply of Laboratory Chemicals, Glasswares, Plasticwares and Consumables for ARI & its Regional Stations/Centres as well as Delhi based ICAR Institutes and their Regional Centers/Stations located in different parts of India in the prescribed form which can be downloaded from tender link www.iari.res.in & eprocure.gov.in rom the manufacturers. Tender ID 2019 DARE 464440 1 20/5/19 at 11.30 A.M ast Date of submission of online tender

Date of opening of online tender

Asstt. Admn. Officer (Store)



राजकीय आयर्विज्ञान संस्थान **GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES** (An Autonomous Institute under Govt. of U.P.) a, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P. - 201 310 Website: www.gims.ac.in • Contact: 0120-2341738

VACANCY FOR FACULTY POST

The Government Institute of Medical Sciences, Kasna, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, invites application on prescribed format for the positions of Associate Professor/ Assistant Professor in its various departments on regular basis mentioned as

Sr.	Department	Post		
No.		Associate Professor	Assistant Professor	
1.	Radiology	01	01	
2.	General Medicine	00	01	
3.	Psychiatry	00	01	
4.	Dermatology, Venereology & Leprosy	00	01	
5.	General Surgery	00	01	
6.	TB & Respiratory Diseases	00	01	
	Total	01	06	

Upper age limit: Associate Professor - 60 Years As on last date of submissio Assistant Professor - 50 Years of the application form. Essential Qualification & Experience: As per SGPGI, Lucknow & MCI regulation

Pay Scale: Associate Professor - (PB-4, Rs.1,31,400.00 Basic Salary.)

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Please visit our website www.gims.ac.in for detailed adver age and experience etc. Online Application form can be filled up on o age and experience etc. Online Application more applications: 10.05.2019
Printout of online filled application along with self-attested photocopies of all documents including experiences certificate should be sent by registered/ Speed

Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP (India)- 201310. Application by hand Application fee Rs. 2000/- should be submitted online or through demand draft Application ree Rs. 2000- should be submitted online or through demand draft within the country or equivalent foreign currency for overseas candidates in favour of The Director, Government Institute of Medical Sciences, Payable at Greater

Director, Government Institute of Medical Sciences, Kasna

Notad (India)-201310.

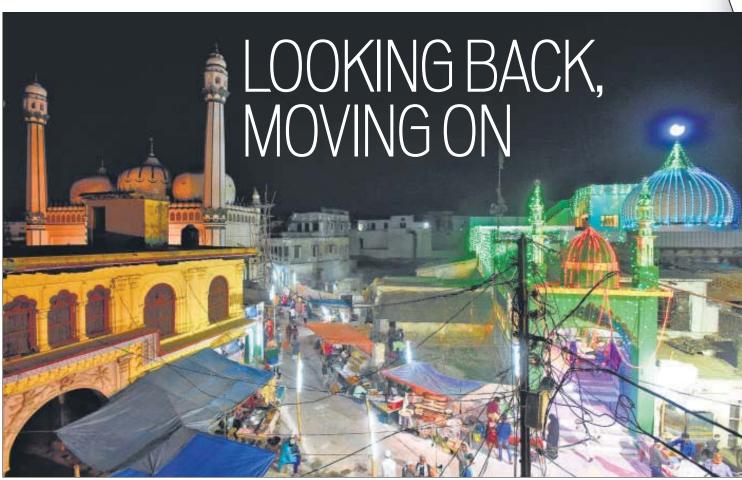
Last date for the receipt of printout of online filled application form is 15.05.2019 till 05:00 pm for applicants in India and 20.05.2019 till 05:00 pm for overseas candidates. If the last date of submission of application is a holiday, the application will be accepted till 05:00 pm on the next working day. Institute shall not be responsible for any postal delay what so ever.

Director, Government Institute of Medical Sciences, Kasna, Greater Noida reserves the right to reject any or all applications without assigning any reason thereof Reservation as per U.P. Government rules

Note: CANDIDATES WHO HAD APPLIED EARLIER WITH REGARD TO ADVT NO GIMS/2019/02 PUBLISHED ON DATED 03.02.2019, NEED NOT APPLY AGAIN.

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'THERE IS A BAD HINDU OR A BAD MUSLIM WHO SITS INSIDE US AND IS EVER READY TO FOMENT TROUBLE AND PRICK EACH OTHER'S ANXIETIES'



DISPUTE **BACKGROUNDER**

Mahant Raghubir Das, a sadhu, files the first court case and seeks permission to build a canopy on the Ramchabutra (a raised platform) outside the Babri Masjid. The Faizabad district court rejects his plea.

Ram idols appear inside the mosque. According to the book Ayodhya The Dark Night by Krishna Jha and Dhirendra Jha, an FIR was registered by the Ayodhya police naming a sadhu, Abhiram Das, as the chief accused. Suits are filed; the government declares the area as disputed and locks its gates.

Ramachandra Das Paramhans, a sadhu, files a suit at the district court for continuation of worship and keeping the idols in the disputed site. While the inner courtyard remains locked, prayers are allowed. The Nirmohi Akhara files a suit in 1959 seeking possession of the site.

Left: The Hanuman Garhi temple stands on land donated by the Nawabs. A mosque behind the temple is now being repaired with the temple's funds PHOTOS: AMAL KS/HT

We have no quarrel

with anyone. We

weddings and feasts. There

is no social boycott of any

attend each other's

kind.

1961

The Sunni Central Board of Waqf files a case against the placing of idols in the mosque, challenges claims that the building and surrounding land were once a graveyard. Between 1961 and 1986, Faizabad and Ayodhya remain comparatively tension-free. During these 25 years, no legal action is undertaken by either community; the temple-building movement gathers momentum under BJP leader LK Advani by 1984.

On the court's order, the Rajiv Gandhi government orders the removal of the locks at the disputed site, enabling Hindus to worship at what is believed to be the birthplace of the Hindu god, Ram. In 1989, months before the Lok Sabha elections, the government allows the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) to perform shilanyas (laying of foundation stone) for a Ram temple

1990

The VHP under the guidance of the RSS and the BJP step up the campaign to build a Ram temple in Ayodhya; Advani begins his three-month-long rath yatra towards Ayodhya; the mosque is partially damaged and 30 are killed in police firing

As a mediation process is under

way in the Ayodhya dispute, the city's residents recall how neighbours helped fill the breach between two communities

Paramita Ghosh

here are many ways to look at a wall. Some say good walls make good neighbours, and with them we share our bread. Some others say that walls between neighbours should never be so high that you cannot greet them. In Ayodhya, and its twin city Faiza bad, which a Nawab of Awadh developed as his first capital,

neighbours are measured by the breach in the wall. Who helped whom when their houses were attacked; who put out the flames in the locality when the Babri Mas-jid was brought down in 1992, and which of their neighbours today sieve with them the events of that year to show if there was hope then, it cannot be all over now.

On March 8, 2019, the Supreme Court ordered a mediation among petitioners in the Babri-Ramjanambhoomi case. This has set many residents thinking about the $nature\,of\,the\,solution\,and\,what\,it\,will$ mean for the city of a thousand temples the wounds of a people and career politi-cians. Ayodhya minus politicians "is equal to no dispute", says Krishna Pratap Singh, resident editor of Janmorcha, a Hindi daily, which was influential in the 1990s, especially among the local progressives Singh's ability to look at Ayodhya from the 'outside' is determined partly by where he stays – his home is in a locality where Faiz-abad and Ayodhya meet – but more so due to his experiences of 1992.

He says he was helpless when one of his best friends, Sahil Bharti, a poet, rushed home one day as the situation tensed up in Ayodhya and asked him whether his wife and kids could be safe in the city. "I don't know', I said. We were both strugglers then. I had a one-room flat, we just sat in it and wept." Hindu-Muslim ties in Ayodhya were derailed in 1992. These ties were and are based on cultural affinity and economic interdependence, the first being the outer layer, and the second, the inner core of the "famed Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb", adds Singh.

Muslims are around 15 per cent of the population in Faizabad and six per cent in Ayodhya. Mixed neighbourhoods may be uncommon in the rest of India but not in Ayodhya and Faizabad, explains Singh. "The tailor, the khadav (wooden sandals) makers of the deities and the sadhus, and the garland-makers are all Muslims If a

fire is lit in a neighbourhood, a Hindu house next to a Muslim one will burn, so will our shops. We are different but any attempt to enforce a separation will cause

'EVERYTHING'S FINE'

Everyday life between the two communities since 1992 has depended on an elaborate ritual that is almost like a Japanese tea ceremony in which keeping the shoes out of the room is actually the first step towards keeping the surroundings squeaky clean, the conversation moderate, and its pitch low. "With all those with whom we have social relations, we have terribly sanitised conversations now. We constantly tell each other, 'Everything is fine and all the trouble was by outsiders',' Suryakant Pandey observes wryly. Pandey is a social activist who has come to meet his neighbour, Reval Ahmad Khan,

principal, Forbes Intermediate College. Khan agrees, and tempers his remembrances with ifs and buts. "We remember 1992 as an attack on Muslims, not a Hindu Muslim clash. Obviously locals were involved, but then one has to differentiate between which sentiments are temporary and which are permanent..." Did any of his immediate neighbours empathise with him that December day? Khan answers that indirectly: "Crackers were burst...If something is built, there is cause for cele bration, but if a demolition makes people

happy, what is there to say?"

He calls for tea and gently changes the topic. "But we had a good Holi this year, didn't we", he asks of his neighbour. Pandey agrees they did. Both wave symbols of the city's syncretic traditions-its most well-known temple, Hanuman Garhi, was built on land donated by Nawab Shuja-ud-

On December 6, 1992, a neighbour, Ramsagar Shukla, sheltered my father and hid him in his house. And Babban Das, a Naga sadhu I knew, stayed with me the entire night to keep me company.

SABIR ALI, retired government official, Ayodhya

Daulah, and on its land stands a mosque that is now being repaired with the tem ple's funds - and try to graft a new skin onto the year 1992. "Even with the reli-gious polarisation outside in the Saket Degree College, students elected Afzar Mehdi as the students' union president. He was acceptable to all," adds Pandey.

The relations between people of different religious beliefs in Ayodhya and Faiza bad are not the product of a single day or week but have been honed over the years. But there is "a bad Hindu or a bad Muslim who sits inside us and is ever ready to foment trouble and prick each other's anxieties", says Pandey. In 2018, the Yogi Aditvanath-led government joined Faizabad with Ayodhya and made it part of a single entity, the Ayodhya Municipal Corporation. "No doubt there are people who have been made happy by this move. It's one way of teasing a community and saying, 'We have taken over your city, wiped off Nawabiyat and see, now your city has a Hindu name'." It's a small give to conservatives, he adds, for "not being able to give a temple". The UP government in its official communication has stated the move was due to public demand.

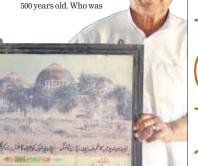
A POTENT MIX

"Teen nahi, ab tees hazaar, nahi bachegi ek mazaar," was a VHP slogan that shook Ayodhya and Faizabad in 1992 and beyond Says VHP spokesperson Vinod Bansal: "Our research says on 30,000 temples, Muslim monuments were constructed That's why it was said please vacate them without delay, otherwise we'll have to fight for the 30,000 which were destroyed by their ancestors.'

Haji Asad Ahmed (a Samajwadi Party member) and his childhood friend and neighbour Shailendra Pandey (a Congressman) both grew up in the vicinity of two mosques. By 1992, Asad and Pandey had passed out of college. "When I heard the Babri Masjid had fallen, I went to Asad's neighbourhood and found his house surrounded by a mob. Somehow managed to hide him and his family inside a police station." Pandey and Asad uphold their implacable communitarianism even now. Walking

through the dark alleys of Ayodhya, Pandey on his way home stops to point at exposed bricks of temples. "These bricks are at least 500 years old. Who was





KALESHWAR YADAV, tourist guide. IQBAL ANSARI, son of the late Hashim Ansari, one of the Avodhya Yadav is a neighbour of Igbal Ansari, who runs a cab service case appellants ruling then? Not the British. All these temples came up during the Mughal rule. They were built by the kings who were thriving under them!" Pandey's exasperation with communal politics is shared by Asad. "The Ramianmahhoomi area falls in my ward My neighbours did not take the burden of

being Hindu when they voted for me as

their corporator in 1995," he says. Asad routinely gets invited to Shiva mandir

We never saw the

Ansaris pick a fight

communities want to live in

peace. Why did outsiders

with anyone. Both

create this trouble?

Beinggood neighbours

bhandaras and other religious functions He says 1992 was the starting point of a political movement, not a religious one. But what followed has been the template for all conflicts, even potential ones; politi cal points are made in religious terms and can blow up anytime. In 2012, Shah Alam, a cultural activist, ran into trouble when he organised a screening at Saket University, Ayodhya, of Anand Patwardhan's documentary, Ram ke Naam, based on the events of 1992. A leading Hindi daily carried the story of the ABVP protest with the headline, 'Film festival mein mahapuro shon ka hua apmaan' (Film festival insults the greats).
"The mix of religion and politics has

been deadly here. Even today, many Mus-lims leave home to relocate somewhere safer whenever the Sangh Parivar has a major programme in the city or gives a call for building the temple," says Singh. 'They don't want to sit at home thinking will it be 1992 again...." Ayodhya may be a story of negotiation and strain but it is equally a story of re-building of what is broken. Not much can be gained out of bad

blood, locals feel. **FIXING IT**

Ighal Ansari is the son of the late Hashim Ansari, one of the appellants of the Babri masjid-Ramnjammabhoomi land dispute case. His neighbour is Kaleshwar Yaday, a temple guide. Both live within half-a-kilometre of where the Babri Masiid stood. Yadav says: "We had nothing to do with its falling, and we had no problem when it was standing either.'

At the house of Sabir Ali, a calendar with the Babri Masjid hangs on one of the walls. On December 6, this retired govern-ment official tells Veeru Tiwari, a wellwisher and a neighbour, of how Ramsagar Shukla, another neighbour, had saved his father. "And Babban Das, a Naga sadhu I knew, had staved with me the entire night to keep me company." And they did this because for that one night all of them broke down some parts of the wall.



bring down the 16th century Babri mosque. In the ensuing violence by karsevaks, at least 10 people, mainly Muslims, are killed and shops set on fire in Ayodhya; an estimated 2,000 people are killed in riots all over India.

2002

Lucknow bench of the Allahabad high court begins hearings on determining who owns the Avodhva site. On September 30, 2010, the Allahabad high court rules three-way division of disputed area between Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla.The Supreme Court suspends the High Court's 2011 ruling after Hindu and Muslim groups appeal against it.

2019

Following a Supreme Court proposal of a court-monitored mediation process between the parties litigating the Ayodhya dispute on March 8, 2019, a panel of mediators is formed consisting of former Justice FMI Kalifulla, spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravishankar and senior advocate Sriram Panchu. Mediation process begins.

5 MUST-DOs IN AYODHYA, FAIZABAD

Hanuman Garhi: Avodhva is considered the birthplace of the Hindu god, Ram, but the city's most famous temple is dedicated to his follower, Hanuman.The temple is located on a hilltop and a 76-step staircase leads to the entrance of the temple.

Don't miss the panorami view of the surrounding



sunsets are gorgeous at this ghat in Ayodhya located on the banks of the river Saryu. There are 500-year-old

Kanak Bhawan: For a mythological fix, visit the Bhawan, also called Sone-ka-Ghar (House of Gold) in Ayodhya for images of Ram and Sita wearing gold crowns. The complex resembles the magnificent palaces of Bundelkhand and Rajasthan. Its sprawling courtyard is another striking feature of





Street food: Snack up at Mahaveer ki Tikki in Rikabganj, Raamji ka Samosa nea Awadh University and Falooda Kulfi at Madhur in

past@present

RAMACHANDRA GUHA

POLLS IN 1952 AND 2019: NOT MUCH DIFFEREN

was recently in the archives in New Delhi, where I came across an intriguing report on the first General Elections, held in 1951-52. It was written by Kamalnayan Bajaj, whose father, Jamnalal Bajaj, was a great patriot and philanthropist and a close asso-ciate of Mahatma Gandhi's. Kamalnayan himself was a successful entrepreneur with close ties to the Congress party. He had been nominated by the Congress to fight a Lok Sabha seat in Sikar, Rajasthan. He lost his election to a candidate from the Ram Rajya Parishad, and afterwards wrote an eight page note for internal circulation within the par-. It was entitled "My experience of the General Elections and certain irregularities connected with it in Rajasthan", and it makes for instructive reading today, some 67 years after it was

Kamalnayan Bajaj began his account by high-lighting the "rivalry in the Congress Organisation between the two groups headed by Hiralalji on the one side, and Varmaji and Vyasji on the other." As he wrote, in some exasperation, the leaders of these rival groups within the Congress "demanded personal loyalty from the workers. Loyalty to the Organisation got second place. In consequence of this some of the really good workers were shoved to the background and persons of questionable character without

any service to their credit came to the forefront Mutual bickerings and petty quarrels took most of the time and energy of the leaders. Conse quently the Organisation suffered and could not remain as an effective link between the Government and the people. Even the good and beneficial enactments of the Government were to some extent ineffective, inasmuch as the Congress failed to explain to the masses the proper effects of such legislation." The Congress in Rajasthan faced a challenge from within, with rival factions led by leaders who worked for per sonal rather than party interest. And it faced a challenge from without, in particular from the right-wing Ram Rajya Parishad, which was par-ticularly close to, and funded by, the feudal elite of Rajasthan. Thus Kamalnayan Bajaj wrote of what he termed the "misleading and false propa ganda carried on" by the Ram Rajya Parishad, whose leaders "openly said that a vote given to the Congress would be tantamount to slaughtering a thousand cows and that a vote to the Ram Raj [Parishad] would bring them Punya of looking after a thousand cows".

Kamalnayan Bajaj then came to the less-than-legitimate means used to garner votes. Thus he wrote: "Money was freely distributed particularly amongst Brahmins so that they may vote for the Ram Raj. Sweets were also distributed amongst the children for crying Ram Raj slo-



With EVMs in place, it is no longer so easy to manipulate ballots and ballot boxes

gans, Ram Raj workers had offered money even the offer and said that their votes would go to the

Congress."
In his report, Kamalnayan Bajaj also spoke of the electoral process being contaminated by violence. "At many booths," he wrote, "Ram Raj workers with lathis and naked swords in their hands went round openly telling the people to proceed to the booths only if they wanted to vote for the Ram Raj, otherwise they asked them to go back....[T]he Ram Raj workers threatened the poor and ignorant voters to make it impossible for them to live their normal life. In spite of this however, the general feeling that Congress was likely to eventually come to power prevailed and this was to some extent responsible for the Congress securing some votes even in areas domi-

nated by the Jagirdars."

Kamalnayan Bajaj suggested that the police were partial towards the landed elites of Rajast-han. As he put it: "During the election it is my impression that a section of the Police including Officers was indirectly co-operating with the Jagirdar element in creating an atmosphere of threat and panic." He also alluded to the presence of rigging, writing: "I have strong suspicion that ballot boxes have been tampered with and votes from the Congress and the Kisan Sabha boxes have been manipulated."

Kamalnayan Bajaj was writing about the first General Elections held in India on the basis of universal adult franchise. The elections now underway are the 17th such exercise. Yet,

despite the passage of time, the increase in the size of the electorate, and the economic and social changes that have taken place in the inter vening decades, much of what Kamalnayan Bajaj observed in 1952 remains relevant to what we are witnessing in 2019. In several states the Congress party remains riven with factionalism, with individual leaders seeking to maximise their own personal influence rather than of the party to which they belong. Again, right-wing parties continue to spread false propagan da about the Congress and its leaders, tendentiously portraying them as "anti-Hindu", although this now take the form of WhatsApp forwards rather than oral rumours. The role of money and money power in elections, mean-while, has dramatically increased. On the other hand, one area in which there has been progress rather than regress is in the counting of votes. With electronic voting machines (EVMs) in place, it is no longer so easy to manipulate ballots and ballot boxes.

There is an old French saving, which may be translated into English as follows: "The more things change, the more they stay the same." This is validated by one last remark that I shall quote from Kamalnayan Bajaj's report of 1952. This reads: "The people in general were very bit ter about the corruption prevailing in Government quarters.

Postscript: For the next General Elections, in 1957, Kamalnayan Bajaj shifted from Sikar to Wardha, and won. He thus himself exemplified another running theme in Indian elections, namely, the search by candidates for a safe seat

> Ramachandra Guha is the author of Gandhi: The Years That Changed The World.

sundaysentiments

KARAN THAPAR



THE EC GOING SOFT

he Election Commission (EC) has come in for extensive criticism. It's been accused of either not responding promptly to breaches of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) or of not doing so ade quately. Some believe it has noticeably slipped from the acme established by former chief election commissioner TN Seshan in the 1990s. What I find $particularly\,disturbing\,is\,the\,EC's$ weakness in responding to the prime minister's own alleged breaches of the MCC and, even, the law.

However, let me at the outset acknowledge the Commission did take a strong stand on the biopic and on NaMo TV. I only wish it had done this in other areas which are more directly connected to Narendra Modi Let's first come to the prime minis-

ter's speeches. In Latur, on April 9, he called on people to dedicate their vote

to the soldiers behind the Balakot airstrike and to the martyrs of Pulwama In doing so, he directly defied the EC's letter of March 9, warning political parties against politicising the armed forces. At Wardha, on April 1, he asked the audience not to forgive the Congress for insulting Hindus by coining the term Hindu terror. This breached both Section 1 of the MCC and Section 123 of The Representation of People's Act. These speeches are 20 and 11 days old. Although the EC has called for details, it's taken no action.

The question is why not? In the middle of an election campaign, such a lengthy lapse of time is hardly excusable. When it concerns an alleged breach by the prime minister (PM), a prompt and clear decision is required. If it appears the PM is being allowed to get away, that can only damage the EC's credibility.

A second issue is that NaMo TV



Given his position, the PM's lapses are of greater significance

broadcast the PM's speeches during the 48-hour period immediately prior to the first and second days of voting. Section 126 of The Representation of People's Act explicitly prohibits the broadcast of "any matter intended or calculated to influence or affect the result of an election". Modi's campaign speeches clearly fall into that category. Equally importantly, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) accepts "NaMo TV is a feature of the NaMo app". And the app, it appears, is

owned by Narendra Modi. That points the finger at the PM. But again, as far as I can tell, the EC hasn't acted. Why?

Third, Scroll.in has revealed that NITI Aayog asked bureaucrats in constituencies the PM was scheduled to campaign in to send local inputs to the PM office. Such inputs were received from Wardha, Gondia and Latur shortly before Modi campaigned there. Doesn't this sound like a breach of the MCC, which says: "Ministers .. shall not ... make use of official machinery or personnel during the electioneering work"? But again, as far as I can tell, the EC hasn't acted. And, again, I ask why?

Whilst it's true that during an elec-tion campaign the PM is just another candidate, it's also undeniable that as PM he has a position and importance quite distinct from any other person. This means his lapses are of greater significance. They cannot be ignored or responded to in a dilatory fashion. Of course, he must not be treated unfairly but the response has to be fast, if not faster, than other cases

Isn't it odd the EC has acted against Yogi Adityanath and Mayawati, whose lapses occurred on the April 7 and April 9 respectively, but is silent about Modi's, though the incidents happened earlier?

Karan Thapar is the author of Devil's Advocate: The Untold Story The views expressed are personal

PERPETUAL SUBSIDI **DERMINE DIGNIT**



ll manifestos in this election contain promises to make India a more equal place by diverting funds to those who suffer most from the current inequality.
While the Congress is promising ₹72,000 each year to the 20% of the population who are poor, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is promising ₹6,000 a year to small and marginal farm households (that is, farmers who have

land holdings of up to 2 hectares). In Odisha, where elections to the assembly are also taking place, the BJP is trying to rival Naveen Patnaik's existing provision of rice to the poor at ₹1 per kg with a commitment to provide 1.5 kg rice with dal and salt free. In West Bengal, the Trinamool Congress has pointed out that it already provides grain at ₹2 per kg.
It would be harsh to deny the bene-

fits the poor enjoy from these schemes but their effectiveness is limited. A dole, which is what free or heavily subsidised food is, doesn't help the poor to earn a decent living, nor does it provide them with dignity.

The series of loan waivers for farmers demonstrate that they only solve the problem for the moment. Farmers still can't find markets to sell their produce at prices which enable them to balance their books. While writing a chapter on farmer's suicides in a book 17 years ago, I visited the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, where a plant physiologist said: "Farmers come to us and say, 'We did everything you told us to produce crops, now tell us where to sell them' This bitter lesson has only just been learnt." But it hasn't. If it had been then, distress in the countryside

wouldn't be an issue this election The vice-chancellor of the university blamed governments for farmers not getting their rewards. "Governments are on the side of the consumers entirely. All they want is cheap food," I would say relying exclusively on

short-term solutions such as debt relief is another cause. But I would like to suggest there is a more fundamental reason for the inequality in India, of which the need to provide doles and debt relief is only one sign. This reason is that India is misled by what is known as neoclassical economics, which relies on the market to distribute a nation's resources. But markets take no account of equity. When I was discussing neoclassical economics with Ramgopal Agarwala, who was once the head of the economics unit of the World Bank in China, he said to me: "A self-equilibrating market is nonsense".

Neoclassical, or market economists justify their dominance over economic thinking by maintaining that their way is scientific, and using mathematics to prove it. Ramagopal's view is endorsed by the economist, Thomas Piketty, whose book criticising the dominance of neoclassical economics caused such a stir. He said: "This obsession with mathematics is an easy way of acquir-ing the appearance of scienticity without having to answer the far more com plex questions posed by the world we

Ramagopal believes that India has a lot to learn from China where, as he puts it, "neoclassical economists were told to buzz off and the Chinese grew their economy in their own way".

According to Ramagopal, with his experience of China and India, there are two changes in the latter's econom ic policies that could create faster and more equitable growth. One is relaxing controls on the fiscal deficit to allow the government to increase spending on social and physical infrastructure.

The second is an increase in savings including higher taxes, to fund the infrastructure programmes. India's neoclassical economists, who have dominated policy since the reforms of the 1990s, will not approve of either. I have not read of any manifesto which calls for higher taxation.

The views expressed are personal

THE SILENT MAJORITY OF TECHNOLOGICAL LAGGARDS

tatistics can hold brutal truths. We are constantly told that innovation is occurring faster than ever, yet the data coming out of the so-called Fourth Industrial Revolution suggests that it is anything but revolutionary. Among advanced economies, productivity growth is the slowest it's been in 50 years.

This "productivity paradox" is often attributed to measurement problems or lags following the adop tion of disruptive technologies. But another possible explanation is that public debates about technological trends tend to be dominated by the companies and entrepreneurs that are shaping them. The voices of the vast majority of companies that are struggling to keep up with technological change (or actively resisting it) are going unheard.

Acknowledging this underrepre sented perspective is essential to understanding why the digital revolution isn't showing up in the data, and why it may yet stall. For all of their purchase on the public imagination.

artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, Big Data, and humanoid robots fall within the remit of only a handful of firms. The attention these technologies receive is wildly disproportionate to the scale of their development and adoption.

The dynamic is easy to discern. Journalists chase juicy stories. Investors seek attractive returns. Consumers try to anticipate the next technological fad. Social networks, global media, and international conferences amplify the voices of disruptors who have an interest in inflating their own prospects. And as the information cascades, the ranks of believers grow. The rumour becomes the rule.

Consider the World Economic on emerging labour-market trends, which is based on a survey of large, multinational corporations. It contends that by 2022, a substantial increase in investments in machine learning, data analytics, new materials, and quantum computing will boost demand for data scientists, AI specialists, and robotics engineers, to

the detriment of existing professions.
The problem is that the WEF's population sample is hardly representa

WE STILL DO NOT SEE THE COMPUTER AGE IN THE PRODUCTIVITY STATISTICS. WHY SHOULD ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE BE ANY

tive of the real economy, Across Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries firms employing more than 250 workers account for just 7% of all active firms and employ less than 40% of the workforce. And while the authors of the report acknowledge this bias, their conclusions still amount to dangerous generalisations. Their jobs of the future have nothing to do with the immediate employment needs of the vast majority of small- and mediumsize enterprises that are still operating within the framework of the Third Industrial Revolution.

Similarly, an OECD study finds that the labour productivity gap between firms at the technological frontier and all other firms has been widening sharply over the last decade. Many of the advanced technologies one hears so much about in the media remain unexploited by a non-trivial share of companies, which suggests that we have a long wait before even the most revolutionary innovations start driving gross domestic product (GDP).

It has been said that general-purpose technologies like electricity and the personal computer (PC) tend to boost productivity not immediately, but around 25 years after their inception. Yet it has now been 32 years since the Nobel laureate economist Robert Solow observed that, "You can see the computer age everywhere but in productivity statistics," and we still do not see the computer age in the productivity statistics. Why should AI be any different from the PC in this

Ignoring the perspective of technological laggards can have far-reaching policy implications, especially if tech-no-boosterism (or alarmism) diverts attention from pressing problems facing education systems and labour markets in the here and now. If governments start allocating more resources to train the high-skilled professional elite of tomorrow, they could foster even deeper inequality A sustainable technological trans-

formation requires widely shared benefits, which means that helping the laggards adapt is just as important as enabling the innovators to thrive. The voices of the disrupted must be

Edoardo Campanella is a Future of the World Fellow at the Center for the Governance of Change at IE University in Madrid The views expressed are personal Project Syndicate

sundayletters

WOMEN DON'T NEED QUOTAS TO PROVE THEMSELVES

would like to congratulate Lalita Panicker for her article "Women must choose merit over quotas" (Engender: April 14) where she has rightly highlighted the dominance of women in all spheres of life in today's India. So, why we are asking for a 33% guota for women in the Parliament or state assemblies? If women really come forward with true dedication and sincerity to join politics, then it won't be a surprise if the percentage of women parliamentarians crosses 33% in a few years without any quotas.

SANJAY CHOPRA, MOHALI

thisweekthatera

PICTURE OF **THE WEEK**

APRIL 22: Test cricketers Bishen Singh Bedi and E A S Prasanna who received the Padma Shree awards from President V V Giri seen with their wives at Rashtrapati Bhavan on



NEWS OF THE WEEK

APRIL 27: Delhi and the adjoining states of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Harvana, Puniab and Kashmir are experiencing a severe heat-wave. An unusual phenomenon in April, the heat-wave has been caused by the absence of "western disturbances".



RAID ACROSS CANAL

APRIL 27: United Arab Republic soldiers crossed the Suez Canal and attacked an "Israeli stronghold destroying it completely," a military spokesman said. The statement said during the surprise attack, the UAR forces killed "all the enemy forces defending the stronghold."

Don't panic because of a survey This refers to Karan Thapar's article

"Understanding the India we've created" (April 14). The findings of an institution like CSDS are disturbing as it sends us a message that there is a clear divide between religions and regions. But whether we need to be so worried on the basis of a survey with a sample size of merely 10,000 people in a vast country like India is something we need to introspect on. India also has a large number of fence sitters.

BAL GOVIND, NOIDA

Many people fear that democracy will be undermined if one party gains too much prominence. It is obvious that in a large country like India there will be differences of opinion that intersect with regional or demographic fault lines. In fact, such differences should be seen positively, for they prevent the emergence of a hegemonic party. KARTIK KUMAR, GWALIOR

Write to us at:

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APRIL 21-27, 1970 »FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

INDIA'S TINY **INFLUENCERS**

They're reviewing toys, making ice

cream and letting us into the daily life of the urban tween. With millions tuning in, India's youngest vloggers are learning to generate hits, deal with the perks and perils of fame



Nihal Raja-gopalan (9,

above) chats as he cooks,

textures and

flavours like a

pro, and says

an astronaut

chef when he

grows up.

(Right) Prakruti Kalra,

12. and her

brother Ayush, 5, make funny

videos in which they argue

about an issue or chat about things like

table manners.

discusses

SKETCHES

'SOME VIEWERS TEND TO COMPARE OUR TWO KIDS, WHICH IS

Aayu and Pihu Show **PRAKRUTI KALRA, 12,** and AYUSH, 5, Kota 2.2 million subscribers

iyush Kalra, a sales professional from Kota, started the YouTube channel Aayu and Pihu Show in 2017 because he couldn't find good Hindi videos for his son, Ayush, who was about three then

'We wanted to keep Pihu [Prakruti] and Aayu occupied with fun, informative videos, but there were none in Hindi," he says "So I thought of letting them make their own shows. For better content for other parents and to keep my kids occupied."

They started off with simple, no-flame cooking videos. "The kids enjoyed shooting them, but we didn't get too many views and didn't know why," he says.

They were close to giving up when they realised that the videos with funny interactions between the kids seemed to go down much better with viewers.
"We decided to start doing funny

sketches about everyday life, but ended every video with a moral," he says.

They have uploaded around 180 such videos in the last three years, releasing a video every week. There's one in which the kids don't want to go to school and eventually understand that school is actually a lot of fun. In another, they learn to appreciate

everything their homemaker mother does in a day.
There's also one about table manners "Most feedback is about how these videos are family-friendly and entertaining," says Kalra. "But some kids tend to compare Pihu to Aayu, calling him cuter and a bet-ter actor, which is sometimes a little unfair to our

daughter. "It has, however, taught her to deal with unpleasant feedback and know that she cannot always expect praise.

NOWSTREAMING

THE JUNIOR MASTER CHEF

KichaTube HD NIHAL RAJAGOPALAN, 9, Kochi 35,000 subscribers

ihal Rajagopalan, nicknamed Kicha, has been a constant in the kitchen

from the age of three. His mother, Ruby, 47, a professional baker, would indulge him by answering his questions and letting him watch her bake. When he was not trying to help his mother, he'd watch YouTube videos of the nine-year-old American toy reviewer, Evan, on his channel Evan Tube

HD. Kicha adored him. In 2015, Kicha managed to convince his dad to make a cameraphone video of him making ice popsicles and upload it on You-Tube. They set up a channel called Kicha-Tube HD, similar to Evan's.

"Friends and colleagues said they found the little chef amusing and wanted more, says Rajagopal Krishnan, 47, an advertising professional.

Since then Kicha has posted over 150 cooking videos in the last four years. There are easy, no-flame recipes. Also, the Kerala delicacy putta, or steamed rice cakes which he prepared for Ellen DeGeneres when he was invited onto her show in 2016. Kicha cooks in real-time with recipes

provided by his mother.
"He is a different person on camera," says Ruby. "We rehearse once, but when the camera rolls, he does what he wants, says what he wants, makes little bloopers too but carries on confidently."

Kids bully him, sometimes, saying that he isn't a real chef.

"YouTube disabled the comments section on children's channels about two months ago, but before that I made it a point to go through every comment and remove the abusive ones so that he

wouldn't spot them," says Krishnan.
They make it a point to keep sharing all the positive feedback he receives to keep him motivated. "The good thing is he rarely harps on unpleasant things and gets happy knowing that so many people are sending him love from across the world," his father says.

Kicha hopes to make a cake that looks like him and is as big as him. However, his "real aim is to become an astronaut chef and cook in space" when he grows up.

UNBOXING, REVIEWING TOYS

Kyrascope Toy Reviews KYRA KANOJIA, 8. Noida 11,000 subscribers

anish Kanojia, 42, a creative director at a tech company, knew his daughter **Kyra** (below) loved playing with toys, like any other five-year-old. What was amusing was how she insisted on taking them apar and re-assembling them first. "She said it

was because she'd seen other kids re-as-sembling their toys on YouTube," he says. "What was interesting was that she would stop to explain what she was doing with a patience most kids that age don't have," he says. He asked her if she wanted

to feature in a YouTube channel and started Kyrascope Toy Reviews in 2016. From unboxing videos, to videos on assembling aug-

toys, Kyra has uploaded around 150 videos in the last two and half years. "I'm called the toy expert among my friends," she says grinning. "Every time someone wants a new toy, they ask me if it's

mented-reality

note of appreciation from her school for her entrepreneurial efforts.

"Our weekly shooting sessions are also father-daughter bonding time," says Man-ish. "The best part about her being a child toy reviewer is that it shows me she can't be dishonest. Her displeasure just shows on her face." If a tov isn't fun, if it is too tough or too easy, she loses interest and will be visibly upset.

Initially, viewers would criticise her

English pronunciation.
"I would respond saying she is after all



YLE VLOGGER THE LITTLE LIFEST

ANANTYA ANAND, 9, Noida 2.5 million subscribers

nantya Anand (below) was barely four, but her family had figured out that she loved the camera. Her aunt, Shruti, 33, a lifestyle and beauty vlogger who lived in the US then. recalls how tirelessly she'd talk on Skype.
"She would talk about

her day and comment on random things, but not a minute was boring, just like a seasoned blogger, Shruti says. Little Anand started off starring in her aunt's videos as a model for kid's hairstyles but eventually convinced her aunt she needed her own platform. MyMissAnand, set up in 2017, features her talking about her routines, travels, safe online challenges like

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} veggie-eating dares. ``The most popular are comedy sketches on things like types of the compact of the c$ teachers, life with or without siblings, bad students vs good students," Anand says.
Videos get an average of 4 million views,

surprising her mother, Nisha, who scripts them. "Kids in the US do cool videos about their morning or after-school routine that Anantya loved watching. We really didn't think it would catch on so well in India," she says. Shooting takes six hours on veekends, and the channel releases two or three videos a month.

At 9, Anand is also learning to deal with online fame. Fans write in and ask to take selfies with her at malls. "We were in Europe on a family vacation last year when a little girl from Afghanistan recognised Anantya and approached her for a picture," recalls her mother. The YouTu-ber was overwhelmed but her family says that this popularity has disadvantages as well. "So far she hasn't got too many hate messages but we've taught her to ignore people who spew hatred," says her aunt Shruti Anand. "We explained to her that she is not answerable to anyone. Her friends and family are always going to be proud of her talent and that's what should

worth buying and that feels really nice. treasure hunts and keep her going," she adds. Kyra has also received a

Rachel Lopez

Anesha George

hat were you like at five? In Kochi, Nihal Rajagopalan

had already shot a video that would fetch over 2 mil-lion views. It shows him in

a chef's hat and apron.

Rajagopalan's little hands operate the blender with ease (though he does seem awestruck by

its speed). He breaks into a song midway

tries to recall the ingredients, talks about

into his ice-cream as soon as it's ready Facebook acquired the rights to this

known as Kicha, is now nine and success fully runs his channel Kicha Tube, with

In Noida, 9-year-old Anantya Anand

travel bags. Kyra Kanojia, 8, also from Noida, reviews and assembles toys, some-times failing at the first attempt. These

kids, some of India's youngest YouTubers, get millions of views for each video.

Generated Content (UGC) occupies the second-largest share in India's online

video consumption, after comedy shows YouTube accounts for 60% to 70% of this viewing. "YouTube kids, as a category,

took off in 2015 and channels by individual kid creators started picking up in 2017,"

says Satya Raghavan, director of YouTube Content Partnerships in India. These videos are typically shot and

scripted by parents, feature kids and are

aimed at kids. Anand, who wants to be an actress, also does videos on fashion, and

funny sketches about life as a primary

school student. "I write scripts but she rarely sticks to them," says her mother,

shoot, longer ones can take six to eight

Kalra, 38, father of Ayush and Prakruti.

Nisha. "Her bits make the videos funnier."
While most videos take an hour or two to

hours. "Breaks are crucial. We wrap up if the kids seem to lose interest," says Piyush

A KPMG study found last year that User

makes videos telling kids how to pack their

35,000 subscribers.

texture like a professional, only to dig right

video for \$2,000 in 2016. Rajagopalan, better

making mango ice-cream in Mickey Mouse moulds.

vati Chandgadkar doesn't just see the world through rose-tinted glass. She sees it through rose, turquoise, amber, emerald and violet-tinted glass, all delicately hand-tinted in England, shipped here more than $100\,$

The stained-glass restorer and her team make up The Glass Studio, which has been working in this field for over 20 vears but is virtually

unknown outside heri tage-management circles. Their handiwork though, is hard to miss. Much of it is in Mumbai, Chennai and Goa. And no. not all of it is in

Chandgadkar, 62 has helped restore stained glass at the University of Mumbai, the city's Keneseth Eliyahoo synagogue and Jama Masjid

She counts a yacht club and museum among her clients. And she's worked on churches in Goa Chennai and Singanore Not a bad haul for a woman who'd been

teaching English literature for 13 years before discovering, in 1995, at a course in stained-glass conservation in the US, that she'd rather work with classics of a differ-

COLOUR SHIFT

Chandgadkar's switch could not have been better timed. By the mid-1990s, India was just waking up to the idea of specialised heritage conser-

vation. There was a move away from painting over or replacing damaged architectural detail and a need for experts who understood original materials and tech niques. "India's major cities have an ensemble of Neo-Gothic architecture, to which stained-

glass is intrinsic," Chandgadkar says. So there was plenty of work to be done.

Restoration is hard enough with architecture; masons, sculptors and ironsmiths have to be re-trained. With glass, it's even more difficult. Much of our heritage stained glass came from renowned artists and studios in England. No one here knew how to deal with a split, fading colours or thinning panes.
The job requires a

delicate hand in more ways than one. "It's not just coloured glass natched together

. Chandgadkar says. Nor is it just slapped on with paint. The tints are created when the glass itself is fired into being. "Making stained glass is labour-intensive and the raw materials are expensive," she says. "Conserving it is equally costly and requires a different skill-set."

Keep in mind that stained glass wasn't meant for the tropics. Most Western cathedral glass (even the Notre Dame's famous



rose panels, which survived last week's fire) are exposed to little heat and humidity through the course of a normal year.

So Chandgadkar had to get creative Tints and materials are refrigerated; her team works fast, while they're still cool.

Conservation architect David Cardoz, who oversaw the restoration of Byculla's Gloria church last year, recalls Chandgad "The main panels, 25 ft tall, had bulged at the base from their own weight," he says. "Swati used aluminium casing to create a robust frame an inch behind, reinforced with polycarbonate. Anyone else would have just removed the original panes or fused the bits with slapdash copper foil.

kar's meticulous but innovative approach.

GOING CLEAR

When it comes to stained glass, misconceptions persist. "One is that stained-glass windows are tall and meant for large spa ces. I have enjoyed creating partitions, screens and window dressings in homes and stores," Chandgadkar says.

The large-format panes do have epic stories to tell. Look closely and designs will reveal their context. The stained glass in Mumbai's old churches, for instance, feature people dressed in kurtas, chappals and jodhpurs in the Nativity scenes.

Chandgadkar especially likes the story behind a panel at the St Thomas Cathedral. They say when the glass arrived in India by ship, the face of St Thomas had been damaged. The cathedral asked the studio in England to replace it. Henry Holiday, the designer, wasn't thrilled about the extra work. "He painted his own face on instead. So what we see now is Henry Holiday's face with a not-so-pleasant, rather disquieting expression for a saint!

windows at the Chhatranati Shivaji Maharaj terminus in Mumbai. (Inset) A glass panel at the University of Mumbai's convocation **hall.** нт рнотоs: PRATIK CHORGE

'DESI BREED PUPS THAT SOLD FOR ₹2,000 NOW GO FOR ₹10,000, BECAUSE OF GROWING DEMAND'

AS HISTORY IS MADE, A TIME TO REVISIT I

SOUMYA BHATTACHARYA

sees its most absorbing title race since 2011-12 enter its final few weeks. On May 12, we shall have a winner, Manchester City is aiming to become the first team to defend the title since Sir Alex Ferguson's Manchester United did so in the 2008-09 season. Liverpool is refusing to give up or go away, its season ignited by the dream of a first top flight title since 1989-90. But if it cannot make it in the end, Liverpool will become the team to have finished second with more points than many champions in the Premier League era.

afoot in the league: the sprint for the third and fourth places. Tottenham Hotspur, led by Mauricio Pochettino, the most feted manager to have never won a trophy, led this particular race for most of the season. But at the moment, all the bets are off. Arsenal, Chelsea and Manchester United. all with new managers, make up the rest of the field in this sprint to the finish.

Come end of the season, two of those four teams will be denied a place in the top four, and, therefore, Champions League football. You could barely insert a cigarette paper between the sides in this contest. Not for years has this particular fight been so frenzied. So much can change in so

Of the other big leagues in Europe, only the German league has some interest left in it although the inevitable — Bayern Munich winning—seems to be forthcoming. Juventus has sewn up the Italian league. For the eighth time in the past 11 seasons, Barcelona's hold on the Spanish title is assured. In comparison, the English



Premier League remains a cauldron Anything, really, is possible in the three weeks ahead.

Your ideal companion as you immerse yourself in the taut, enthralling final stretch of the campaign should be just as absorbing a book: Michael Cox's The Mixer: The Story of Premier League Tac tics, from Route One to False Nines, I don't know what the publishers were after with that subtitle. It is plain misleading. The

Mohamed Salah (centre) after scoring Liverpool's second goal against Chelsea on April 14. The English is in for a frenzied finish

THE STORY OF THE PREMIER

LEAGUE IS A FASCINATING TALE OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ENGLISH TOP FLIGHT, OF HOW IT WENT FROM BEING "A SLUM SPORT PLAYED IN SLUM STADIUMS" TO ONE AWASH IN MASSIVE SUMS OF MONEY, A GLOBALISED TV SPECTACLE

Mixer does delve into tactics. But it is really the story of the Premier League, the fascinating tale of the transformation of the English top flight, of how it went from being, as the Sunday Times once put it, "a slum sport played in slum stadiums, increasingly watched by slum people" to what it is today: awash in obscene sums of money, a cosmopolitan, globalised TV spectacle with a worldwide following.

The book derives its title from the English predilection, in the pre-Premier League era, for defenders to "put it in the mixer", that is, to hit long balls upfield targeted at a brawny striker hovering near the opposition's penalty area (also known as Route One). How things have changed. Cox traces the change in tactics (both the

how and the why of it), talks about various formations, the ball playing defender inverted wingers and false nines, but nowhere does he sound dry or pedantic

This is because he sees all this through the prism of characters and personalities. The Mixer is particularly good when it deals with the men whose transformative influences made the Premier League what it is today. We read about the impact of managers such as Sir Alex Ferguson, Arsene Wenger, Jose Mourinho. We learn about the imprint players such as Eric Cantona, Thierry Henry, Wayne Rooney, Rio Ferdinand or Denis Bergkamp left on the league. We revel in the monumental achievements of teams that defined and brought something unprecedented into the league such as Arsenal's Invincibles of 2003-04. Manchester United's treble winners of 1998-99 or Claudio Ranieri's Leicester City, title winners in 2015-16, overcoming 1000-1 odds. The book most comes alive when dealing with these tropes, and in relating them to the overall expansion in

The Mixer was first published in 2017 to mark the 25th anniversary of the beginning of the Premier League. Two years on, at the closing stages of one of the best and tightest seasons in the league's history, it remains an entertaining, compelling read. Spinoff appears every fortnight

WHO'S A

It might just be a native

breed you've never heard of. Indigenous dogs are finding favour and homes across India **MUTT ADO ABOUT DESI DOGS** Local breeds that have been getting popular over the last few years

MUDHOL HOUND

Features: Long and narrow head, large eyes, piercing gaze, broad between the ears, tapering muzzle

Origin: Bagalkot, Karnataka Temperament: Devoted and gentle, making it a good family dog

Interesting feature: Strong immune system and adaptability to hot climates

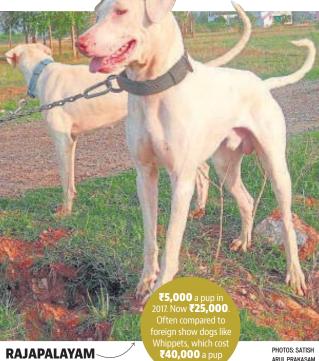
PASHMI HOUND slender and feathered, from Afghan Hounds brought by the Pathans who settled in the Deccan plateau. Now found in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh

₹50,000 small head and long furry ears

Origins: Probably descended

Temperament: Usually gentle, but sometimes spirited. It makes a good guard dog

Interesting feature: Phenomenal speed, stamina and endurance in running



Features: Milky white coat, characteristic

Origin: Rajapalayam, Tamil Nadu

Temperament: It is loyal, loves company and may develop separation anxiety

Interesting feature: A keen ability to differentiate between friend and threat. Used as hunting dogs in the Nayak dynasty between the 16th and 18th century

Features: Small, stocky and muscular

KOMBAI

Origin: Kombai, Tamil Nadu ent: Very energetic, slightly **CHIPPIPARAI HOUND** ₹2,000 to aggressive Interesting feature: One of the bravest breeds. Rumoured to be strong enough to kill a bear Features: Dome-shaped head, large black snout, long bony body, tail that curls like the handle of an umbrella Origin: The **₹5,000** a pup Chippiparai region in Virudhunagar district, Tamil Nadu nperament: Known human being for all of its life to be dedicated to one h cost **₹40,000** a Interesting feature 270-degree vision, with extremely keen eyesight PHOTO: KARTHIK DAVEY

cost ₹30,000 to

Anesha George

n 2017, when Srinidhi Rao wanted a pet, someone suggested a Mudhol Hound. The breed is native to south India and commonly a pet or a hunting animal. "I was appre-hensive," recalls the 29-year-old civil engineer. "I'd never heard about the breed. I assumed that a hound would be ferocious." But fawn-coloured Robo, now two,

is handsome, tall as a goat and about as benign. He's a beloved member of the family and has a fan following in the children at their housing complex in Mysuru. "He is so big, but acts like any other dog. He craves attention and crawls into our laps to sleep," says Rao. More Indians are warming up to the idea

of adopting a native breed pet dog instead of popular foreign breeds like Labrador Retrievers, German Shepherds and Sibe-Coimbatore's VS Ravi, president of

Native Dog Breeds Speciality Club (affiliated to the Kennel Club of India), says demand for local breeds has risen in the last couple of years. "Pups that sold for ₹2,000 to ₹5,000 are now sold for ₹10,000 to ₹15,000, because of demand," he says 'Word of mouth and social media have given them a big boost."

If a native dog's looks were previously a deterrent for potential pup seekers, those very features are now the game-changer. "The Rajapalayam, with its milky white fur and pink snout, is the most popular says S Ramanathan secretary of the Madurai Canine Club. "But most people are realising that having a healthy dog that is more acclimatised to Indian weather is better than one with a furry coat.

Poulomi Banerjee

n February, Twinkle Gupta, a baker based in Puducherry, hosted a food walk as part of the Union Territory (UT)'s annual heritage festival. High lights included egg dosa served with meat and fish gravies; mutton samosas

and nalli soup; idiyappam and paya. What the walk did not include, was a sample of what is commonly known as Pondicherry cuisine, "simply because it is rarely served in restaurants," says Gupta

FUSION FOOD

An erstwhile French colony, the cuisine of Puducherry – like much of its architecture – bears the imprint of its colonial past. "Even today, the dosas I make at home are more like crepes, with cheese and meat in them instead of masala," says Bitasta Samantaray, one of the organisers of the

Pondicherry Heritage Festival

There was also a South-East Asian, especially Vietnamese, influence on the food here. "What was then known as Indo-China was also a French colony. And many from Pondicherry who got government jobs were posted there. Some of them came back with Vietnamese wives," says Gupta. And thus chaiyos - a kind of Vietnamese spring roll, made from rice flour – appeared in restaurants in Pondicherry.

What is known as Pondicherry cuisine

is the result of a mingling of flavours These were dishes cooked mainly in Catholic Franco-Indian homes - locals who had converted to Christianity, had travelled abroad and were more open to the French influence," says Lourdes Thirouvanziam-Louis, of Tamil and Vietnamese heritage, who has compiled many of these recipes in her book, Pondicherry Kitchen. "Pondicherry cuisine is a variant of Tamil food, refined by French influence. The use of



spice is much less, because of the French influence. So you get the flavour, but not the heat of the spice," she explains

One of the signature spices used in this cuisine is vadayam, says Anita De Canaga whose mother Pushpa hosts guests for pre-booked meals at home. "It is believed vadavam originated in Pondicherry and

Croissants and baguettes are still around, but a lot of places sell burgers and nizzas instead. BIPLOV BHUYAN / HT

as picked up by the French. The key ingredients are shallots, mustard seeds cumin, garlic, turmeric, asafoetida, white dal and sesame oil," Anita says.

Other common ingredients in this cuisine, says Louis, are coconut milk and badam. Dishes include prawn mustard curry, aubergine caviar and mutton sambar. And a vindaloo very different from the Goan equivalent, Prawn Malay Curry is a dish with a South-East Asian influence. While some restaurants like the one at Le Dupleix hotel have a few Pondicherry fusion dishes on their menu, anyone who has enjoyed a home meal will know, the taste is vastly different.

Unfortunately, many of these dishes are now disappearing even from home kitchens. "One reason is that the younger generation doesn't have time to cook," says Anita, The other, adds Louis, is that many families who chose to retain French citi-zenship when Pondicherry became a part of India in 1954, have migrated abroad. "My book is very popular among this community," says Louis, whose daughter is also settled in France.

EATING OUT

The food served at restaurants has also changed. "Till the early '80s, there were Vietnamese restaurants in Pondicherry. Authentic French food was also easily available," says Anita. Today, Paris Res-taurant is one of only a few still selling chaiyos, along with a mix of European and Indian dishes

Given the number of French tourists and nationals still working here, there are still some French dishes available at a few restaurants - crepes and more at Café Des Arts, a selection of French dishes and desserts at The Promenade and Villa Shanti, a few Creole and French ones at the restaurant of the hotel Dune De L'Orient.

Baker Street is packed with French visitors picking up baguettes and other kinds of breads, or sitting down to enjoy a croissant and coffee, "But there's nowhere that I can get a good ratatouille," says Anita. Walking down the streets of Puducherry today, what's more visible are signs for burgers and wood-fired pizzas, common to all Indian towns, as a Western alternative to traditional Indian fare.

> MIKE POMPEO, US secretary of state, on North Korea's demand that he should be ousted from the nuclear talks



'WON'T GIVE UP!' A protester kneels in front of a fire during a monstration in Paris. The protests on Saturday marked the 23rd week of anti-government marches.

TWO TEENAGERS HELD OVER KILLING OF **JOURNALIST IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

LONDON: Two teenagers have been arrested over the killing of a journalist shot dead in Northern Ireland, police said on Saturday, after a murder that has triggered international condemnation. The 18 and 19-year-old men were arrested in Londonderry under anti-terror laws and taken to Belfast for questioning, the Police Service of Northern Ireland said, Journalist Lyra McKee, 29, was shot in the head late on Thursday in Derry by, police believe, dissident republicans linked to the New IRA paramilitary group as they clashed with police in Northern Ireland's second city. The leaders of Northern Ireland's main political parties together condemned the killing.

13 people shot dead at family party in Mexico

MEXICO CITY: Thirteen people, including a child, were killed on Friday when a group of unidentified gunmen opened fire on a party in the violence-wracked eastern Mexican state of Veracruz, officials said. The public safety office said the gunmen arrived at a family reunion in opening fire.

Massive sums of cash found at Bashir's home

KHARTOUM: Sudan's public prosecutor has begun investigating ousted president Omar al-Bashir on charges of money laundering and possession of large sums of foreign currency without legal grounds. Military intelligence searched Bashir's home and found suitcases loaded euros, as well as five million Sudanese pounds.

✓ inthenews

The British cyber security researcher hailed as

a hero for neutralising the global ransomware attack in 2017 has pleaded guilty to two of the 10 US charges of writing malwar

US prosecutors had claimed that he and a co-defendant advertised distributed and profited from a malware code known as Kronos

3 "I've pleaded guilty to two charges related to writing malware in the years prior to my career in security," Hutchins, who is also known as MalwareTech, said in a statement.

Iraq meet brings together Saudi Arabia and Iran

BAGHDAD: A summit organised by Iraq brought together regional rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran on Saturday as part of a broader effort by Iraqi leaders to fashion the country's image as a friend among neighbours. Scarred by more than three decades of war lraq is recasting itself as a media-tor among neighbours. A

Indian-origin neurologist charged with fraud in US

NEW YORK: An Indian-origin neurologist has been charged with conspiracy to unlawfully dispense controlled substances and commit healthcare fraud in the US. Anil Prasad, 62, of Louisi-ana was charged with one count of prescribing controlled substan ces outside the course of professional practice and for no legiti-mate purpose and one count of conspiracy to commit healthcare fraud.

Gunmen storm ministry building in Kabul, at least seven killed

TOWER UNDER SIEGE Among the dead were 4 civilians, 3 police officers; Taliban deny involvement

KABUL: At least seven people were killed in an attack on the Afghan communications ministry in central Kabul on Saturday, breaking months of relative calm in the capital and underlining the continued security threats despite efforts to open peace talks with the Taliban

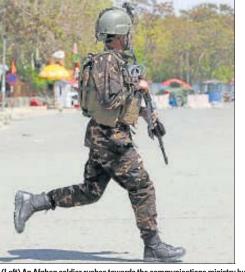
The attack began shortly before midday when a suicide bomb was detonated at the entrance to the multi-storey building housing the ministry in a busy commercial area of the city, followed up by gunfire which

could be heard over a mile away.
Among the dead were four civilians and three police officers, while another eight civilians were wounded, a government official said.

break open an office door and as we were running out, he was try-ing to shoot us and he started shouting: 'I will kill everyone here'," said Syeda Rashid, an office administrator in the ministry who escaped with several of her colleagues. She said at least six women had been wounded.

Televisionimages showed peo-ple fleeing after gunfire and explosions began near the 18-sto-

rey government tower.
The area around the building was sealed off by police as at least three attackers battled security forces for several hours before the attack was finally suppressed in the late afternoon, interior ${\bf r}$



(Left) An Afghan soldier rushes towards the communications ministry building in Kabul; (right) the view of the tower that was attacked. AGENCIES

ministry spokesman Nasrat The interior ministry said in a

statement that more than 2,800 employees of the ministry of com-munications and information technology and the ministry of information and culture were evacuated during the clearance operation.

Several young children and staffatachildcare centre for ministry employees were also evacu-

"We were having lunch when we heard the explosion," said Rabia, who worked at the child-care centre. "We grabbed the children together into the safe room and just waited till the security

The blast, which security officials said appeared to have been caused by a suicide bomber, was also close to the heavily fortified Serena Hotel, one of the very few Kabul hotels still used by foreign

forces arrived," she said.

The operation marked a return to the kind of complex attacks in an urban centre that have killed hundreds of people in Kabul and other Afghan cities over recent There was no claim of respon

sibility but the Taliban issued a statement denying any involvement. Many such attacks have been claimed by the radical Islamic State (IS) group.

Prior to Saturday's attack, Kabul had been relatively calmas

the basis for a peace settlement and an end to more than 17 years While heavy fighting has car

US officials have held a series of

meetings with representatives from the Taliban to try to agree

ried on across Afghanistan and Taliban militants have announced their now customary spring offensive, it had been months since the last major attack on civilian targets in the **GOVT FIGHTERS ACROSS SYRIA**

BEIRUT/MOSCOW: Jihadists have

illed more than 60 Syrian regime fighters in 48 hours, a monitor said on Saturday, in some of the deadliest attacks on pro-Damascus forces in recent weeks.

Kurdish-led forces in March announced the defeat of the Islamic State (IS) group's "cali-phate" in eastern Syria, but the jihadists have retained hideouts there and in other parts of the country as well as the ability to carry out deadly assaults

Since Thursday, IS jihadists have killed 35 pro-Damascus fighters in regime-held parts of central and eastern Syria, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said it was "the highest death toll among regime forces since the caliphate was declared defeated" in the eastern village of Baghouz last month.

ASSAD DISCUSSES PEACE WITHRUSSIANENVOYS

Syrian President Bashar al-As sad met senior officials from his strongest ally Russia in Damascus on Friday and Saturday to discuss upcoming peace talks and trade between the two countries, state media in Syria reported. Russia has helped Assad's for

ces to take back most of the country but the eight-year-long war continues.

Swathes of the northeast and northwest are still out of his control, while sanctions and a fuel shortage are constricting the

Blind man makes Pacific voyage

Agence France-Presse

completed his non-stop Pacific voyage on Saturday, becoming the first sightless person on MARCUS HUTCHINS record to navigate a vessel across the vast ocean.

Mitsuhiro Iwamoto arrived at port in Fukushima in his 40-foot sailboat on Saturday morning, around two months after he left California. Iwamoto, a 52-year old San Diego resident, sailed from the US city on February 24 with Doug Smith, a US navigator who verbally helped him by offer ing information such as wind

TOKYO: A blind Japanese sailor

This was his second attempt after his initial voyage was cut



Mitsuhiro Iwamoto (left), a blind sailor, celebrates his arrival in Iwaki, Japan, with his navigator Doug Smith.

yacht hit a whale and sank.

"I'm home. Thank you," Iwa-moto told the welcoming party after his yacht sailed into some 14.000 kilometres

"I didn't give up and I made a dream come true," Iwamoto was quoted by Japan's Kyodo News as

Sex cult: Seagram heiress pleads guilty

Agence France-Presse

NEWYORK: Clare Bronfman heiress to the Seagram liquor fortune, has pleaded guilty to her role in a secretive society of women sex

The guilty plea on two counts-

conspiracy to conceal and har-bour illegal aliens for financial gain and fraudulent use of identification- allows Bronfman's to avoid a trial in the case set to open 40-year-old philanthropist and former equestrian showjumper is the daughter of Edgar Bronfman, the late Canadian

gram whose net worth was esti-mated at \$2.6 billion. Keith Raniere, 58, the founder of the purported self-help group Nxivm who has already been

chairman of liquor giant Sea-



forced labour conspiracy, now stands alone as a defendant in a case. Raniere, who was arrested in Mexico last year is accused of creating a secret society called 'DOS", a pyramid scheme of more than a dozen women "slaves" and "masters" with him -the sole man-at the top.

Egyptians vote in referendum to extend Sisi's rule

Agence France-Presse

CAIRO: Egyptians voted on Saturday in a referendum that aims to cement the rule of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, the former coup leader who presents himself as a rock of stability in a turbulent region.

Voters were being asked to back amendments to the constitution to allow Sisi, 64, to run for another six-year term while boosting his control over the judiciary and giving the military even greater influence in political life. The three-day referendum

bucks the trend of North Africa's mini-Arab Spring, in which mass pro-democracy protests this month swept away veteran presidents in Algeria and Sudan.

Sisi himself was among the first to vote when polls opened, casting his ballot in the upmarket

Cairo suburb of Heliopolis.

In Shubra, a working-class neighbourhood of the capital, dozens of voters, mostly women carrying their children, queued outside a polling station in the local high school.

In Cairo, troops were deployed in numbers although the interior ministry denied to give any nationwide figures

Egypt is still battling a jihaidst insurgency based in the Sinai Peninsula that has seen attacks in Cairo and other cities.

Sisi has argued that he needs longer to complete the job of after the turmoil that followed the overthrow of veteran autocrat Hosni Mubarak in the Arab Spring of 2011.

Out on the streets, his support-ers waved flags bearing their campaign motto "Do the Right" as they pressed passers-by to turn out and vote "ves".

ORMARA TERROR ATTACK



Iran, Afghanistan must act against attackers: Pak

HT Correspondent

ISLAMARAD: Pakistan's foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qure-shi on Saturday said the government expects both Iran and Afghanistan to take strong action against terrorist groups behind the deadly bus attack at

Ormara. Qureshi told reporters in Islamabad that the whole country was "angry and upset" and wanted to know who was behind

At least 14 passengers were offloaded from buses and gunned on the Makran Coastal Highway near Ormara, Balochistan, early on Thursday.

Qureshi said that an alliance of Baloch terrorist organisations that goes by the acronym "BRA" has claimed responsibility for

He said that on the basis of

verified information, this new alliance had its training and logistical camps in Iran. Following investigations, Pakistan shared the information

with Iranian authorities, Qureshi said, adding that the exact location of the camps has also been identified. The foreign minister said that apart from expecting Tehran to

take action against these outfits, Islamabad hopes that Kabul, too, will take necessary steps since the new alliance has a presence and leadership in Afghanistan Qureshi said that specific

forensic evidence was available which could be shared, if ne sary, to trace the attackers.

"They're criminals who have done this incident," Qureshi

He said he spoke to his Iranian

counterpart, Mohammad Javad Zarif, and shared the sentiments of the Pakistani people as well as Islamabad's expectations

Some in Imran's new cabinet worked for Musharraf

ISLAMABAD: The timing of Pakistan's cabinet reshuffle and the people who got key portfolios have led to questions about the competence of the Imran Khan government as well as whether the Pakistani premier actually calls the shots on such matters. Eight months after his Paki-

stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government took over, Khan pulled back key players from the frontline in a major rejig on Thursday and named to the cabinet several people who have either served with Pervez Musharraf, or more ironically, with former president Asif Ali Zardari.

Most controversial has been the appointment of Ijaz Shah as interior minister. On March 29.

Benazir Bhutto had accused of planning her assassination, was sworn in as minister for parliamentary affairs.

Shah retired in 2004 after a 38-year career that saw him rise to the rank of brigadier while serving with the 15 Punjab Regi ment and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). He was one of Musharraf's trusted aides and was his pick for director general of the Intelligence Bureau.

Shah's tenure from 2004 to 2008 was rife with controversy as he was accused of widespread political victimisation.

He entered Pakistan's parliament for the first time in 2018, defeating the powerful Mansab family of the PML-N after two unsuccessful attempts in 2013 and 2015. Shah was serving as the

harrafmounted his coup in October 1999. Soon after, he was appointed home secretary of the province

His chequered past as an ISI officer also saw his nomination for a senior diplomatic position rejected. In 2004, Musharraf named Shah as the high commissioner to Australia, but the nomination was rejected by Canberra.

"After the current appointment, there is no difference between the federal cabinet of Musharraf and Imran Khan," said Nafisa Shah, information secretary at Pakistan Peoples Party. She was alluding to the presence of at least 16 Musharraf loyalists in Islamabad's power

corridors.
The new defacto finance minister Hafeez Shaikh holds a PhD

versity. Having worked at Har vard Institute of Development and assumed key offices at the World Bank, Shaikh has over 30 years of experience in economic policymaking, management and implementation.

Firdous Ashiq Awan, a former information minister, has taken over as the special assistant to the prime minister on the information making her the defactominister for information. She has also been information minister in the Zardari government. From the PML-Q to the PPP and finally to the PTI, Awan is seen as a survivor. Another survivor is former Chaudhry who will now serve as the minister for science and technology. Chaudhry too served under Musharraf and the PPP.



finance minister Asad Umar's resignation.

estone cathedral is the architectural forerunner of France's famed Notre-Dame

QALBLOZEH, SYRIA: An arched entrance flanked by two towers, elaborate carvings and a broad-aisled nave - a 5th-cen tury limestone church in northwestern Syria is the architectural forerunner of France's famed Notre-Dame

Hemmed by the village of Qalb Lozeh (Arabic for 'Heart of the Almond'), the cathedral which goes by the same name is widely hailed as Syria's finest example of Byzantine-era architecture. It is believed to have been the source of inspiration for Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals in Europe, includ ing the Paris landmark

Notre-Dame.
"It is the earliest known

xample of the twin tower facade flanking a highly elaborate archedentrance the known as the Romanesque style," says West Asia cul-tural expert Diana Darke.

The facade of the 5th-century basilica in Qalb Lozeh village in northwestern Syria. The ancient

In war-torn Syria, an ancestor of Notre-Dame still stands

Romanesque architecture olved into the Gothic style that defines Notre-Dame, she The layout of the church in

Syria has many similarities with Notre-Dame, she says. The specific similarities between Notre-Dame and Qalb Lozeh are first and fore most, the twin tower design flanking the elaborate arched portal," says Darke. "Inside Qalb Lozeh, the

similarities are in the pillars dividing the church into three broad aisles - the nave and side-aisles - a deliberate echoing of the Holy Trinity,

resting on broad capitals to spread and distribute the clerestory windows and the original wooden roof over the nave," she adds. The abandoned church is

within a cluster of 40 so-called "Ancient Villages of Northern Syria" which UNESCO has included on its World Heritage List since 2011. Two years later as fighting ravaged Syria and its cultural

heritage, the villages were

placed on UNESCO's list of

endangered sites.

UNESCO says the villages including Qalb Lozeh - home to pagan temples and ancient churches-illustrate "the transition from the ancient pagan world of the Roman Empire to Byzantine Christi-



I MESSED UP... I HANDLED IT WRONGLY AND I'M PAYING A PRICE FOR IT (FOR DOPING).

In UP villages, a javelin craze

THE BIG THROW They have no equipment and no training facilities, yet teenagers from Uttar Pradesh are storming the sport

Navneet Singh

SONIPAT: In Hingutar Garh, a small village on the banks of the Ganga 40km downstream from Varanasi, watch out

for the flying spears.
Here, once in the morning and once in the evening, a large part of the village ground is cleared for the javelin throwers. Roughly six thousand people populate this staunchly agricultural area, but the throwers come in droves. There is Nandkishore Singh, a strap-

ping 17-year-old, who finished with a sil-ver medal at the second National Javelin Championship on April 15 at Sonipat Haryana. He comes from a family of throwers: His father Ramashray Singh, 50, introduced the sport to the village in the 1980s as a state-level athlete. Ramashray had a real love for the sport, but had realised early on in his career that he would not make the cut. He turned his focus to coaching, beginning with his brother Jagmohan, who became a national champion, and then moving on to his sons. His eldest son, Shivpal, is now the second best javelin thrower in the country. Nandkishore and Shivpal also have three younger cousins who are part of the junior national set-up. "People here are built for it," Jagmo-

han, who now mentors Shivpal, says. "Javelin has become a matter of pride for families in this village, and also a way to

It is not just this village—at the national championship, throwers from Uttar Pradesh flooded the field.

They took the gold and silver in the U-20 and U-18 boy's group, the silver and bronze in the U-16.

Though they did not finish with a medal in the senior men's group, four of the final 12 throwers in the category came from the state. Of the 107 throwers across age groups, an overwhelming 61 were from UP. Haryana, at 14, was the

next best represented.

Klaus Bartonietz, who is the biome chanics specialist working with national coach and legendary German thrower Uwe Hohn, says that this deepening talent pool has him excited.

There is a lot of talent," Bartonietz says. "Now we need to structure programmes at the grassroots level in these

BAMBOO SPEARS FOR JAVELINS

While there is plenty of interest, facilities for the budding throwers, to put it bluntly, are non-existent. Nothing much has changed in Hingutar Garh since Ramashray introduced the sport there almost 40 years ago, except that more people can afford to buy basic

"For coaching, whenever senior play-ers come home to the village, they work with the young athletes," says Jagmohan, the former national champion. "They also contribute to help people buy equipment. We also recently set up a

small gym."

The whole village, Jagmohan says, comes together to help promising young-

Less than 90km from Hingutar Garh in the village of Dabhiya on the banks of the Gomti, exists another javelin 'hub',



Javelin thrower Shivpal Singh will be competing at the Asian Athletics Championships on April 22.

home to Rohit Yadav, who set the new national record in the U18 category in Sonipat with a throw of 81.75m. It was also the best throw by an U18 athlete so far this year in Asia.

After Haryana's Neeraj Chopra, the

2018 Asian and Commonwealth Games gold medallist and world junior record holder, Rohit is seen as the next big

Rohit could not afford even a basic javelin when he started; instead he fashioned one from wild bamboo, cutting a spear from a grove near his home.

"Like the shepherds have a long bamboo lathi to goad the cattle, ours was like that," Rohit says. "There are around twenty more boys who have picked up javelin in the village now. A lot of them can't afford to buy javelins and use bamboo spears.
"But it's fun... to see who can throw it

better, because it's very hard to throw it far!" At the nationals, Rohit used a Hungarian made aluminum javelin—the Nementh 90—gifted to him by a well-

The 17-year-old's father Sabhajeet, a former state level decathlete, introduced him to the sport when he was 14.

"Since bamboo is easily available in the village, it was good substitute," Rohit says. "we didn't have to worry about money to buy an original jayelin."

Rohit bought his first professional javelin with money given to him by his school in 2016 and promptly went on to win a gold at the World School Games

that year. The next year, there was both triumph and disaster. Soon after winning a silver in the Asian Youth Championship in 2017, he tested positive for a banned substance at a domestic tournament. A one-year ban followed.

When he came out of the ban, he was signed on by Amentum, a sports consult-ancy firm working to develop grassroots infrastructure in javelin in India, who put him in touch with Michael Musselman, a javelin coach based in Lima,

Peru.
The two of them work over what sapp, sending videos back and forth.

UP's interest in javelin has also attracted the interest of Davinder Singh Kang, the 2017 World Championship finalist from Punjab.

"When I was growing up as an athlete people ignored me," Kang says. "I was told I wouldn't become a top level athlete. Now I am an international thrower and some local manufacturing units are happy to support me so when budding athletes ask for help—equipment or training tips—I try to do as much as I

On 22 May, the throwers from UP will take a break from training. They'll be following Shivpal at the Asian Athletics Championships in Doha. The 23-year-old from Hingutar Garh, recorded a personal best of 82.82m last year, made it to the Asian Games in Jakarta, but missed out on a podium finish after hurting his elbow. This time, he will be hoping to bring a medal home.



Rohit Yadav from Dabhiya village in Uttar Pradesh set a national record in the U-18 category.

Flight itinerary grounds archers, to miss World Cup

THE ARCHERY TEAM

HI Correspondents rtsdesk@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH: A poor travelitinerary forced the Indian men's and women's archery teams to call off their trip to Medellin, Colombia, for the Stage 1 World Cup starting on Monday, a crucial step in the teams' preparation to qualify for next year's Tokyo Olympics. The first batch of the 16-mem

ber contingent reached the air port on Saturday morning only to discover that the departure of the Delhi-Amsterdam KLM flight had been postponed by nearly three hours which meant they would miss the connecting flight. The archery team decided to

cancel the trip as missing the flight from Amsterdam would have resulted in their not reaching the competition venue by Monday morning - the deadline to have the mandatory equipment checks done before compe tition. Being the season's first ticipation will also have an impact on the ranking points. The event was to prepare and set the team combinations for the June World Championships in The ing the quarter-finals qualify for

Tokyo Olympics.
"After reaching the Delhi airport we came to know there was a

DECIDED TO CANCEL THE TRIP AS MISSING THE FLIGHT FROM AMSTERDAM WOULD

HAVE RESULTED IN THEIR NOT REACHING THE COMPETITION VENUE BY MONDAY MORNING

delay in our flight to Amsterdam and because of that we would not be able to catch our connecting flight. The next available connecting flight was after 24 hours, and if we had re-scheduled it, then we wouldn't have reached the venue before Monday even-ing. So, we will be missing the World Cup," said Madhu Vedwan, a member of the women's recurve team who is back in the national squad after three years. "Now, we will be going to Pune to rejoin the national camp." The federation selected the A

team for the first World Cup and the B team for the next in China. Archery Association of India secretary general, Maha Singh, said: "We're still checking where things went wrong. We had a twomonth camp for the World Cup and even organised a ranking tournament in the World Cup for-

Now, as the team is not going for $the World\,Cup, we might have to$ reshuffle the team for the second World Cup."

A team member, who did not wish to be identified, said: "It's a big setback to the build-up for the World Championships in The Netherlands in June, a qualifying event for Tokyo Olympics."
"Officials responsible for

booking the flight should have the basic idea that it is a long jour ney and connecting flights should be spaced out for transit," said a team official on condition of anonymity. Once the first batch was stranded on Saturday, the second batch scheduled to travel on Sunday morning too called off the trip. Radhica Sreeman, SAI's head of Teams Division responsible for preparation of national teams for international competition didn't respond to calls and

The recurve men's team comprises Tarundeep Rai, Atanu Das, Atul Verma and Pravin Jadhav. Olympian Deepika Kumari, L Bombavla Devi, Komalika Devi and Madhu Vedwan are the women's team members.

The top four in men's compound are Abhishek Verma, Bhagwan Das, Rajat Chauhan, Aman Saini. The women's team comprises Jyothi Surekha, Musals in Thailand, Rohit Tokas (64kg)displayedspeedandalertkan Kirar and Rai Kaur.

Shiva makes winning start, 6 others in QF

BANGKOK: Shiva Thapa moved closer to adding a record fourth medal by entering the 60kg prequarterfinals while six other Indians advanced to the last-eight stage in the Asian Boxing Championships on Saturday.

Thapa secured a thrilling 4-1

win over Korea's Kim Wonho and is now two wins away from a medal to add to the gold bronze and silver he won in 2013, 2015 and 2017 editions, respectively. The Assam boxer will next

take on Kyrgyzstan's Seitbek Uulu for a place in the quarters on Sunday. Lovlina Borgohain, the 2018 World Championships bronze winner, began her quest in impressive fashion, outpunch ing Vietnam's Tran Thi Linh 5-0 to advance to the quarter-finals. Up next on Monday for the 2019

Strandja Cup bronze medallist is a stiff challenge from Chinese Taipei's Chen Nien-Chin. The Indian had lost to Chen in the semi-finals of the World Championships in New Delhi last year.

National champion and Makran Cup gold medallist Deepak continued his good form with another 5-0 win over Sri Lanka's

Winner of two King's Cup med-

ness in his 5-0 win over Afghani-

Kavinder Singh Bisht (56kg) brought his gold medal-winning form from the GeeBee tournament to open with a 5-0 victory

ver Japan's Subaru Murata Ashish Kumar (75kg) had to dig deep to beat China's Tanglati-han Tuohetaerbieke in a 3-2 split verdict in an absorbing pre-quar ter-final contest.

stan's Nooristani Mohammad

Manisha Moun, 21, of Haryana made a promising start to her campaign in 54kg with a 5-0 win over Vietnam's Do Nha Uyen to enter the quarter-finals. The only loss of the day for the Indian contingent was in women's 48kg where debutant Nitu succumbed to a 1-4 defeat against China Taipei's Pin Meng-Chieh.

On Sunday, all eyes will be on Asian Games gold medallist Amit Panghal (52kg) as he begins his challenge against Taipei's Tu Po-Wei. Panghal, likely to face reigning Olympic champion Has-anboy Dusmatov of Uzbekistan in the quarter-finals, has been ooz ing confidence as he began the 2019 season with a gold at the Strandia Cup, Ashish (69kg) and Brijesh Yadav (81kg) too will be seen in action on Sunday.

In the women's section, four time Asian Championships gold medallist Sarita Devi (60kg) will start her hunt for a sixth medal from this tournament when she takes on Korea's Gwon Suiin.

success in Asian C'ships

DOHA: A depleted Indian contingent is unlikely to repeat its unprecedented top-table finish in the last edition but is still expected to win a substantial number of medals when the Asian Athletics Championships begins on Sunday.

India had returned with a

record-breaking haul of 29 medals(12gold,5silver,12bronze)in the 2017 edition held in Bhubaneswar. China had finished second But this time, the 42-member

Indian team is not expected to achieve that success with several athletes, including star jayelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, missing out due to various reasons,

including injuries.

Neeraj suffered an elbow sprain during practice in Patiala and is not defending the title he had won in 2017. National record holders Dharun Ayyasamy (men's 400m hurdles), M Sree-shankar (men's long jump) and Asian Games 800m gold medallist Manjit Singh were also not

named in the team due to injuries Triple jumper Arpinder Singh in the Federation Cup (qualification standard 16.50m) and later said he's focusing on the World Championships to be held at the



India unlikely to match 2017

 Hima Das will begin her campaign on Sunday.

Veteran Sudha Singh, winner of the 3000m steeplechase gold in 2017, was named in the squad despite missing the Federation Cup—which served as the quali-fying event—but the sports ministry did not clear her name.

Another athlete who won two gold in 2017, Govindan Lakshman (5000m and 1000m) was not picked as he could not finish on the podium in the Federation Cup.

This could be a big dampener following the Jakarta Asian Games high when the country won 19 medals including seven gold. The first day on Sunday will decide eight gold and from the

ıdıan perspe 400m race will be the most anticipated event. Sprinter Hima Das will run the preliminary round in the morning while the final will be held in the evening.

Bahrain's Salwa Naser will

start overwhelming favourite in the women's quartermile event She had beaten Hima in the Asian Games 400m final. Hima has not been at her best

after she took a break to prepare for her exams before coming back to win the Federation Cup with a time of 52.88 seconds. The other Indians in the fray

are Annu Rani and Kumari Shar mila in women's javelin final, Parul Chaudhary and Sanjivani Jadhay in women's 5000m final Avinash Sable and Shankar Lal Swami in men's 3000m steeple chase final and Gavit Murali

men's 10000m final. This Asian Championships is $crucial\,as\,the\,gold\,medallists\,get$ automatic qualification to the World Championships. This competition is also an ideal platform to accumulate ranking points if an athlete fails to achieve the stiff entry standards prescribed by the international federation.

Jinson Johnson (1500m) Tejinder Singh Toor (shot put) and women's 4x400m relay team $could\,be\,considered\,as\,gold\,medal$

Sportsmax

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE MARCH 23 - MAY 12

COURSE

skippers...

CORRECTION

Here's a look at some big

names that got the boot

or stepped down as IPL

Gautam Gambhir: Let go

Daredevils skipper. But he

ahead of the 2018 season, the opener who took KKR to two IPL titles, was named Delhi

stepped down after a slew of defeats. Shreyas Iyer took over

MS Dhoni: IPL's biggest player

who has led CSK to three titles,

season by Pune Supergiants – one of the two teams floated during the two-year suspen-sion of CSK and RR. Steve

VVS Laxman: He captained Deccan Chargers the first year,

but after the team finished

last he was axed and Adam Gilchrist took over.

Adam Gilchrist: Turned

Deccan Chargers' fortunes around, leading it to the title in 2009 in South Africa. Though DC reached the play-offs the next year, franchise didn't bid

for Gilchrist in the 2011 auction

instead appointing Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara skipper.

Smith was named skipper.

was axed for the second



Shreyas, Shikhar

take Delhi home

after Gayle blast

Team	Р	W	L	Pts	NRR*
CSK	9	7	2	14	0.101
MI	10	6	4	12	0.357
DC	10	6	4	12	0.16
KXIP	10	5	5	10	-0.044
SRH	8	4	4	8	0.549
KKR	9	4	5	8	0.256
RR	9	3	6	6	-0.474
RCB	9	2	7	4	-0.938
Updated till DC vs KXIP match					

shortstories

DOING VOLUNTARY SERVICE IN DC, SAYS GANGULY

NEW DELHI: The BCCI appointed ombudsman Justice (retd) DK Jain on Saturday heard the views on conflict of interest complaint against Cricket Association of Bengal president Souray Ganguly who is also serving as the Delhi Capitals mentor. Justice Jain heard the Board's counsel as well as Souray Ganguly who defended himself. "I heard Sourav Ganguly, BCCI and the three complainants. I have given the Board and Ganguly four days to give their nse." said Jain. According to PTI, in his deposition Ganguly said he was working in a voluntary role with Delhi Capitals

todayontv

CRICKET

4:00pm: Sunrisers Hyderabad v Kolkata Knight Riders

Knight Riders 8:00pm: Royal Challen-gers Bangalore vs Chennai Super kings, live on Star Sports 1, SS1 HD, SS 2, SS2 HD, SS Select 1, SS Select 1HD

FOOTBALL

PREMIER LEAGUE **6:00pm:** Everton v Manchester United; 8:30pm: Cardiff City v Liverpool, live on Star Sports Select 2 & SS Select 2HD; **8:30pm:** Arsenal v Crystal Palace, live on Star

LA LIGA

5:30pm: Getafe v Sevilla; 7:45pm: Real Madrid v Athletic Bilbao, live on Sony Ten 2 & Ten 2HD

TENNIS

MONTE CARLO

6:00pm: Finals, live on Sony ESPN & ESPN HD

Named skipper, Smith takes Royals to win over Mumbai

CHANGE OF GUARD Aussie hits fifty in five-wicket win over MI after team removes Rahane as captain

JAIPUR: Before Saturday, the last time Steve Smith spoke about the 'leadership group', it had left the Australian dressing room divided, in March, 2018. An irked Mitchell Starc had made known his irritation over his ex-captain blaming the 'leadership group' for the ball-tampering fiasco in the Cape Town Test against South Africa.

Those two words were back on Smith's lips at the toss of his first match as Rajasthan Royals captain this season against Mumbai Indians. For him, Ajinkya Rahane, the man he replaced, was still part of his team's 'leadership group'. But what he did not clarify was whether Rahane would still be expected to provide inputs from deep cover, deep midwicket, or even long on. Those were the slots Rahane was mostly positioned during the Mumbai Indians' innings as Smith called the shots from extra cover.

Mumbai Indians managed only 161/5 and Smith's leadership began on a positive note as the former Australia skipper hit an unbeaten 59 to guide Royals to 162/5 with five balls to spare.

QUIETRAHANE Rahane is no Starc and no public

outburst is expected from a person of his calm disposition. For someone who led RR to the playoffs in 2018, on return after a two-year ban, the dethroning meant a fresh blow to an already battered image. He is no longer a regular in India's limited oversteams, and a poorruninthis IPL has seen him lose captaincy after eight matches. Despite the jolt, the ex-skipper's efforts showed sin-cerity, like in the 16th over when he almost ran out Hardik Pandya with an excellent throw. Again, he walked up to Jaydev Unadkat from long off the next over after Kieron Pollard had smoked him for six. Whatever Rahane told him, the next ball from the left arm pacer, a slow cutter, castled the explosive West Indies bats-

man. After that he was seen joining



Steve Smith scored a 48-ball unbeaten 59 with five fours and a six to help Rajasthan Royals register a five-wicket win over Mumbai Indians in Jaipur on Saturday.

Smith on a couple of occasions. That was about it as the baton was passed, in a typically unobtrusive Rahane fashion.

However, Rahane's drop was in the offing. An official said on condition of anonymity that the change of guard was made known to the players late on Friday after informing BCCI, as is the norm for change of captaincy. However, in the last couple of matches it was Smith who could be seen doing the bulk of field placements. Smith, on his part, used the bowlers well on Saturday, keeping his best bowlers Jofra Archer and Unadkat for the last. That meant despite a 97-run second wicket stand between Surva-Kock, MI reached only 161 after

scoring 112 in 15 overs. Before Saturday, Rahane had managed 201 in eight matches. Only 12 was added in the ninth. Rahane has looked impatient and vulnerable and it was evident again.

Opening in the chase, Rahane hit spinner Rahul Chahar for back-to-back boundaries in the fourth over. But he flattered to deceive with his end coming in The 11-ball innings added

another chapter to Rahane's tortuous journey this IPL. With each day, the batsman who was so vital to India till two seasons back, seems to be withdrawing into himself. He has not played an ODI since February, 2018. In Tests too,

scorecard

Mumbai Indians

Q de Kock c Stokes b Gopal 65 (47) R Sharma c & b Gopal S Yadav c Kulkarni b Binny 34 (33)

Hardik Ibw b Archer 23 (15) K Pollard b Unadkat 10 (7) B Cutting not out 13 (9)

■ Extras (lb 5, w 4) Total (for 5 wkts, 20 ovs) 161

Krunal not out

■ FoW: 1-11, 2-108, 3-111, 4-124, **Bowling:** Binny 3-0-19-1,

Kulkarni 3-0-31-0, Gopal 4-0-21-2, Archer 4-0-22-1, Unadkat 4-0-

Raiasthan Rovals

A Rahane c Yadav b Chahar 12 (12) Samson c Pollard b Chahar 35 (19) S Smith not out 59 (48) B Stokes b Chahar 0(2) R Parag run out 43 (29) A Turner Ibw b Bumrah 0 (1) S Binny not out 7 (4)

Extras (b 4, lb 2)

■ Total (for 5 wkts, 19.1 ovs) 162 ■ FoW: 1-39, 2-76, 3-77, 4-147, 5-153

Bowling: Hardik 4-0-31-0, Krunal 2-0-24-0, Malinga 3.1-0-27-0. Chahar 4-0-29-3. Bumrah 4-0-21-1, Markande 2-0-24-0

scorecard

Kings XI Puniab

NFWDFI HI: Just five months from Rahul st Pant b Lamichhane 12 (9) turning 40, Chris Gayle is an antithesis of T20 cricket. He is not Gayle c Patel b Lamichhane 69 (37) M Agarwal c R'ford b Rabada 2 (9) interested in running; captains usually have to hide him at fine-D Miller c Shaw b Patel M Singh st Pant b Patel leg and yet the Jamaican ranks among the most sought after free-lancers. You know why while S Curran c & b Lamichhane R Ashwin c Iver h Rahada watching Gayle author another H Brar not out T20 gem low on adrenaline but G Vilioen not out flush with his trademark money Extras (b 3, w 2)

innings at Kotla that only a superbly coordinated relay catch between Colin Ingram and Axar Patel could have dismissed him on a night of high quality bowling by Delhi Capitals.

Somshuvra Laha

Ishant Sharma and Kagiso Rabada were miserly, and Patel took two wickets in addition to being economical. But young leg spinner Sandeep Lamichhane will be hailed for a memorable IPL haul; also probably for the stick he got from Gayle before exacting his revenge

ORDINARY SHOW

Barring R Ashwin's fantastic catch of Shikhar Dhawan running backwards, Kings XI Punjab never rose above the ordinary post Gayle's departure. They scored just 45 runs in the last five overs and then the match was as good as over when Delhi Capitals raced to 60/1 after their Power-play phase of six overs.

Well-compiled half-centuries by Dhawan (56) and skipper Shreyas Iyer (58no) ensured Delhi Capitals were not too has sled chasing down Kings XI Punjab's 163/7. They did that with two balls to spare, reaching 166/5.

GAYLE RUTHLESS

Gayle could have changed the script. He was in the mood too. Amit Mishra knows, having watched Gayle lay into him thrice for monstrous sixes. With five sixes and six boundaries. Gayle took just 11 hits to score 54 of his 69 innings. Six of them came against Lamichhane. Twice the umpire asked for the ball to check its condition after it was thrown back from the farthest tiers Boosted by the stumping of KL

■ Total (for 7 wkts, 20 ovs) 163 FoW: 1-13, 2-42, 3-61, 4-106,

30 (27)

16 (14)

20 (12)

166

5-106, 6-129, 7-151. Bowling: Ishant 4-0-29-0, Lamichhane 4-0-40-3, Rabada 4-0-23-2, Mishra 4-0-41-0, Patel 3-0-22-2, Rutherford 1-0-5-0

Delhi Capitals

P Shaw run out Dhawan c R Ashwin b Viljoen 56 (41) S Iyer not out R Pant c Curran b Viljoen C Ingram b Shami 19 (9) A Patel run out S Rutherford not out Extras (b 1, lb 1, nb 2, w 7)

■ **Total** (for 5 wkts, 19.4 ovs) FoW: 1-24, 2-116, 3-128, 4-155, ■ **Bowling:** Shami 4-0-21-1, Curran 3.4-0-34-0, Viljoen 4-0-39-2, Brar 2-0-24-0, R Ashwin 3-0-26-0, M

Ashwin 3-0-20-0.

Rahul, Lamichhane started with a slip but he dropped it short, allowing Gayle to paddle it away for a boundary.

Two balls later, he clubbed it back at Lamichhane, the ball almost taking his fingertips with it to the boundary. A four past the slow Ishant at fine-leg before he sneaked another past point, Gayle quickly forced Shreyas Iyer to pull Lamichhane out of the

Only twice was he forced to scramble to reach the crease. Barring that Gayle's innings was all about hand-eye coordination and a few ambles in the name of

Everything indicated that Gayle was shaping up for some-thing special. Ingram's presence of mind at the deep midwicket boundary however nipped it in

BCCI fines Rahul, Pandya ₹20lakh

MUMBAI: Board of Control for Cricket in India's Ombudsman Justice(Retd) DK Jain fined Hardik Pandva and KL Rahul ₹20 lakh each for their sexist comments on the popular Television show. Kofee With Karan, aired in January. Pandya and Rahul, however, will face no further action, clearing their participation in the 2019 World Cup. The two had missed five ODIs

each as part of a provisional ban handed by the Committee of Administrators. The ban was later lifted and two have been included in India's 15-member squad for the May 30-July 14 World Cup. In his order the Ombudsman

 $instructed\,the\,two\,cricketers\,to$ make a payment of ₹1 lakh each to "each of the most deserving wid-ows of 10 constables in para-military forces who have lost their lives while on duty, through 'Bharat Ke Veer App' and deposit ₹10 lakh each in the fund "created by the Cricket Association for the blind". All payments are to be made within four weeks from the date of the order — April 19, 2019 — failing which the BCCI may deduct the amount from their



Pandya and Rahul had deposed before the Ombudsman in Mumbai ahead of the MI versus KXIP game, last week.

Khurram Habib

match fees, the order said.

"Thave no hesitation in observ $ing \, that \, the \, remarks \, made \, by \, the$ player, even by his own admissions, did offend sensitivities, which ought to have been avoided Hence he must make amends," Jain stated in similar orders for both. "Taking into consideration all these aspects, in particular the fact that the player has tendered an apology for the incident without seeking to jus-tify his action, has acknowledged his duty to the society and expressed his willingness to hold himself to the higher standards expected of him and has missed five ODIs, in the interest of justice and fair play, (the fine) would suf-

I get out of tough situations pretty well

VIJAY SHANKAR, India all-rounder

HYDERABAD: With just nine ODIs under his belt, Vijay Shankar has emerged the surprise package, breaking into the World Cup squad. The Tamil Nadu allrounder was described as "three dimensional" by chief selector, MSK Prasad. Shankar is confident he will deliver if thrust into the crucial No 4 slot. In an interview he says his ability to win matches got him into the World Cup squad. Excerpts:

India No 4 are big shoes to fill?

Though I haven't been told I'll bat there, I have got a whiff with news around. The best thing to have happened is in my initial ODIs, I got to bat in different situations. I need to be really open and adapt to situations. Right now, I am focusing on what I have here at SRH. I am not thinking about the World Cup It is very important to do well here and take the confidence into the World Cup.

How are you gearing up for a genuine batsman's role? I believe in my work ethic. That $has\,got\,me\,to\,where\,I\,am\,right$

now. I prepare in a way where I put myself under pressure and try and get out of it the best I can. The New Zealand tour was my first time there and I could adapt—so it all boils down to preparation. When I practise, I try and prepare with specific things in mind. About No 4, it is about the situation. I can walk in at 18/2 or at 200/2. If the situation demands I play the initial overs carefully and then open up, I should be ready to do it. If it demands quick runs then I should be ready for that too. I simulate situations during practice, being specific in what I do. You don't use the entire time at practice. Out of three hours, you'll practice for maybe 1-1/2 hours, so you try to use it wisely. It is about quality

Has being an all-rounder, '3-di-mensional', been advantageous? I got picked because I played in different situations and got out of those tough situations pretty well It showed them (selectors) I can bat in tough times. In an ODI in New Zealand, when I walked in, we were 18/4. I made 45, which proved crucial, but importantly. Lenioved it (the pressure). Because it was chal-



 Shankar says Rahul Dravid is his role model. lenging, it was very satisfying. To get the team out of that situa-

tion and win the game is very satisfying. In the Nagpur ODI (vs Australia) I had to bowl the last over and defend 10 runs. I did. I want to stand in the hot spots in the field, where I can keep getting the balls. I started as an off-spinner, then began bowling medium-pace. I enjoy being like that and that's how I became an all-rounder.

You were down after the Nidahas Trophy, you were trolled for making 17 off 19. The first week was a nightmare

it was difficult to even sleep

Whatever I did, I was not doing wholeheartedly because some thing was stopping me and everyday it distracted me. But just before the (2018) IPL I told $my self this \, is \, not \, the \, end \, of \, the \,$ world. It has happened to top players. It was just my first game. I told myself to stay busy Ididn't give myself any free moment because whenever I had, I would get negative thoughts, So, I'd either go for practice, train, do a gym session or engage with people around. Whenever I'd go back to the room, I'd sleep off and not even watch TV. Iensured I did that every day. Once I started play

GETTY IMAGES

ing IPL and then performing, the memories were erased They'd be erased completely when I win a crucial game for India next time. But it was a great experience, I learnt how to do so many things, learnt how to handle media, social media. My family, friends and personal trainer who was with me at IPL last year, they all helped me get out of it.

The Indian team seems to struggle for fielders who can throw from the deep, forcing Virat to field there. I don't agree. Most players are pretty good fielders. (As for me) I field everywhere. I take the responsibility of fielding at long on, long off or deep midwicket Fielding is crucial

Who is your role model?

Rahul Dravid. Also, Ilike to mention my coach (S Balaii). $I've\,been\,working\,with\,him$ since U-15. He has changed everything about me.

How have SRH stars helped you? I have been with the team in 2016 and 2017. The difference is then I was not playing regularly, now I am. (Then) I used to sit and keenly watch what they were doing. I'd be thinking as a captain, what the rival captain is doing. This stint has been great learning.

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'MIDDLE ORDER UNTESTED'

HYDERABAD: With Jonny Bairstow about to end his maiden IPL stint after a couple of more games, the focus is on the fragile SRH middle order in Sunday's game vs KKR as they gear up for life after him. Both Bairs tow and David Warner have formed the best opening pair of the IPL which has papered the cracks in the middle. However, Bairstow and Vijay Shankar, who himself wasted a couple of opportunities, feel: "The criticism is harsh. Warner and I have done well, so the others haven't got much time.' Shankar concurred.

"The two have hit 66% of our runs. The others haven't got enough time. Getting to bat only in the last 4-5 overs is always tough. (But), yes I could have come not out on a couple of occasions.

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Solskjaer eyes

strong finish

City avenge European loss to remain in control of title race

PREMIER LEAGUE Phil Foden nets early winner as defending champions return to top of standings

MANCHESTER: Manchester City exacted some measure of revenge on Tottenham for their Champions League exit as Phil Foden's first Premier League goal earned the table on Saturday.

Pep Guardiola's men edge one point ahead of Liverpool once more with four games of a titanic title race left for both sides.
For all their Champions

League heroics to get to the semifinals this season, Tottenham still have much to do to qualify for the competition next season as they could easily end the Easter weekend outside the top four should Arsenal and Chelsea beat Crystal Palace and Burnley at home respectively.

City's quest for an unprece dented quadruple of trophies was ended by defeat on away goals to Spurs on Wednesday, despite winning a thrilling quarter-final, second leg 4-3. However, they remain on course for a first ever treble of domestic trophies in England as they survived a nervy finale thanks to another blister-

ing start. City have made a habit of firing out of the blocks this season and just like in midweek to kickstart a kamikaze encounter, they struck within five minutes.

Foden was making just his second Premier League start and immediately justified Guardiola's faith in the 19-year-old by heading home Sergio Aguero's nodded pass across goal from Bernardo Silva's cross.

Spurs had numerous chances to strike back. Son Heung-min had already forced Ederson in a smart save from a narrow angle before City scored and the Brazilian goalkeeper had to rush from his goal once more to deny Chris-tian Eriksen an equaliser on 15



Manchester City's Phil Foden (left) celebrates his goal against Tottenham Hotspur at the Etihad Stadium on Saturday.

rious ball to free Son in behind the City defence. However, the South Korean, who scored twice in midweek to end City's European dreams for another season, was caught up just in time by Aymeric Laporte, who made a perfectly timed last-ditch tackle.

$\mathbf{DE}\,\mathbf{BRUYNE}\,\mathbf{INJURED}$

Guardiola's decision to leave Kevin de Bruyne out for the first leg of the Champions League quarter-final between the sides was doubly questioned after the Belgian bagged a brilliant hat-

However, Guardiola's reasoning for being cautious with his playmaker after an injury plagued season was understand able as De Bruyne limped off again just before the break and may well now miss the rest of the campaign. Both sides suffered from their midweek exertions and the blazing sun as the secondhalf meandered along at a much

more subdued pace. Spurs had a big penalty appeal of their own turned down when Kyle Walker handled inside the

area against his former club. Sterling briefly thought he had completed a hat-trick in stoppage

that would have sent City through to the Champions League last four until VAR ruled the goal out for offside.

And the England international could not believe his misfortune once more when Gazzaniga stuck out an outstretched leg to prevent Sterling sealing a vital three points from Leroy Sane's cut-back. Instead, City had to suffer through the closing stages knowing one mistake could cost them

But they held on as Spurs suf-fered an eighth straight away defeat to English opposition.

WATFORD, FULHAM WIN

LONDON: In other Premier League games on Saturday, Watford defeated relegated Huddersfield 2-1 to move back to the seventh

Wolves spurred the chance to stay ahead of Watford after a goal-less draw against Brighton, who are now three points ahead of the relegation zone.
Fulham, another relegated

side, sprung a surprise as they defeated Bournemouth 1-0 for their second straight win. West Ham and Leicester, meanwhile, shared the spoils in a

"I think it will give them (United's rivals) a boost playing those games, that's what you

Agence France-Presse

MANCHESTER: Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has five games left in the

Premier League season to prove

conclusively that the club's hierarchy did not act too hastily

in making him Jose Mourinho's permanent successor last

After a spectacular start as

caretaker manager of the club, in which he won his first eight

games and lost just one of his opening 17 matches in charge,

United have since suffered a

precipitous drop in form.

Five defeats have come in

United's last seven games, a run which has seen them exit the FA Cup and Champions League

and left a top-four finish in serious doubt.

19th of December and where we're at now, I think anyone

would have taken that now

we've got five games to see if we

canfinishit off," said Solskjaer.

United were emphatically knocked out of the Champions

League quarter-finals at Barce-

lona, although Solskjaer does not believe his team have any

added advantage by being able to concentrate solely on the

'When we came in, on the

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's Manchester United have lost five of their last seven games in all competitions want as a player," he said. "We'd have loved to have a

semi-final to play in but not the

short-term focus and we shouldn't think about anything other than having a great week

REDS FACE CARDIFF

LONDON: Jurgen Klopp is adamant that their upcoming Premier League matches against Cardiff and Huddersfield are just as important as their mouth-watering Champions League semi-final against Bar-celona as they chase down a domestic and European double. "These are all massive games," said Klopp ahead of Sunday's matchin Cardiff.
"None of them are won

before we start.

"Everybody thinks a lot about Barcelona but before Barcelona it's Cardiff and Huddersfield and it's exactly the same importance to us as the other games."

Opponents Cardiff's bid to

remain in English football's top flight was revived by their 2-0 win at Brighton on Tuesday.

"It was a massive game against Brighton, if Cardiff had lost that game then the fight for the league would be finished but now it starts again for all the

DOUBLEFAGLE

KARAN BINDRA

Technology is changing the way we learn and teach golf



Today, in an instant there are almost 30 parameters that can flash on the monitor to tell you various aspects like club speed, ball speed, launch angles, distances and so on



US golfer Jordan Spieth in action with the Trackman camera behind him

robably more than in any other sport, use of technology in golf has been significant and has had a positive impact. From the point of view of learning the game, it has revolutionised how the game is learnt, and taught Being a technical game in terms of the mechanics of the golf swing and the motion thereof, use of technology has enabled

detailed analysis of every movement of each small part of the body, and the club itself. When I started learning golf in the mid 80s, we were taught the basics of the game and the technique of the golf swing which were, of course, well known then as well. But learning was more difficult as one needed to spend more time practicing without

knowing if the outcome will be as intended. It was more experimental. Up until now, the analysis was based on an instructor observing the flight of the ball and inferring what happened at impactand then making the necessary changes $and \, improvements \, in \,$ the swing.

Then came the use of video cameras, which, to my mind, was a game-changer. You could see yourself swinging – by recording and playing back – and get a clearer picture of what you were doing and how to improve. It made understanding and implementation much easier Next came the launch monitors

like the TrackMan, which were using radar technology to track the movement of the club-head and the flight of the ball. Today, in an instant there are almost 30 parameters that can flash on the monitor to tell you various aspects like club speed, ball speed, launch angles, distances and so on.

In fact, it is sometimes almost too much information. One can make a change and hit the next shot and get a feedback whether the outcome has changed - rather than go out and hit a hundred balls without knowing! This has been another revolution. The feedback is

At no point in the journey, the advent of technology is reducing the need for a golf instructor. In fact, it is even more important now to go to a professional who can interpret the detailed analysis and numbers. It is here that you need expertise to simplify the proc-

Not only is the technology being used in teaching, but it has also significantly improved the viewing on television. You may have noticed how you can follow the flight of the ball on TV where a ball tracer line appears on the screen. There also appears the distance numbers to indicate how far the ball has been hit and how far it is to the hole. On the putting green, a line appears to indicate the slope on the green. With these, the viewer can follow

the game better. In the next article, I will further explain how you can use technology to help your golf games. You will be surprised to know how accessible and user-friendly these applica-

tions are.

The author has been a golf professional for over 20 years



Fabio Fognini celebrates his win over Rafael Nadal on Saturday. AFP

Nadal blown away by Fognini in last four of Monte Carlo

MONTE CARLO: Rafael Nadal suffered a shock 6-4 6-2 semi-final defeat against flambovant Italian Masters on Saturday, showing rare signs of weakness five weeks before the French Open.

The 11-time champion's loss in tricky conditions ended a series of 25 consecutive sets won on his favourite clay as Fognini set up a final showdown against Serbian Dusan Lajovic.

"It was a tough day and he was a difficult opponent," said Nadal, who has a 71-5 record in the principality. "I am coming from low moments in terms of injuries, and in terms of the mental side it has not been easy to accept all the things that have been going on. "It was this kind of day that

everything was wrong." In windy conditions at the Monte Carlo Country Club Nadal, who has also won 11 French Open titles, was over-whelmed by Fognini, who

entered centre court with all guns

blazing.
The Italian was on a five-match losing streak when he entered the tournament but Fognini's unpre-dictability, added to the weather conditions, were eventually too much for the Spanish world num ber two who bowed out on the

fourth match point. It was world number 18 Fognini's fourth career win against Nadal in 15 encounters and his third on tennis' slowest surface.

Nadal had been bidding to

match Roger Federer's record of 50 Masters finals.

Earlier Lajovic reached his first Masters final when he mastered the wind to beat Russian Daniil Medvedev 7-56-1

opening set before going through

BARTYPULLSAUSLEVEL BRISBANE: Australia and Belarus shared the spoils on day one of their Fed Cup semi-final in Brisbane Saturday with Ashleigh Barty sweeping past Victoria Azarenka while Aryna Sabalenka beat Samantha Stosur.

With the tie evenly poised at 1-1, the reverse singles on Sunday will be critical, with world No. 9 Barty first up against 10th ranked Sabalenka before the veteran duo of Stosur and Azarenka face off.

While Belarus are bidding to reach the final for the second time in three attempts after being aten by the United States in 2017, Australia are targeting their first decider in 26 years. It's been an even longer wait

between titles, with the last of Australia's seven victories com-ing in 1974. France or Romania await this weekend's winner. "I'm so proud of the level of ten-

nis the girls put on today," said Australia captain Alicia Molik.

"It's a great position we're in and we are prepared for a fifth rubber if necessary. We have a quality doubles pairing.

That combination will see Barty and Stosur team upagainst Lidziya Marozava and Vera Lapko if the tie goes that far.

Juventus clinch 8th straight Serie A title

TURIN: Juventus won Serie A for the eighth season in a row when a 2-1 home win over Fiorentina on Saturday gave them the title with five games to spare. Needing one point, Juventus got off to a dreadful start when they fell behind to a Nikola Milenkovic goal in the sixth minute, the Serb firing into the roof off the net from close range. Federico Chiesa hit the post for Fiorentina but Juventus levelled in the 37th minute when Alex Sandro got away from the Fiorentina defence to score with a near-post header from Miralem Pjanic's corner.

Chiesa struck the crossbar again before halftime but Fiorentina defender German Pezzella turned a Cristiano Ronaldo cross into his own net in the 53rd minute to hand Juve the win. Juventus have 87 points, 20 more than second-placed Napoli who have

MILANHELD

MILAN: Bruno Alves grabbed a point for Parma to put AC Milan's Champions League ambitions under pressure with a 1-1 draw on Saturday as 10-man Lazio's European hopes took a knock with a 2-1 defeat to relegated Chievo

Samu Castillejo came off the bench after 66 minutes and had an immediate impact when he headed in a Suso cross three minutes later for goal ruled out for offside but minutes later Alves snatched a point for 14th-placed Parma with a curling free kick that left returning Milan goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma helpless. Milan remain fourth on 56

points but Roma are two points behind in fifth before they play third-placed Inter Milan at the San Siro later on Saturday. Atalanta, sixth, can pull level with Milan on points when they travel to second-placed Napoli Monday. "It wasn't a great performance," said Milan coach Gennaro Gattuso. "I expected to come here and do more. Parma made the most of that free kick with a wonderful goal.'





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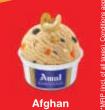




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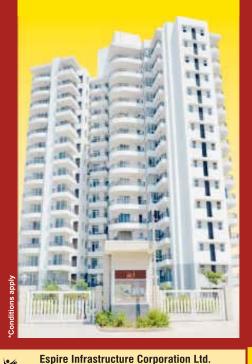
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Malcha Marg, Westend, Shanti Niketan, Anand Niketan, Vasant Vihar, Golf Link, Jor Bagh, Sunder Nagar, Hauz Khas, Panchsheel Park, Anand Lok, Niti Bagh, Defence Colony, Friends Colony, Maharani Bagh, Greater Kailash-I/II.

BUNGLOWS

Kautalya Marg, Sardar Patel Marg, Prithvi Raj Road, Malcha Marg, Amrita Shergill, Westend, Shanti Niketan, Vasant Vihar, Golf Link, Jor Bagh, Sunder Nagar, SDA, Hauz Khas, Panchsheel Park, Anand Lok,

Defence Colony, Maharani Bagh, Friends Colony, Greater Kailash-I/II. FARMS Westend Green - 2.5 / 5 Acre **ADITYA GUPTA - 9810154571**

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43

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SM 4 Punjabi Khatri Suri,Beautiful girl 5'4",14.10.90/00:05AM/Delhi,wrking Graduate in Spanish & English (Hons.) Father-Business man. # 9810823855 Email: dmwaterrakesh@hotmail.com

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malra.rakesh@gmail.com SM4 PBI Khatri, V.fair, b'ful, convent

edu., Del bsd family, April 90 born/ 5'5" Masters from N.Z., presently wkg in Big 4 in Banglore. M: 9820948151. ak.designsanyojaka@gmail.com PROF QLFD /CA for CA Girl 31yrs,17 Jan 88, 5:19am,5'2" Delhi based, wk Big4 MNC 18Lpa, JS ID - ZZXY4215, Send profile what's up 9999252180 Email - khurana1415@gmail.com

SM4 B'FUL, Fair, 5'3" Punjabi girl NM, B.A., Homely, 9.15 pm 11 Aug, 92 Faridabad seeks well settled boy in FBD/Delhi/NCR # 9319709239 Email: suren29farid@rediffmail.com

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DIVORCEE/WIDOW

SEEKING WELL educated settled alliance from respectable family for 39/5'3" working fair educated cultured girl. Issueless divorcee. Email: mrawat54@rediffmail.com

SM4 PB Khatri, Non Manglik 74/5 6" DIVOrcee Issueress wen convent educated, Self Employed Girl, Caste no bar. Cont. 9811815993, Email: hrconsultant1974@gmail.com

PQM FOR Delhi Based beautiful fair girl.DOB 15.2.79 / ht. 5"9", MBA, professional. Father Retired. Mech. Eng. seeks deucated liberal minded well settled suitable match in early 40's. E. "Sammatharoo@gmail.com with photo. Caste no bar.

Divorced Medico, DNB,25LPA,1yrs son,L'king for a Medico/Profess. Settled, Groom below 40yrs. Preferred in Delhi -NCR Upper Caste Em:janaksinghc1985@gmail.com SM4 B'FUL Sikh girl US Citizen 43,

37 YRS Sikh(F), Looks much Younger

5'3" divorcee (daughter 11yrs) highly qualified, managment cadre job in US. Caste no bar # 9899373333 E:manjeet_bajwa@hotmail.com.

PQM 4 B'ful Girl Div issue with 1 kid

REQUIRED MATHUR Medico P.G. pfr D.M, M.C.H good looking Boy for a Pretty looking fair Mathur Medico Rptd fmly. 8171904004, 9897247366

Divorcee Jatsikh-Girl(P.G-History) CANADIAN-CITIZEN, Looking for Jatsikh-Boy Settled in USA. +91-7626931525, +1-7783785365 NRI/ WILLING to sttle Canada for

Canadian PR Prof qlfd Pb Khatri girl Sep. '89/5'1". Girl visiting Delhi soon. 9818180507, 9811389666. Email: chander_2247@yahoo.com

Business family of South Delhi presently settled in Middle East

Very Feir, Sikn, 5'5 / 1986, Schooling from the BEST Delh School, Both Rechelors and Masters from USA, Settled in US, presently visiting parents Open to Relocation.

business boy from equal us formily. Please send all jsc213151@gmail.com WANTED WELL settled NRI (Doc

Panjabi Kamboj Sikh, smart, beautiful convent educated girl, 26 yrs, Height 5'-9½", Doctor, MBBS from India and Masters in Embry logy and Reproductive Technolog from London UK, belonging to a status family from Tricity (Chandigarh). Father Retired Office having urban and Rural property. Only Brother MBBS preparing for Masters. Upper Caste No bar. akmatch1952@gmail.com with Bio data and Photo.

SM FOR well educated 86 born

Punjabi Manglik B'ful girl 22.6.90/11.09AM/ Delhi 5'1"

Well Educated Business & olitical Background Family Seek Suitable Alliance for eeks a well Educated Boy from Established Business Family From Delhi / NCR 98100 98787

akgoel2013@gmail.com

B.TECH, MBA, convt edu, bful, Saxena girl 27/170 wrkg MNC GGN seeks tall well settled POSM M: 9871138080, 9412998766. Send BHP at shar4083@gmail.com

ALLIANCE FOR Rajput beautiful & Law Rajput Deautiful & Fair Girl 31/57" LL B (5 Yrs) NLU, 26 LPA, US Consulting, Gurgaon, Father CMD CPSU, Rajput, Bhumihar, Kayastha, Agrawal welcome. Vinod Singh, 9650922231, vksnhpc@yahoo.co.in

MA B.ed slim Hindu (Passi) Delhi based girl. Caste No Bar. Mnb. No: 9810260622, 9650302418.

KAYASHTHA

girl, Dec 1984/ 5'4", MA (E Contact: 9818033746 wha 8800199628 Email :-mmd.mmdvv@gmail.com SAXFNA APR 88/5'2"/M A M Phil

Phd (Pur.)Asst Lect. D.U.Seeks profi Qlfd/ Govt./MNC wrkg Kayastha boy pref Delhi NCR. send BHP #9871445 265, Em: s.k.saxena747@gmail.com

SAINI

SM4 VAISH 5'4"/7.2.89/00.36(Noida) /A. Mglik, Fair, slim, Master in Global Buss, Wkg asMgr, Telematics GGN, Father CA, own Buss. Noida 98112-02719, mathuria.rajesh@gmail.com

SHITARLE DELITE match for

PQM FOR Manglik. Goel Girl, DOB: 09-

98181 73939

NIGAM FAIR and Beautiful

working in MNC @ mid-management level is looking for a Hindu Saini boy aged 28-32, Ph. 9896725930, Sukhdevsingh2010@gmail.com

SUNNI MUSLIM beautiful girl 24/ Lucknow. Reply with biodata & photo. Email: mushir05@rediff.com

PQM FOR BE(DCE)- MBA (IIM-Cal) Mnglk Rajak Rajput Girl, 30+LPA; 5'6", 8-oct-90, 7:39 AM, Delhi, #9810476472, #9872433958, IVS 7TIIS4221

HINDU

MATCH FOR beautiful 5'31/2"/30 yrs

S/M REO for V.b'ful High Status

SM4 MATHUR Manglik b'ful working girl. Dec 1984/5'4", MA (English)

Girl/ Feb. 92, 5'2"/ B.Sc. Mass Communication/ Pers. B.Ed./ Delhi Based. Contact: 9953290621,

SM4, KAYASTHA B'ful Girl, Age 30/ 5'6"/ CA Final & Working, Unable to conceive due to congenital absence of uterus. Divorcee/Widower accepted Caste No Bar. Contact 9456211600.

CANADA PR girl, B. Tech(IT), 04.11.92,

SAINI GIRL . 29/5'4" R-Tech DRM

3:2 am siwan Hindu, OBC, Del/ NCR seeks. w stld / Olfd boy. Cast no bar. SC/ST no aply 8750057648: DELHI BASED Jain, 28/5'5",

smart, B.Com, Divorcee, No Child. Caste no bar. E-mail:

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BRIDES WANTED

MA B.ED girl 35/5'6" 13.3.84.

H'SOME FAIR slim well established Aggarwal boy, 30 Yrs, 5'8", Seeks beautiful a slim girl. # 9811788214 Email:

HANDSOME, 5'8" 14/05/90 Rastogi

SM 4 Mittal Boy 17.1.87, 6am, Mumbai, 57", B.Com, Builders in GGN, Res. Pitampura, Delhi. Caste no Bar. 8285081883, 7042323058. mdgupta57@gmail.com

SM4 RANSAL H'some Boy 5'8" 8.04.86 /Ph.D, Scientist Fellow a CSIR - CEERI , Pilani . Pref. B'ful

SM4 GARG Boy 20.09.1981,06.30 am / Gurgaon / 5.5" / 10 Lpa. LLB . Seeks Homely NCR Gril Cast no Bar, cont 8588896037/ 9953764837 Email : rachnaoic@gmail.com

SM 4 Garg boy, V.fair, 5'9", 16.03.1990 (12:40pm) Delhi, 12 LPA, B.Tech (ECE), MBA, MNC Gurgaon Seeking wrkg girl frm Delhi/NCR, Haryana. 9717787667 Email: tushargarg1990@gmail.com MATCH 4 H'some Delhite Bansal Boy 23/5'6" BBA from Amity/Singa pore/UK/Australia, Highly Qlfd Bu

ness fmly,involve in family Business. Email: kbansal94@gmail.com WANTED NON -wkg / tchr Homely girl from Delhi-Ncr for 77 born 5'8", NM fair H'some self emplyd MCA 11.5 LPA. Simple mrg. Send Photo with B-data:matri1977@hotmail.cor

SM4 JAIN Boy T.T. Own House Buss.

PQM 4 Aggarwal Boy, B.Tech(IIT)+

PQSM AGG. CA, 24yrs., 5'10'

Manglik, Own Practice 2 yrs. Ph.: 9810300291, 9810800291, Email: meenugdelhi@gmail.com B.TECH CS 5'9"/ 29 H'some NM Agg. boy, wkg. MNC GGN, 27Lpa, Sch. DPS Delhi. Edu. Engg. Fmly, Kothi South Delhi, father own buss # 8920868138, h34b@yahoo.com

SM4 AGGARWAL boy 30, 5'9 BBA(IP) & MBA(Amity), Reputed Business class family, R/o Punjabi Bagh, 8448171549 E: vikastec234@gmail.com

BISA AGARWAL

SINGHAL GOTRA Boy 17.2.1990 / 9.31am Delhi / 5'7" Non-Manglik Wheatish, B.Com, Pvt. Job, 18LPA, Own House. Required Homely Girl. Contact: 9999677682. email: gupta.rg2015@gmail.com

SM FOR Aggarwal boy height 5' 9,fai colour 32 years old Goyal Gotra No Manglik B. Tech from D.C.E. college Delhi 'working in MNC co.Jakarta Cont. only whatsup: 9999189298 SM4 NM fair smart 32/5'7"/RF.MBA

PROF. QLFD Match for 29 yrs/ 5'6" in New Zealand. Caste No Bar. Send BHP to: sslsaini@gmail.com

Seeks homely Girl.CNB #9810683409, Email: vinodjain19500@gmail.com

SPECIALIST/BEAUTY PARLOR





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GUJJAR HIMACHALI NEPΔLI

HINDU

JAT SIKH

JAIN JAT

KASHMIRI KAYASTHA

KHANDELWAL

KHATRI

KSHATRIYA KURMI

> **KUSHWAHA** MARATHI

> > TYAGI MARWARI

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PUNJABI RAMGARHIA / DHIMAN

> **RAJPUT** SAINI SIKH

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Gorakhpur, Dehradun, Haldwani Four Insertions: 4500 8200

BRAHMIN TYAGI SUITABLE Match regd for 3-yr textile dip/ wrkg. Pref qualfd

GAUR BRAHMIN Parents seeking match for 27/5'-4" Fair, Slim, Beautiful daughter Software Engg. in MNC. Contact (M)-8979313901, 7060021120 PROFFSSIONALLY

QUALIFIED/ BUSINESSMEN DELHI BASED MATCH FOR **VERY BEAUTIFUL** ISSUELESS. DIVORCEE/ BRAHMIN GIRL
1974 BORN, 5'5".
WORKING PGT
GOVT. SCHOOL DELHI.
CASTE NO BAR.

> E-mail: | lalradhey391@gmail.com WELL SETTLED Delhi based M4 Veg, aadi, Vatsa, GB, Teacher in Govt Aided School,10/9/89,7:45 am Delhi/5'3.5"/63,000 # 9213-892744,

9818442932

PQM4 BRAHMIN. Manglik Aug'90/5'7" Delhi M.Sc Wkng as Sr. SW Engineer. Send BHP to 8368349827 or Email to: rx kalia@wahon.com SUITABLE MATCH for Brahmin girl Age-32 years, height-5'5", M.Sc. Physics Ph.D, Asst. Professor Ph: 9811588529, 9811588549. Email: sbala1957@yahoo.in

POSM FOR Delhi based Brahmin

Girl 5'3"/ 90 MA(Eng) B.Ed non wkg boy should well settled from Brahmin/ Khatri family Contact -9711139420, 9831156676.

.A WELL established family inviting

ALLIANCE INVITED from well

GAUR BRAHMIN Anshik Manglil

wheatish slim 27/ 5'4"/ 1992/ MBA 12 Lacs, Parent Govt. Employee. respectable family. M: 9717822344. Email: scbd1965@yahoo.co.in

GURGAON BASED

BRAHMIN FAMILY

SM4 THEIR FAIR, SMART

GIRL 27 YEARS, 5'6'

NON-MANGLIK

MFDICO/

IAS,IPS,IRS/MBA/

NANTED GROOM for Kaushik Brahmin girl, 21/01/1990,12:28 pm, 5' 2.5"/Meerut. Bachelor from Delhi

Uni., M.A., M.Phil, Ph.D.(JNU Delhi) Taking remedial Classes in Delhi Uni as guest lecturer & B.Ed College. Preferably professor, Govt. Officer

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proposal for their b'ful, cultured,ver fair, highly qualified daughter (1983 born). Seeks a well Edu. boy form a business fmly or a prof.# 981040555 SYCORÜAAN & Excellence over 2 decade

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stid broad minded. Engr/ M&A/ IT/ Doctor/ B'nessman from affluent. Edu fmly with cosmopolitan values for b'ful, smart, post grad girl, upper middle class, Edu. fmly (father ben-gali, mother kashmiri Pandft), 27/r/ 163cm/7.8 lakih PA Sr. Mgr in Gurgaon. Caste no bar. Em: sna92.2019@gmail.com AGARWAL GARG Girl Nov 91 /

BORN AT Chandigarh 1.55pm / 3 July 89 / 5'4" Convent Educaed,

(INDUSTRIALIST/ SERVICE) BOY Required For High Status Industrial Family Girl Working In MNC 22/03/87, 08:50AM, Panipat Haryana, 5'6" B.Tech, girlgarg87@gmail.com 7494887845.

PQM FOR Beautiful V.Fair girl, MBA, Wrkng Noida, Goel NM, 5ft/05-03-89 Father Retd. AGM PSU. Status family. Cont: 9810979021, Email: pkgupta22155@gmail.com

SM 4 h'ful fair slim Gunta Vaisl

location Mininga, educated well placed family. Seek equally qualified and employed match. Call / whats app: 9899303383, Email: sanagarwal1@gmail.com

BISA AGARWAL SPM4 PROGRESSIVE Garg (NM)

girl 5'4"/27.5.91/ 5:17 AM /B.Tech/MBA / wkg HSBC(GGN) /Business Family of NCR/ Email: a.gupta86@hotmail.com

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Faridabad: 0129 4182023, Gurugram: 0124 4210673
Telebooking: 1800 103 1800 (All days open)
Email: counterclassifieds@hindustantimes.com

KHATRI

28.11.89, 3.35 am, Panchkula (Haryana), 5'4", B.Tech, Wkg MNC Gurgaon, 8.5 Lpa. Call 9888914409, 9463562549

professional/business handsome boy caste no bar. Contact : 9711865969

PQM 4 PB B'ful fair slim veg girl,5'4"/ 4.9.91,B.Tech,Wkg in MNC as Sr. S/W Engr.11.72Lpa,khatri hormone Prblm Del bad fmly,Prfrs Ttli t1/Govt. Serv. well stld C'ltrd dcnt boy 9810371889

SIKH KHATRI girl. 5'4". 27. M.Sc. SUITABLE MATCH for Beautiful

families from Delhi

SM4 B'FUL Slim Khatri convt Edu. Girl 25/5'6"/ Asst Prof in DU seeks Well Edu/wrkg/ND Gursikh boy from Del based reputed fmly#8587949417 Em:- chawla.blessings@gmail.com

PQM 4 fair beautiful Arora Girl, 25,03,1980,5'3, M.Com, MBA,LLB WKNG as DIR. COMM. IN A REPTD ComE-shri ganesh@yahoo.com, 09910502618 NCR,South delhi prfd.

PQM 4 MBA Slim Beautiful Punjabi Khatri NM Girl 19.6.82/ 6:00pm/ 5'6' Delhi WKg. as Exec. Manager in MNC GGN. Pkg. 3012a. # 9818767656, Email:matrimatch1906@gmail.com Looking for PQ, well

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BRIDES WANTED

Green Park uth Delhi) based Well Settled Family Invite Proposals for their Son, Age 28 Year, 5'8 Very Handsome Dynamic, brought Commerce Graduate (D.U) MBA (S.P. Jain Bombay) Working in Family Manage **Export Business** Parents of Cultured ated very ethic Soft-Spoken, Homely Religious Jain/Aggarwa

Business Family Call: +91-7290094798 Email With Recent Photo & Full Details to : lirector.vinyl@gmail.co

ALLIANCE INVITED for Jain, B.Tech., Fair, Gud Ikng, Manglik, 28/ 5'8" boy managing infra, hotels & construction business with 8 fig in-come at Delhi & Uttkhad from well edu., gud Mkng, prof qulfd girl from respectable jain/ bania family. E: arpitjn1010@gmail.com Mobile

ARORA ARORA 31/5'-9" 23.03.88 11.00 pm

SM4 PUNJABI Arora boy, Apr 1991/6ft, B. Tech/MBA, Own manu facturing unit of Automobile com ponents in faridabad. Looking for educated homely girl from good family background.# 9811087859 E: nimit0304@gmail.com

as lawyer in a reputed law firm Delh 18 Lpa,own Indpdnt rural/comm.prc Affluent status fmly.# 9988881362, Send BHP-matta.simrat@gmail.com

KHATRI

SM 4 Khatri, Ansk.Mglk 5'9", 25.10.88/ 4:43pm/New Delhi, B.Tech, MBA Wkg

KHATRI

Suitable Match for South Delhi Based, 81 Born, MBA, Punjabi Khatri Boy,

Very Fair, Slim, 5'9 Well Settled. **Own Business Income 8 Figures** Call or Whatsapp: 9911197965

SM 4 Arora Khatri 1985/5'9", B.Tech

POM4 NM Fair & H.Some Boy 5'7" / Manager In MNC 7LPA Own House Delhi M: 9811856595 / 9999008380

PB KHATRI hov 78/5"11" B.Tech. **B KHATRI** DOY 10/311 C... Manager s/w development USA, Green Card (coming in July) seeks PQ b'ful girl 5'4"+upto 35yrs Simple ma-rriage. BHP: snehjhanji@gmail.com

PQM4 RMG NM Sikh Boy 35/5'11" Veg TT PSU Bank Mgr in Delhi. South Delhi based family. Seeks B' ful tall veg. girl . Caste no bar. Send BDP to bss457@gmail.com. M-9717523247

HANDSOME, TALL, MRA 27/5'10' Businessman boy of Educated status family Required Qualified, Slim, Charming girl of businessclass family. Contact: 9313186091

SM 4 Sikh Khtri boy 5'10".May'86,own business of transport & mobile shop, Own house Delhi. Income more than 1Lac p/m.# 999918689, 9811308745 Email: gurvindergg@yahoo.co.in SM4 KHATRI Sikh Advocate Boy

June 1985, 5'9" Divorced (Mutual Consent Brief Marriage) St. Delhi F'mly. # 9811025921 9582454582 Email: Jagdeepbakshi@yahoo.co.in

SM 4 H'some, Turbaned, Gursikh boy 31/6', B.Tech, MBA (ISB), from S.Del bsd renowned Business fmly, Seeks Tall Cultured girl of status family, educated in reputed Institutes. call 9717590402 pmpm1187@gmail.com SEEKING SIKH match for fair.

teetotaller, 5'9" from renowned Business family based in South Delhi. He is MBA from world's top B school. Email profile and photos at sikhmatri13@gmail.com SUITABLE MATCH for Sikh

boy 80 born, 5'9", never married working in MNC Gurgaon, Package 23 Lakhs. Mobile: 9971777014. Email: tikku_singh@yahoo.com

MATCH FOR Non Drinker / Non Trimmer Arora Sikh 1985 / 6'1" Employed Assistant Professor of Law at Sonipat 11 LPA, Fmly at Chai digarh 98152-89455, 88724-15204

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POM FOR 5'11 / 6.7.87 /12.50 pm. ASTROLOGY

POM4 H'SOME Arora boy

5'8"/30 MBA Symbiosis W'kg Delhi 15 Ipa+ Edu & status Family frm S. Delhi mail: yka6009@gmail.com

SM4 SARASWAT PB BR BOV

SM4 UNMARRIED 45 /5'8' own business well settled income in six figures early marriage caste no bar Contact: 8076366730.

PQM4 H'SOME Khatri Sikh Boy

Email: manjit.maini15@gmail.com

PUNJABI

SEEKING SUITABLE Bride for South Delhi based MBA 32 yrs/5'8" handsome cultured well settled boy of an affluent family income 5 Lacs per month. WhatsApp-92679 46329.

ALLIANCE INVITED for CA

well settled Punjabi handsome b 31 yrs/ 5'10, 24 LPA. Caste no ba Call at 9599937337 or mail at c.a.akhil@hotmail.com

INVITES PROPOSALS from NM.

SM 4 NM Delhi based Pb.Khatri

Beautiful, Well Educated, Wkg girl, Age 28-30 yrs for Punjabi Khatri MBA 35/5'3", Wkg in MNC. Whats App details & Pictures@ 9810753534

H'some boy Never Married 39/5'6", B.Tech, MNC Ggn, Sal 7 fig, well sttld family. Call- 9868235121, Whatsapp 8750037605, E: wed12k@gmail.com

M/NM MATCH for H'some Pb boy

18.671 looks 35/ 6AM/ Hisar/ 182, Pharmacist Estd. Biz in Delhi 12 LPA, Non-wrkg / Wrkg Pharma / Science background girl prefd.#9810100469 Email: shivaom789@gmail.com

Email: Shivaom/xsy@ginan.com

SM FOR Handsome Punjabi Tall Boy
61"/ 21.12.84/ 11.30 am/Jaipur/
PGOBA/ Project Manager Jaipur (12
LPA), Reputed Family 09099924609
E-mail:- shubhvivahnic@gmail.com

ELITE BRIDES WANTED

AGARWAL/CASTE NO BAR, 31, 5ft 10", Entrepreneur,

Dual Major degree. Family is financially well off. Looking

for a likeminded and well educated match in

AGARWAL, 32, 5ft 11", Doctor, MBBS. Lives in UK.

Father is a renowned Paediatrician. Family is financially

well off with a net worth in Crores. Looking for a

compatible and well educated match from any

KHATRI, 24, 5ft 9", Marketing Professional, MBA. Lives

in Bangalore. Father is a well known Businessman. Family is financially well off with a net worth in Crores.

Looking for a compatible and well educated match from

KHATRI/PUNJABI/CASTE NO BAR, 35, 5ft 8",

Software Professional, MS. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match.

BANIYA/MITTAL, 34, 6ft 2", Software Developer,

Graduate. Lives in Delhi. Father is retired. Family is

financially well off. Looking for a likeminded and well

educated match. Contact: 8882654550

any community in India/Abroad. Contact: 9310065725

India/Abroad. Contact: 7428751516

PQM FOR Handsome Manglik Delhi, C.A., Own Business Income 7 Digit. Contact - 9868710101

MATCH 4 Punjabi Hindu Boy H'some 5'8", 26.9.87, BBA, MNC, 15 LPA, working in Delhi.Father businessman, own house, seeks beautiful qualified wrkg, girl. Caste no Bar. 9899556231

Wanted Professional Beautiful Slim Inservice / Homely Girl for well settled self practicing Vegetarian Handsome Punjabi

32 Years on Govt Panels Advocate Khatri Boy. No Caste Bar.

Non-manglik /

9871081995 SM FOR Pb Arora NM boy 4.6.91/

HANDSOME ARORA Boy

C-9267945534 9625500852

PGDCM, 12.9.84/9am/Delhi, 5'6",wkg With MNC in Ggn,18 Lpa, Lkg for B'ful wkg girl from Del/NCR. #9810506689 Em: matrimony.am1984@gmail.com

M4 FEB 1992 born 5'11" Del/ bsd

PUNJABI FAIR H'some Boy Born 91/5'6" B.Tech Engr. Own construction B'ness, Well Settled Delhi Based Family. Caste no bar. Whatsapp No. 9811051930

Kh boy corporate Lawyr handling fmly owned Law Firm upr middle Cls fmly Cast no bar what's app #9810239071

SM 4 h'some Punjabi MBA Manglik boy 26.11.1988/1:40 AM/ Delhi/ 5'6"

boy 26.11.1988/1:40 AM/ Denni, 30 Own Business good income. Pref. non working girl. Call: 9310670218, 9013306276, 011-22610218.

35 for punjabi Arora N/M boy Ht 5'8" DOB Delhi 12.9.80 5/12am Res GGN Resort Buisness Caste no bar Ph 7065394207/9718361266.

SM4 SMART, Pb, MBA boy

HINDU PUNJABI H'some slim boy Manish 6', 16-9-1990, 20:45, Delhi MBA,own Dusiness-Fashion & Events

SUITABLE MATCH for Handsome SM4 WELL settled Delhi based MBBS, MD Doctor, Wkg in Reputed Delhi Hosp. Ph: 8826006681, 9810312250 rkparora@vahoo.com

SRI FEB86 Fair Smart 5'8" BTech MBA Manager MNC NCR 30 L Qlfd B'ful NM Veg girl WApp

अम्बष्ट 1982/5'7" कोलकाता में Senior Software Engr. के लिए सुंदर गोरी सुशिक्षित कन्या चाहिए जाति बंधन नहीं 6204418521/9234511447

KAYASTHA BOY 31/5'10" fair handsome B.E. BITS PILANI MS USA working top MNC USA highly edu status fmly CNB. Cont: 9827224439 Em: drnmshrivastava@gmail.com.

MATCH FOR Saxena boy, 6'tall, 1986 PhD, Anshik Manglik, Teetotaler, Asst Professor (Zoology), Punjab. Contact: 9780983438, 7589284669. Email: saxena.pradeep22@gmail.com

SM FOR Khatik boy 30 yrs/5'7". Graduate, working in a reputed MN Seeks simple, decent, educated/ working girl. Contact: 8882688818 Email: mohitgpa02@gmail.com

16.10.1990/5:30am,Del/ 5'10" well stld, own B'nss, pref B'ful, Edu girl from U/M class fmly.#9810058453, vijsuresh6@gmail.com **ELITE GROOMS WANTED**

GUPTA/BANIYA, 30, 5ft 3", Management Professional, PGDM, Family is financially well off, Looking for a likeminded and well educated match (Caste no bar). Contact: 7428751516

BANTYA, 28 5ft 7" Management Professional MBA Lives in USA. Father is a CEO. Family is financially well of with a net worth in Crores. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from any community in India/Abroad. Contact: 9873870835

BRAHMIN, 33, 5ft 5", Head of Marketing & Corporate Communications. Lives in Delhi. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from the same community in Delhi/NCR/Mumbai. Contact: 9310867897

BRAHMIN, 31, 5ft 7", Doctor, pursuing FRCR. Lives in Singapore. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded Doctor match in UK/Singapore. Contact: 7448745111

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Delhi, H'some Punjabi boy. B.Tect /MBA Manager MNC Ggn. 33 LPA, Father Doctor. Email with photo-graph- matrim0607@gmail.com

TALL & Q'LFD girl for smart H'Some tall Q'LFD PB boy, I"less Div, 30.8.84/ 6:25pm Delhi, BBS/LLB, Legal Officer. M:9811895629/8920664188

ALLIANCE INVITED by Status ueini Based Business Family for son 80/6.1/ MBA. 6 Fig. Income looking for working /homely/5'5" above girl. # 8742968182, 9212318400. Email: manav.gaurishankar@gmail.com

ALLIANCE INVITED from status family, for my divorcee son graduate, 78 born Del. 7:35 am having Construction business & residence in Gurugram, Wadhwa 9810001928

MATCH FOR Punjabi Arora H'some fair boy B-tech MBA 28.7.86, 11.44 am, Delhi/I66cm/I61PA. Workind as Manager in MNC, Bangalore. No dowry, no gifts. Caste no bar. Family settled in Delhi. #9 811124-4433 Email: sunm2428@gmail.com

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Mahajan N/M B.Tech H'some Boy 23 July 89/10:26AM/ Delhi/ 5'9"

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DEHRADUN FAMILY seeks b'ful educated working girl for h'son PB. boy, currently wrkg in USA 4.9.84 / 5'11", I'less divorcee. Cont: 9897523280. 9897544752

SM4 HANDSOME boy 36 Year 5'3" Punjabi, B.Com Business in Chawri Bazar. Preferred Homely or Teacher. Mobile. (whatsapp) 9250102164

BRAHMIN

GAUR BR. 29, 5'3" B.Tech (Civil) JE Delhi Govt (Cont) Prei Diul Go. Govt/MNC Delhi/NCR well settled family 9213098652, 9810725868 Email: 16kaushik1962@gmail.con

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PQM 4 h'som 29/6'2" Rajput doctor MD(MED) doing super-speciality West Virginia. Parents doctor. Higher Caste alliance from USA solicited. email: t512512@yahoo.com. Mob-9415035399

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Contact:7827513252

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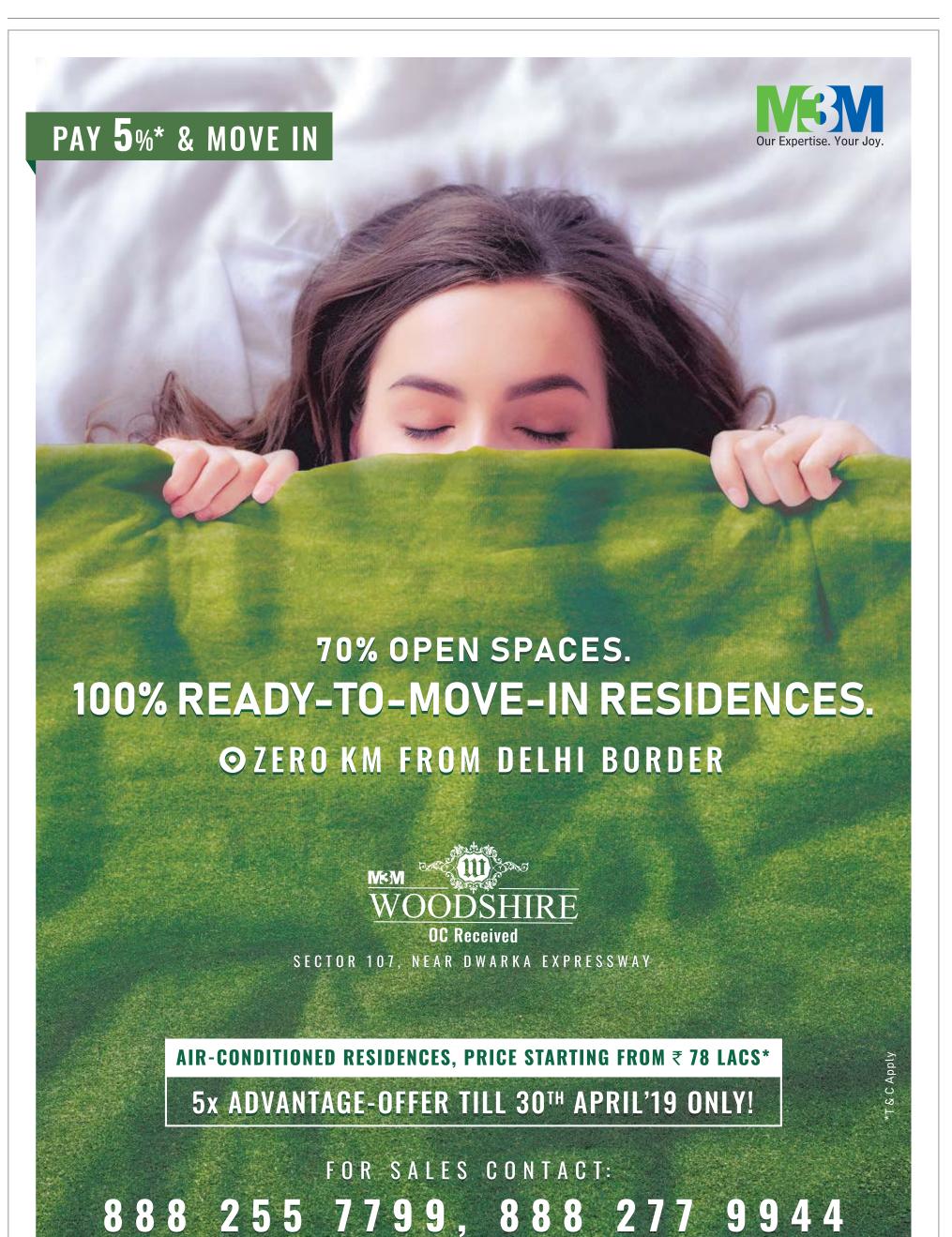
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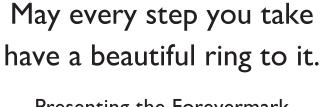
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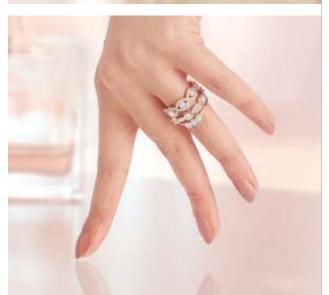


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ctor Sonam K Ahuja has never shied away from sharing her opinions. In an industry where doublespeak is a norm, Sonam calls a spade a spade. She uses her job (that of an actor) to do roles that could highlight issues or sensitise people. For instance, her last, Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga, was about the challenges that a homosexual individual faces in our society. The fashionista and bibliophile discusses various aspects of being Sonam. Excerpts

Your next film is a comedy. Did you deliberately choose something light?

The Zoya Factor is a fun film. It is a complete commercial film. I'm playing someone who doesn't know who she is at all. Abhishek Sharma is one of the best directors I've worked with. Dulquer (Salmaan) is super cute and a great actor, So, I am super-excited.

You are a voracious reader. Would you consider writing a book?

I do love reading a lot. It is my habit and passion. I feel it is a

anything else, I have started this thing called #weekendreadingwithSonam on social media, where every weekend I put up a book that I am reading or even someone else is reading and they tag me. But about writing... I don't know vet. However, I'd love to

Maybe a book on fashion.

wearing it. But, I don't think I've the knowledge to dictate terms on fashion

But you have been comfortable

times, people conform to the way society wants them to be, unfortunately. When you have a point of view, which might resonate because truth is a bitter pill to swallow Once in a while it resonates

Any plans of debuting in the digital space anytime soon?

There's already so much on my plate. I enjoy fashion and I like

voicing your opinions... Yes, and people will criticise you a lot for it. And a lot of sometimes, people don't like it. with people and rings really loud and people accept it.

Of course, why not! I'd be

won't deter her from

future. And I believe change is the only constant. You need to move with the times, if you

Says actor Sonam K

Ahuja, although that

don't, you'll be left behind. In India, the only outing we have is going to the cinemas. So. it'll be a while before that (digital) becomes the main source of entertainment. But, eventually it will be the only source of entertainment and why not? I don't mind being the first one to

jump on the bandwagon.

voicing hers

foolish to say 'no'. It is the

IN A TITLE SOUP

Indian Psychiatric Society has raised an objection to the title of Rajkummar Rao-Kangana Ranaut's next, Mental Hai Kya. In a letter to the Censor Board, they have called the title discriminative, stigmatizing,

degrading and inhuman in projecting mental disorders...". In response, according to Pinkvilla, an official spokesperson from the film's production house has explained that the film, in fact, inspires everyone to accept the distinctiveness of individuals, and that the fictional thriller aims at making a larger point.



Avushmann Khurrana's

Andhadhun has raked in about ₹250 crore at the Chinese box

e's having a dream run at the box office. His last two films— Andhadhun and Badhaai Ho—have garnered critical and commercial acclaim, And Avushmann Khurrana's popularity is travelling beyond borders along with his films. Andhadhun has neared the ₹250-crore mark at the Chinese box office! On how important an

he tells us, "It is a huge feat for me, and a great achievement. There's validation that the scripts I am choosing are not just sonating with the masses in India but also internationally This shows that the content I am choosing is beyond borders, cultures, and has an international appeal. I feel acknowledged. Gratitude is the word!"

achievement this is for him.

What comes as a surprise is that Ayushmann wasn't thinking about it at all when he got the news about the release in China. "I was not thinking about anything. I just got to know from a tweet (from one of the producers) that it is releasing there. My only reaction was 'Let's see how it goes', but it has surpassed my expectations for sure. I was, in fact, not thinking at all about the Chinese release or how it would fare there. It's like a great, happy surprise," he says Currently, he has his hands

in which he plays a cop for the first time; and Bala, in which he plays a guy suffering from premature balding. All his roles are distinct from each

other, and it is by design. "I don't want to repeat roles," he says and elaborates on what he keeps in mind when choosing a script, "The only thing I care for is that the script has to be normal and should have no reference point in either Hindi or international cinema. So I am glad to be getting scripts which are unique, and which resonate with the masses... either about breaking a taboo or dealing with social stigmas. These kind

of scripts appeal to me."
When in showbiz, it's easy to give in to the notion that 'box office is the only king'. But, not for Ayushmann. "I'd only do films which are also into value creation, and not just into commerce or moolah creation at the box office. I've aspired to do 'middle of the road cinema', which is a great combination of commerce and content Liust follow my heart and gut every single time. Most of my decisions are impulsive, but I am quite intuitive like that. I hope it works in the future also," he says.
When asked, Ayushmann,

who sings, does live shows and writes poems, says, "I'd like to produce one day, and also write and direct a film, but as of now, it's a lot of fun to be just a performer!

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Chillin' like a villain

SPOTTED r's all chill because the weekend is here. Our paps clicked these Bollywood celebs being all casual in Mumbai recently.
Spotted across the city were actors Sanya

Malhotra,

Parineeti

and **Diljit** Dosanjh

clicked at the airport HTC

Chopra while Ajay Devgn



DELHI'S DATE

to health and fitness where the who's who from different spheres gathered in the Capital recently. And it was no surprise that they put their most fashionable foot Spotted at the event were

Fashion Design Council of India, model Sonalika Riddhima Kapoor Sahni singer Khushali Kumar and fashion designers Rahul Mishra and Tanira Sethi















Tanira Sethi and Ariun Dang



Parineeta Sethi





Riddhima Kapoor Sahni

Rahul Mishra

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ring for his lady love and left

everyone spellbound when he sang a romantic song, Do Dil

Mil Rahe Hain from the movie

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Comedy

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festivities. Some of the

names included Vivian Dsena, Adaa Khan, Shashank

Banerjee and Ssumier S Pasricha among others. HTC

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ORIGINAL PLAY



Top to bottom: Ssharad and Ripci dancing at their engagement, Ssharad enjoying his haldi ceremony, the couple at their sangeet event

1 FEEL LIKE A SOUTH INDIAN AT HEART'



the actor who has five films

slated to release this year in the south. On why she is not doing any Bollywood film, the actor says she is focussed on regional films right now, "But I'm looking for some interesting scripts to make a comeback in Bollywood. For me a good script is more important. I pursue and seek challenging roles and don't like being repetitive. There is no fun in that," she says. Kajal says she desires to work with the likes of

filmmakers Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Ayan Mukherjee. "I like their style of filmmaking and eagerly look forward to watching their films," she adds. However, Kajal has some rules on what she won't ever do onscreen. "I'm not open to bold scenes at all. It has never

been in my list and hence, I've

never done it also. It is a personal choice as I'm not comfortable," she shares. The actor, who made her debut in 2004 with Kyun! Ho Gava Na and worked in hit Hindi films such as Singham (2011) and Special 26 (2013), says money has never been the primary factor for her when it

comes to selecting roles. "I've done films in the past where I've charged a fraction of my remuneration because I loved the film and knowing that the filmmakers can't afford me. It is all about striking a balance. The ideal situation is to get what you want. If that is not happening then I'm comfortable with forgoing a certain percentage of my remuneration for a very good role," Kajal says.

'Exploring sex in our content is empowering'

Juhi Chakraborty

etting intimate on screen is considered to be a taboo when it comes to Indian content and sex is still a closeted topic. However, actor Flora Saini says with the advent of the web as a medium.

of an erotic web series set in rural India

Asked whether she feels comfortable dabbling in such content, she says, "It is not about my comfort. It is about whether such content has an idience and the response (to the series) clearly shows that

She further goes on to add, "It's a human emotion. If it were Europe or the US, we would not even be talking about it. There it is understood that getting intimate with someone is the highest form of love. We have just shied away from a very beautiful emotion in our society. But now because of the internet, things are changing '

And this change has brought about a lot of experimenting when it comes to content, according to Flora.

'There is a lot of content

and how to deal with sexuality Exploring sex in our content is empowering. It is indeed a beautiful time for both actors and storytellers. I think people did have these ideas but probably didn't know how to bring it forward. It is also a demand and supply thing," she

earlier. Like women's issue

Even her upcoming short film talks about a bold subject — infidelity. And Flora says that it is very important to discuss it in the open.

"Infidelity is something very rampant in our society There are so many married men who portray themselves as single. I have dealt with one myself. I feel that such stories need to be told and I am happy to be a part of such







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Celebrating a sporty association



Ishant Sharma, Prithvi Shaw, Gautam Seth, Rishi Seth, Rishabh Pant and Shikhar Dhawai

leading electric equipment manufacturing company, HPL Electric and Power Limited, has strengthened its presence in India by associating with the Delhi Capitals, as their official LED and Switchgear partner.
To celebrate this reliable

partnership, HPL recently session with the Delhi Capitals players Shikhar Dhawan, Rishabh Pant, Ishant Sharma and Prithvi Shaw, and its top distributors. The event saw in

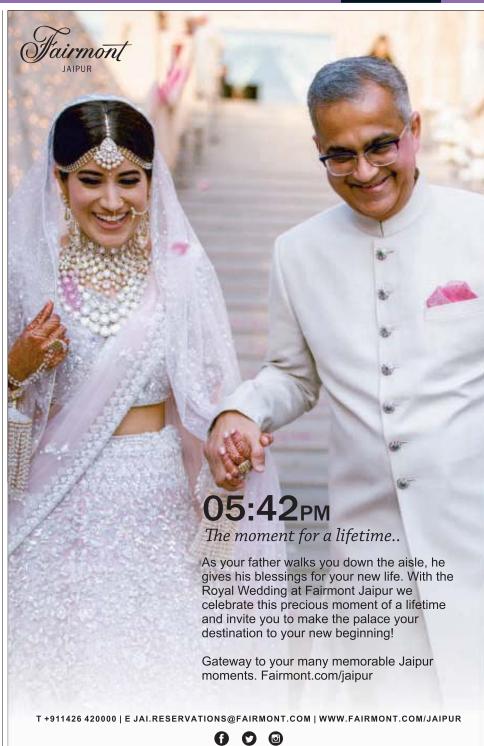
attendance HPL Electric and Power Limited, joint

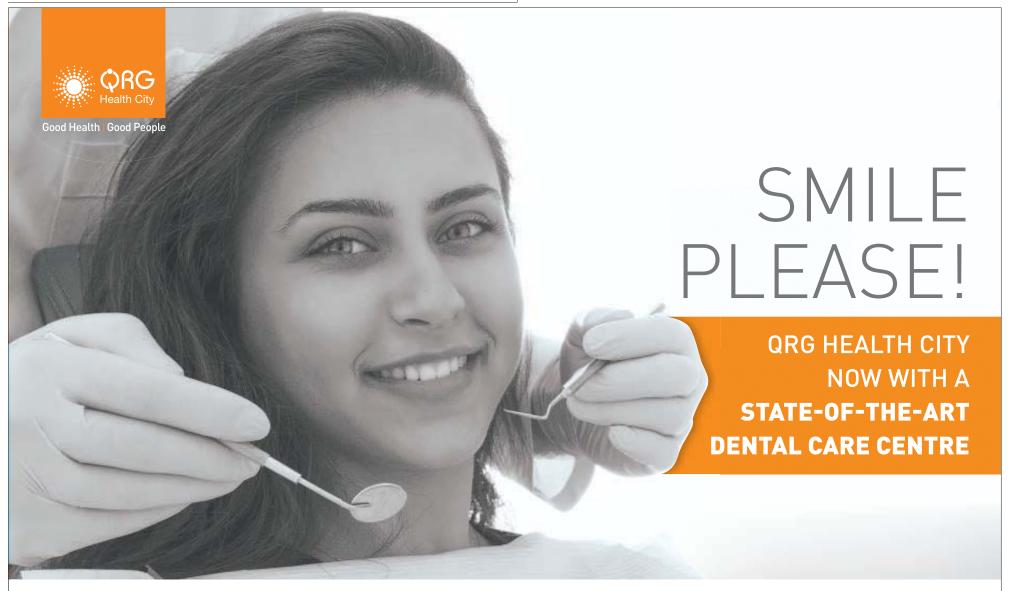
managing directors, Gautam Seth and Rishi Seth. Talking about their association, Gautam said, "We feel that this will have a widespread reach with our consumers of fast moving electrical equipment categories. As the popularity of Delhi Capitals team grows, it will help HPL to get into consumers' minds.' Cricketer Shikhar Dhawan, at the event, said, "I would like to thank HPL for their support. We had a wonderful time interacting with the audience at this session. We hope all their support can take us a long way in the tournament."

Anurag Singh Bohra









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SPIRITUAL MESSAGE

To commit mistakes is the only way to learn. If you are looking at somebody else to dictate to you to decide for or against, you will never be able to know what your life is. It has to be lived, and you have to follow your own small light, says Osho, the

Ma Prem Ritambhara has been reading Tarot cards professionally in Mumbai, Pune, Zurich and New Delhi for the last 15 years and continues to do so from her studio at home in New Delhi, Her clientele is from all over the world from all walks of life and she reads cards, predicts, counsels and heals professionals, business people, men, women children, students and couples. She conducts individual, as well as group readings. Contact her at ritambhara7@gmail.com





TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 21)

There is duality and division as you need to deal with two situations at the same time this week. You can be frustrated as some great ideas in which you invested time and energy did not actualise. Be practical and realistic at this point. Over analysing professional situations and personal relationships only causes stress and conflict. Your heart gives you the best answers and your intuition reveals insights. Beware of idle chatter and gossip in the work area. It's best to be light, playful and in touch with your sense of humour at this point. Friends, family and loved ones are supportive and understanding. Lucky number: 10 Good colour: Sky blue

The current for the future invites you to make new

cards! Your patience and intervention in family conflicts eventually brings peace and understanding. Your perseverance at work takes you through delay and opposition actualisation and success. There is a

synthesis of professional ideas and diverse energies which makes a collective impact on your business ventures. Personal relationships are loving but need space and freedom to grow.

Lucky number: 21 Good colour: Royal blue

beginnings and say a final goodbye to the past this week. New horizons and opportunities in business and personal matters open up. A trip overseas is on the



Mental conflicts are finally resolved this week as you make a compromise and opt for peace at work and harmony at home. Intellectual differences should be treated lightly and discussed rationally. You remain individualistic and independent through Inner and outer changes that are effected peacefully. A balanced perspective and positive attitude leads to closer partnerships. You receive a lot of love and compassion from family and friends when you need it. Health problems can be resolved quickly and surgery may be the right answer to a particular problem. Lucky number: 2 Good colours: Pinks

You opt for freedom and space in personal and

professional situations this week, as you are not ready to accept limitations. You are original, creative and

bold while expressing your emotions and ideas. Your actions may appear foolish to others or even to yourself, if you try to analyse them with your rational mind. At this point, trust and innocence rather than scepticism and past experience are your true guides.

You find new ways to express your creativity at work and emotions in loving relationships. Travel and movement rejuvenate your energy and give you a sense of release from routines and patterns.

Lucky number: 17 Good colours: Forest greens



Relationships and close friendships greet you with love, happiness and luxury. Personal relationships flower into lasting commitments. You share memorable times with family and friends. Be where you are as you can gain both from pleasure and hard work. As professional projects approach completion you may be looking for fresh opportunities that take a little while coming, so do not be impatient. A good associates emotionally as they are ready to understand your point of view! You are intuitive about people and situations, so listen to your wisdom.

time to approach difficult relatives, friends or Lucky number: 4 Good colour: Old rose

Taylor Swift

CAPRICORN (DEC 24 - JAN 20)

You are blessed with pleasure and happiness in

personal relationships and family situations this week. You are about to achieve your heart's desire and can plan for some changes in your life. Gain and creativity at work are satisfying. Go with the flow and trust that the river of life is taking you in the right direction. Personal relationships are supportive with a promising future. Children are demanding and play significant roles in your life. A personal meeting will lead to romance and commitment sometime in the future. You adapt and mould yourself to any given situation

Zayn Malik

with ease and positive energy. **Lucky number: 1 Good colour: Rose pink**



Sabrina Carpenter

You feel a bit defeated by situations and mental conflicts this week as you face opposition at home and competition at work. The head and heart pull you in different directions when you are confronted with professional and personal choices. It's best to allow time and space to change certain situations rather than push them with great effort and get frustrated Personal relationships improve with patience, love and care. Finances need to be managed well and budgets stuck to or you can lose perspective and find your resources depleted. Health needs care and stress

needs to be avoided. Lucky number: 5 Good colours: Pinks

Nick Jonas



Bella Thorne

You may be disappointed this week, as your great expectations do not actualise in exactly the way you had hoped they would. There is disturbance and interference in personal relationships when you least expect them. You may feel let down by friends or family members when you need them most. Learn a lesson from negative experiences and get on with your life. It's time to let go the past rather than cling to it and say a reverent farewell. Life is passing you by and you are in danger of missing it. Love and friendship return at the end of the week as unexpectedly as they disappeared. Lucky number: 5 Good colour: Saffron



Harry Styles

Abundance of love and friendship from people who matter makes this a special and happy week for you. You share luxury and hospitality with friends and the good things of life with loved ones. Work situations progress smoothly with a momentum of their own. Visitors and communications can be expected at the end of the week. Trust your intuition and feelings about people and situations as they will be right. It's time to express ideas, ambitions and feelings since you are seen, noted and heard. Beware of over indulgence in food or drink as you enter party zones

Lucky number: 3 Good colour: Pomegranate red



Selena Gomez

You go through a variety of experiences this week that touch you deeply and transform you. A seminar or learning and teaching program hones your skills. Superiors at work and parents at home guide and support you in the right direction, also expect a lot from you. Since you learn a valuable lesson from a personal experience there are changes in your attitudes and priorities. You are creative and leave a lasting impression in professional and personal relationships. It would be gainful to focus on practical matters like finances and business details. You resolve a family conflict with your good heart and generosity. Lucky number: 5 Good colours: Earthy browns



Good fortune and happiness are a blessing in your life this week! Exciting business and professional opportunities come from nowhere and prove to be lucrative. Breakthroughs in tough professional situations and turnarounds in personal relationships are possible now. It's best to take advantage of this lucky period to make important changes. Awareness is needed to move towards positive relationships and progressive opportunities as things happen quickly. Love, romance, party, fun, celebrations and family reunions can keep you happy and busy. Beware of emotional overreactions and over indulgence Lucky number: 10 Good colour: Royal blue



You may find yourself procrastinating and vacillating in professional and personal matters this week. You can easily get yourself down by thinking negatively and undermining your confidence. Sit up, take stock of resources and forces and make decisions in a festures and mees and make decisions in forthright manner. Act with dynamic speed and energise projects that are going through difficulty. Personal relationships may be demanding and needing your participation. Mixed feelings of failure

and success lead to inertia, be total and focused in the moment with whatever you are doing. Social obligations may have to be met this week. Lucky number: 7 Good colour: Creamy white

SAGITTARIUS

Getting a clear chit on the

as a big relief. A business partner or associate will

health front is likely to come

prove god sent for some as he/she gives

you a helping hand

to solve your financial issues.

Convincing those who matter about your ideas

at work might not get the

positive response you

Colour: Forest green

Taking up a physical activity or sport will bring your

fitness back. Undertaking something enjoyable at home is indicated

today. Your upbeat mood and a long drive will keep you

in a happy state. It

Lucky Number: 2

seems to be the best

day to buy a property.

Arguments fetch nothing. Especially, absolutely

nothing on the love front

Colour: Deep sky blue

Lucky Number: 5

CAPRICORN

TO FEED OR NOT TO FEED A STRAY!

Enough of people fighting like dogs, over dogs

A CALMER YOU

SONAL KALRA

arlier this week, the Nisarg Heaven Society in Mumbai fined a woman resident ₹3.6 lakh for feeding stray dogs in the society premises. A few days earlier, a fight between two residents of a posh Gurgaon society got ugly and physical, when one objected to the other feeding stray dogs. When the news was being narrated in the news meeting, my boss shook his head and said, "Mark my words, the next civil war will be fought between animal lovers and those who they think cause nuisance." The word play may have been extreme, but what he said understanding of a societal problem that's growing at an alarming rate. Well, just as the

Washington Post. Some colleagues asked me to not take up this topic in the column. 'Too emotional', said one. 'It's impossible to remain objective and neutral', said another. But kya hai nah, the whole point of advocating calmness is to take on genuinely stressful situations head-on. And what could be more stressful than seeing neighbours in so-called educated and posh residential areas fighting like dogs over.. well, dogs. Before I go on,

number of stray dogs in India

30 million, as per a 2016

report published in

here's a disclaimer. I am a dog lover and I have three of my own at home. Let me promise though, that it doesn't keep me from looking at both sides of this stress in a fair manner. Almost every other day, one gets to see the conflict between those whose hearts bleed for cruelty against animals, and those who feel that the animal rights janta tends to go

overboard in behaving

who said that they get

for FIRs from residents

aggressive. I spoke to a cop

countless calls and requests

fighting over dogs, pet or stray. The law in our country theoretically stands in the favour of animal welfare. The practical on-ground situation is different. A Delhi High Court judgment of 2017 says that the law does not prohibit anyone from feeding stray animals as long as those doing it ensure that they don't become a nuisance for other residents. Further, anyone trying to harm a stray animal can be charged under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, Both the above lead to a lot of complaints flying about in the police stations, but hardly form of conclusions. Because the problem has much more to do with mindset and social behaviour than what's written down in the lawbook.

I feel that in this whole debate, there are three kinds of players:

CATEGORY 1:

You are a certified animal lover. See a puppy and an awww sound involuntarily starts to emit from your mouth. You see someone mistreating a stray dog and your blood starts to boil. You'll go around putting jackets and blankets on them during winters and given a choice. turn the entire society into mini feeding booths for dogs. who are helpless, homeless and at the mercy of human beings, who don't think twice before kicking them just for some perverse pleasure.

CATEGORY 2:

You like dogs, but probably from a distance. You'll never ill-treat them but you'll also not lead a march or take up fights with insensitive neighbours everyday in trying to convert them into loving beings. You'd wish that all creatures, including stray dogs, co-exist happily with



humans. But, you'd also want safety of yourself and your loved ones, and to see your surroundings kept clean in the process of that co-existence.

CATEGORY 3:

You are the Don. Really. You hate everything that creepycrawls on four legs, creating and pooping outside your house. You have grown up on horror stories of 'stomach mein 14 injections' due to a dog bite that your 15th cousin suffered and you'll just not have yourself exposed to that threat because of some stupid dog lover who sneaks out at night to feed strays who'd be better off in some sarkari shelter, if at all alive. You can't stand the hypocrisy of dog lovers when they feel nothing for homeless human beings sleeping by the roadside, and are busy feeding an army of dogs who chase your car, barking away to glory in the middle of the night. Utter. Unadulterated.

Nuisance. The deal is that you could belong to any of the three above, and be perfectly well within your rights to do so. But life would be calmer if you are flexible, and not rigid, in trying to understand where people from the other categories stand. Here's what I want to say to each..

TO CATEGORY 1:

You guys are kind souls. It's heartening to see you stand up for the right to dignity for animals that can't fight or fend for themselves. My daughter firmly belongs to your

category. But here's what I tell her, too. If you have the love within you to feed stray dogs on the road, also have the sense of responsibility to clean up after them. Compassion can't end at putting a bowl of food at a public area, and looking the other way when you see heaps of poop on the elderly neighbours do their daily morning walk. Also, never look down or try to make villains out of people who may not feel the same love that you do, for dogs, Instead focus your energies in your area are neutered. accinated and trained for behaviour, so that they can't harm kids who have an equal right to play around their house without feeling scared

TO CATEGORY 2: Yaar, aap chaalu log ho. It's safe to be a fence sitter but the fence starts to poke after a while if you stay on it for too long, watching your neighbours fight. You have a critical role to play, in bringing about co-existence between warring factions. Speak up, and be the ones to formulate guidelines that keep the interests of both sides in mind. Tumhe toh punya milega dher saara. And by the way, pat a dog some day. They give unconditional love and loyalty. Convert ho jaoge.

TO CATEGORY 3:

Ji bhai, aap toh pehle gussa thook do. Bullying others won't do any good in life, especially when they have

know, don't you, that no law in India can forbid anyone from feeding stray dogs in public places. And that getting RWAs to issue notices and forcing security guards in the locality to hit the poor puppies would get you no legal sanction or moral support. absolutely with you in understanding the irritation that the behavior of dog lovers may be causing. You want to shout 'Itna pyaar hai toh apne ghar mein rakh lein'. But, you do know that it may not be practical. So let's think positive. Take the lead in designating a specific area in your locality where strays could be fed. Explain to a dogloving neighbour, with patience and no yelling, that it's not good to cause a mess outside your house, because you and your kids have a right to a safe, peaceful and clean existence, without having to force-feel love for another species. I'm sure they'll $understand. \, If \, they \, \dot{can} \, feel \, so$ much love and compassion for animals, they can't be insensitive and cruel to their own beings. Shayad humne kabhi pyaar se samjhaaya hi nahi Ya shayad kabhi samjhaa hi nahi.

the law on their side. You do

Sonal Kalra is going to adopt two more dogs, soon. She'll be thrown out of her house after that. Somebody please adopt her. Mail your feedback to **sonal.kalra**@ hindustantimes.com or facebook.com/sonal.kalra. Follow on Twitter

@sonalkalra.

Dr Prem Kr. Sharma, Astrologer & vaastu expert
Can be contacted at: Delhi: 91-11-26449898, 26489899 (Sat to Mon): Panchkula: 91-172-2562832, 2572874 (Tues to Thurs); Mumbai: 09223376963 (Last week of every month)

ARIES

You need to put some more effort to be able to give a good account of yourself through your ability to impress others. You will be able to carry through a property project. Your enthusiasm about your relationship is likely to encourage your partner. He/she may have special plans for the day, so pace your day accordingly. Lucky Number: 2

TAURUS

Health keeps you content as you maintain a regular fitness regime. You may remain mentally preoccupied today due to professional commitments. Celebrating an event together with family and friends is very much on the cards. Don't lose heart if its taking longer to gain stability in your romantic relationship. Lucky Number: 22 Colour: Electric grey

GEMINI

minor tiffs today, so be careful. You will be able to make good decisions on the financial front. Your cooperating nature helps binding every family member and making you the apple of their eye. It is time to give a serious thought to someone vou have been admiring, to take the relation forward. Lucky Number: 7 Colour: Pink

CANCER

Don't try to wallow in make believe ailments as your health turns out to be excellent. You will enjoy an unwavering focus at work today. Your interfering nature can get you on the wrong side of a family member. Take some time out for yourself and the one you like since stars promise an enjoyable time today. Lucky Number: 11 Colour: Brown

A profitable day is foreseen as far as your finances are concerned. Luck shines on those searching for a suitable job. Your enthusiasm for work is contagious and will help make a lot of friends at work place. Your mood might get spoilt as you try to manage some important task at the domestic front. Lucky Number: 15 Colour: Crimson

VIRGO

Health remains good. Your investments might not hit the bullseye. You will have to be more patient for the funds to multiply. Don't be argumentative at work as this can go against you.Meeting friends and enjoying a trip together is indicated. Your romantic overtures are likely to take some time to get approval. Lucky Number: 3

LIBRA professional front show all signs of succeeding. You can be rushed into completing an assignment at work and you will be successful. It seems not a good day for any property related discussions. Someone is likely to reciprocate your romantic aspirations, so get set for a great time. **Lucky Number: 4** Colour: Light blue

SCORPIO

You are likely to remain preoccupied with health concerns today. Be careful when dealing with a co-worker about an important task as it may not be done well. You will fare much better in a property deal if you don't play for shortterm gains. It seems to be a good day to muster courage to approach love interest Lucky Number: 1 Colour: Light brown

AQUARIUS Eating heavy and oily food

can cause problems on the health front. Your work is likely to speak for itself and impress the boss It is better to stay away from behind the wheel as indicated in your travel cards today. Weigh what you speak today or you may be misunderstood on the love Lucky Number: 3

PISCES

A diet plan adopted might not suit you. Confusion car prevail over some financial issue and require time to sort out. You may miss a chance to meet someone you admire and feel disappointed, Delay can let slip a good deal in the property business. Your heart knows whether you are in love or not. No point doubting it. Lucky Number: 1 Colour: Parrot green

To get your daily horoscope sms "<first three letters of your sunsign>" (e.g. For Virgo, sms "VIR; For Aries, sms "ARI") to 54242 or log onto www.hindustantimes.com/astro

Entertainment & Promotional Features

Beat summer woes

with chef Sokhi

brought along hot, sunny days with ever-soaring temperatures. The scorching summer heat drains the body of water and makes us dehydrated, which increases

And to find out some of the best ways to beat the heat, we spoke to chef Harpal Singh Sokhi, known for his popular catchphrase 'Namak Shamak Dal Dete Hain', and also a believer in there being no better source of happiness than food. In addition to sharing what one must avoid to keep summer problems at bay, he also gave us a sneak-

peek into his life.
"The best way is obviously to consume a lot of water or food with a lot of water content. We should include fruits such as watermelons, citrus fruits, banana, mangoes, which keep the body hydrated. In vegetables, we must have lauki (bottle gourd), green leafy vegetables cucumber, gooseberry, tomatoes, and vegetables that are juicy in nature. Coconut water and eating coconut in any form is also recommended," he says.

Talking about the no-nos, Sokhi adds, "Avoid deep fried foods or those that have high oil content as fats do not dissolve as easily in summers as compared to winters. The foods that we eat should also be moderately spicy as eating highly spicy foods creates heat in the abdomen. Foods high in protein should also be

down in summers."
The Kharagpur-born Sokhi's journey started with helping out his mother in the kitchen. His brother who motivated him to pursue hotel undertook in Bhubaneswar He says, "I took up my first job in Oberoi 's Bhubneshwar, then travelled to Mumbai and worked in many five-stars. My food journey changed when I moved from a five star to a restaurant called Vintage in Mumbai in 1993. I joined as executive chef of this Hyderabadi and western cuisine restaurant. Here, we had a Hyderabadi ustaad — Habib pasha — who used to have his own secret spice blends and he would not teach anyone. I was determined to explore the techniques and blends that would create amazing recipes.'

And after months of persuasion, Sokhi adds 'One day, I decided to do something about it that acted as a fire to my hunger for knowledge on Indian food and exploring deeper, which took me to Hyderabad. There I learnt that Indian cuisine is all about right blend of herbs and spices and that every recine has to be treated individually. I learnt more traditional recipes with visits to Lucknow, Banaras and

Talking about his energy and sense of delight in the kitchen, he says, "It is said in



our consciousness in the food we cook. The consciousness of the cook affects the one

If one cooks with happiness then the one eating will feel satisfied. Taking this thought

monotonous cooking shows, I thought about bringing in energy, fun and happiness into the kitchen."

A jugalbandi of sounds at this folk music event



Dancers from the Khatu Sapera family will perform the folk dances of

Ghoomar and Kalbelia (left). Singers Gafur Khan and Kutle Khan

usic lovers, unite!
A concert is bringing tunes and melodies from the folk tradition of Rajasthan to the heart of the Capital. Called Sounds from the Desert the 90-minute event organised by ShowCase Events in association with Hindustan Times, brings together legendary music families from across Rajasthan such as the Solankis from Pushkar and the Langas of Barmer, along with

other musicians from the state. The stage will come alive with an electrifying jugalbandi $musical\,in struments, with\,the$ drums, the guitar and the keyboard playing with the kamaicha, the khartal, the nagada, the sarangi — not to forget a ghoomar performance. Among artists participating in this eclectic fusion are Darre Khan, whose father, the late Padma Shri Sakar Khan, took the khamaicha to a global audience; singer Gafur Khan who is nothing short of a rock star on the khartal and the morchang, and Magda Khan who will amp up the tempo with his dholak

Curator of the show Atul



Nathulal Solanki of the Solankis

Churamani shares that the aim of the festival is to keep this culture alive

Green Park on Yellow Line

Where: Siri Fort

When: April 26 Timing: 7.30pm Nearest Metro Station:

When you think of Thar desert, you think of Rajasthan Rajasthan and its music is synonymous with the desert. This is why we have called it Sounds from the Desert. The whole focus was to bring an audience that may not have seen it," he says. "The audience needs to see and hear instruments like the khartal, the bhapang and the

morchang," adds Churamani. Also playing the khartal and singing songs such as Kesariya Balam Padharo Mhare Desh, Bole Toh Mitho Lage and Chap Tilak, will be folk singer Kutle Khan. "Guitar ke saath sarangi bai rahi hai, morchang bai raha hai. We are very excited to take the act to the Delhi audience. I love Delhi's audience, woh sur taal samajhti hai," Khan says



A member of the Langa music family of Barmer





SPECIAL



MUSIC IS THE FOOD OF LOVE

Saints N Sinners has amped up the music scene in Gurugram through curated music events, with the annual festival, November Rain - The Happy High Music Fest being the most popular. Visit: Saints N Sinners, Global Foyer, Golf Course Road, Gurugram

EXHIBITION



ENJOY

A group show of artworks by contemporary artists at Chawla Art Gallery, Square One Mall, Saket. 11am to 7pm. Till May 31.

A BRUSH WITH NATURE

Art exhibition showcasing the recent work of Kajal Nalwa at Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, 11am to 8pm.

LISTEN

ABHISARIKA

Solo exhibition by National

Scholarship awardee artist Sukanta Das at Lalit Kala Akademi, Rabindra Bhavan,

35, Ferozeshah Road. 10am

to 7pm. Till April 26.



STANDUP COMEDY

Open mic standup comic acts in English by Anubhav Singh Bassi at The Piano Man Jazz Club, B 6-7/22, Safdarjung Enclave Market. 5pm to 6.30pm.

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Performance by Mostly Candid at Saints N Sinners, GF-21, Global Foyer, Golf Course Road, Sector 43, Gurugram. 12.30pm to

For any further queries, contact: 011-66561415

E-WATCH **GUIDE**



OF SABRINA

2018 | 16+ | 2 Seasons | Series





2019 |16+ | Short Stories

DIL HI TOH HAI

2018 | 18+ | 2 Seasons

hotstar 💸

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

2019 | 18+ | Season 1

FLIP



Starring: Kiernan Shipka, Ross Lynch, Miranda Otto **Synopsis:** Magic and mischief collide as half-human, halfwitch Sabrina navigates between two worlds: mortal teen life and her family's legacy, the Church of Night.



EDITOR'S PICK

> **Starring:** Mireille Enos, Joel Kinnaman, Esme Creed-Miles Synopsis: An extraordinary young girl raised in the forest evades the relentless pursuit of an off-book CIA agent and tries to unearth her truth



Starring: Sandeepa Dhar, Shweta Gulati, Ranvir Shorey Synopsis: A series of four short stories about occurrences that cause a 180 degree turnaround in the lives of the people inhabiting that tale.



Starring: Karan Kundrra, Yogita Bihani, Akshay Dogra Synopsis: Rithwik's life revolves around work and family, leaving no room for love. Will a perfect son always stay perfect?



Starring: Vikrant Massey, Pankaj Tripathi, Madhurima Roy Synopsis: Aditya, when he wakes up with blood on his hands after a one-night stand The evidence is stacked against him. Is he guilty or not?

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9X9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

ЗОГПІІОИ ЗПРОКП

DID YOU

KNOW?

Having a difficult time

in Pehla Nasha, Farah

Khan decided to get a studio fan and make

Pooja stand on the car

and blow on her dress.

making Pooja Bedi dance

MOVIES ON**⊳TV**





D: Game

1300 Ocean's Eight

1903 Justice League

Fallout 2353 Charlie And The Chocolate Factory

2112 Mission: Impossible

1355 Amar Akbar Anthony

1720 Super Hero Shehanshah

Over

1506 Geostorm

1703 S.W.A.T

UIV

0842 Ice Age: The Meltdown 1030 The Boss Baby 1222 Thor: Ragnarok 1458 Avengers: Infinity War 2100 Avengers: Infinity War





0821 Fukrey Returns **1116** Journey to 2.0 **1145** 2.0

1450 Satyamev Jayate

1738 Holiday: A Soldier is Never Off Duty 2100 Baaghi

2353 Daring Mard



Blood Diamond at 1540 0917 Take the Lead 1116 Enemy at the Gates 1322 The Prestige

1540 Blood Diamond 1759 My Lucky Stars 1925 A Cindrella Story 2101 Rush Hour

2243 Fool's Gold

Opictures



1033 A Flying Jatt 1351 Welcome Back 1659 Dilwale 2000 Businessman 2 2300 Kung Fu Yoga

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY LEVEL ***

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

CALVIN AND HOBBES

Bill Watterson









Saturn, reminder of past life karma

reputation of being tolerant.

understand is that the free

horoscope. Lord Brahma, by the placement of Saturn in

each house, tries to foretell

health problems. Hence, the

of Saturn delays and creates

obstacles in projects, which

means that no work should be

undertaken without planning It also gives the native bad

and what traits are to be

adversely placed in a

our present life horoscopes is based on our past life karma. Lord Brahma has meticulously penned your horoscope. which usually tends to follow the same path as in the previous births with a difference of your free will. This free will helps you to correct your karma by positively influencing the planets. However, we forget that it must be done by us and not by the almighty. The most troublesome planet is the karmic planet of 'Shani' or Saturn. Associated with death, fate and grief, Saturn is often described as malefic and inauspicious. The placement of Saturn in the horoscope tells tales about our positive and negative encounter in life. Hence, it becomes our prime duty to negate the negativity and increase the positivity of Saturn by understanding it. However, Saturn is a blessing when placed well in a horoscope; the person is a thinker, who speaks infrequently. His behaviour is logical and well-planned. He

is hard-working and speaks on any subject only after

properly thinking about it.

His dealings are transparent, especially, when it comes to



morals, but with the aid of spent comfortably. He is gainfully employed and known to be a diligent worker. free will the native can effectively shun this habit, or it will ruin the career. He is accommodating in all aspects of life and enjoys the A well-deciphered horoscope that has Saturn in the first house tell volumes about a The most important thing to failed partnership, falling from high positions, suffering can increase this positive side of Saturn, even if it is deception etc. All these traits can be read beforehand, and the native could be asked to mend their ways to achieve success. Likewise, a detailed study of this karmic planet what traits are to be restricted in different houses could be enhanced. For example: Saturn in the first house gives The author of this article Dr Vinay Bajrangi, is a PhD native should take good care of his health. This placement

scholar in astrology. Website: www.vinaybajrangi.com, call: 9278665588, 9278555588.

Disclaimer: The veracity of any claims made in the above article is the sole responsibility of the concerned entity.

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to bring a good change in the present circumstances.

opportunities in 2020 that may not When will I get a Government job?

job seem to be quite high. Its strong materialisation seems to be from August 18, 2018, to August 17, 2019. Wearing emerald and turquoise will help in bringing good luck to you.

Possibility of you getting married seems to be from September 18, 2020, to September 17, 2022. Its fast results on the marriage front

child is much indicated in your birth chart. It is just delayed but not denied. Wear emerald and turquoise to yield good results in your life.

When will my married life be happy and peaceful?

Sonakshi, Ambala would require careful and prudent

handling to lead a smooth married life. Time seems to be more tumultuous till September 27, 2020 Wear yellow sapphire and red coral

When will my financial problems financial prospects?

You are in the main period of Rahu, which is not well-positioned in the horoscope, and might not yield satisfactory results till its expiry. However, things would improve from July 2020 to July 2022. Good future is in store for you and you will be very well-off financially. Test out blue sapphire.

When my daughter will get married? Rachna, Meerut

The probability of getting her married looks to be from July 19, 2020 to July 16 2022 Its strong later part of 2021 or early part of 2022. She should wear white sapphire to speed up the process of marriage and to yield good results

When will I get settled and will I be into business or job?

Vikrant Chaudhary, New Delhi Life would remain full of struggle for another couple of years. Things would start taking shape on the career front from November 9, 2020, to November 6, 2022. Eventually, you will jump in to your own business, where you will perform well. Wearing white sapphire and red coral would bring prosperity.

DENNIS THE MENNACE



HEATHCLIFF George Gately



PEANUTS



SOOD-NIBIT

FREND















What will be my career? Rohit, New Delhi

Yours is a foreign linked horoscope and, hence, I foresee your permanent settlement overseas You will enjoy good career prospects. White sapphire would prove to be lucky for you.

When will I go abroad for a desired Prashant Grover Faridahad

Possibility of going abroad is much indicated in your birth chart. However, you need to strive a lot for all this. Even then its materialisation appears to be from October 25, 2019 to October 24, 2021. Especially, 2020 seems to be significant for this goal.

When will I get settled in my married life and when will I come out of depression?

Nidhi. New Delhi Time is not satisfactory for another few years and, especially till August 24, 2021. Things will improve after that. However, good family settlement seems to be from October 29, 2019, to October 28 2020. Wear yellow sapphire to mitigate the evil effects of the planets and to experience good

What are my career prospects? How successful will be my married life? Tarun, Gurugram

Your married life will be good Professionally and financially you will have a very sound and astounding graph. Things would start taking a shape after November 2020. Wear white sapphire and pearls for good luck and prosperity.

When will I get a good job and when Rakesh, Saharanpur

Possibility of you getting married seems to be either in the age of 25 or when you turn 28. Time is not satisfactory till November 2019. However, you will get new work be up to the mark. You should wear emerald and turquoise for good luck

Rajat, New Delhi

Chances of getting a government

When will I get married? Sangeeta, Gurugram

strong materialisation seems to be in the later part of 2021. White sapphire and red coral would bring

Will I ever be blessed with a son? Aarti, Dehradun Possibility of being blessed with the

Your marital front is not at ease and

An eve of cricket and chill

the world of cricket got together in the Capital to celebrate cricketer KL Rahul's birthday at **Town Hall** recently. Hosted by KL Rahul, the fun evening saw his friends and

colleagues turn up in high numbers and revel the night. The venue, known for its lip-smacking sushi, wood-fired pizzas, dim sums and other favourites, lived up to its reputation.

Team owners Preity G Zinta and Mohit Burman were seen enjoying some time off from the gruelling schedule of the



Left: KL Rahul and Chris Gayle; Above: Hardik



EXPLORING

VARIOUS



What: On The Threshold of Time, an exhibition

On till: May 4 Timings: 11am to 8pm Nearest Metro Station: Mandi House on the



Right: Home Restoration; Far right: Invisible Poison

Ruchika Garg

n exhibition titled On The Threshold of Time delves into the relationship between an urban lifestyle and its impact on people. Various artists, photographers and print makers have worked around the show's theme, Urbania, to show how individuals absorb or are swayed by a city's influence. What strikes the viewer is how a sense of isolation in an urban setting engulfs many despite being surrounded by people.

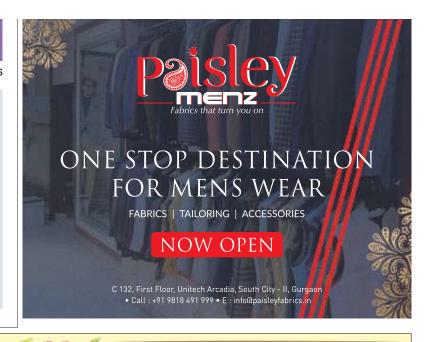
The exhibition, organised by Art Heritage, has fresh works by budding artists. Tariq Allana of the gallery, says, "We present the artworks of emerging artists from across the country Participating artist Pratap

Poison, says, "I have been living in Delhi for the last 24 life in Delhi. The rush on roads, the thoughts in mind while travelling and a daily routine in the most polluted city — that is what my artwork is all about."

Chandra says, "My artwork, an acrylic on canvas, shows an apartment with a sewing machine on top. Few years back when I shifted to an apartment, I felt that even after staying under one roof, we all deal with different issues. And someone or the other always helps us to sort out these problems. The hand of the sewing machine that is stitching the apartment, represents that help."

Artist, Preya Bhagat whose artwork is called The Invisible years and my artwork depicts ruchika.garg@hindustantimes.cor







20th & 21st April 2019 11am-8 pm

Hotel Courtyard by Marriott Gurugram

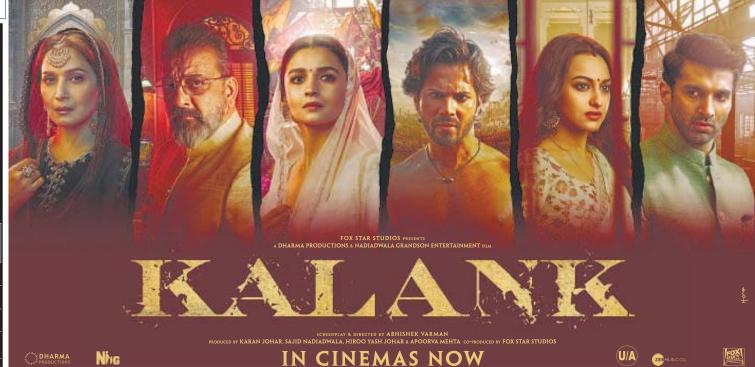
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ME WITNESS



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Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram Near Moolchand, Crossing, Delhi

aster is celebrated every vear as a remembrance of Christ's resurrection from the dead. The festival, which marks the Christ rising from the dead, is celebrated as a day of revival and rejuvenation. The day calls for rejoicing, enjoying a delicious spread and spending time with family. And another important element of the day is the Easter egg. The story goes that it represents Christ's emergence from the tomb. Decorating eggs as a tradition dates back to the 13th century. It also has a symbolic relevance, because eggs were forbidden food during the lent (40 days prior) period and people would paint and decorate them to mark the end of the period of penance and fasting and eat them after, on

Easter as a celebration. Chef Amit Sharma says "The eggs are an age-old custom for gifting. Hard-boiled eggs are painted and were given as gifts in the earliest days. Some traditions include dyed chicken eggs. There's also the myth of Easter bunny eggs are hidden by the bunny for kids to find on Easter morning, Easter eggs are also placed on a basket with straw to resemble a bird's

In recent times, gifting chocolate, filled eggs or fancy large eggs with sweets inside are rampant. Most people splurge on Easter as it comes

MARZIPAN EASTER EGGS

Ingredients:

■ 250gm almonds, 250gm sugar, 200 gm icing sugar, 2 egg whites, 1tsp rose water for grinding, ¼tsp almond

Grind the almonds with the egg whites and rose water into a smooth paste.

right after a season of lent which is a solemn observation. Restaurateur Manish Khanna says, "In olden times, the eggs were painted red to represent the blood of Christ that was shed on the cross. The eggs would be blessed by the priests and then they would be distributed to the people. The hard shell of the Easter eggs represents the sealed tomb of Jesus and cracking the shell represented the resurrection from the dead, of the lord,'

Transfer the paste into a heavy-bottomed pan and add the sugar. Cook on a low heat, stirring all the time, until the mixture forms a ball. Divide the mixture into 10 even-sized balls and mould into egg shapes. Decorate with a rich icing

Recipe by chef and

EASTER EGG VARIATIONS The most popular form

of Easter eggs is made of chocolate and candy. The outer shell of the egg is made of decadent chocolate and can be filled with various candy, mousse, silky ganache or brownie. Sharma adds, "Another egg variation we have tried recently is Easter eggs made of cheese. This is made of herbed cream cheese, an in-house recipe that has also been a favourite. Thankfully, cream cheese has a soft, creamy spreadable and very easy to

Talking about the same,

chef Aabhas Mehrotra adds. "Coming from an Italian kitchen, it does not have to be too literal, but can be something fun with ingredients which can be shaped into or have a similar shape to an egg, for example burrata cheese with its shape. Khanna adds, "These days egg variations could be made from marzipan or chocolates as they are tasty and these flavours are more universal and hence widely accepted by public. With the availability of flavoured chocolate like

even eggs made from these chocolates are very popular." Entrepreneur and restaurateur Rachel Goenka shares that Easter cake pops can also be made using cake and ganache mixed together

orange, strawberry, caramel,

SAVOURY TWISTS

This Easter, ensure your Easter basket is full of joy, happiness and a lot of pretty Easter eggs. Make some of the prettiest eggs with easily available ingredients in the kitchen. Entreprenuer Avani Davda suggests experiments with eggs of chicken, quail, duck and so on. Here we share some do-it-yourself tricks we have up our

MARBLE EGGS

All you need for this is whipped cream, food colours f your choice, white vinegar and hard boiled eggs waiting to be marvelled. Thaw the dish and swirl the colours

OREO CRUNCHY EASTER EGGS

Ingredients: ■ 200 gm chocolate, 50 gm Oreo cookies, 30 gm butterscotch, chocolate Easter egg mould or a bunny mould

Method: ■ Melt chocolate in a microwave and stir it till smooth. Mix in crushed Oreo and butterscotch, pour in moulds and set in fridge for 10 to 15 minutes.

Remove, unmould and eniov the chocolate or marzipan Easter eggs

Recipe by restaurateur Manish Khanna

using a toothpick or a knife. Soak the hard boiled eggs in vinegar for 10 minutes, this allows the eggs to absorb the colour. Remove the eggs from vinegar and pat them dry. Then cover them in the mixture and let them sit for at least 20 minutes. Remove the excess by gently placing the eggs in a bowl of water. Pat dry and allow to dry completely.

PASTEL EGGS

Bring out your colour pots and paint your favourite patterns. If you would like to go the

Gradually beat in icing sugar and cracker crumbs. Shape mixture into 16 eggs; place on waxed paper lined baking sheets. 225gm creamy peanut

HINDUSTAN TIMES, NEW DELHI/GURUGRAM SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2019

EGG VARIATIONS

■ Rice-dyed eggs: Simply add food colour to rice and mix it with the eggs ■ For a quirky Easter egg

with colours, one can boil the eggs with silk ties - the design gets printed on the eggs and is ready within minutes

Natural colours can be used as well, such as that from blueberries. Eggs

can be left to soak overnight in the fridge for rich

butter, 115gm butter, softened, 1/2 tsp vanilla extract. 300gm icing sugar 1 cup graham cracker crumbs 250gm dark chocolate chips lcing sugar and sprinkles, optional for decoration

Method: ■ In a large bowl, beat peanut butter, butter

natural way, use spices or

vegetable dyes for an organic

natural yellow dye, boil water

with distilled white vinegar and turmeric. After this, add

the eggs in this and let them

feel. For example to get a

and vanilla, until they

PEANUT BUTTER

EASTER EGGS

eggs to baking sheets. Refrigerate 30 minutes. ■ If desired, decorate eggs with icing and sprinkles. Let stand until set. Store in airtight containers in refrigerator.

are well blended

Refrigerate for 30 minutes

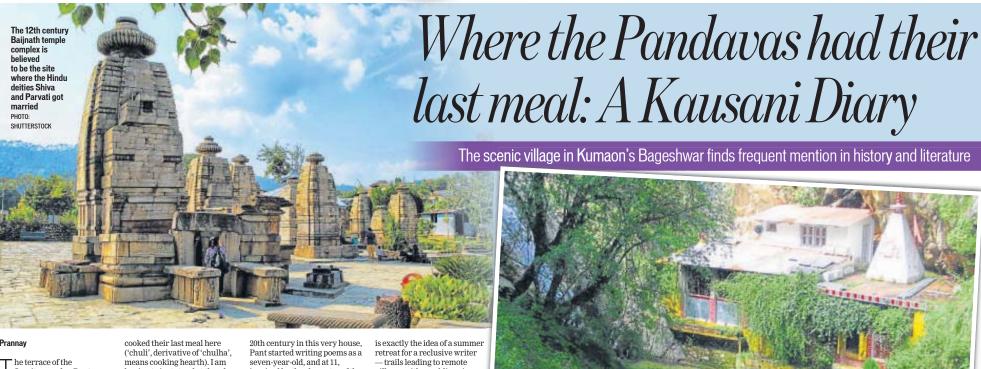
until smooth. Dip eggs in chocolate mixture; allow

excess to drip off. Return

or until firm. In a microwave, melt chocolate chips; stir

Recipe by restaurateur Amit Sharma

steep for at least 30 minutes and up to three hours as per the desired intensity of the colour. Swap the turmeric for red cabbage to get a



he terrace of the Sumitranandan Pant like the ocean under the clear sky. Lodged in the heart of an uninspiring assortment of shops up a slope, the sprawling bungalow is the birthplace of the Hindi poet. The walls and the terrace are all stone, the mountains far beyond all snow In front of me, miles away,

are the Panchachulis - the formidable five of the Kumaon all of which stretch over six thousand metres high. The Mahabharata famously records the Pandavas as having transcended to heaven having



('chuli', derivative of 'chulha' hoping to just stand at the edge parapet and take in the view. I am hoping to take in boughs laden with the peach flower an indigenous lookalike of the sakura — in the valley below.

But the museum docent gets up and motions for us to move inside. He shifts from one room to another, pointing to verses hand-painted on cards placed over switchboards, and to photographs that go back to Pant's poet friends Hariyansh Rai Bachchan and Ramdhari Singh Dinkar. We are shown the room the poet was born in, items from his attire, and an old writing table and lamp.

Named Gusain Dutt when he was born to a well-to-do tea

not your everyday hill station in the way of a Mussoorie or a Manali, with their fancy souvenir shops and mall roads Not much of colonial-era architecture in the town proper, either. Cafés are still a long way off. Also, this is decidedly not the best time to visit, but looking for a hill station in Kausani can be a mistake, Lying 50 kilometres further of the colourful, bustling, gorgeous (but also fast urbanising) Almora, it has lived for ages under the rock

the Ramayana, gave himself

In much the same way one

the name Sumitranandan.

discovers that Kausani, too,

once called the place the

trappings of which I have

grown especially wary to

thanks to its proliferating

usage in our times.

Switzerland of India, a title the

The reason is that Kausani is

called Nainital. That is why it must be cherished as a relic of history, of mythology, of literature. The Beat poets Allen Ginsberg and Gary Snyder journeyed here in the 1960s, and it was here that Mahatma Gandhi wrote his Anasakti Yoga. In fact, Kausani

retreat for a reclusive writer
— trails leading to remote inspired by the character of the villages with sparkling rice to return the glow of the sun; a curious little observatory up on the way to the historical Anasakti Ashram; seems to have given up every clichéd sobriquet bestowed upon it ever. Mahatma Gandhi and a hotel room that affords a view of mountain peaks

swathed in snow. There is also the Bajinath temple complex, 15 kilometres from the town centre. Built in the 12th century on the banks of the river Gomti, the complex houses idols of the gods Shiva and his wife Parvati, their son, Ganesha: the god of wealth. Kuber; and the Sun god. One can also hike to the rewarding sight of the Rudhradhari temple (said to have been established by a mystic).

PLAN YOUR TRIP

■ When to visit: March to June and September to November are the best times. Avoid during festivals

■ Getting there: Kathgodam is the nearest railhead (65km). Take a private cab from here. Or book a bus from Delhi Kashmere Gate ISBT to Haldwani, where cabs (shared or private) to Kausani can be arranged. Make a day-long stopover in the scenic **Almora** that falls on the way.

And yet, there's more Kausani's famed tea gardens and shawl factory lie next to each other at the side of the road, five kilometres from the town centre. The extended bunch of shops adjacent to the shawl factory include a pretty woollen emporium and a kiosk selling spices and herbs. Shawls, scarves, stoles, rugs blankets and other woollens hang everywhere inside the shop. Run your fingers over the fine specimens, wonder at the

Road route: Delhi-Ghaziabad-Pilkhuwa-Hapur- Garhganga-Moradabad-Rampur-Rudrapur-Haldwani-Bhimtal-Almora-Someshwar

■ Where to stay: Most of the hotels are clumped together near the Anasakti Ashram. The Buransh, Hotel Chevron Mountain Villa, Hotel Sagar and Krishna Mountview and the KMVN Tourist Rest House are good options for different budgets.

stellar craftsmanship, and shop with abandon. Then go ahead and pick up herbs, spices, and lentils, and a bottle of buransh squash from the kiosk.

Almost nobody talks of food when they talk of the mountains, except for the clichéd trinity of Maggi, momos and chai. Local eateries serve some divine rice and dal laced with dollops of fragrant ghee. A restaurant close to the tea estate has on offer mandwa rotis (crispy, nutritious millet bread), vadi (sova chunks) ki sabzi and bhatt dal (black soyabean). The town square has a clump of eateries with Gujarati breakfast specials. In the Garur market, that is a ten-minute drive from here the street is lined with chai dhabas and joints selling spicy momos and chowmein. The chutney here will draw smoke out of your ears but the milky tea will

soothe your charred palate. The charming old shanty adjacent to the woollens shop serves both chai and buransh juice. The latter (rhododendron squash), a sweet, red concoction with a fruity scent,

is said to cure stomachaches and even help in heart ailments. But does one really care about the health benefits of something that tastes this

good? Anyway, back to our final course at the museum tour, we are escorted into Pant's library. Old-style book racks are set against all its walls like loval courtiers, with their arms crossed and gaze set upon a dais covered in a damp red dhurrie. The titles include the best of the literary movement of Chhayawad, books on law and books on European theatre. including one on Konstantin Stanislavski, After a brief chat with the guide, we take one

last look at the and step out for a plate of spicy momos.

Above: The Rudhradhari temple and falls. Nestled among caves and waterfalls, it is said to have been established by a mystic



The inside of a tea shop near the

'ALL OF TAGORE'S SONGS HAVE A DEEPER

MEANING'

Singer Rekha Bhardwaj finds a Sufi connect in Rabindra Sangeet

ith songs such as Namak (Omkara, 2006), Ghagra and Kabira (Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani, 2013) and Judaai (Badlapur, 2015) to her credit, Rekha Bhardwai has come a long way since her debut in 1997 as a playback singer with Chachi 420. Apart from her work in mainstream film industry, the National Award winning singer is also known for her independent tracks and albums. Born and brought up in the Capital, Rekha was initiated into the world of classical music and literary influences very early in life.

And talking about her understanding of Rabindra Sangeet, she says that there is a lot of in-depth meaning in Tagore's poems and songs. "Each time I prepare a new song Lam amazed by his work All the songs have a deeper meaning to it. For instance, if he is talking about rains, it is not just rains that he is focusing on. He talks about a lot

of other things too," she says Bhardwaj, who is married to lyricist-filmmaker-composer Vishal Bhardwaj, has earlier shared that her upbringing had a lot of influences from Bengali art and culture.

"Another thing that I really

like about Rabindra Sangeet is that even though he wrote in Bengali, his songs also have a very close relation to Sufi music," says Bhardwaj, who, in 2016, brought out her album of the bard's songs, called Tagore and We 3, also featuring singer Sraboni Sen.

Elaborating on the connection between Rabindra Sangeet and Sufi music, she says, "A lot of his work is for the beloved, which is considered to be the God in this case. This is the same in Sufi."

The Hamari Atariya (Dedh Ishqiya, 2013) and Genda Phool (Delhi 6, 2009) singer adds, "Any love poem in Sufi — be it about longing, separation or togetherness, it is all dedicated to the beloved, who is also considered to be the god.

If Tagore's talking about rains, it is not just the rains that he is focusing on. He talks about a lot of other things too. I am amazed by his work. **REKHA BHARDWAJ, SINGER**





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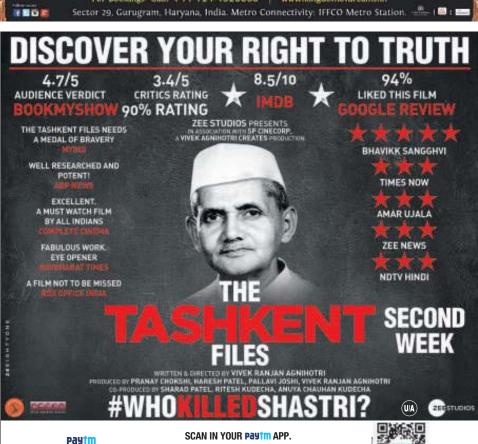
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ctor Anthony Rapp says he was inspired to speak out against actor Kevin Spacey after he read actor Lupita Nyong'o's moving first person account

about Harvey Weinstein. Weinstein, once a powerful Hollywood producer, fell spectacularly from grace after multiple women, including actors Gwyneth Paltrow, Salma Hayek, Angelina Jolie and Nyong'o, came forward to allege him of sexual harassment. Allegations against Weinstein sparked the Hollywood, inspiring others to share their stories of sexual harassment. Rapp, who was first to speak out against Spacey, says he was initially not sure about coming forward but once he read the account by Nyong'o, he changed his

"I was following along with the Harvey Weinstein stories to some degree, but I wasn't, like, diving into them. ... And I hadn't yet really made the connection for myself. Lupita

about her experience with Harvey. And as they go, she was pretty fortunate in that she was able to avoid the worst of it, but she wrote so beautifully and eloquently about what experience was like for her... Coupled with it was the knowledge that that had been going on for decades to so many people, and that I knew for a fact several people in my own circle who had had experiences with Kevin Spacey, that it was like that was when the penny dropped, and I had to do something. It wasn't about my own experience, it really was not about airing out my own laundry... I thought that would be the only way that we could stop him," Rapp said on a podcast.

Other people soon came forward against Spacey, leading to the him being kicked out of House of Cards and All the Money in the World. Rapp says he is happy that Spacey is no longer in the position to abuse others. "He won't be in a position of



catapulted her to PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/

One Killed Jessica (2011) and PK (2014),

Maanvi Gagroo went to do web shows which

Istruggled to break the stereotype: Maanvi Gagroo

he instant fame and recognition one gets from the web has changed the lives of many actors who were struggling to get significant roles in films. And so is the case with actor Maanvi Gagroo, who after playing minor roles in No One Killed Jessica (2011) and PK (2014), made a shift to web and became one of the first female stars of the digital platform.

"I don't think there is a single actor who doesn't want to do films. But the kind of roles I was getting were the ones that I didn't want to do for various reasons. There is a lot of stereotyping as well that happens as per your looks and the roles you played in the past," Maanvi says.

It was a constant struggle for her to break the stereotype due to her being overweight and chirpy. "As an actor, we go through different phases of struggle. Sometimes it is about finding the right kind of work sometimes to say no to the kind of work you don't want to do. The struggle is to break out from whatever you think isn't working for you. There are

Samarth Goyal

work and a lot of stuff happening, so the struggle is to maintain your sanity and keep vourself rooted "she says

For her, working on TV was never an option as she couldn't connect with the TV's style of storytelling. "It was a conscious choice to stay away from TV because the kind of content that was on TV, I couldn't connect to and personally didn't want to be a part of," she explains.

It was then that the digital platform became the stepping stone for budding artists like her to carve a niche for themselves. "There is so much of variety and a whole gamut of different topics that people are thinking to get their teeth into. It's a great thing to be busy and to be able to harness whatever you have been wanting to show for such a long time," Maanvi says. She adds, "As you grow in

your personal life and the kind of experiences you have had working on different roles and with different people, you are bound to evolve and it's bound to show in your performance as

Musicians will inger Jubin Nautiyal feels that the future will be better for musicians, become bigger thanks to the umpteen platforms available in the virtual world. "I am sure that right now many musicians can foresee a sort of money issue (in terms of revenue than actors: from streaming platforms), but I have a very different prediction about the Jubin Nautiyal Singer Jubin Nautiyal's single Chitthi has crossed the 27 million mark on YouTube

release on YouTube The 29-year-old isn't And Jubin feels the day he

future of the music industry," says Jubin. "I think the internet is going to become even higger than what it is right now When that happens, this country will have multiple mega stars [from the music industry]. In about five years I think that musicians will become really big stars, so much so that they might get bigger than acting celebrities," gushes Jubin,

who recently released his independent single Chitthi, which has crossed 27 million hits ever since its

making a prediction "just like that" and feels there are many reasons why he feels his prediction will be correct. "I think right now we are using only 30% of the internet. Once it gets bigger then imagine [its impact, as] we are a country of 1.3 billion people, We (musicians) will have that many listeners, who will have access to internet, and will listen to music," he says.

envisions is not far. "Even now, we are getting a bigger reach, and touching more lives (with our music). We have more fans, we are making more music and more music is being consumed right now. That's why, according to me, we are going to be in a very good place in the future There is going to be everything for everyone," he concludes.

I am not one of those actors who stepped into films through TV, says Chahat Khanna



issing from showbiz for some time now, actor Chahat Khanna is raring to get back into the groove. She has signed the Bollywood film Prasthaanam, in which she plays actor Sanjay Dutt's daughter.

On what her role is all about, she tells us, "It's one of the most important characters in the film. Manisha (Koirala, actor) is playing an important character, and so is (actor) Ali The film revolves around all of us. It's a big-budget political drama that will release this summer. Our fingers are

Currently, Chahat is juggling a lot of things, apart from this film, such as "being an entrepreneur", and also taking care of her two daughters, Zohar and Amaira. Doesn't it get tough managing all these things as a single

mother? "It's very difficult. But my elder daughter is a big helping hand. She's two-and-a-half, and Amaira is one-and-ahalf It gets tough at times and I feel I can't do this. But it's all happening, Unless someone asks me the question how difficult it is, I don't realise it, says Chahat.

The actor shot to fame with the show Bade Achhe Lagte Hain but left the show midway due to personal reasons. On whether she is looking forward to get back into TV was my decision. I can't say that I don't want to do TV. It has given me all the fame I have currently I can't think about not doing TV at all. I don't want to be called the film star who stepped into films after using TV as a stepping stone. I am not one of them. Why can't I do films, ads, and TV all together?

Joel Edgerton to star in a web drama

Edgerton has boarded the cast of Barry Jenkins' web series The Underground Railroad. The 44-year-old joins actors Thuso Mbedu, Chase W Dillon and Aaron Pierre in the project, which is an adaptation of Colson Whitehead's book of the same name, according to

The 11-episode series will follow young Cora's (Mbedu) journey as she makes a desperate bid for freedom.

After escaping her Georgia plantation for the rumoured Underground Railroad, Cora discovers no mere metaphor. but an actual railroad full of engineers and conductors, and a secret network of tracks and tunnels beneath the ground. Edgerton, who starred and

directed in Boy Erased (2018) will portray Ridgeway, a slave catcher. Jenkins will be directing all the episodes and will also executive produce the



Joel Edgerton PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

Kristen Wiig, Annie Mumolo reunite for a comedy film

Merican actors Kristen
Wiig and Annie Mumolo,
who penned the Oscarnominated script of the romantic-comedy film Bridesmaids (2011), are teaming up for another comedy film Barb and Star Go to Vista Del Mar.
Wiig and Mumolo will co-

write and co-star in the upcoming film, which will be directed by Josh Greenbaum, reported Variety "I'm so excited to be a part of this movie which showcases Kristen and Annie's

original, fresh and undeniably hilarious voice in spades. I'm also always looking for projects with titles that rhyme, so it really all worked out on this one," Greenbaum said.

best friends - Barb and Star (played by Wiig and Mumolo) who leave their small mid western town for the first time to go on vacation in Vista Del Mar, Florida. They soon find themselves tangled up in adventure, love and a villain's evil plot to kill everyone in

Apart from this, Wiig will be next seen as Cheetah in Wonder Woman 1984 and in

Where'd You Go, Bernadette Mumolo most recently wrote the story for David O Russell's 2015 movie Joy, hased on the life of Joy Mangano, starring actor

Jennifer Lawrence. On the acting front, Mumolo starred in a regular comedy series, About a Boy. She also featured in This is 40 (2012). Afternoon Delight (2013), Bad Moms (2016), and The Boss



Kristen Wiig (left) and Annie Mumolo (above) will co-write and co-star in the upcoming film

Barb and Star Go to Vista Del Mar is expected to release in 2020

REESE EMBRACES HER GREY HAIR AND FINE LINES



Witherspoon, who recently celebrated her 43rd birthday, has opened up about getting older and embracing this new phase

Stating that she prefers being a 43-year-old woman with grey hair and fine lines. the actor says, "I just feel like I earned that grey hair and my fine lines. I like 'em. I so

"I have a point of view because I've been on this planet for 43 years, and I didn't feel that same way when I was 25. I didn't have the same things to say. I'm 43 and I've had a whole bunch of experiences, and I can speak with thoughtfulness about the changes I'd like to see in the world," People quoted an extract from Witherspoon's

recent interview with Allure While she happily

embraces her grey hair, when it comes to keeping her blond locks golden yellow and shiny, the Big Little Lies actor relies on her go-to colourist of 15 years, Lorri Goddard. "It takes three hours to

have my highlights done, no joke. I go every seven or eight weeks. I'm starting to get grey around the edges of my

same way when I was 25. I'm 43 and I've had the changes I'd like to see in the world.

hairline. Lorri doesn't like to call them greys, though. She says they're 'hyper-blondes' the Home Again (2017) actor

REESE WITHERSPOON



Actor Andrew Garfield explored the role of fatherhood for the first

Andrew Garfield's dream role is to be a father in real life

ctor Andrew Garfield recently opened up about his "cheesy" dream role. The actor said it was his dream to become 'a father in real life', while promoting his new film Under the Silver Lake.

During the event, a fan asked the actor what his dream role was, to which Garfield said, "This is such a cheesy response. To be a father. My dream role is to be a father to a child, in real life not just in fictional films."

In 2014, the actor explored the role of fatherhood in 99 Homes, where he played a single dad who loses his home to foreclosure. Later in 2015, the actor revealed that it was during the filming of 99 Homes that he came face to face with his fatherly instincts.

"I've always had them somewhere. Ĭ think all men do and all women have that motherly instinct, and it was exciting to explore that on screen, and daunting and scary," Entertainment Tonight quoted Garfield as saying.

"I kind of thought, 'Well, how do I do that? If I haven't experienced it, can I do it?' but then I realised that's the situation of every single father in the history of time... We're all going into this initiations totally blind and groping in the dark, So, I kind of went with that feeling of not knowing what the hell I was doing and it kind of helped," he added. ANI

Actor Timothy Olyphant

Timothy will miss 'lovely guy' Luke Perry

time working with "lovely guy" Luke Perry on Quentin Tarantino's upcoming film Once Upon a Time in Hollywood.
Perry, the star of hit '90s

television show Beverly Hills, 90210, passed away, aged 52, in March. Tarantino's film will be his last on-screen Olyphant, who portrays

Lancer's "Western" co-star James Stacy, shot majority of his scenes with Perry "What a lovely guy. Just a

lovely guy. I'm going to miss him at that premiere. I'm going to miss him. I'm going to miss him anyway," he told Variety, while speaking on the sideline of the New York

City premiere of his animated film Missing Link.

"We just met on the film, but the two of us showed up, and we kept looking at each other like, 'How'd we get in? I don't know who let us in but they let us in'... There were so many moments where it just felt like the two of us would look at each other and we both had the same look on our face, which is, 'Not bad. Here we are'," Olyphant added.

The actor said Perry was a respected figure in Hollywood and he has never met anyone who uttered a bad word about Perry. "I haven't met anyone who's ever said a bad thing about the guy, and that was my



Late actor Luke Perry PHOTO: CHRIS PIZZELLO/IN

experience hanging out with him and working with him. He was the best kind of actor. He was a craftsman. He was all about the work. No bulls**t. He showed up early and did his work, and we spent most of our time talking about our families and just enjoying the job. Just a lovely guy," Olyphant added.



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Rihanna goes gaga over co-star Donald Glover

praised her Guava Island co-star Donald Glover for the response the film has received.

The musical, directed by Hiro Murai, made a surprise debut at Coachella on April 11 and was later released on a streaming platform. In an Instagram post, Rihanna called Glover, who

also served as a writer

and producer of the film, a "true gem to the culture". "Wow! The response to Island has been quite overwhelming. So happy you guys felt the beauty in this

film," she

wrote. The singer went to add in the post, "Donald Glover, you are a true gem to the culture. I'm so proud of you and the work you put into making this film. I felt how close this was to you and vour entire team. Thank you for trusting me with this role! It was the greatest experience being in Cuba, phones off, present with life and art! It was humbling. I loved watching every second of it," she added. The film follows

Deni Maroon (Glover), a Cuban musician who "is determined to throw a festival for his island community". Rihanna plays his girlfriend and musical inspiration Kofi Novia. Glover's younger brother Stephen has written the screenplay for the film.

Donald Glover

in the musical Guava Island

PHOTO: JOEL C

Clint Eastwood might direct The Ballad of Richard Jewell, a look at a

security guard whose life gets turned upside down after media reports identified him as a possible suspect in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics bombing.
Actors Jonah Hill and

Leonardo DiCaprio will no

longer appear in the movie. Their involvement will be

limited to producing the film, reports Variety magazine. Eastwood circled the project several years ago

2016 drama Sully. Director Ezra Edelman was last person to consider the project. Captain Phillips (2013) screenwriter Billy Ray is writing the script, which will be based on a Marie Brenner article in Vanity Fair.

Jewell reported on the knapsack bomb at the 1996 Summer Games and helped clear bystanders only to find himself suspected of being involved in the plot.

He was cleared as a

suspect three mornins and died in 2007 of a heart attack at the age of 44.

RICHARD JEWELL HAD REPORTED ON A BOMB AT THE 1996 ATLANTA OLYMPICS, ONLY TO FIND HIMSELF SUSPECTED AS PART OF THE PLOT





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Customers can now avail a Mercedes-Benz Quick & Clean Combo pack and a Mercedes-Benz AC Spa treatment at INR 1,999* each Stars that are 5 years and above can enjoy 25% benefits* on Brake Pads | Air Filter | Transmission Filter | Oil Filter | Fuel Filter | AC Filter | Spark Plug





T&T Motors: Okhla | Mayapuri | Gurugram | Tel: 1800 123 2369 / +91 9999921161 | Website: www.tandtmotors.mercedes-benz.co.in | Workshop Timings: 9.30am - 6.30pm Silver Arrows: Rama Road: Near Kirti Nagar Metro Station | Noida | Tel: +91 9999200500 | Website: www.silverarrows.mercedes-benz.co.in | Workshop Timings: 9.30am - 6.30pm

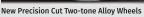














- DUAL FRONT AIRBAGS
- ABS WITH EBD
- PEDESTRIAN PROTECTION COMPLIANCE
- FULL FRONTAL IMPACT COMPLIANCE, FRONTAL OFFSET IMPACT COMPLIANCE. SIDE IMPACT COMPLIANCE

Ferms and conditions apply. Features and accessories shown may not be part of standar itment. Black glass shade on the vehicle is due to lighting effect. Images used are for



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Vehicle Tracking Emergency Alert Driving Behaviour Analysis

Offered separately as Genuine NEXA Accessory